

## THE NAKA

## Island Resort & Spa, Phuket

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It begins with a wish. Legend says the gorgeous Naka Yai Island is nestled in the bones of a mythical dragon splayed across its sister islands. The lore whispers that anyone who sounds the island's gong twice is not only afforded the dragon's protection during their stay, but also a wish. And so begins the welcome to what is perhaps Phuket's best kept secret - Naka Island Resort.

Although it's a mere ten minute speed boat ride from Phuket's Ao Po Marina, Naka Island Resort could very well be at the edge of the world. Hidden amongst lush coconut groves, its emerald green waters kiss a soft sandy beach. It is a change from the main island's traditional shiny hotspots, choosing instead to create a sublime experience by wrapping organic design in luxury. The sixty-seven villas blend with smooth curves in muted earth tones that weave their way effortlessly through refined Thai decor. Ethereal indigenous composition marries the sea and jungle into a perfect peaceful mix.

The resort shares this small island with a traditional Thai village and a dirt road leads





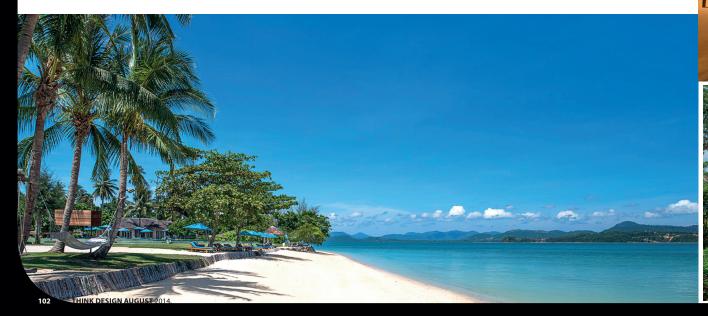


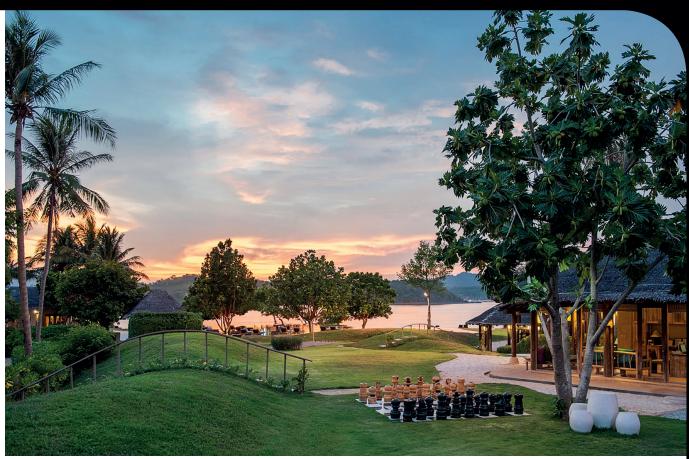
the way for guests on rented bicycles. It's easy to spot a fisherman bringing in the catch of the day during a lazy afternoon cycle meandering through the island landscape. It is another sign that Naka Island Resort has artfully managed to blend opulence with an authentic Thai experience.

With a maximum of 145 guests, this exclusive luxury boutique hotel feels private even at capacity - boasting that there's never a wait for a table at either of their two restaurants. Small touches like

complimentary Prosecco at breakfast and ice-cream at their 546 sq meter pool, set it apart from its larger counterparts. Friendly staff pay close attention to detail and have mastered the art of being at hand but out of sight.

Water features throughout the property artfully lead to the spa which is an experience unto itself. Tucked behind a charming bamboo arch, one takes immediate notice of the tranquil energy of various indoor and outdoor spaces designed for ultimate relaxation. The Naka











Spa is home to one of only two Watsu pools in Thailand. The acclaimed Watsu therapy takes place in water heated to body temperature and participants are held in place by floatation devices while therapists work. A full spa menu is complemented by a sauna, steam and ice room.

Interesting features throughout the resort such as a wall made of paddle boat oars and smooth stone rocks for do-not-disturb signs, mean there is always something to catch the eye. However, the most stunning feature of all might just be the incredible view from Z Bar which overlooks Phang Nha Bay and all her breathtaking islands. A large inviting couch curves its way around the open air bar creating intimate evening escapes. It is a perfect setting to sip jewel-toned cocktails whilst watching the moon rise over a glistening Andaman Sea. The view alone is surely a wish granted in itself.