

**RENTACAR
PHUKET**

DRIVING IN THAILAND

A practical guide for cars and scooters

Prepare the right documents, understand Thai road conditions and travel safely across southern Thailand.

LEFT-SIDE DRIVING

HOME LICENCE + IDP

24/7 TOURIST POLICE 1155

UPDATED AUGUST 2026

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rentacarphuketthailand.com

Freedom, with a plan

SOUTHERN THAILAND

Take the scenic route.

A self-drive trip gives you flexibility, but local traffic, rain and winding roads can add time. Keep the day relaxed and leave room for stops.

This guide combines general road-safety advice, current Thailand visitor guidance and Rentacar Phuket's handover rules. Road signs and official instructions always take

1 Plan realistic days

Build in extra time for city traffic, roadworks, rain and breaks. Avoid long drives when tired.

2 Confirm the route

Check weather and road conditions before departure. Use navigation, but follow signs and police instructions.

RENTAL TRAVEL AREA

Phuket • Krabi • Phang Nga • Surat Thani

Travel outside these provinces requires advance written approval and an additional charge. Unreported travel may incur a penalty and is not covered by insurance.

Documents & vehicle class

Bring original documents, not screenshots.

Rentacar Phuket applies a clear handover requirement for foreign visitors. Every person who may drive must be registered on the rental agreement.

1

Domestic licence

Your original, valid, full driving licence issued in your home country.

2

International permit

A valid International Driving Permit (IDP) covering the correct vehicle class.

3

Passport

Your original passport and any identification required by the signed rental agreement.

4

Correct endorsement

A car-only licence or IDP does not permit you to ride a scooter or motorcycle.

IMPORTANT

An IDP is not a standalone licence. Bring it together with your domestic licence. If the required original documents or correct vehicle endorsement are missing, the vehicle cannot be handed over and insurance may not apply.

Thai authorities may recognise qualifying ASEAN-issued licences. Our handover policy above remains the standard for foreign visitors renting from Rentacar Phuket.

The Thailand essentials

1 Drive on the left

Keep left and overtake only on the right when it is legal, visible and safe.

2 Obey signs and limits

Posted limits, lane markings, traffic lights and police directions control. Do not assume every road has the same limit.

3 Seat belts & child seats

All car occupants should be properly restrained. Children must use a suitable child restraint.

4 Helmets for scooters

Driver and passenger should wear properly fastened, approved helmets every trip.

5 No hand-held phone

Do not hold or use a phone while driving. Stop in a safe place before calling, messaging or changing navigation.

6 Never drink and drive

Alcohol or drugs and driving do not mix. They may also invalidate insurance.

7 Signals are not permission

Indicators show intent, not that a manoeuvre is safe. Check mirrors, blind spots and oncoming traffic yourself.

8 Give others space

Expect scooters, pedestrians, tuk-tuks and vehicles to change position. Leave a generous following distance.

ON THE ROAD

Calm, predictable driving is safer than trying to match aggressive traffic.

Roads, rain & two wheels



SCOOTERS

Use the correct motorcycle licence and IDP endorsement. Wear a helmet, avoid carrying loose bags and allow extra braking room on wet roads.

BE VISIBLE

Stay out of blind spots beside cars and trucks.

TROPICAL WEATHER

Heavy rain can arrive quickly. Reduce speed smoothly, increase following distance and avoid sudden steering or braking. Never enter floodwater when its depth or current is uncertain.

1 Surface changes

Watch for sand, painted lines, metal covers, potholes and debris - especially after rain.

2 Night driving

Use extra caution on poorly lit roads. Look for pedestrians, animals and parked vehicles without lights.

3 Mountain roads

Slow before bends, stay in your lane and never overtake without a clear view.

4 National parks

Use only roads suitable for the rented vehicle. Off-road use is not permitted unless agreed in writing.

Plan, pause, arrive

TRAVEL AT YOUR PACE

The best route is the one you enjoy safely.

Break up longer drives, keep water in the vehicle and stop before fatigue

1 Before leaving

Check fuel, tyres, lights, weather, phone charge and your permitted route.

2 During the drive

Take regular breaks. Do not rush to make up time after traffic or rain.

3 Parking

Use legal, well-lit spaces. Lock the vehicle and do not leave valuables visible.

4 Fuel

Use only the correct fuel stated at handover and return at the recorded fuel level.

IF CONDITIONS FEEL WRONG, STOP SOMEWHERE SAFE AND REASSESS.

Accident, theft or breakdown

Act promptly and keep everyone safe.

1 Stop safely

Switch on hazard lights and move out of danger only when it is safe and lawful.

2 Help & call

Call emergency services for injury or immediate danger. Do not leave an accident scene.

3 Contact us

Tell Rentacar Phuket immediately. Do not arrange repairs or admit liability without instruction.

4 Document

Photograph the scene, vehicles, number plates and damage; exchange details and follow police instructions.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Rentacar Phuket **+66 92 970 2876**

Tourist Police **1155**

Police emergency **191**

Medical emergency **1669**

Ready to drive checklist

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Original home-country driving licence | ☐ Fuel type and handover level confirmed |
| ☐ Correct International Driving Permit class | ☐ Permitted route and weather checked |
| ☐ Passport and rental agreement | ☐ Phone charged; key numbers saved |
| ☐ Every driver named before driving | ☐ Seat belts, child seat or helmets ready |
| ☐ Existing damage recorded with photos | ☐ Return time and location confirmed |

BEFORE LEAVING THE PERMITTED AREA

Get written approval first. Travel outside Phuket, Krabi, Phang Nga and Surat Thani carries an additional charge. Unreported travel may incur a penalty and is not covered by insurance.

QUESTIONS BEFORE YOU DRIVE?

+66 92 970 2876

Phone and WhatsApp | Open daily 09:00-18:00

48/24 Rawai, Mueang Phuket, Phuket 83130

Sources & scope

This guide uses only general road-safety material and information directly relevant to driving in Thailand. It does not reproduce Hertz branding, country comparisons or guidance for other destinations.

01 Thailand Government / Department of Land Transport

Foreign tourist driving-licence guidance

02 Thailand Government

Traffic rules and safe-driving guidance

03 Tourism Authority of Thailand

Driving in Thailand: guidance for tourists and foreigners

04 Thailand Tourist Police

24-hour multilingual assistance: 1155

05 Rentacar Phuket

Rental-area, handover, additional-driver and insurance rules

Information checked 17 August 2026. Road rules, fees, access and enforcement can change. Follow current signs, police directions and the signed rental agreement. This guide is practical visitor information, not legal advice.