



60 DREAM HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

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I found a piece of myself in Rayavadee

Did you ever have that moment when an image almost became real, feeling like a postcard that had come to life in front of you?

As our speedboat skimmed through the turquoise water of Krabi, limestone cliffs approached, aimlessly watching over its secret horizon, standing tall like ancient guardians. Against these tiny islands, untouched, grand, and unbelievably beautiful, is the kind of scene that you think only exists on paper or on screen. Suddenly, you find yourself in it, breathing it in, totally carrying you away from reality.

The Rayavadee was anything but the final point of travel for its victims. It felt like home, a sanctuary touched by nature and nurtured in that peace where one's soul could rest. The raw beauty of southern Thailand extends as far as the eyes can see, untidy, unhurried, where time seems to pause.

It may just be the sweetest destiny.

The resort itself has 101 villas, scattered in a lush tropical estate and embraced by gigantic limestone cliffs. Each feels like a hidden home, your private world of calm in which the wind whispers stories and the sands etch memories. There is a sacred stillness that



The main pool of Rayavadee displays Krabi's iconic cliffs.

Opposite page:
The Grotto restaurant
under an ancient
limestone cliff.



From top: Bask in the golden-hour glow as sunsets in Krabi are nothing short of cinematic; The Rayavadee Spa's luxurious packages offer full-body renewal and indulgence.





runs through the surroundings and seeps into you.

As if to welcome us to their forest kingdom, spectacled monkeys jumped joyfully from tree to tree. A charming reminder that nature is both the host and also the heart of this place, as these creatures' wide inquisitive eyes peered through the canopy and gazed upon us.

One morning, we woke up early to paddle and kayak in the emerald waters. As daylight illumined the cliffs and the mangroves seemed to sway lazily, everything felt suspended in grace. On our return, we were welcomed with the sweetest smiles from the staff who offered fresh juice, a gesture so warm and hearty, quite like coming home.

Right from my arrival at Rayavadee, their incomparable staff made me feel

special, treating me as if I was a royal who had descended on their abode. The check-in was accompanied by warmth. The quiet attentiveness of the staff made me realize I was in for a treat. The natural beauty of the place appeared to shine even more with them as they welcomed us with fresh tropical juice and beaming smiles.

Then came the swimming into the cavern, carved by elements of time into a limestone cave with centuries-old stalactites and stalagmites. Staring at them felt like the breath of the earth had honored us. It was tranquil and cool! I felt very small yet infinite, embraced by the peace of nature.

Rayavadee's spa is known for its rejuvenation and this sanctuary. Guests may select between two distinct

From left: Set sail on a sea and beach excursion, uncovering hidden coves and island wonders just beyond Rayavadee's shore; At The Grotto are Michelle Soliven, Samantha and Mark Dayrit, the author, Yvonne Romualdez, and Benny Soliven, Joone Daokaew rock-climbing at Krahi.



Rayavadee's Pool Pavilions offer refined privacy with a garden-fringed pool, sun lounges, and a shaded terrace.

Opposite page:
A glimpse of the secret beauty of Rayavadee beyond the verdant rainforest.

Photos courtesy of Rayavadee and Joone Dookoew

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soundscapes—gently lapping waves or meditative silence. I went for a warm coconut compress of fragrant essential oils warmly lathered, pressed, and massaged over my back, neck, legs, and feet. Every one of the therapist’s delicate and graceful movements was calming, grounding, and centering—like a lullaby to my soul and body.

The whole experience here is definitely something extraordinary, from the candle-lit dining in The Grotto as the sun sets at Rayavadee and finally moonlight dining along the cliff. The food is a feast for the senses. One evening we had a sea feast of grilled lobsters, sweet crabs, and Hokkaido scallops. Every morsel of tender Australian lamb racks, beautifully seared steaks, refreshing cocktails, and decadent desserts indicates the uncompromising quality of the resort. The magic sounds of the whirling breeze in symphony with the laughter from my family promised

an unforgettable experience.

Our island-hopping started with a strange ride. A tractor rolled us to the boat awaiting us for an adventure around the coast. This journey took us to secluded lagoons and secret sands all the way to hidden coves. The water shimmered like liquid glass, and each stop felt like the birth of yet another chapter from a great story.

This extraordinary experience was arranged with great love by the wonderful mother-and-daughter team of Annabelle and Joone Daakaew from All Around Holidays, whose warmth, style, and attention to detail made everything perfect and every trip unforgettable.

It was not just saying goodbye to a place but to a piece of ourselves we had left behind. Rayavadee gave us not only beauty but, more importantly, the feeling of home—a rare, everlasting bond that not even the strongest currents or tides can wash away. 

SCAN ME



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