

## New Marina And Changing Regulations In Koh Samui

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In an effort to welcome superyachts to Thailand, the Thai government has announced plans to build a new marina on Samui Island, as well as make changes to current regulations.



(Asia Pacific Superyachts Captain Charlie Dwyer)

“We have terrific news for superyachts considering a journey to Koh Samui,” says Asia Pacific Superyachts Captain Charlie Dwyer. “I’m thrilled to alert owners and captains of new and positive government plans for a new marina and positive changes in Thai regulations in support of welcoming superyachts.”

“Plans are afoot to adjust the regulations with regards to facilitating foreign yacht and superyacht owners in a bid to attract them to Thailand,” says General Director of the Harbor Department Jula Sukmanop. “These include changes in the taxations levied and a longer period of time yacht owners will be allowed to stay in Thailand. The government has supported the project with 15 million Baht, with the goal to set Thailand as the center of ASEAN marinas.”

Superyachts can also expect to greatly benefit from new VAT and crew regulations, providing significant savings for superyacht owners and captains.

“The prime targets are yacht owners coming from Mediterranean and Caribbean seas, who want to escape cold weather there during the winter,” says Thailand Marine Department’s Director-General Chula Sookmanop. “Owners will be allowed to stay longer in Thailand and will become eligible to receive some tax incentives.”

The changes come as part of a plan to accommodate foreign vessels in Thai waters.

“The government is gearing up efforts to make Thai waters more attractive for cruise tourism and foreign yachts, as part of a plan to promote the country as the marina hub of ASEAN,” says Dwyer.



(Koh Samui)

Captain Dwyer suggests superyachts visiting Koh Samui include an adventure cruising journey through Angthong Marine Park Archipelago and top dive spot, Koh Tao, using Samui as a base. Samui's charm has been recognised as the number one pick in a roundup of Thailand's 'Top 10 Yachting Destinations' by *Luxury Island Magazine*.

Samui is set amidst a blue sea with miles of white sand beaches. For those seeking luxurious settings, the island is home to a number of five-star resorts, including 'W', Four Seasons, Anantara Lawana, Le Meridian, Conrad and Six Senses.

The Thai island provides a perfect base for a luxurious holiday stay combined with exotic cruising journeys.

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