

Pristine beaches and emerald waters: Top 5 destinations for island hopping in Asia



Island hopping is one fun activity that includes everything we love as tourists: exploring beaches, cruising through waters, swimming in deep blue waters, or walking through a coral staircase. Although this means rushing from one island to another, it may also include going through the vibes and rhythms of establishments and the nightlife of these archipelagos and isles.

Here, you can find the best of Asia in terms of island hopping that you do not want to miss in your next tour.

Palawan, Philippines

If you have a knack for exploring uncharted territory, Palawan can aid your quest with barren beaches and backing opportunities. The island chain of Mimaropa in the Philippines is arguably one of the best destinations not only in Asia but in the world, with more than 7000 islands to explore.

Let it be Coron, El Nido, Linapacan, or Port Barcon, you can hop over these islands of vast natural beauties that offer picturesque coastline, seashore landscapes, pristine beaches, crystal clear water lakes, and a majestic view of distant islands emerging from the bottom of dark blue saltwater.

Phi Phi Islands, Thailand

Consisting of six islands in the southern region of the country, Phi Phi Island offers the chance to hop over the white lands spread out onto the Andaman Sea.

Koh Phi Phi Don of Phi Phi Islands is so small that you can go around in 45 minutes yet it will mesmerise you with its breath-taking coastal view upon the horizon. With limestone cliffs and a snow-white beach, Koh Phi Phi Ley, another island within Phi Phi Islands looks like a paradise hidden in Asia.

With Maya Bay, Pileh Cove and Viking Cave, Phi Phi will amaze you in a manner that you will never run out of awe.

Langkawi, Malaysia

Langkawi is truly a gem for any visitor for multitudes of things to explore. With 99 islands bound and glued together by the emerald water of the Andaman Sea, Langkawi is an emerging destination for island lovers all over the world.

The Island has so many things to experience that it may disrupt your plan in a positive way: it can offer the taste of



both the aquatic universe and wilderness packed with this region. You can unhinge yourself in the seashores of blue-white dichotomy or you can enjoy a fancy ride on the freshwater lakes.

With many parks and built environments, you can visit Langkawi Sky Bridge, UNESCO Global Geopark, GuaCerita caves, PulauPayar Marine Park, Temurun Waterfalls and a lot of other things in between.

Con Dao Islands, Vietnam

During your next visit to Vietnam, make sure to include plans for Con Dao Islands as it will offer a unique experience with a monsoon climate and pristine beaches. With 16 islands, this destination is tranquil and adventurous with snorkelling, diving, and turtle-watching.

Con Son Island of this beautiful archipelago offers the chance to explore the golden sands and calm coast, hike, and enjoy the sunset at Cau Tau Port. You can also explore a nice prison museum as well.

Con Dao Islands also offers thrilling activities like snorkelling, swimming, fishing, and spotting sea eagles on Hon Cau

Island, Hon Tre Lon Island, Hon Trung (Egg Island), or Hon Ba Island.

Besides, a boat trip to Canh Island will give you the chance to observe sea turtles and an excellent peak at the mangrove forest as well.

Bali, Indonesia

Bali is one beautiful island that is also a gateway to an experience of a lifetime with many small and medium islands adjacent to it. Apart from flora and fauna, waters and sands, excellent landscapes and equally vibrant nightlife, you can plan a thrilling excursion around this island.

With a visit to Nusa Islands (Nusa Penida, Nusa Lembongan and Nusa Ceningan), you can enjoy Kelingking Beach, Manta Bay, or Angel's Billabong on one sunny day to enjoy the seashore and mangrove wilderness in one go. Serene relaxation is the best thing a trip to this island can offer to a visitor.

Apart from that, Gili Island or Lombok, you have to decide which direction to take because Bali offers equally magnificent experiences in all directions.

By Istiaq Muhit

Photo: Collected

Off the beaten path: Hidden gems in Asia for your next adventure

There comes a time when the well-known holiday hotspots do not meet the standards and you are spent wishing for a fulfilling travel experience. To shake things up, add these off-the-beaten tourist destinations to your itinerary for a meaningful and adventure-packed getaway!

Koh Tao, Thailand

The island is best known for offering Southeast Asia's most affordable aquatic adventures—including snorkelling, kayaking, and scuba diving. Scenic views like Koh Nang Yuan and High Rock perch on lush green hills, accessible by motorbike hikes.

Set your sights on Koh Tao Island on your next Thailand trip to dive into the breath-taking underwater life. Reach this tropical paradise by taking a flight, bus, or train from Bangkok to Chumpon or Koh Samui, and then ride a ferry to Koh Tao.

Bandipur, Nepal

Bandipur, also known as the Eden above the clouds, is a lovely mountaintop town with a generous Himalayan view. The town is clean and the main bazaar is traffic-free. Outdoor



enthusiasts can hike to stunning locations such as Ramkot and explore Siddha Gufa, Nepal's largest cave.

The Newari architecture of this land features unspoiled homestays. Stone-made paths, houses adorned with hanging greens and colourful petals, and the local hosts presenting mouth-watering cuisines—will inevitably entice you to abandon city life and settle down at Bandipur.

This underrated gem is about 89 kilometres from Kathmandu and is located en route to Pokhara. You can smoothly ride a bus to reach Bandipur and relax in between other adventures.

MacRitchie Reservoir, Singapore

Nature enthusiasts who enjoy trekking through tranquil tree corridors and looking for a break from the urban spectacles of Singapore—tie your shoelaces for MacRitchie Reservoir!

Amidst the wispy leaves of tall trees, treetop walking is one of the most interesting activities, offering a bird's-eye perspective of the forest canopy from the suspension bridge.



Some of the most popular family activities include fishing, picnicking, and kayaking. Spot and photograph wildlife throughout the pathways, and do not

miss the Jelutong observation deck for a stunning view.

Located about 23 kilometres away from Changi Airport, you can take the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) to reach the largest reservoir in Singapore.

Semporna, Sabah, Malaysia

Semporna—an exotic island tucked away at the southern coast of Sabah—features a plethora of diverse cultures. Miles away from Malaysia's cosmopolitan hustle—here, aquaphiles immerse themselves in world-class diving. The vivid coral reefs and marine life, including turtles, sharks, and colourful fish, make this spot a diver's dream come true.

To arrive at this island, take a flight to Tawua Airport from Kuala Lumpur. Upon your arrival at the airport, take a bus to reach Semporna.

You can also add other offbeat attractions of Sabah, like Kinabalu Park, Kinabatangan River, and Mari Cultural Village to your bucket list.

By Tasmiah Rahman

Photo: Collected