

And the Beach Goes On

The world is still mourning the loss of nearly 300,000 lives from the tectonic plate shift-induced tsunami which devastated currently uncountable stretches of coastline on the periphery of the Indian Ocean.

As is so often the case after both man-made and natural disasters, it is all too easy for the rest of us to get along with our lives while specific communities and business are left to pick up the pieces. And, despite unforeseeably generous aid being pledged and delivered, many of these groups need more than a lump sum or series of donations; they need continued support and a return to a sense of normality.

One group, the Moken sea gypsies who reside on Surin Island and beyond, are covered on page 48. This fragile community deserves particular mention as the tsunami has provoked local authorities to consider their permanent relocation.

Affected regions that previously earned much of their income through tourism and its trickle-down effects desperately need us to return, in droves. In this issue, we begin by profiling some of the many accommodation options along Thailand's Andaman coastline, in Phuket, Trang, Koh Lanta and Krabi. Khao Lak is noticeable in its absence, and of course we will focus on this area in depth in a later issue, after properties there have had a chance to near-complete their reconstruction.

In the ensuing pages, we take a look at other beachy beauts in the Asia Pacific and beyond: the pristine, relatively undiscovered Ngapali Beach in Burma; the culturally infused beach break possibilities in Penang; the bright white sands of Boracay. We learn to surf in Sydney, and luxury beach-walk in Tasmania. Adventure is inescapable if you manage to alight on Indonesia's little-known island of Sumba, while peak fitness is attainable if you take a Wild Fitness course on Kenya's Watamu Beach.

Koh Samui, in the Gulf of Thailand is the star of the cover and fashion pages here; and remaining in the Gulf, we try to get the hang of kiteboarding in Hua Hin and nose around several of the town's choicest properties.

Celebrate the seaside with **lifestyle + travel**, and let's ensure that the beach will, indeed, go on.

Safe journey,



Peter Myers
Editor-in-Chief

Where does it end? The main pool at Sila Evason Hideaway at Samui.