

Ahoy Matey!

All aboard for **Hansar Samui's Decadent Sunset Cruise.**

Hansar Samui is one of the island's more-recent additions to its list of 5-star resorts. Located at the far western end of the well-known Fisherman's Village, in Bophut, its uncluttered exterior reveals sumptuously-appointed rooms, two laid-back fine-dining restaurants, a quality spa and a state-of-the-art fitness centre.

A fairly recent addition to their offerings is the exclusive 'Decadent Sunset Cruise'. Departing directly from the beach in front of the hotel, you will set sail for four hours of cruising on a stunning 30 foot yacht, around Koh Pha-Ngan and back again into the setting sun.

The excursion begins at 3:00 pm, when you'll be greeted in the lobby with an iced drink and cold towels and then guided towards the rubber dinghy that's beached at the fringe of the resort – there's no need to get even get your feet wet. And, as you clamber aboard, you'll again be welcomed with more cold towels, Hansar's own LUXSA Spa brand sun lotions and misting sprays, and refreshments in the form of a glass of sparkling, chilled champagne.

Whilst on board, there are butlers constantly on hand to serve the champagne and free-flow cocktails. And to go with this there's a range of imported oysters from France, Canada and the USA, prepared specially by H Bistro Executive Chef, Stephen Dion. Cocktails include the Hansar Margarita, Hansar Mai Tai, Hansar Mojito and Hansar Caipirinha. A selection of house wine and beer is also available.

Bring your binoculars. And a camera, too. You'll be seeing panoramas that are memorable – as if Samui and Koh Pha-Ngan have swapped places. And as the afternoon comes to an end the lowering light at this time of day bathes everything in a golden glow that's the stuff of which postcards are made. You'll cruise towards the town of Tong Sala and then along the west coast of Koh Pha-Ngan, skirting the island's most-westerly tip and past the popular area of Haad Yao Bay. Watch the sea around you, too. There's a good chance that you'll see a huge bill fish or sail fish burst out of the water, not so far away.

And then the poles seem to reverse again as you drift back towards Samui. By this time the sun has started to sink and the lights are beginning to wink-on along the coastline. This is the time for photos – if you can let go of that cocktail for a moment! And, finally, you'll come back to where you started, but this time with all the blaze of Hansar and Fisherman's Village shimmering out, reflected across the water to greet you, as the sky dulls to purple in the fading light. Being exclusive doesn't mean that this trip is

tightly-scripted and there's actually a lot of room for variations on the theme. You can opt for cold cuts of meat instead of oysters. Or go for the indulgence of the 'Seafood Melody': lobsters, scallops, king crab and tiger prawns. Liqueurs, wine or beer? Just ask and it shall be provided. The only things that are cast in stone are the departure days and times: the cruise begins at 3:00 pm, and ventures forth every Thursday, Friday and Saturday. And if you want a special romantic cruise for two, then this can also be arranged, given 24 hours' notice.

The price varies depending on the number of passengers, and if you decide on food or drinks that aren't included as standard. Please contact the resort for full details.

And with the boat returning at 7:00 pm, it's perfect timing to head to H Bistro for dinner and enjoy more of Chef Stephen's gourmet creations!

Rob de Wet

For reservations or further information, telephone 0 7724 5511. www.hansarsamui.com

