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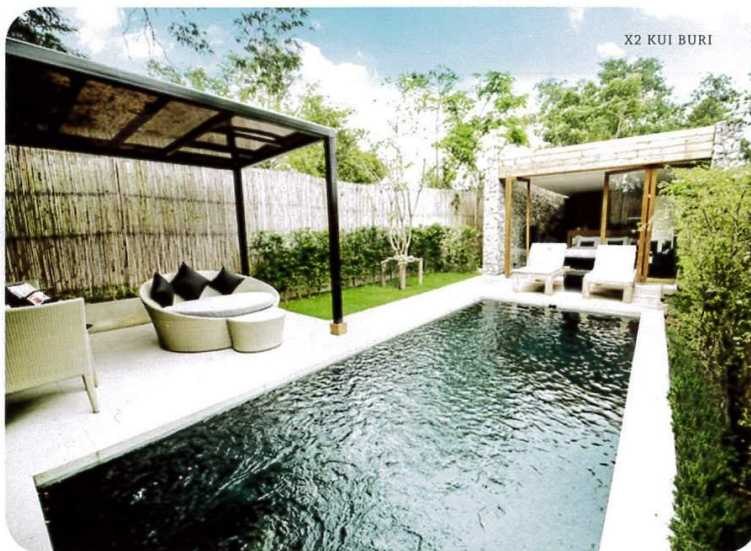


THAILAND

As the temperatures start to drop in Australia, conditions in southern Thailand are just about right; cooling down a little from the peak temperatures seen in March, April and May but still a few months shy of the humidity that comes with the wet season. In Koh Samui and Hua Hin you're unlikely to see any rain while in Phuket it is marginally

wetter, but generally in the form of short bursts. Plus this time of year sees fewer crowds and lower prices.

Direct flights to Bangkok are available from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth and flight time is between seven and nine hours. Return economy fares start from A\$1,049, premium economy fares from A\$1,757 and business class fares from A\$3,366.



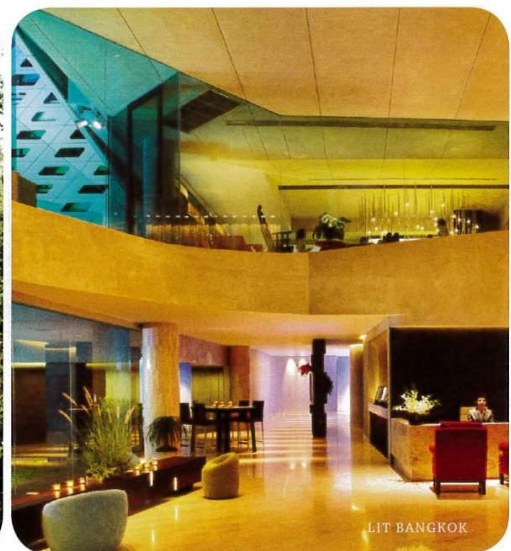
X2 Kui Buri

Best for_ TRANQUILITY

Half an hour from the popular resort town of Hua Hin, the X2 is one of just a handful of hotels and private villas in the sleepy enclave of Kui Buri. Pronounced "cross to", the X2 Kui Buri is one of three properties in Thailand from the X2 brand that offers boutique, design conscious resorts with a relaxed vibe. 23 villas (most

with private pools) are spread across four acres of beachfront land, surrounded only by local fishing villages. There's a bar and restaurant, spa, swimming pool and petanque court, but other than that this is the place to just sit back and appreciate the art of doing nothing.

RATES: Villas are priced from THB16,780 (about A\$552) per night including champagne breakfast. x2resorts.com



LIT Bangkok

Best for_ A CITY STOPOVER

If you're flying into Bangkok it's great to break the trip with a night (or two) at a stylish city hotel. LIT Bangkok is petite by city standards with just 79 rooms, set inside a modern, L-shaped, low-rise building. The hotel is in a great location, just a couple of hundred metres from the Skytrain and close to multiple shopping

malls, the historic Jim Thompson House, traditional *sois* (alleys) lined with restaurants and Chinatown. Inside the hotel complex there's a swimming pool (to cool off after a muggy Bangkok afternoon), two restaurants, a spa and a leafy green courtyard.

RATES: Rooms are priced from THB7,000 (about A\$230) per night and suites from THB9,000 (about A\$296) per night plus taxes. litbangkok.com