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Anantara Hua Hin Resort

Tropical jungle retreat in Thailand's seaside resort town



Whether it's the lush green gardens, the intricacies in design, or the level of comfort and cleanliness—the Sanskrit meaning of the word *anantara* (translated as “without end”), is well reflected at the luxury resort group's flagship property in Hua Hin—I just wish my stay there was “never ending” as well.

Enjoying a premier beach front location, about 6 km north of Hua Hin's town centre, the **Anantara Hua Hin Resort** welcomes guests at the open, multi-tiered roof entrance hall, rising majestically out of the surrounding greenery. The lavish gardens—weaving through the entire 14-acre property—have been designed by the renowned landscape architect **Bill Bensley** and are probably the foremost notable features upon arriving at the luxury resort, as they immediately transport guests into tropical jungle retreat mode. Dotted by traditional Thai two-story buildings with sloped rooftops, the resort also encompasses several lagoon ponds, a large swimming pool complete with a deck of sun loungers, and a private pool area for *Club*

Lagoon guests. Meandering gecko-stamped paths lead to the property's 187 rooms and suites, which range from the 32 sq.m *Premium Garden View Rooms* to the luxurious 64 sq.m *Ananatra Sea View Suites*.

For a dreamy jungle feel, and plenty of space, opt for one of the elegant *Junior Lagoon View Suites*. Decorated in beige and brown tones, the 40 sq.m room comes with gorgeous hardwood floors, heavy wooden furniture, and a comfy king-size bed. One of the highlights is the open concept bathroom, complete with a large terrazzo bathtub in the centre of the room. Other amenities include flat screen TV, DVD player, a fully-equipped mini bar and fridge, Wi-Fi, and coffee and tea making facilities. The room also embraces the outdoors via a large private balcony with cozy built-in sofas, overlooking the lotus-covered lagoon pools—the perfect spot for a romantic dinner or secluded down-time.

If you ever manage to leave the beautiful rooms, start your day with a sumptuous breakfast buffet at **Issara Café**, offering international and Asian favourites, made-to-order specialties,

and an array of healthy options, including daily smoothies, granola, and fruit infused water. While the hotel boasts several dining outlets, a great option for either lunch, or dinner, is the beachfront barbecue restaurant **Saithong**, where guests can indulge in a selection of grilled meats, and freshly caught seafood.

For those who might still have trouble unwinding, the blissful **Anantara Spa**—another Bill Bensley designed feature—will take care of the rest. Comprised of six beautiful treatment rooms, two steam rooms, and a full-service hair and beauty salon, guests are bound to find the pampering treatment of their choice. I personally recommend the one-hour *Stress Relief Massage*, in which a masseuse applies a calming oil, and carefully stretches out any tensions and aches, leaving both body and mind “endlessly” relaxed.

BY JULIA OFFENBERGER

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