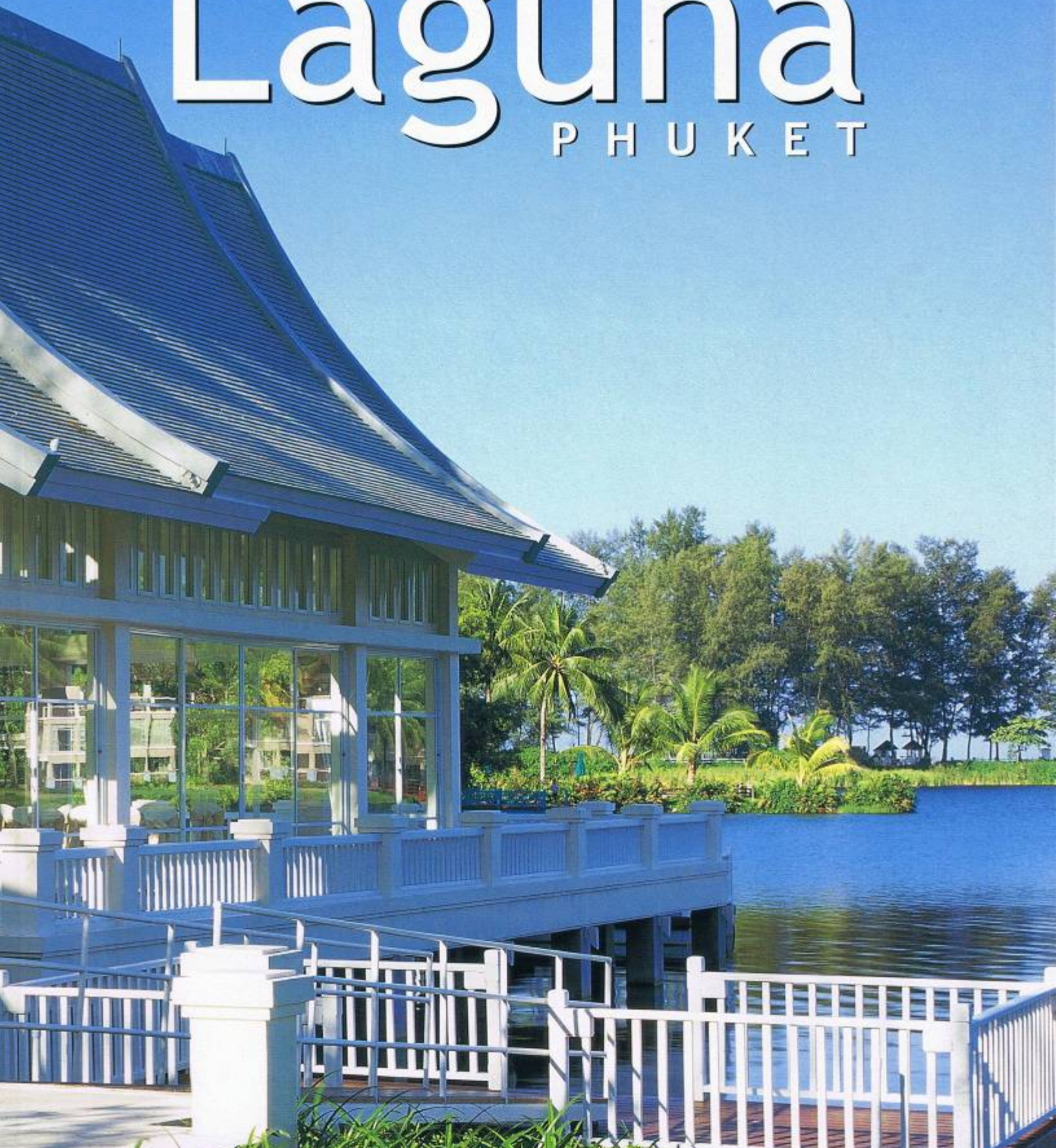


# Laguna

PHUKET



[www.lagunaphuket.com](http://www.lagunaphuket.com)



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## Distinctively Different Shopping on your Doorstep

By Lori Ashton

The delight of Canal Village is in its design and distinctive shop offerings. Into this idyllic waterside location, serene surroundings have been thoughtfully mounted. Tranquillity abounds along the brick-lined paths enhancing the quiet, peaceful atmosphere of birds singing and trees swaying softly in the breeze. You may find the park benches calling you to sit and enjoy the moment.

Step aboard the ferry from your hotel and head to the Canal Village jetty, or hop on the free inter-resort shuttle bus. Either way a special place awaits you. No need to dash around the 40 quality shops and services. A leisurely stroll bides the time. The unique concept created in Canal Village encompasses a thoughtful assortment of products and services satisfying all your shopping requirements.

From enjoying a romantic dinner, light lunch, fine wine, cocktails or delectable dessert delights, to

developing your holiday snapshots, using the bank exchange services, considering spending more quality time with family and friends via the Laguna Holiday Club, or even investing with Laguna Property Sales – who could ask for anything more? Your every need and desire is on your doorstep.

However, the services are only a part of the wonders that you will experience at Canal Village. The selections of products in the shops have been carefully chosen with you in mind. Unique and stunning gifts, home decor and functional items that you will treasure for years following your visit are readily found at the Canal Village stores.

Traditional crafts utilising time-honoured techniques including lacquer ware, bronze ware, celadon, benjarong, yaan lipao accessories, stainless steel cutlery, Asian art objects, ethnic textiles, hill-tribe and paper products.

collectibles and unique pieces presented in the handicraft boutiques.

In addition to traditional handicrafts, shoppers have choices from a constantly evolving range of eye-appealing styles and quality crafted modern collections including fabrics, soft furnishings, jewellery, ceramics aromatic oils, incense and signature clothing. Delightful candles and ornaments in containers constructed of natural or newly fabricated materials add whimsical touches to any setting in any room. Enhance your world with vivid hues and innovative designs, decorative objects and tableware.

A world constantly awakening to finely designed and executed works of art. A veritable treasure trove of luxurious selections awaits you, only a short ferry ride from your resort.

of the exceptional buys in Thailand. Hand-crafted clothing, pillows, ties and scarves from villages in the North and Northeast offer inimitable designs. Include in your treasures, the special purchase of *mud mii* fabrics – similar to the Malay word *ikat*, meaning to tie or wrap around. Tying and dyeing sections of the weft yarns predetermines the colour scheme and pattern before weaving. From simplistic, two-colour designs, to complex styles incorporating numerous colours, tiny animal, geometric and Buddhist symbols are woven into lengths used as *phasin* (sarong style skirt) and other garments. The southern provinces' batik painted cloth exhibits original designs with influences from Malaysia. The colourful array of fabric lengths is ideal for clothing, tablecloths and beach blankets.

The southern Thai provinces are particularly noted for their distinct basketry. *Krajood* or bulrush reeds are skilfully woven into functional, durable



What is seen as extraordinary to most visitors is simply everyday life for Thai craftspeople. Traditional skills are applied with indigenous, locally found materials. Functional wares are then developed with little thought of their creators' artistic abilities. Textile weaving dating back thousands of years is a ready example. Hand-spun and woven cotton and silk, ranking amongst the best in the world, remains one

mats, containers and bags. Entire villages, as with many Thai handicraft activities, base a large portion of their income on creating and selling such products. A finer fern-like vine, *yaan lipao*, adds a sophisticated form to everyday containers. Elegant handbags, bracelets, trays, betel-nut boxes meticulously woven and finished, have their aristocratic roots dating from the Rattanakosin period, in the late 18th century.



Utilitarian baskets constructed in various natural materials and used for daily chores such as fishing, winnowing, cooking and carrying rice are available inexpensively in vintage and contemporary styles. Higher quality weaving and finer materials lend many everyday containers, important in Thai village life, a more sophisticated form. Aristocratic women have long followed the Royal lead in adopting as accessories, delicate yaan lipao purses encrusted with pure gold clasps and fittings. An influx of Western imports during the latter part of the 19th century, however, endangered many traditional Thai crafts, including yaan lipao, which suffered a decline in popularity. But HM Queen Sirikit has inspired and supported a yaan

lipao revival in her SUPPORT scheme (Foundation for the Promotion of Supplementary Occupations and Related Techniques).

Supporting indigenous artistry and the livelihood of village women is a solid commitment in all Banyan Tree Gallery retail outlets, including Banyan Collections at Canal Village. A display of skilfully woven basketry still resonant of smoky fragrances of a village in the Nalung Hills, two-hours beyond the northern Thai city of Chiang Mai is a prime case in point. Being a working woman and mother of three herself, the Banyan Tree Gallery creator, Claire Chiang believes that su craftswomen encourage:



Browse the medley of fine jewellery and accessories in gold, gems and beadwork at Canal Village. Another jewellery best-buy from Phuket, the 'pearl of the south', is just that – cultured pearls. With over 5,000 oysters each producing a large pearl every two years, the world is literally your oyster. Choose from set and mounted rings, earrings, pendants, necklaces and bracelets.

Exceptionally pleasing, quality items skilfully created incorporating traditional techniques with a distinct contemporary flare, illustrate the concept for the collections of Jim Thompson – The Thai Silk Company. Mr. Thompson's name is synonymous with revitalising the Thai silk industry in the 1950s

## Canal Village Shopping Directory

### Handicrafts / Gifts / Souvenirs

Art & Gift Gallery  
Laguna Collection  
Laguna Factory Outlet  
Mandalay  
Ruen Thai  
Sandy House  
Siam Craft  
Thai Craft

### Boutiques / Children's Wear / Toys

Annisa  
Annisa Toys  
Baramee  
Jim Thompson  
Jim Thompson Factory Outlet  
Shopping House

### Home Decor

Jim Thompson Factory Outlet

### Jewellery

Roi Thai

### Specialty Stores

H2O Sportz & Phuket Water Taxi  
Hi-View (Optical)  
Super Sports

### Leather Goods

NF Leather  
Siam Leather

### Tailors

Broadway by Chamlong  
Canal Collection  
Peter Fashion House  
S.Cada  
Salon Fashion

### Dining / Refreshments

Al Mediterraneo Restaurant  
Albatross Cafe & Bar  
Village Bakery

### Convenience Store

Canalla Mini Mart

### Services

Albatross Leisure Travel Agency  
Bangkok Phuket International Clinic  
Canal Village Laundry & Dry Cleaning  
Laguna Currency Exchange  
Laguna Holiday Club  
Laguna Property Sales  
Laguna Travel & Tours  
Mother Photo Express



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