Surrounded by clear blue water, Phuket has all the right ingredients for an unforgettable tropical vacation: its palm fringed beaches are of soft, clean sand, it has a vibrant nightlife and you can enjoy the most wide-ranging cuisine – you name it, you can eat it in Phuket. For several years Phuket has topped the polls as a holiday paradise, and not without a reason, as the island is a spectacular destination. Add all this to the most welcoming people in the world, and you can see why travellers love it.

**Top 5**

**Excursion to Phi Phi Island**
This is one of the best excursions from Phuket and it takes a whole day. Lea...

**Phang-nga and Khai Nai Eco...**
Take the speedboat to Phang-nga and Khai Nai islands. Discover the flora and...

**Phuket Fantasea**
This is a cultural theme park with a very extravagant show. Phuket Fantasea ...

**Adventurer Rafting**
This tour, in Southern Thailand’s lush Phang Nga Province, takes you on an a...

**Scuba Diving**
‘Have a go’ under the guidance of a PADI instructor. A day course includes s...
THE ISLAND

Phuket and its surrounding islands are some of the most beautiful and intriguing in the world. Tall outcrops of limestone rise vertically from the sea, and probably the most famous of these was used as a location for one of the James Bond films. It’s now known as “James Bond Island,” but its real name is Phang-nga.

Set just off the west coast of Thailand, in the Andaman Sea, Phuket is about the same size as Singapore. The main town is Phuket Town, but many visitors stay in the beach resorts of Surin, Katu, Karon and the most famous (and busy), Patong. To get from Phuket to Patong takes about 20 minutes. Phuket Town has all the administration offices, bigger business hotels and department stores, whilst the beach resorts cater more to the holiday maker. However, excursions to the islands off Phuket go from the port at Phuket Town.

DO & SEE

Gorgeous white beaches, the bluest water you have ever seen and snorkelling, which is like swimming in an aquarium. This is the place to relax and enjoy yourself, either with scuba diving, spa centres or elephant trekking, there is always something to do.

Excursion to Phi Phi Island

This is one of the best excursions from Phuket and it takes a whole day. Leaving in the morning, the excursion includes a visit to island caves, a glass bottomed boat/submarine trip, and snorkelling off the island. You will spend some time on Phi Phi Island and Maya bay - a location for the film “The Beach”, and then back to the hotel. See website for more details and other boat trips.

Photo: Davide Scio/Shutterstock.com
Address: 63/202 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Road, Koh Kaew, Amphur Muang Phuket
Phone: +66 81 415 3549
Internet: www.v-marine-tour.com
Email: booking@v-marine-tour.com
Phang-nga and Khai Nai Eco Tour

Take the speedboat to Phang-nga and Khai Nai islands. Discover the flora and fauna at Panak Island, and the amazing limestone mountains at Hong Island. This trip also offers you a visit to Tapu Island (James Bond Island), Talu Cave, the fishing village called Ban Tak Dad and the landscape of mangrove forests.

Photo: MosayMay/Shutterstock.com
Address: 92/54-55 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Road, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 214 249
Internet: www.seacavecanoe.com
Email: info@seacavecanoe.com
More Info: Departure from Phuket Marina.

Phuket Fantasea

This is a cultural theme park with a very extravagant show. Phuket Fantasea is a stunning 140-acre theme complex, packed with activities such as carnivals and a Las Vegas-style theatrical show.

The show begins at 21.00. If you have booked for both dinner and show, then make sure to arrive before 18.30.

Photo: xander/Shutterstock.com
Address: 93 Moo 3, Kamala Beach, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 385 000
Internet: www.phuket-fantasea.com
Email: info@phuket-fantasea.com
More Info: Phuket Rafting Tours

Adventurer Rafting

This tour, in Southern Thailand’s lush Phang Nga Province, takes you on an action-packed ride along mountain rivers fringed with forest. Be prepared to get wet! See website for more information and different packages for White Water Rafting Tour.

Photo: Iryna Rasko/Shutterstock.com
Address: 9/249 Unit 1 Goldenville 5 Moo 6 Wichitsongkram Road, Kathu, Phuket
Phone: +66 82 810 0087
Internet: www.phuketraftingtour.com
Email: info@phukettourscompany.com
More Info: Phuket Rafting Tours

Scuba Diving

‘Have a go’ under the guidance of a PADI instructor. A day course includes simple instructions in breathing techniques, signals and safety before taking a dive into the clear waters.

Photo: Krofoto/Shutterstock.com
Address: 24 Karon Road, Kata Beach, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 330 598
Internet: www.diveasia.com
Email: info@diveasia.com
More Info: Dive Asia

Anthem Wakepark

Anthem Wake Park is the first cable wakeboarding park in the whole of Asia. Feel the adrenaline rushing while trying, or succeeding, to wakeboard on a fresh water lake in beautiful surroundings.
**Sepak Takraw**

Sepak Takraw is a popular sport in Asia. When the sun has set and the temperature has cooled down you can see people coming out and play this game. If you wonder what it is about, count how many times the ball touches the ground.

*Photo: Jo Panuwat D/Shutterstock.com*  
*Address: Phuket*  

**Golf**

Phuket has many beautiful golf courses to enjoy with panoramic views and refreshing surroundings. Just pick a course and enjoy a relaxing day surrounded by a beautiful green landscape.

*Photo: Sergey Molchenko/Shutterstock.com*  
*Address: Phuket*  

**Phuket Seashell Museum**

This kid-friendly museum celebrates shells from all over the world. The documentation is available in several languages and well made. Fossilised shells are displayed, along with rare and common shells. A nice visit for a rainy day or when it is too warm outside.

*Photo: Cesare Andrea Ferrari/Shutterstock.com*  
*Address: 12/2 Moo 2 Viset Road, Rawai beach, Phuket*  

**Phuket Thai Cookery School**

This is the perfect place to learn how to cook Thai food. The school is located on Siray beach in a serene and beautiful environment. Enjoy your food on one of their wooden sundecks or on the beach.

*Photo: Africa Studio/Shutterstock.com*  
*Address: 39/4 Thepatan Road, Rassada, Phuket*  

**Splash Jungle Water Park**

This is the perfect place to let the kids, and adults, go wild. Enjoy an adventurous day filled with water slides, rides and diving at Splash Jungle Water Park. The park also offers several refreshment options, including cafes and bars.

*Photo: altanaka/Shutterstock.com*  
*Address: 65 Moo 4 Mai khao Soi 4, T. Mai khao A. Thalang, Phuket*  

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**Phuket Aquarium**

This small aquarium presents sea life species from the lakes, streams, mangroves, coral reefs and the deep sea of Thailand. You will be guided on your discovery with audio guides and explanation panels. Feeding shows are also organised.

Photo: NIPATHORN/Shutterstock.com
Address: 51 Sakdidet Road, Wichit, Mueang, Phuket
Opening hours: Daily 08.30-16.30
Phone: +66 76 391 126
Internet: www.phuketaquarium.org
Email: phuket.aquarium@gmail.com

**Monkey Hill**

Hundreds of monkeys live on this hill. A nice visit for your family but careful of these wild animals. Officials recommend not feeding them, as they can get aggressive. The ascension of the hill is also a good work-out.

Photo: Shemyakina Tatiana/Shutterstock.com
Address: To Chae Road, Phuket Town, Phuket

**Phuket Orchid Farm**

This farm exhibits outstanding flowers. More than 1,500 different hybrids & species are presented. You can purchase traditional Thai bird cages, seeds and fresh flowers. Beautiful pictures are definitively on the menu!

**DINING**

Thai cuisine has become one of the country’s biggest exports and naturally nothing can compare to the real thing. Why not sample a bowl of tom yam goong (spicy prawn soup), or perhaps kaeng phed ped yang (roast duck in red curry) is more to your liking? Many restaurants in the resort towns such as Patong will have a mix of Thai and western food. Chinese dishes are readily available at the many restaurants in the resorts and there are a fair number of Indian and Arabic places catering to those particular types of cuisine.

**Night Food Market**

For simple, freshly cooked Thai food, a good place to go is the Night Food Market on rat-U-Thit. It’s out in the open and offers plenty of choice. Look at each menu to see what appeals to you! The ‘sales’ team on the street will all tempt you into their restaurant, but perhaps it’s best to look at each one and go back to the one
you like. Fish is the main ingredient at the market.

Photo: KYTan/Shutterstock.com
Address: Rat-U-Thit Road, Phuket
More Info: Opposite the Paradise Complex.

**Kan-Eang Seafood Restaurant**

This restaurant specializes in seafood and is located near Phuket Town at Chalang Bay. Not only is the food great but the panoramic view over the harbour is amazing.

Photo: Chaikom/Shutterstock.com
Address: 9/3 Moo 9 Chofa Road, Chalong’s Bay, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 381 323
Internet: www.phuket-seafood.com
Email: kaneang@phuket-seafood.com

**Rimtang@Chalong**

Visiting Phuket you will most likely stop at the famous Buddhist temple on the island, Wat Chalong. While you are there, cross the street and enjoy your lunch at Rimtang@Chalong. They serve lovely Thai food in the middle of a tropical garden.

Photo: Runch Omdoung/Shutterstock.com
Address: Moo 4, Chalong, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 374 911
Email: rimtangchalung@gmail.com

**Pomodoro Pizza Restaurant**

Even in Thailand you can get a craving for pizza. If you do, then this is the place to go to. Along with pizza, they also serve pasta, snacks and all the good Italian cuisine.

Photo: gowithstock/Shutterstock.com
Address: 32 Khoktanod Road, Kata Beach, Karon, Phuket
Opening hours: Daily 12.00-23.00
Phone: +66 76 330 539
Internet: www.pomodorokataphuket.com
Email: info@pomokata.com

**Laem-Thong Restaurant**

Laem-Thong Restaurant invites you to experience a fusion of Chinese and Thai food. The seafood here is also delicious and served in a nice and lively atmosphere.

Photo: nititep/Shutterstock.com
Address: 31-39 Chanacharoen Road, T., Phuket
Phone: +66 76 211 269

**The Royal Kitchen**

Claimed to be one of the most romantic restaurants in Patong. The restaurant at The Royal Paradise Hotel & Spa serves traditional Cantonese dishes such as Hong Kong beef and Peking duck coupled with a breathtaking view over the bay at Patong.

Photo: Mario Andrea/Shutterstock.com
Address: 135/23, 123/15-16 Rat-U-Thit 200 Pee Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 340 666
Silk Restaurant & Bar

With a stunning view over the Kamala Bay you can sit at Silk Restaurant & Bar and enjoy traditional Thai food in a tranquil environment. The chef’s focus is the flavours and textures of local Thai food.

Photo: Joey Santini/Shutterstock.com
Address: 15 Moo 6, Kamala Beach, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 338 777
Internet: www.silkphuket.com
Email: silk@andaraphuket.com
More Info: Located at Andara Resort & Villas.

Plum Prime Steakhouse

It is hard to decide whether the delicious food or the amazing view is the best at Plum Prime Steakhouse. Either way, you will have a great Mediterranean dining experience here.

Photo: Boy77/Shutterstock.com
Address: 18/40 Moo 6, Nakalay Road, Kathu, Phuket
Opening hours: Daily 18.00-23.30
Phone: +66 76 337 300
Internet: www.capesienna.com/restaurants/plum-prime-steakhouse
Email: rsvn@capesienna.com

CAFES

All the resorts from Surin to Chalong Bay have a beach front road packed with cafes and simple eating places. Some are part of a hotel; some are just simple eateries on the roadside. Too numerous to mention, just have a stroll and see what appeals to your taste buds.

Gallery Cafe

Everything about this place is good! Finky, the owner, offers a great service, you can get a full English breakfast, nice sandwiches or an organic salad for lunch and for dinner you can choose from the lovely menu.

Photo: Simon Poon/Shutterstock.com
Address: 19 Yaowarad Road, Talad Yai, Phuket
Phone: +66 89 103 7000
Internet: www.gallerycafephuket.com
Email: thegallerycafe@yahoo.com

Samero’s Icecream Paradise

This is ice-cream at its best, 100% natural ingredients and produced freshly every day. There are tons of different flavors, it is so good that you will dream about it.
A Spoonful of Sugar

Despite the name, you can eat more than one cookie without getting a sugar rush. Spoonful of Sugar is a very cosy coffee shop with an outdoor seating and with funky furniture.

Rider Cafe

If you are discovering Phuket by motorcycle then this is the place for all riders. They have good food and great service. You will find the coffee shop in the Old Town of Phuket.

UnforgetTable

This gorgeous small café will for sure make your experience unforgettable! After choosing your tea cup among the vintage collection of the owners, you will love to try one of the selected teas. With a pastry, of course!

The Circle Coffee Boutique

Great is the perfect word to describe this refined cafe. Your taste buds will appreciate the great cakes and the selected beans of coffee. Free WiFi is provided.

Rose Espresso

This tiny cafe is a haven for peace in the busy streets of Phuket. As the name indicates, the decoration is based upon roses but there is no "too much" effect. The banana cakes and mango crepes are definitely a must.
BARS & NIGHTLIFE

Equally, the bars of Patong run into the hundreds. The main bar areas are gathered around Bangla Square and Bangla Road. The road is traffic-free in the evening so you can wander along without the worries of the motorbikes. Off Bangla Road are some “Soi’, which are lanes, but again without traffic. In these Sois, such as Soi Eric, Soi Cayote, Soi Gonzo and Soi Easy there are even more bars.

Banana Disco

Banana Disco is the most established disco in Patong, this is one of the best meeting places in Patong. Large TV screen and lasers. There is an entrance fee but it includes the first drink. In the bar down stairs there is usually live music.

Photo: krit66/Shutterstock.com
Address: 96 Thawiwong Road, Patong, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 340 301
Internet: www.patongbeachhotel-online.com
More Info: Located at Patong Beach Hotel.

Thai Boxing

When in Thailand, going to a Thai Boxing match is a must. Feel the music, the spirit of the fighters and the tension up close in the arena. The nightly fights are viewed at the stadiums on Soi Sai Namyen.

Photo: fifg/Shutterstock.com

Patong Beach Nightlife

If you are not looking for a place in particular then Soi Bangla is the best place to walk along until you find a place that looks like a good time. There are a lot of bars and clubs in this area, and they are all packed with both tourists and locals.

Photo: pockakphotographer/Shutterstock.com

Karon Sunshine Guesthouse, Bar & Restaurant

Karon Sunshine is a chilled and relaxed place where you can meet people from all over the world. They claim to have the best Irish coffee in Thailand, so if you are fans, go there and judge for yourselves.

Photo: jordaneil/Shutterstock.com
Address: 528/14 Patak Road, Karon, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 286 352
Internet: www.karonsunshineguesthouse.com/bar.html
More Info: Located at Karon Sunshine Guesthouse.
Love Nightlife

Love Nightlife is a nightclub that just keeps going all night. Dress to impress, or less is more, depending on the weather. Three floors of fun and an amazing roof top bar await you here, and if you want extra service, they have an excellent VIP department.

Photo: Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com
Address: Jungceylon Shopping Centre, Patong, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 366 717

Seduction Nightclub

You simply cannot miss this club in the middle of Bangla Road. The busiest club around and with DJs from around the world, this is a place that you have to visit if you want to dance the night away.

Photo: Pressmaster/Shutterstock.com
Address: 70/3 Bangla Road, Kathu, Patong, Phuket
Phone: +66 92 531 2954
Internet: www.seductiondisco.com
Email: info@seductiondisco.com

SHOPPING

Thailand has excellent shopping, both modern malls with all the regular brands, as well as plenty of traditional crafts. The Central Festival in Phuket Town is the biggest shopping centre and has 300 shops, with branded goods, Thai crafts and electronics. Situated on the outskirts of Phuket Town, you will more than likely need a tuk tuk or taxi to get there.

For traditional Thai crafts, there is an organisation which is government supported called One Tambon, One Product. The idea is to encourage rural and tribal people from the villages to produce traditional goods and take the benefits directly. The store is located at the south end of Patong, behind the Holiday Inn Hotel. All the resorts have a night market, but the biggest is in Patong. The vendors begin to set up their stalls around 18.30 and then they are open for business until about 23.00. All the best bargains are here: clothes, sports equipment, watches, souvenirs, luggage and some of the best replicas you can find.
Ceramics of Phuket

For designer ceramics the Ceramics of Phuket company uses the local clay for their work and produces some very fine pieces. You can find them at Baan Kathu, on the outskirts of Phuket Town.

Photo: lastwiz/Shutterstock.com
Address: 71/3 Vichikasongkram Road, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 319 186
Internet: www.ceramicsofphuket.com

Ban Boran Textiles

For quality textiles and Thai Silk go to Ban Boran Textiles. The prices are slightly higher than in Bangkok but the quality is very good, you can choose between different kinds of clothes and textiles, all rigorously handmade.

Photo: jumoobo/Shutterstock.com
Address: 51 Yaowarat Road, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 211 563

Jewellery

When in Phuket, get some jewellery for yourself or the loved one. Cultured pearls are produced locally at Naka Noi Island which are also a good buy. Many local shops in Phuket City are specialist in jewellery. If you want to know the trade of pearl making, tours leave daily to Naka Noi Island and include a pearl demonstration and the opportunity to buy at discounted prices.

Photo: mirtmirt/Shutterstock.com

Fine Orient

Chinese Antiques and Reproduction Furniture. There are few places in Phuket that have good Chinese antiques and vintage artefacts as well as pieces from Tibet and Mongolia, which makes Fine Orient a must-stop for lovers of Chinoiserie.

Photo: Thanusak sakhonsukasem/Shutterstock.com
Address: 51/20 Moo 2, Tepanusorn Road, T.Vichit A.Muang, Phuket
Opening hours: Daily 09.00-20.00
Phone: +66 76 521 552
Internet: www.orient-antique.com
Email: info@orient-antique.com

Central Festival Phuket

Central Festival Phuket is an air conditioned, fully equipped three-storey shopping mall just outside of Phuket Town. Here you can easily spend a day strolling around in different shops, visiting restaurants or even catch a movie.

Photo: Elwynn/Shutterstock.com
Address: 74-75 Moo 5 Vichitsongkram Road, Amphur Muang, Phuket
Opening hours: Daily 10.30-22.00
Phone: +66 76 291 111
Internet: www.centralfestivalphuket.com
Email: prom.pkt@cpn.co.th

Jungceylon

Diagonally opposite Bangla Road, the Jungceylon Shopping Complex, has radically changed the face of shopping in Patong. The
two main stores in the complex are Robinson - a gleaming well-lit upper end department store comprising 200-plus stores, and Carrefour - a large French-based supermarket.

Photo: Andresr/shutterstock.com
Address: 181 Rat-u-thit 200 Pee Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket
Opening hours: Daily 11.00-22.00
Phone: +66 76 600 111
Internet: www.jungceylon.com
Email: saksan@jungceylon.com

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Passport / Visa

Visitors to Thailand need a valid passport and in some cases a visa to enter the country. Nationals of 57 countries are allowed a permanence from 14 to 90 days without a visa. Nationals of other 21 countries including China, India and Saudi Arabia are granted a visa on arrival, while the remaining need a visa in advance. Check the website below for further information:

www.thaiembassy.com/visa/thailand-visa.php

Photo: TukTuk Design/Shutterstock.com

Best Time to Visit

Phuket is one of the major tourist destinations in Southeast Asia, attracting tourists from all over the world. The various hotels and resorts get very busy during the high season, which coincides with the dry season, from December to April, and the weather is warm and dry, with long sunny days and a clear sky. During this period, in mid-April, the famous Songkran, the Thai New Year, takes place and the whole country celebrates on the streets. The monsoon arrives in May bringing heavy rainfall until November, making this the low season for tourism. This is by far the cheapest period to visit Phuket, and also the most peaceful, as the island is not as crowded as during the high season.

Photo: VectorA/Shutterstock.com

Phuket International Airport (HKT)

Phuket International Airport is situated north of the island, away from the luxury hotels and resorts. By taxi the trip to Surin will take about 30 minutes, to Patong about 40 min, Karon and Kata beaches around 50 minutes. The bus to Phuket Town takes one hour.

Metered taxis are available, but there are not too many of them around. They are to the right as you come out of the arrivals building, at the far end.

To the left as you come out of arrivals, there are 8 seated mini vans which will take you to your
hotel, but of course you have to stop at everyone else’s hotel as well.

There is also an Airport Bus but it only goes to Phuket Town Bus Terminal. It does stop on the way but not at any of the coastal resorts. Journey time is one hour from the airport to Phuket Town.

Photo: Juan Garces
Address: Phuket International Airport
Phone: +66 76 351 166
Internet: www.phuketairportonline.com

Public Transport

There are several public buses in Phuket, which are bright blue, with open sides. There aren’t any real schedules, but if you see one and want to get on, just wave – there are no official bus stops. The local bus station is located on Ranong Road in Phuket Town.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

Taxi

The most widely used ‘taxis‘ are bright red tuk tuks. These are not the 4 seated variety as in Bangkok but hold about 6-8 people. Unlike the metred taxi, arrange a price before getting in.

You can also find traditional taxis outside the airport terminal and around town, which either have fixed fares or a meter.

Internet: www.phukettaxi.com

Car and Motorbike Rental

Traffic in Thailand is on the left side and all the major car rental companies have offices at the airport. An international driving license is required. There are enterprising companies immediately outside the arrivals hall with cards offering cars at cheaper rates. Jeeps are also available, make sure you see the car before paying, some have been around for a while.

When driving in Thailand, beware of motorbikes overtaking on the inside and/or on bends. Drive a little slower and keep an eye on the wing mirrors.

Pharmacy

In Phuket you can find larger chain pharmacies such as Boots (Central Festival) and Watsons. Individual pharmacies are located in Phuket Town and in most resorts in the main shopping areas.

Grace Pharmacy (Phuket Pharmacy):

Photo: Gemma Garner
Address: 114/47 Moo 5 Srisoonthon, Talang, Phuket
Phone: +66 84 344 8250
Email: phuketpharmacy@gmail.com

Post Office

Post offices are usually open from 08.30 until 16.30, but make sure your post is there by 15.30, otherwise it waits until the next day. The
main post office in Patong is on Beach Road and in Phuket Town is at Montri Road. There are post outlets in many of the major stores and supermarkets. Look for counters with the names of courier companies listed - you can still send with the Thai post service from these counters.

Main post office:

Photo: Andy Fuchs
Address: 158 Montri Road, Talardyai, Muang, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 211 020
Internet: www.thailandpost.co.th/en/index
Email: postalcare@thailandpost.co.th

Telephone

Country code: + 66 Area code: 076 Remember that an area code is needed even if you are within that city. So, if a call is made from Patong to Phuket, the prefix 076 is still required.

Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity

220V, 50 Hz. The general socket is a flat two pin, but there are some Thai appliances that have a third round pin. Many hotels, especially the older ones, have only the two pin socket so bringing an adapter is recommended.

Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population
386,605 (2015)

Currency
Thai Baht (THB)
THB10 ~ US$0.30

Opening hours

Most shops are open from 09.00 to 22.00 in the evening, and are often open 7 days a week. Banking hours are strictly 08.30 to 15.30, Monday to Friday.

Internet
www.phuket.net

Newspapers
Phuket Post
Phuket Gazette
Bangkok Post (National)
The Nation (National)
Look East (Magazine available for tourists in most hotels)

Emergency numbers
Police: 191
Fire Brigade: 199
Emergency Tourist Police: 1155
Marine police: +66 76 211 883
Phuket International Hospital:
+66 76 249 400

Tourist information
Tourist Authority of Thailand (TAT)
191 Thalang Road, Tambon Thaladyai, Muang District, Phuket
+66 76 211 036
<table>
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<th>Road Name</th>
<th>Block Numbers</th>
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<th>Subtracting Road</th>
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<td>Phuket Road</td>
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<td>D2</td>
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