

Residents of Stockholm's bohemian Södermalm neighborhood can attest to the surreal quality of escaping the long winter for a few hours on the "White Sand Beach" of Koh Phangan. Run in connection with a travel agency specializing in tours to the archipelago of southeast Thailand, this wonderland bar and restaurant of bamboo walls and tables looks like a South Seas beach bungalow invaded by the descendants of Vikings. The design concept is based on the real Koh Phangan, an island jewel known for its full moon beach raves.

In the front room, under dim red and green light, a twenty- and thirtysomething crowd of Stockholmers sits around low-slung smoking tables trading their whos and whys, armed with tall tropical drinks from the Tiki Bar in the next room. Those bold

## STOCKHOLM'S Koh Phangan

enough to brave hot chili peppers will discover an authentic Thai menu for lunch and dinner, with a selection of spices uncommon in these picantewary parts. The dining room features bamboo bridges over running water, dense tropical foliage, and a booth installed in a tuk-tuk. The upstairs dance club opens around midnight for a party that goes into the wee hours, featuring the usual assortment of Nordic beauties in various and arresting states of boogie.

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