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## Eastern Promise

Each of the 15 villas that make up the Layan Residences comes complete with an in-house butler, cinema, living and dining room. While some resorts require you to venture out into the city to experience the country's characteristic elements, Layan Anantara does not. There are Muay Thai classes for those looking to try their hand at the much-loved national sport, cooking classes for all those wishing to perfect the art of Thai dining, and much, much more. Meanwhile, Emirates flies direct to Phuket from AED3,250/US\$885 return, visit [emirates.com](http://emirates.com); Anantara Premier rooms start from AED1,202/ US\$327 per night, visit [anantara.com](http://anantara.com).

<b>OUTLET</b>	Hello! Middle East	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	Weekly
<b>COUNTRY</b>	United Arab Emirates	<b>CIRCULATION</b>	74,780 Monthly
<b>LANGUAGE</b>	English	<b>IMPRESSIONS</b>	4,916
<b>SIZE</b>	3 pages	<b>AVE</b>	\$21,000
<b>PAGES</b>	1, 56, 57	<b>SENTIMENT</b>	Neutral
		<b>DISTRIBUTION</b>	Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain



# Eastern PROMISE

Where A-list winter sun-seekers experience the suite life



Anantara Layan,  
Phuket

**THE VILLAS:** Each of the 15 villas that make up the Layan Residences comes complete with an in-house butler, cinema, living and dining room. With the ability to comfortably accommodate up to eight people at a time, the villas are ideal for large families and groups of friends. And, while the three contemporary, larger-than-life, predominantly wooden, bedrooms are stunning, to say the least, it is the outdoor infinity pool that really grabs your attention. Not only does it feature a fireplace, the temperature-controlled swimming pool also has a Jacuzzi and two secret windows that look out into the downstairs office and cinema room.

While all of the 15 villas come with their very own private chef, it's also worth visiting some of the resort's many restaurants. Breeze is great for those looking to unwind over sundowners and snacks around the resort's main pool, while

Sala Layan's low-lighting, stunning views and fine-dining Mediterranean menu makes for the perfect date-night spot.

**THE HIGHLIGHTS:** While some resorts require you to venture out into the city to experience the country's characteristic elements, Layan Anantara does not. There are Muay Thai classes for those looking to try their hand at the much-loved national sport, cooking classes for all those wishing to perfect the art of Thai dining, and much, much more.

Our favourite activity (besides the Muay Thai classes that are hosted by Jimmy, who is notorious for his tongue-in-cheek motivational comments and for being one of the best fighters on the island) had to be the Spice Spoons cooking class.

Hosted by Chef Suthat, the hour-long tutorial

will not only have you perfecting some of the nation's most popular dishes, it will also inform you of the many ingredients used to give Thai food its distinctive flavours.

**THE LOCATION:** Although Layan is relatively small compared to areas such as Kata and Phuket Town, it boasts everything needed to make your stay a memorable one. For instance, it is home to the Phuket Elephant Sanctuary, the city's first and only ethical elephant resort. The truly moving project that rescues elephants in need has attracted a star-studded following since it opened its doors last year. Singers Shania Twain, Britney Spears and Chris Martin of Coldplay are just some of the celebs that have visited the sanctuary in recent months.

Home to a number of traditional Thai keepsakes such as oil-painted lanterns, carved



The Anantara offers expansive residences which are perfect for large families such as the Kardashians, who explored Phuket during one of their holidays (inset right). The Thai island is a magnet for celebrities with eco-warrior Leonardo diCaprio (below) and Shania Twain (right) visiting the elephant sanctuary



wooden elephant statues and homegrown fashion brands, the local night market is the perfect place to bag a bargain while supporting the local economy.

Culinary enthusiasts looking to explore the many flavours of Thailand should visit the Spice Souk. Much like the night market, the souk is locally operated and features some of the best fruits, vegetables, spices and meats from Layan and neighbouring villages. Should you wish to visit this foodie hub, get there by noon on weekends and public holidays, or else you'll find the stalls have shut shop for the day.

**DETAILS**

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