



GARDEN WALK - Forest Bathing in Rayavadee

August 2025 – Krabi, Thailand - Decades ago, Rayavadee was surrounded by just a handful of plant species—mainly coconut, mango, and tamarind trees. Each pavilion was thoughtfully nestled within a lush tropical garden, capturing the mesmerizing views of Railay Bay in Southern Thailand. Over the years, this stunning location became one of the most visited destinations in the world, welcoming millions of tourists annually and thousands of boats, earning its place among the top-ranked beaches globally. This surge in popularity brought tremendous economic value to the country and provided income opportunities for the local community.

However, this dream-like prosperity came with a cost. The once pearl-white sand began to lose its pristine color, the clear turquoise sea darkened, and marine life became increasingly disturbed by human activity. Shallow coral reefs suffered damage, and the lack of proper management to balance tourism with environmental preservation led to noticeable changes in the area—including at Rayavadee itself.

Driven by a vision of restoration and conservation, the resort began to diversify its plant life by studying and reintroducing native flora to provide food sources and habitats, aiming to restore biodiversity. These efforts also created a lush, green space that enhances guest experience and promotes learning and tranquility. One such initiative is the **“Garden Walk”**, a guided activity allowing guests to reconnect with nature through observation and exploration.

For over two decades, Rayavadee has remained dedicated to harmonizing man-made structures with the surrounding natural environment. Located on the Phranang Peninsula along Thailand’s Andaman Coast, the resort is embraced by three stunning beaches—Nam Mao, Railay, and Phranang—within the Nopparat Thara–Mu Koh Phi Phi National Park.

Covering more than 26 acres, the resort was thoughtfully designed to blend into its lush surroundings, home to over 120 species of ornamental plants and more than 250 varieties of tropical forest trees, all carefully preserved. Rayavadee also collaborates with other resorts in the area to keep the beaches clean and has implemented a no-boat policy at Phranang Beach to protect the environment.

Recent renovations have enhanced the resort's pavilions and restaurants while staying true to its eco-conscious and culturally respectful philosophy. *Krua Phranang Restaurant* now features a refreshed, modern look, while the iconic *The Grotto*, set inside a beachside cave, retains its magical charm. Accommodations include standalone pavilions and villas in nine different styles, each offering expanded space and modern comforts.

In addition to the Garden Walk, Rayavadee offers curated experiences such as island-hopping tours and visits to Koh Klang, the island known for its traditional batik fabric and organic rice cultivation. These programs aim to generate income for the surrounding communities while enriching guests’ cultural understanding.

The content compiled from Nork Baan Column, Baan Lae Suan Magazine.
(<https://www.baanlaesuan.com/357377/gardens/rayavadee/>)

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