

NIKOI ISLAND

RELAXED BY NATURE

WEATHER

1° 04' N, 104° 43' E

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Nikoi is a private island just 5km off the east coast of Bintan in the South China Sea. We are just one degree north of the equator so the weather is tropical and quite similar to the weather in Singapore although the cool sea breezes and the lack of a large land mass means the temperature and humidity is lower than in Singapore. Being so close to the equator the temperature rarely drops below 26C and is never more than 32C.

There is some seasonality largely marked by the direction of the wind but it is mild and so pleasant to visit all year round. The winter monsoon (mild at our latitude) blows from the north-east and typically starts in December and lasts until the end of February bringing cooler temperatures and rougher seas. The summer monsoon starts in June and is even milder. We typically recommend the best time of the year to visit is from March to November but we do find some guests prefer the windier and cooler weather from December to February, particularly if you wish to do any windsports.

We have some of the best coral reefs in the area and beautiful white-sand beaches from which you can swim and snorkel. At very low tide access to deep water can be difficult but it is nearly always possible. In November a lagoon forms which provides a great swimming area. Visibility of the water varies from being poor to very good and is typically better on the first and third quarters of the lunar cycle. The monsoon seasons do bring rougher seas and this can also affect water visibility. Depending on the tides, the currents can be quite strong and we recommend you ask our staff where the best locations are to swim.

Very occasionally we get a very small surf (never more than 0.5m) that can be fun on a kayak or a longboard (we have two). We get good clean wind most of the year round and it is an ideal location to windsurf. Do give us some advance warning if you plan to bring a windsurfing board or plan to kite surf (we have beginner and advanced windsurfing boards but no kite surfing equipment).

The east coast of Bintan is very popular amongst kite surfers. We would caution you that depending on the weather conditions it can be difficult to launch a kite from the beach.

Water temperature is constant at around 28C throughout the year and unless you are planning to dive you will not need a wetsuit to swim.

Nikoi is listed on the excellent website www.windguru.com where you can get a 7 day forecast for weather conditions. This site uses satellite data to predict wind speed, wind direction, wave heights, wave period, temperature and rainfall. We find it is most accurate for wind and wave data. Rain is typically localised and more likely to occur over the large land mass of Bintan than Nikoi and this distorts the data. Windguru also has an archive of weather data for Nikoi going back to June 2007.

We recommend you pack lightly and make sure you have a wide brim hat and plenty of sunscreen.



www.nikoi.com