

# SAMUI Traveller

OCTOBER 2008  
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## FEATURES

Interview With Liz Luxen - Interpreter & Translator  
Dining One Level Higher At Captain Kirk  
Big Buddha - Samui's Most Famous Landmark  
Famous Quotes - You Heard It Here Second  
The Official Drinking Test  
Are You Ready To Go Home Yet?

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different languages, there are always moments that people need advice, help or assistance because of language barriers. This can vary from a rather simple translation job to complicated court cases where I assist people with interpretation and translation. I read, write and speak Thai fluently and have a degree in Thai law which can make a big difference in important court cases. Everybody knows that one word in a court case can make a difference in 'guilty' or 'not guilty', so my role as a translator and interpreter in civil procedures is significant in many situations.

To give an idea about my work, I offer people the opportunity to get direct interpretations at court hearings for all criminal and civil cases up to appeal and Supreme Court. I escort people to police stations to file reports or to questionings from crime investigators. If people have lawyer consultations I will get your point across and fully understand the legal procedures in your case. Due to my good contacts with the local government my escorts will pave the way for quick and easy access to the required documents, and service with a smile from the government officials in charge. In case of business meetings, multilingual escorts will guarantee, that you do not accidentally offend your partners, which will be disastrous for your enterprise. The value of face cannot be underestimated when dealing with Asians, Thais in particular.

Furthermore, when people need to go to hospital, I am experienced enough in dealing with conflict situations and assist you in a crisis, explain the medical conditions, and translate the medical report for your insurance. My translation service comprises all kinds of documents, concepts, brochures, letters and all other written matter. In our team we have freelance translators/interpreters covering the following languages: Italian, French, Russian, Parse, Hebrew, Mandarin, Lao, Burmese and Japanese. My phone is never switched off, unless I am in court.

### Do you ever have a moment for yourself?

Yes I do, although it's not that much. Because I found a niche on the island with my work it's not only on Samui where I operate. I also get calls for assistance from the neighbouring islands Koh Phangan and Koh Tao plus many times I have to go to court hearings in Suratthani and Bangkok, my agenda is full with court dates booked until September of 2009. But when I have free time I love to spend it with my son on the beach and to keep in shape, if time allows, I go to my Sensei for my karate lessons.

### Talking about a niche, we heard you found another one?

Correct. Together with my friend Dave, a British national with a military background and currently engaged in diving medicine with his wife and overseeing the advice and

## SAMUI PROFILE

The following is an extract of an interview between Steven Willeboordse of the Samui Traveller and Liz Luxen, owner of Interpretation & Translation Center and the recently established Funeral Services.



**Liz Luxen**  
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[www.samuifunerals.org](http://www.samuifunerals.org)



Liz Luxen

### Can you give some background information about yourself?

Originally I am from Düsseldorf in Germany. Nineteen years ago, as a gift for my graduation with outstanding grades, my family gave me a trip to Asia. I worked in the Philippines, Malaysia, and on Phi Phi Island where I was one of the first teaching instructors and one of the pioneers of female dive instructors in Asia. I became a PADI certified Master Scuba Diver Trainer and led over 500 students getting their PADI certification. I began to develop my skills of the Thai language translating dive documents, exams and information. Here I met her husband, one of the Urak Lavoy Sea Gypsies, who was operating as an underwater videographer. Like most expats living here, I completely fell in love with Thailand and started to experience a new life being one of the Urak Lavoy Sea Gypsies. Together with my husband I started an outdoor company on the Andaman Coast called 'Wildside', which became a very successful venture.

Unfortunately the Tsunami in 2004 destroyed our whole life and lost we lost everything. But like the expression 'every negative has its positive' says, the backpack of experiences of living with the Sea Gypsies gave me wisdom and strength to overcome this tragic experience in my life. I relocated on Koh Samui where I started working as a translator and interpreter for the foreign insurance department at the Thai International Hospital. Here I improved my high Thai and medical language skills and led to opening my own business in June 2005 as an interpreter for the people on Samui.

### What does your work involve being an interpreter / translator?

On an island like Samui with many different cultures with

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guidance given on the help4bits website, we set up Funeral Services. We both have considerable experience in assisting foreigners and are held in very high esteem by Thai authorities and the expatriate community. The idea to offer a funeral service on Koh Samui, Koh Tao and Koh Phangan in Suratthani province of southern Thailand was born of the need to assist the growing number of families and friends during time of bereavement.



Dave and Liz during their funeral service

Thai style funerals are very different and for those who have seen the way a funeral is done locally, it can be a bit uncomfortable according to western standards. Therefore we offer different options such as bereavement counselling, logistics and accommodation for bereaved relatives and friends, assistance with the last will and testament, property protection, preparation of the deceased, selection of coffin, urn and flowers and so on. Simply said; we cater for all religions and budgets. Our arrangements are designed in consultation with the deceased's next of kin to ensure each funeral is in keeping with the wishes of the family.

### Well, thank you Liz for time, any last thing you like to mention?

Yes, if any reader needs assistance don't hesitate to contact us,

as I mentioned before, my phone is on 24/7 and I am more than happy to jump in if people are lost in translation. You can reach me on 08 9473 2038 and my partner Dave for Funeral Services at 08 3639 4528. My office is located on the ring road, just south of Lamai. For more information you can check [www.liz-luxen.com](http://www.liz-luxen.com) and [www.samuifunerals.org](http://www.samuifunerals.org)

