



Abandon land for Southeast Asia's best 'floatels'

For sleeping options with maximum buoyancy, check out these floating hotels in the Greater Mekong subregion

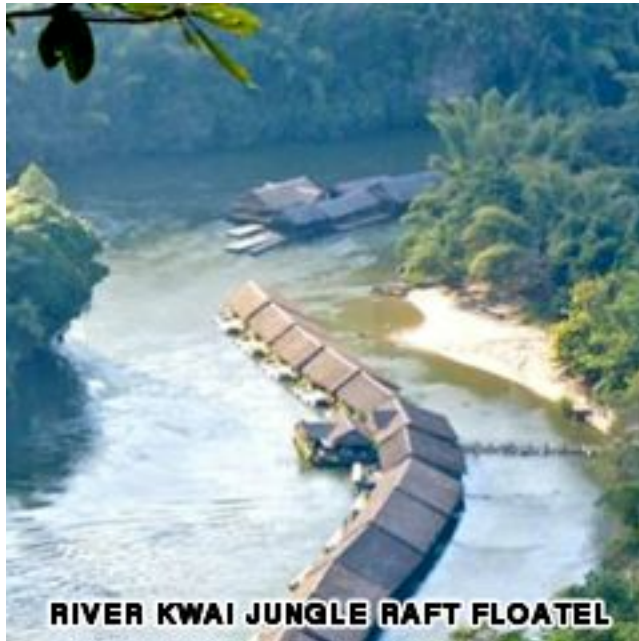
By Merritt Gurley

When it comes to adventure travel, in terms of accommodation options lazy is the new crazy.

In Southeast Asia alone there are dozens of hotels that offer the chance to relax, ride the tides and, in the immortal words of Modest Mouse, float on.

Floating hotels and stilted resorts over water can be found across the Greater Mekong subregion, which encompasses areas of Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and the Yunnan Province of China.

The River Kwai Jungle Raft Floatel: Kanchanaburi, Thailand



With no electricity, this place is the real rustic deal for those who want to unplug. The River Kwai Jungle Raft Floatel is a rustic floating village in Kanchanaburi that's been around since 1976.

Just two and a half hours outside of Bangkok, its bamboo rooms roped together in a long row line the banks of the River Kwai.

Accommodations are "cozy" at 28 square meters, but create a community vibe with hammocks slung close enough together to encourage conversation.

There's no electricity so things are definitely quiet at night.

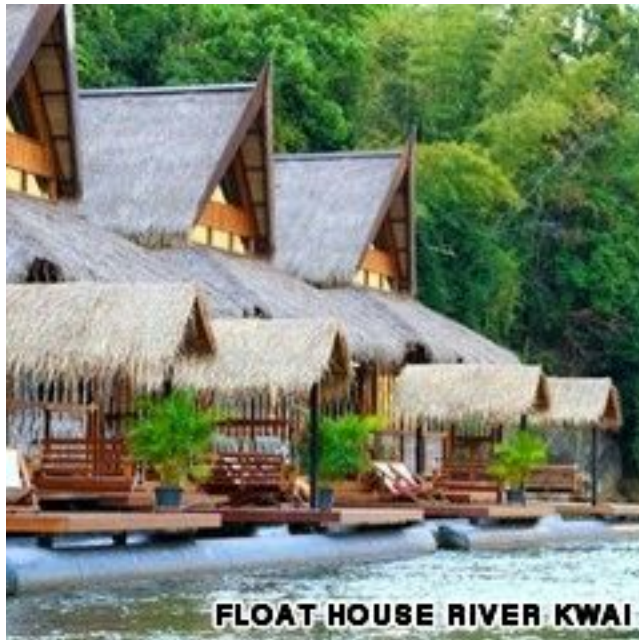
During the day the resort's dock is lined with sunbathers and the river fills with swimmers.

The current is strong enough to pull swimmers at a steady clip, so the favorite sport for guests is to jump off the pier, float the length of the resort, grab onto the last ladder, climb back out and repeat.

Essential info: *There's no convenience store around the corner from the Jungle Raft Floatel, so food and boat transfers are included in the price.*

Rates for a room with half board, joint boat transfer and double occupancy are available. Book through the [Floatel's website](#).

The Float House River Kwai: Kanchanaburi, Thailand



The Float House is staffed by members of the local Mon community. The [Float House River Kwai](#) features 10 luxury floating villas joined together on a nice stretch of the River Kwai.

Each room spans an airy 90 square meters and is constructed from local materials. Décor is best described as "folksy Thai."

Technophiles can breathe easy. The Float House has WiFi, a DVD player and a 32-inch LCD screen as well as a private pier and balcony over the water.

Essential info: *Bookings can be made via phone at +66 2 642 5497 or by email at info@TheFloatHouseRiverKwai.com.*