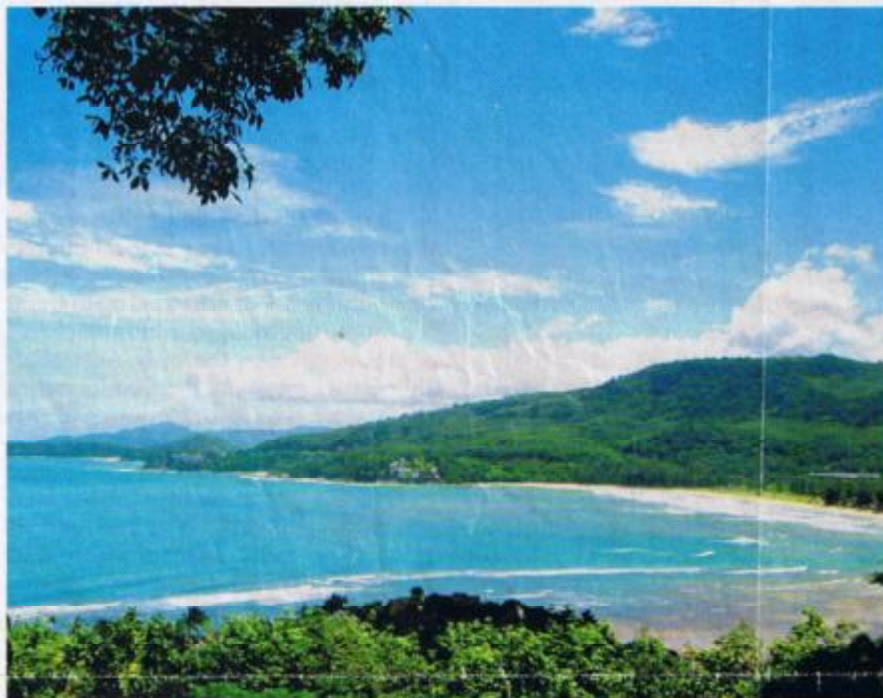


afterhours

GETAWAY



ALAN PICKERING

Alan and his wife Lyn are partners in Singapore-based Simpson Marine (SEA) Pte Ltd, Asia's largest private yacht brokerage company.

ALAN AND LYN Pickering share a love for boating, so it's no surprise that they do most of their travelling by sea. Ask them their favourite holiday destinations and the answer is either Phuket, Thailand or Langkawi, Malaysia. Alan confesses: "As all our getaways are by boat, I haven't really seen much of inland Asia." Travelling by boat allows them to explore remote islands, especially those that are not serviced by ferries but by bumboats. To Alan, Langkawi is a great location for boating and the yet-to-be-discovered islands in Phuket are "scenically beautiful".

His foray into the high seas started in 1991 when he took a boat out to Phuket. Since then, it has become an annual af-



fair and, every time he goes back, he still manages to discover new places. If the islands off Phuket are breathtaking, the scenery off Langkawi is spectacular, especially with natural beauty like mountains, caves, inlets and waterfalls to feed your sense of sight. Alan enthuses: "There is an opportunity to interact with nature, such as watching the sea eagles and feeding the fish. And there are the spectacular sunsets that we really look forward to." The

Pickerings always have family and friends around for company and to share their discoveries and new experiences. Having them around makes his trips all the more exciting, Alan says.

The only thing that would mar his holiday is seeing litter washed up on shore. Sharing a piece of travel advice, Alan says: "Boating is the only way to enjoy the islands. Hire a boat for the day and travel to some out-of-the-way places." ■

ALIA PHUKET (PHUKET)