THAILAND MASTER

Best of Thailand

Chalong or Thap Lamu | Southern Thailand, Similan and Surin Islands



The Andaman Sea at its best, from the limestone islands of the south to the Similan and Surin Islands.

Open-ocean pinnacles drop past 70 metres with fields of magnificent anemones, walls of soft corals and huge gorgonian sea fans, and they are best known for manta ray and whale shark encounters.

Almost perpetual good visibility and dramatic topography combine with huge fish numbers.

In the Similans, coral gardens and giant granite boulders bring leopard sharks, white tip reef sharks and schooling giant trevally.

Koh Haa finishes it off with caverns, swim-throughs and chambers that you cannot see anywhere else in Thailand.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
10 nights	Chalong or Thap Lamu	Chalong or Thap Lamu	Certified divers







Your itinerary

1

Embarkation

Embarkation at 18:00 is followed by introductions, safety briefings and dinner.

2

Diving days

Your Cruise Director schedules up to 4 dives a day: 3 day dives and a sunset or night dive.
A typical diving day is a light breakfast, briefing and dive 1; full breakfast, relaxation, briefing and dive 2; lunch, relaxation, briefing and dive 3; a snack and a briefing for the sunset or night dive; then dinner.

10

Last diving day

Usually two morning dives before the boat commences the cruise to port.

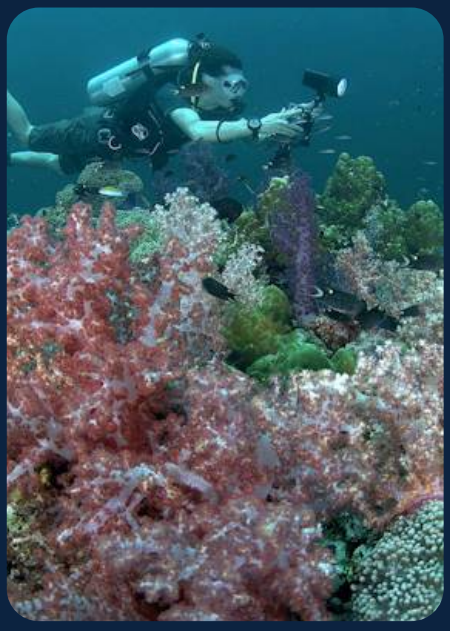
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Disembarkation

Breakfast on board followed by disembarkation between 09:30 and 10:00.







THE DIVING

Dive sites

Koh Phi Phi National Park

Lying in Phang-Nga Bay, about 45 km east of Phuket and 30 km southwest of Krabi, two breathtaking limestone islands make up the greater part of Moo Koh Phi Phi, an archipelago of 6 islands, with the largest island of Phi Phi Don being a few kilometres north of Phi Phi Lae.

King Cruiser

The King Cruiser was a car ferry that used to travel between Phi Phi and Phuket until, in 1997, 'The Cruiser' hit Anemone Reef on her crossing and sank a short distance away.

Shark Point and Anemone Reef

These pinnacles are part of the same reef system and are only a very short distance apart from each other.

Koh Haa National Park

Possibly some of the most underrated diving in the whole of Thailand, Moo Koh Haa (meaning Five Islands) sits almost halfway between Hin Daeng and Phi Phi and is part of the Ko Lanta National Marine Park.

Hin Daeng and Hin Muang

Translating as Red Rock and Purple Rock, with their names derived from the colour of the corals they host, these two sites are pinnacles in the open ocean, reaching down to over 70m, and are best known for manta ray and whale shark encounters.

Similan Islands National Park

The above water scenery will provide stunningly beautiful white sandy beaches with small forested areas. Dive some of the following sites; Boulder City, Sharkfin Reef, Anita's Reef and Three Trees.

Koh Bon

This is generally the most likely place to see manta rays on this itinerary.

Koh Tachai

This island is famous for its pinnacle dive site, known by many as Twin Peaks as well as more relaxed reef diving on the North Reef and South Reef.

Richelieu Rock

This limestone pinnacle was named by Jacques Cousteau after Cardinal Richelieu due to the similarity to the colour of his gown as there are gorgeous purple dendronephthya soft corals covering most of the pinnacle.

Surin Islands National Park

The topside scenery of Koh Surin, with evergreen forests, mangroves, and small beaches, surpasses even that of the picturesque Similan Islands.

Khao Lak Wrecks

Before disembarking in Khao Lak, if conditions and timing are favourable there is a choice of easily diveable wrecks between the Similan Islands and the port of Tap Lamu.

WORTH KNOWING

Key notes

Good to know

We recommend divers have PADI Advanced Open Water certification, or equivalent, with a minimum of 10 logged dives and experience in strong currents.

Good to know

The Advanced Open Water course can usually be completed on board with advance notice.

Good to know

Guests who do not fulfil the minimum certification and experience requirements may be denied participation in some or all dives.

Flying

Leave a minimum of 24 hours between your final dive and the departure of your flight.