THAILAND MASTER

Mergui Archipelago

Ranong, Thailand | Mergui Archipelago, Myanmar

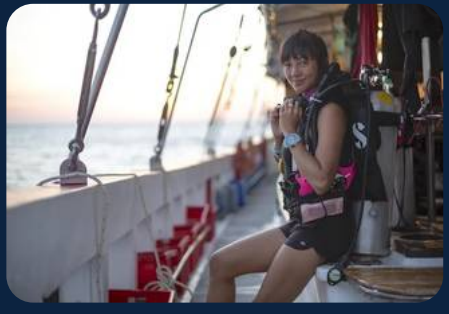
Isolated pinnacles, caves and tunnels, soft and hard corals and rarely visited reefs make the Mergui Archipelago diving at its most untouched.

Healthy gorgonian sea fans stand in a forest on a submerged pinnacle, with schooling snapper, trevally, rainbow runners and fusiliers around them.

Tiny islets are a mix of caves, canyons, vertical walls and sloping reefs, with fields of anemones and tiger tail seahorses on the deep edges.

Out in the blue, wahoo, tuna and barracuda pass by, and a granite island of gorges and swim-throughs draws eagle rays and the occasional manta.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
7 nights	Ranong, Thailand	Ranong	Advanced Open Water







Your itinerary

1

Embarkation

Embarkation, lunch and orientation briefings, then the short crossing to Kawthoung in Myanmar before cruising into the archipelago.
There is no diving on embarkation day.

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.

7

Last diving day

We usually schedule 2 morning dives before the boat cruises back towards Ranong.

8

Disembarkation

Breakfast on board, then disembarkation between 09:00 and 09:30.







THE DIVING

Dive sites

Rocky Island or High Rock

This is a tiny islet with a solitary tree growing on the top, located roughly 75 kilometres northwest of Kawthuang.

North Twin and South Twin

Strong currents around these granite islands bring with them groups of schooling barracuda, hunting tuna and mating cuttlefish.

Black Rock

Black Rock stands alone in the Andaman Sea acting as a natural magnet for oceanic mantas and other large pelagics such as whale sharks and eagle rays.

Three Islets

The three sites across these tiny islands (Shark Cave, Submarine and Square Rock) are rich with diverse marine life and a mix of caves, canyons, vertical walls, and sloping reefs.

Sea Fan Forest

As the name suggests, this submerged pinnacle, starting at 5 metres depth, is famous for its abundance of gorgonian sea-fans. The biggest gorgonians are in deeper waters around 20m and below.

Western Rocky

A short cruise south of Sea Fan Forest, Western Rocky consists of a main islet and several detached pinnacles.

WORTH KNOWING

Key notes

Good to know

Some of the diving around the Mergui Archipelago can be challenging for divers who have not dived in similar conditions.

Good to know

Some sites are deeper than entry-level certification limits, and there can be strong currents and reduced visibility.

Good to know

All divers must have PADI Advanced Open Water certification, or equivalent, with a minimum of 30 logged dives and, ideally, experience diving in currents.

Good to know

Guests who do not meet the requirements, or whom the crew feel lack the skills or experience for certain conditions, may be denied some or all dives.