THE JUNK

Manta Trust Expedition, Best of Thailand

Chalong Pier to Thap Lamu Pier | Racha, Koh Haa, Hin Daeng, Similans and Richelieu Rock

A trip built around close encounters with manta rays, with scientists photographing every manta met and inviting divers to name any new ones.

Open-ocean pinnacles are best known for manta ray and whale shark encounters, with fields of magnificent anemones and huge gorgonian sea fans.

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

Around Koh Bon, manta rays are most likely, and Koh Tachai adds leopard sharks, marbled whip rays and turtles.

A limestone pinnacle covered in purple soft corals finishes the trip, with frogfish, tiger tail seahorses and the occasional whale shark.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
10 nights	Chalong Pier, Phuket	Thap Lamu Pier	Certified divers







Your itinerary

1

Embarkation

Embarkation at 18:00 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

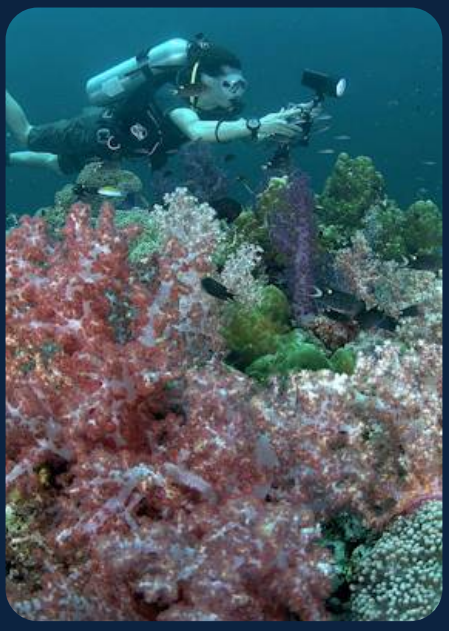
Two morning dives before commencing the cruise to port.

11

Disembarkation

Breakfast on board, then disembarkation between 09:30 and 10:00.







THE DIVING

Dive sites

Racha Yai

Located south of Phuket, Racha Yai offers the perfect location for a check dive with great visibility, sheltered sandy-bottomed bays, sloping hard coral reefs and underwater statues to explore.

Racha Noi

This island has some of the best visibility of all sites in the area. Often described as a ‘mini Similans’ the granite boulder topography is also unique compared to other sites in the area.

Koh Haa

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

Hin Daeng and Hin Muang

These two sites are pinnacles (translating directly as Red Rock and Purple Rock) in the open ocean, reaching down to over 70m, and are best known for manta ray and whale shark encounters.

Similan Islands

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 Honeymoon Bay.

Elephant Head Rock

Visible from the surface, Elephant Head Rock is the biggest pinnacle in the Similans and has some fantastic swim-throughs.

Koh Bon

Often, this is the most likely place to see manta rays on this itinerary.

Koh Tachai

This island is famous for its pinnacle dive site and more relaxed reef diving. Normally leopard sharks, marbled whip rays, turtles, barracuda, pipefish, and nudibranchs can be found here.

Richelieu Rock

This limestone pinnacle was named by Jacques Cousteau after the character in the Three Musketeers, Cardinal Richelieu, as it reminded him of his deep scarlet cape.

Top Side

Along the route there are some incredible views from the boat including verdant forests, deserted beaches, and limestone karsts climbing vertically from the ocean.

WORTH KNOWING

Key notes

Good to know

Workshops in collecting and recording manta ID images give divers the tools to contribute meaningful data to the Manta Trust's research and conservation.

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.