

# Southern Thailand (incl. Koh Lipe)

## Itinerary - 5 Nights

Arrival airport: Phuket International Airport (HKT) / Hotel

Departure airport: Phuket International Airport (HKT) /Hotel

Embarkation: Chalong Pier, Phuketat 19h00

Disembarkation: Chalong Pier, Phuketat 16h00

Shared transfers between Phuket Airport, Phuket hotels and the vessel on embarkation and disembarkation day are included in the cruise price. When you fly in on embarkation day, you can book our free shared transfer from Phuket Airport that goes once a day. Please ensure that you arrive on time for this transfer.

Transfers from and to hotels and resorts outside of these areas can be arranged for an additional charge.

## Marine & Port Fees

- 50 USD per person

Marine park fees can be paid in advance or onboard.

## Minimum dive certification and experience:

Diving conditions in the Andaman Sea are generally suitable for all levels of divers. Divers who wish to join this itinerary are advised to have Advanced Open Water certification or equivalent\* with a minimum of 10 logged dives and experience with diving in currents.

\*Advanced Open Water course can be completed on board

**It is a mandatory requirement for all divers to have insurance which covers scuba diving activities, including emergency evacuation and recompression chamber costs.**

## Number of scheduled dives:

For this itinerary, your Cruise Director will schedule up to 19 dives. This itinerary involves some long distance travel and, whilst we attempt to ensure the number of planned dives is fulfilled, bad weather and sea conditions can affect the boat's ability to reach a specific dive site in good time and may impact on the number of dives that are possible. While we wish to show you the very best diving possible, the safety of all on board remains paramount. In the unlikely event we are unable to reach a specified dive site; we always do our best in offering diving at alternative locations.

Safety and dive briefings are conducted in English. If you, or any of your group, do not speak or understand English, please contact us.

## The following is an example of the day-to-day schedule.

Day 1: Embarkation at 19h00 followed by briefings and dinner.

Day 2-4: Your Cruise Director will schedule up to 4 dives per day; 3 dives and a sunset or night dive.

A typical diving day is scheduled as follows:

- Light breakfast, followed by briefing & Dive 1
- Full breakfast, relaxation, followed by briefing & Dive 2
- Lunch, relaxation, followed by briefing & Dive 3
- Snack
- Briefing & Dive 4
- Dinner

Day 5: Depending on the itinerary there will be up to 3 dives\* scheduled before heading back to port, disembarkation is scheduled at 16h00.

\*We kindly request that guests check their flight departure times to ensure that they leave a minimum of 24 hours between their final dive and the departure of their flight.

**The following is a description of the dive sites that we may visit during your liveaboard.**

## Koh Lipe

This beautiful, pristine island near Langkawi Island and the Malaysian border harbours some amazing dive sites such as: **Stonehenge & 8 Mile Rock**.

**Stonehenge** is a vibrant pinnacle densely covered in soft corals. Look out in the blue for schools of barracudas, trevallies and yellow snappers. Smaller creatures include seahorse, varieties of shrimp, crab, nudibranchs. Find the masters of camouflage: stonefish or scorpionfish. As this site is very exposed, strong currents are common and can be expected. It also means that diving **Stonehenge**, as well as **8 Mile Rock** below, depends on local weather conditions and that it is not always possible.

**8 Mile Rock** is a world class submerged pinnacle located about 8 miles south of Koh Lipe. Many a large pelagic can be spotted cruising by: devil, manta and eagle rays are among the usual suspects. Other highlights include leopard sharks, giant barracudas and big groupers. When you are really lucky you may even see a whale shark on your dive! The pinnacle reaches up from the ocean floor at about 50m to 15m under the surface. It's a soft coral paradise: purple, blue and red soft tree coral pop up everywhere. A great variety of reef species can be found here in great abundance and size.

## Racha Yai & Racha Noi

Racha Yai is an excellent trip for beginners and those that have not dived for a while. Indeed for any guests aboard carrying out Advanced Open Water courses on-board, Racha Yai offers the perfect opportunity for course dives, with sloping hard coral reefs, white sandy bottoms and a choice of wrecks on the west coast.

Racha Noi 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. It offers a choice of hard coral reefs, boulders with large swim throughs and the beautiful pinnacle on the south point of this island. Strong currents can make the southern sites challenging, however, with a year round chance to see manta rays, it is worth the effort to dive here.

## Koh Phi Phi

Lying in Phang-Nga bay about 45km east of Phuket and 30km southwest of Krabi, two breathtaking limestone islands make up the greater part of Moo Koh Phi Phi; the largest island of Phi Phi Don being a few kilometres north of Phi Phi Lae. Limestone cliffs rise vertically into the sky, where the trees take over. There are many beaches, coves, and bays which make for dramatic scenery to enjoy during surface intervals.

There are many, many dive sites around the Phi Phi island group, many consisting of wall dives, the limestone dropping to depth ranges between 10m and 25m. The walls can have gorgonian fans, soft corals and coral bushes and interesting rock formations and swim throughs. At the base of these walls there are often hard coral gardens to explore. You can expect a great amount of fish life, including lionfish, wrasse, Moorish idols, angelfish, rays, trevallies. Also keep an eye out for leopard sharks sleeping on the sandy bottoms or blacktip reef sharks cruising the reefs. Turtles can also quite commonly be seen here. Lastly, check the fans and bushes for tigertail seahorses and harlequin ghost pipefish.

## King Cruiser

The King Cruiser was a car ferry that used to travel between Phi Phi and Phuket. In 1997, 'the cruiser' hit Anemone Reef on her crossing and sank a short distance away. No lives were lost, but divers were left with a great wreck dive! While she is largely broken up now, she is covered in soft corals and hides some wonderful gems, as well as being home to several large schools of snappers. While currents can be strong and visibility sometimes challenging, this is a great site to dive as part of an Advanced Open Water course.

## 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. Both sites are covered with colourful soft corals and anemones with a variety of fish to suit all divers. From barracuda to seahorses and for the lucky ones of course, the iconic leopard shark!

## Koh Doc Mai

'Flower Island' is a tiny piece of sheer rock between **Shark point** and Phuket but, although it's tiny, dives here can provide divers with amazing memories! From a spacious cavern to frog fish, ornate ghost pipefish and even bamboo sharks, Koh Doc Mai never fails to surprise.

## 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. You may even be entertained by marine life while relaxing on board as turtles cruising around the boat from time to time are not an unusual sight.

**Should you have any questions or queries concerning the dive sites or whether this itinerary is suitable for your experience level, please contact our reservations team via [info@thejunk.com](mailto:info@thejunk.com) who will be pleased to assist and advise you.**