

# Trip Information Thailand

If your itinerary is for Myanmar, please visit here - [Trip Information Myanmar](#)

There can be a lot to take into account when it comes to preparing for a liveaboard cruise, especially if you are new to liveaboard diving. We have compiled this short document to give a fuller picture of what to expect, in the hopes that it will assist you in preparation for your upcoming adventure.

## Flights and Transfers

- Arrival airport: Phuket International Airport (HKT)
- Departure airport: Phuket International Airport (HKT)

### Cruises from mid-October to mid-May

There is a shared transfer bus provided that can pick you up, and drop you off from any hotel in Phuket, or in Khao Lak.

### Cruises from mid-May to mid-October

Transfers between hotels on Phuket and the vessel, on embarkation and disembarkation day, are included in the liveaboard price.

### Making your own way

If you choose to make your own way to the embarkation point, please make sure you arrive before the embarkation time specified on your booking confirmation and itinerary details.

Below are the pins to the the 2 piers the vessels operate from -

[Tap Lamu Pier](#)

[Chalong Pier](#)

### Advice on International Flights

There are several airlines that offer international flights to Phuket International Airport, although you may need to book a short hop from another local hub such as Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, or Singapore. We recommend staying 1 night in Phuket before cruise departure, so you are well rested before the start of the cruise.

Phuket airport is about a 1-1.5 hours drive from the embarkation/disembarkation point. Please allow at least 2-3 hours for international flight check-in and 1.5-2 hours for domestic flights.

## Visa and Passports

Passport holders of most western countries will be issued a single-entry visa stamp upon arrival for stays of up to 30 days in Thailand. Nationals of countries not included in Thailand's Visa Exemption scheme may need to obtain a tourist visa in advance, or apply on-line for a visa on arrival.

To check if you need a visa to enter Thailand, or if you have any queries about entry requirements, please check with the Royal Thai Embassy or Consulate General in your home country. Contact details and locations of Royal Thai Embassies and Royal Thai Consulates-General are available at [thaiembassy.org](http://thaiembassy.org)

As visa and passport regulations for different countries are constantly in a state of flux, we always advise our guests to check regularly for updates and changes. Further information relating to Thailand visas and entry requirements can be found on the Thai Immigration Bureau's website here: [immigration.go.th](http://immigration.go.th)

Please make sure that your passport has a minimum of 6 months validity from the date you will arrive in Thailand. Entry may be refused if passports are damaged or have missing pages.

You may be required to show a confirmed ticket to leave Thailand within the maximum number of days you are allowed to stay in the country. Additionally, visa-on-arrival visitors may also be asked for evidence of adequate finances for the duration of their intended stay, equivalent to 20,000 Baht per person, or 40,000 Baht per family.

## Insurance

Insurance which covers scuba diving is mandatory aboard all our vessels. All guests are also required to carry full travel and cancellation insurance, in accordance with our [Terms and Conditions](#).

Your insurance must cover all of your scuba diving, snorkelling, or free diving activities, including the costs for recompression chamber treatment and emergency air evacuation. We therefore strongly recommend purchasing diving-specific insurance to cover any diving related eventuality.

For a couple of popular diving specific insurance options, please visit here - [Insurance](#)

## Diving Information

We are happy to welcome divers of all levels on our vessels who have their Open Water licence, although some of the dives offered may be challenging or unsuitable for inexperienced or novice divers due to prevailing conditions, depths, and/or strong currents.

Your cruise director will be able to advise you whilst on board and may recommend that guests with insufficient experience sit out certain dives.

## Guests' Level of Diving

It is recommended that guests wishing to get the most out of diving in the area have a minimum of 10 logged dives. PADI Advanced Open Water Course certification may be possible on board. Please contact our [Reservations Team](#) for further information.

Any guests who the crew feel have insufficient experience in certain conditions, may be denied participation in some or all of the dives during the liveaboard.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the diving conditions, please contact our [Reservations Team](#) directly.

## Fit to Dive

All divers are responsible for ensuring that they are fit to dive and are required to complete a medical statement prior to commencement of the liveaboard itinerary. Guests who have any symptoms that could be restrictive to diving will need to obtain a doctor's note clearing them to dive prior to embarkation, ideally before travelling. The medical statement can be found on our website on the [Forms](#) page.

If you are unable to complete the statement as directed or provide a current doctor's certificate (less than 1 year old) clearing you to dive, you accept that you may not be able to take part in certain aspects of the holiday you have booked with us.

## Diving Safety

Guests are responsible for their own dive profiles and must stay within the limits of their certification.

For your safety, we ask all guests to always remain well within the limits of their dive computer, follow the instructions of the Cruise Director and Guides and make a safety stop at the end of each dive.

## Flying after Diving

Current studies indicate that you should wait at least 24 hours after multiple days with repetitive diving before flying. Please keep this in mind when you book your onward international or domestic flights.

## Diving Emergencies

There are two recompression chambers located in Phuket that can be reached within a few hours by speedboat from anywhere on our Thailand itineraries. They provide emergency treatment for decompression illness in the unlikely event of an accident. We strongly encourage all guests to dive well within their recognised limits, carefully follow Dive Guides' advice, and of course, purchase specific dive insurance before their trips.

As per our [Terms and Conditions](#) adequate dive insurance and travel insurance are mandatory.

## Water Temperature and Exposure Suits

The warm tropical waters of the Andaman sea are pleasant throughout the year averaging 28°C (82°F), although it is not uncommon to encounter thermoclines at various times during the year. Most guests find that a 3mm shorty wetsuit is suitable and many dive with just a skin-suit or rash guard. For guests who tend to get cold easily, especially after repetitive dives, we recommend you bring the wetsuit you feel most comfortable in.

## Diving Equipment

Since some of the domestic airline carriers in the regions we operate have strict check-in luggage limits, we can provide most rental equipment for an extra charge. Our rental equipment includes:

- BCD – not weight-integrated
- Regulator - complete with alternate air source and depth/pressure gauge console
- Wetsuits - 3mm shorty
- Masks
- Fins - full foot or open heel and boots depending on availability
- 15 litre tanks (by special request and depending on availability)
- Underwater torch/flashlight
- Dive computer\*

\*Please note that the use of a dive computer is compulsory on our vessels. For your safety, we ask all guests to always dive within the limits of their dive computer and make a safety stop at the end of each dive.

Please pre-book rental equipment and cylinders when inputting your Advanced Passenger Information, as they are subject to availability. All extras can be paid on board..

Equipment provided within the cruise price -

- Weight belt and weights
- 12L tank (air)
- Surface Marker Buoy (SMB/Safety Sausage)

## Underwater Photography and Videography

Both of our vessels offer features for underwater photographers and videographers which include:

- Large tables that can be used for the preparation and maintenance of cameras
- Large rinsing tanks with fresh water; changed frequently

Our crew are thoroughly trained in the handling of delicate camera equipment and will provide assistance when entering and exiting the water.

## General Information

### Advanced Passenger Information (API)

There are certain details that we require prior to embarkation. You will be provided a secure link by our Reservations Team, or your Agent depending on who you booked with, where you can input this all directly into our secure portal.

### Forms

It is a requirement for all guests to complete the following forms upon arrival to the vessel - Medical Statement, Liability Release, and Standard Safe Diving Practices statement, which can be found here - [Forms](#)

We strongly recommend reviewing these well in advance of boarding to confirm all goes smoothly on embarkation day. On completing and signing the forms, you are confirming that you have read, understood, and agree to the conditions outlined in the forms

If you are unable to complete the forms as instructed, you accept that you may not be able to take part in certain aspects of the holiday you have booked with us.

### Time Zone

The local time in Thailand is 7 hours ahead of UTC.

### Money Matters

The local currency is the Thai Baht (THB). The majority of established hotels and restaurants accept major credit cards, however; smaller, family-run places probably may not. There are money-changers and ATM machines located at the airport near the meeting point for your convenience, and at most 7-11 outlets.

### Health

Health services in Thailand are generally very good. Hospitals in major tourist destinations have modern technology and well trained doctors, including several in Phuket.

Please make sure you use insect repellent and cover exposed skin to prevent any insect borne diseases. We recommend travelers follow normal precautions with food in order to prevent stomach upsets, and **be sure to drink bottled water only.**

### Vaccinations

It is no longer required to show your Covid vaccination status to enter Thailand. No other vaccinations are required unless you are coming from or passing through contaminated areas. However, we strongly advise that you ensure standard vaccinations are up-to-date (tetanus, polio, MMR, etc.) and check with your nearest travel clinic for the latest information and recommendations well in advance of travelling.

Yellow fever certificates are required for those who are coming from 14 following countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Angola, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mauritania, Mali, Nigeria, Sudan and Zaire.

## Travelling with Medication

There are certain medications, including psychotropics and painkillers containing Codeine, which are restricted or prohibited to bring into Thailand. Guidelines from the Thai FDA can be downloaded here: [Guidance For Travelers carrying personal medication](#)

If you are travelling with medication, please ensure you bring your physician's prescription with you.

## Language and Religion

Thai is the language in Thailand, which remains largely incomprehensible to the casual visitor. However, nearly all Thais who work in the tourism industry speak some level of English, and Thai-English road and street signs are found nationwide

More than 90% of all Thais are Buddhists, although they have always subscribed to the ideal of religious freedom, thus, sizable minorities of Muslims, Christians, Hindus, and Sikhs freely pursue their respective faiths.

*Safety and dive briefings on board the vessels will be provided in English. If you do not speak and understand English please let us know prior to arrival.*

## Climate and Weather

The average daytime temperature is around 30°C (86°F), ranging anywhere from 34°C in April to 27°C in December with slightly cooler temperatures in the evenings.

Thailand's tropical climate is influenced by the southwest and northeast monsoons. From Late May to October the southwest monsoon hits the western coast of Thailand, making the Similan and Surin Islands inaccessible, and the National Parks close.

There are 3 distinct seasons: 'Summer', also referred to as the Hot Season from March through May with temperatures averaging around 33°C; 'Rainy' from June to October (still with plenty of sunshine and temperatures around 31°C) and 'Cool' from November through February.

## Life on Board

The main features of the vessels can be seen at [The Junk](#) and [The Phinisi](#).

## Accessibility

Due to the layout, our vessels may provide challenges, or be unsuitable, for guests with limited mobility. Please contact us for further details if you have any concerns.

## Accommodation

- The Junk has two of each cabin type: convertible twin/double, triple, and quad cabins.
- The Phinisi has five twin and/or double cabins, and two quad cabins.

Reduced occupancy may be available on request for all cabin types on both vessels and is subject to a supplemental charge.

## Cabin Facilities

All cabins have individually controllable air-conditioning and private en-suite bathrooms with centrally heated hot water. Other facilities include towels, and lockable safety boxes. Also, shower cream and shampoo are provided.

## Food and Drink

Meals are provided on a full board basis including a light breakfast, full breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks with unlimited drinking water, tea, coffee, fruit juices and soft drinks.

Local lager (beer) and wine are also available for an additional fee.

We offer a choice of International and locally inspired cuisine and can cater to special dietary requirements with advance notice. Should you have any specific dietary needs, allergies, or special requests, please advise your sales consultant at the time of confirming your liveaboard trip to ensure we are able to make provisions for your needs.

**Please note:** It can be very difficult to find certain products that are common elsewhere. While we always do our best to accommodate dietary requests, please consider bringing some of your own foods if the lack thereof may constitute a health risk or seriously compromise your enjoyment of your holiday.

## Clothing and Footwear

For your journey on our yacht, we request you remove any shoes while onboard and recommend guests bring casual and comfortable clothes; swimwear, shorts and t-shirts. A sweater is advised for cooler nights, particularly after multiple dives.

We do request that guests respect the wishes of others by donning clothing for meal times.

## Electricity

On board we have 220V with two round pin sockets (European style) with multiple adapter sockets available. It is always advisable that you bring universal adapters with you if necessary. Electrical current in Thailand is 220 Volts.

## Staying Connected

We regret that we are unable to provide wi-fi or internet access on board our vessels. Local sim cards with data packages can be purchased at the airport and local stores throughout Thailand. However, our trips cover relatively remote locations and internet service is often intermittent at best. Service signal strength can be very weak at times and, in some areas of your cruise, there may not be a signal at all.

Most mobile phones that have 'roaming' will function during your cruise with the same limitations as locally purchased sim cards; the cost of calls made and data used is determined by your service provider.

Our out of office contact numbers can be found below, should your family need to contact you during the cruise, however this number is reserved for emergencies only.

## Smoking

Smoking on board is permitted in designated outdoor areas.

## Environmental considerations

Although there are recycling programs and facilities in place in Thailand, they are limited. We therefore ask our guests to consider the following to help with our mission to reduce our environmental impact.

### Batteries

Please purchase locally before your trip or bring extras if your personal dive equipment may require a unique size, or need a lot of replacement batteries during your trip. We kindly request that you take spent batteries home so that they can be recycled or disposed of properly. Alternatively, consider using rechargeable batteries as there are plenty of sockets to plug in a charger on board.

### Water Bottles

We are dedicated to becoming single use plastic free. Plastic straws and stirrers have been banned on all of our boats and we do not provide single use plastic bottles on board.

If you own a sports bottle, we simply ask that you bring it with you, or we can provide you with one on board for the duration of your cruise. We also have plenty of cups on board which you can use to ensure you remain well hydrated.

### Plastic bags and wrappers

We do not provide plastic bags for purchases made on board, although biodegradable bags are available for limited use. Please help us minimise plastic waste by removing plastic wrappers and packaging from items before travelling. If you bring plastic bags with you, please reuse them, and take them home.

### Toiletries

We kindly ask that guests consider the type and quantity of products that they are bringing with them and, where possible, to bring only environmentally friendly toiletries for use on board, and to take partially or unused products home with them.

### Sunscreens

Sunscreen products with chemical compounds that are harmful to coral are prohibited from being used in Thai marine national parks. The banned chemical compounds are Oxybenzone (Benzophenone-3, BP-3), Octinoxate (Ethylhexyl methoxycinnamate), 4-Methylbenzylid Camphor (4MBC) and Butylparaben.

Divers are encouraged to use zinc oxide-based sunscreen products which studies have found to be safe for marine creatures.

## Payments on Board

### Marine Park and Port Fees

Marine park and port fees are dependent on the trip duration and diving areas; please refer to your itinerary details for further information. The applicable amount will be added to your invoice to be paid on board at the end of the trip.



## Optional Extras

We offer a range of services to make your stay on board even more enjoyable. The following are also available for an additional fee:

- Nitrox
- Dive Courses
- Beer & Wine
- Dive Gear Rental
- Fleet Merchandise

You can see the On Board Extras Pricing here - [On Board Extras](#)

All prices are given on board in US dollars; however, we also accept cash payment in THB, Euro, GBP, USD and AUD. Any cash should be undamaged crisp notes. Moreover, we accept payments by credit card (Visa & MasterCard), for which there is a 3.5% surcharge. Guests are advised to bring additional cash for Marine Park & Port fees, for any incidental expenses.

## Tipping

We believe that tipping is a matter of personal choice. Our crew work hard and are here to ensure your experience with us is nothing short of unforgettable. Should you feel that your crew has made your holiday extra special, they would certainly appreciate a tip. Please note we are only able to accept tips in cash. For this purpose, you can use the envelope provided by the cruise director. He/she will ensure the tips are divided equally amongst all crew members, including the captain and dive guides.

We are often asked what a reasonable tip would be, which is a hard question to answer as tipping is totally up to personal preference, although 5-10% of the cruise space price is common.

## Safety on Board

### Emergency Management & Equipment

All crew members have been extensively trained in emergency management procedures. A thorough boat safety briefing will be provided by your cruise director at the start of your trip, during which all guests will be requested to participate in a life jacket drill. Further practice scenarios may be performed during your cruise to assist our crew in keeping their skills sharp. Each yacht is equipped with modern safety features such as automated life rafts, EPIRB, satellite communication, CCTV and emergency pumps.

### First Aid

Our vessels are equipped with a fully stocked medical first aid kit for treating minor injuries and ailments, as well as for assisting trained medical professionals in remote locations. It has a full complement of medical grade oxygen which can be administered to divers through DAN kits or unit specific attachments.

You will also find on board an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), which has been proven to greatly increase the survival rate in the eventuality of cardiac fibrillation. Our dive teams are all qualified emergency responders. Should you feel unwell at any point during your cruise, please seek the advice of your cruise director who will be able to assist you.

## FAQs

If there are any questions that have not been answered, please visit our website at [TheJunk.com](http://TheJunk.com) or email us at [info@thejunk.com](mailto:info@thejunk.com)

## Contact Information

<p>Thailand Office - The Junk Liveboards</p> <p>10/512 Moo 3, Tambon Vichit, Muang Phuket 83000, Thailand</p>	<p>Thailand Office: +66 (0) 810142748</p> <p>Web: <a href="http://thejunk.com">thejunk.com</a>    Email: <a href="mailto:info@thejunk.com">info@thejunk.com</a></p> <p>In the rare case that you may need to contact us urgently, and are not getting through on the number above, you can use the number below also -</p> <p>Ops Manager - +66 82 275 3908</p>
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Open Monday - Friday 09:00 - 17:00 and Saturday 09:00 - 12:00 ICT (UTC +7)

# What to Bring

The following is a check list of items that you should ensure to bring with you for your trip aboard a The Junk Liveboards vessel.

## PACKING LIST

### CLOTHING & TOILETRIES

- Swimsuits/ Swimwear
- Hat/ Cap/ Beanie
- Sandals/ Flip-flops
- Lightweight Jacket
- T-shirts/ Tops
- Shorts/ Skirts/ Dresses/ Sarong
- Warmer top (hoodie)
- Underwear
- Pyjama
- Toiletries
- Reef-safe sunscreen
- Insect Repellent
- Small first aid (Tenso tape)
- Medicines

### IMPORTANT

- Passport and Visas
- Vaccinations records
- Travel and Dive insurance
- Dive Certification
- Logbook
- Travel Documents
- Flight tickets
- Emergency Contacts
- Cash and cards

### DIVING EQUIPMENT

- BCD
- Regulator
- Mask & Snorkel
- Fins & Boots
- Wetsuit
- Hoods & Rash vests
- Gloves
- SMB & Reel
- Torch & Strobes
- Mirror
- Computer

### MISCELLANEOUS

- Camera
- Chargers
- Headphone
- Refillable Water bottle
- Phone
- Sunglasses
- E-reader/ Book

Guests are strongly advised to carry essential items in hand luggage in case of lost or delayed luggage through International or Domestic Flights.