



THE JUNK
LIVEBOARDS

Shark Guardian | The Best of Thailand

Itinerary - 8 Nights

Arrival airport: Phuket International Airport (HKT)

Departure airport: Phuket International Airport (HKT)

Meeting Point: [Krachang](#), Thap Lamu at 18:30

Embarkation: Check-in Andaman, Khao Lak at 19h00

Disembarkation: Chalong Pier, Phuket at 10h00

Shared transfers between Phuket Airport, Phuket hotels or Khao Lak hotels* and the vessel, on embarkation and disembarkation day, are included in the cruise price.

Marine & Port Fees

- 125 USD per person

Marine park fees will be added to your on board bill.

Minimum dive certification and experience:

Divers who wish to join this itinerary are required to be at minimum Advanced Open Water* (or equivalent) & Nitrox* certified with 30+ logged dives.

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.

*Advanced Open Water & Nitrox courses [can be completed on board](#).

Haven't dived in 6 months?

For safety and comfort, we strongly recommend completing a PADI ReActivate or equivalent refresher course before joining the trip if you [haven't been diving in the last six months](#). It's not just about ticking a box - it ensures you're confident with your gear, buoyancy, and emergency procedures, so you (and your dive buddies) can focus on enjoying the experience. **Please be aware that this may become a requirement for joining a trip, depending on your situation and experience.**

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

Number of scheduled dives:

For this itinerary, your Cruise Director will schedule up to 26 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.

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 schedules.

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 for Dive 4
- Dinner

As this is a **Shark Education trip**, courtesy of **Shark Guardian**. This itinerary will be interspersed with occasional optional lectures during surface intervals. Subjects may include -

1. Welcome/overview of Shark Guardian
2. Evolution, why we need sharks, fact vs fiction, anatomy and threats to sharks.
3. Thailand shark species
4. Citizen science - Whale shark and leopard shark ID
5. Conservation initiatives and ways to get involved

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.

Day 5: 3 dives before transitioning to the Southern Thai Andaman Sea.

Day 6&7: Your Cruise Director will schedule up to 4 dives per day; 3 dives and a sunset or night dive.

Day 8: Usually 2 morning dives and one dive after lunch* before the vessel commences the cruise back to port.

Day 9: Following breakfast on board, disembarkation is scheduled for between 09:30 and 10:00

***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. 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.**

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

North Andaman

Surin Islands

The topside scenery of Koh Surin, with evergreen forests, mangroves, and small beaches, surpasses even that of the picturesque Similan Islands. Underwater the reefs of Surin offer some of the greatest hard coral diversity in Thailand.

Across sites like **Torinla Pinnacle**, **Hin Kong**, and **Turtle Ledges** you are likely to see Napoleon wrasse, yellow-masked angelfish, bumphead parrotfish, tomato anemonefish and barramundi, as well as lots of turtles that still come ashore in this area to lay their eggs.

Due to the remoteness, not many liveaboard boats visit these islands and you will be able to enjoy the dive sites without sharing them with tourist hordes.

Richelieu Rock

This limestone pinnacle was named after former Danish Naval Officer, Andreas Richelieu, who eventually became the only foreign born commander-in-chief of the Royal Thai Navy to date, appointed by King Chulalongkorn. One

of Richelieu's tasks was to modernise the outdated Navy charts, and as he had become such an influential and important figure, this potentially hazardous-to-ships rock that poked out from sea at low tide, east of the Surin Islands, was eventually named after him.

Barely breaking the surface at low tide, this horseshoe-shaped outcropping slopes steeply to a sandy bottom at 18 to 35 meters (60-120 Ft). This site offers great diversity for such a small and isolated spot. It also offers excellent multi-level diving and, because it's a high-profile reef, there are always sheltered areas to hide from the current.

The marine life is prolific and includes amongst, many other things: pharaoh cuttlefish, large octopuses, all 5 varieties of anemone fish of the Andaman Sea, a variety of moray eels, ornate ghost pipefish, smashing mantis shrimps, harlequin shrimps, tigertail seahorses, Spanish mackerel, frogfish, many schooling snappers and occasional sightings of manta rays and whale sharks.

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**. Normally, turtles, barracuda, pipefish, and nudibranchs can be found here. There is also a chance to see bigger species in this area like manta rays and whale sharks, especially from late January until April.

Koh Bon

This is generally the most likely place to see manta rays on our Similans itinerary. You are also likely to see Napoleon wrasse, sweetlips, octopus, bluefin trevally, giant moray eels, great barracudas, fire dart goby, spiny lobster, and nudibranchs of many types. The dive sites vary from wall diving to gently sloping reefs and from submerged boulders to coral gardens.

Diving on the **West Ridge** can be an adrenaline-filled drift, with amazing views, while the **North Reef** is a gentler experience over a hard coral garden.

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 **Three Trees**.

Under the surface, you may see Leopard (zebra) shark, blue spotted stingrays, clown triggerfish, rabbit fish, scorpion fish, snappers, emperor fish, giant trevally and angelfish. The coral gardens, bommies, and boulder formations are wonderful to dive.

Elephant Head Rock, visible from the surface, is the biggest pinnacle in the Similans and has some fantastic swim-throughs. Whitetip reef sharks, batfish, trevally and barracuda can often be seen on the perimeter of the boulders. If you look closely in the cracks and in the rubble you can see smashing mantis shrimp, porcelain crab, moray eels and cleaner shrimp.

There are also sites dominated by huge granite boulders such as **Deep Six**, **Christmas Point**, and **North Point** where you can see white tip reef sharks, schooling giant trevally, and schools of neon fusiliers.

South Andaman

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 Koh Lanta National Marine Park. There are actually several dive sites around Ko Haa but the highlights are **Ko Haa Lagoon**, **Ko Haa Neua**, and **Ko Haa Yai**.

Around these amazing islands you can see pinnacles, walls, boulders, caverns, and swim-throughs. **Ko Haa lagoon** is ideal for night dives, courses, and snorkeling, while **The Chimney** and **The Cathedral** offer things that you cannot see on other Thailand liveaboard itineraries with caverns, swim-throughs and chambers all over the sites. Ko Haa has varied marine life too, with ornate ghost pipefish, morays eels, octopus, hawksbill turtles, sea horses, marble rays, and sometimes even leopard sharks.

Hin Daeng & 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. Whether these are sighted or not, the sites also offer giant moray eels, pharaoh cuttlefish, schooling rainbow runners and snappers, barracudas, groupers, fusiliers, and bluefin trevally. On the pinnacles, there are fields of Magnificent Anemones, walls of Hemprics soft corals, and huge gorgonian sea fans. Almost perpetual good visibility and dramatic topography combined with huge fish numbers makes for excellent liveaboard diving.

Koh Phi Phi

Laying 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.

Koh Bida

Koh Bida lies just south of the Phi Phi Islands and, together with nearby Hin Bida, forms one of the area's most consistent and rewarding dive zones. The site features dramatic limestone walls, swim-throughs, and coral-covered slopes that suit a wide range of experience levels. Sandy channels between reef sections are a known resting spot for leopard sharks, while turtles, reef sharks, and dense schools of fish are regularly seen. Koh Bida delivers classic Phi Phi diving: rugged underwater scenery, healthy marine life, and conditions that reliably impress.

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 colorful 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!

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 who will be pleased to assist and advise you.