

The Phinisi - Myanmar

7 Nights and 10 Nights Itinerary

- **Embarkation Point:** B.C.Badin Resort, Ranong at 12:00 noon*
- **Disembarkation Point:** B.C.Badin Resort, Ranong at 09:00

Ranong is a 5-hour transfer by minivan from Phuket. We provide a free transfer from Phuket to Ranong with two specific pick up times and locations in Phuket to arrive in Ranong at 11:00 on embarkation day. Please contact our reservations team for details and bookings.

Transfers between Ranong Airport* or a Ranong hotel and The Phinisi on embarkation and disembarkation days are also included in the liveaboard price.

**Guests flying into Ranong on embarkation day MUST book a flight that arrives no later than 11:00 am.*

Transfers from and to hotels and resorts outside of the specified pick up locations can be arranged for an additional charge.

Marine & Port Fees:

- 7 nights: 280 USD per person
- 10 nights: 350 USD per person

Marine park fees can be paid in advance, or on board.

Minimum dive certification and experience:

Diving in Myanmar can often be challenging, especially for inexperienced divers. There can be tough conditions with strong currents and reduced visibility due to an influx of nutrients at certain dive sites which may make the diving unsuitable for entry level divers or those who have not dived in similar conditions before.

Divers wishing to join this itinerary are advised to have **Advanced Open Water** certification*, or equivalent, with a **minimum of 30 logged dives and experience in strong currents.**

*Advanced Open Water Course can usually be completed on board.

Guests who do not fulfil the minimum certification and experience requirements may be denied participation in some or all dives.

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

Participation in this liveboard itinerary is subject to acceptance of our Terms & Conditions as outlined here: www.masterliveboards.com/terms-conditions.

Itinerary Details

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.

There is no diving on embarkation day.

Number of scheduled dives:

- 7 nights: Up to 22
- 10 nights: Up to 34

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 itinerary.

Day 1: Visit immigration in Ranong for Thailand exit formalities followed by embarkation, lunch, and briefings. This is followed by a short crossing to Kawthung in Myanmar for immigration entry formalities. Once this is complete The Phinisi will cruise into the archipelago.

Day 2-6 (7 night) and Day 2-9 (10 night): Your Cruise Director will schedule up to 4 dives per day; 3 day dives and, where possible, a sunset or night dive. A typical diving day is scheduled as follows:

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

Day 7 / Day 10: Usually 2 morning* dives before The Phinisi cruises to Horseshoe Island where there is an afternoon beach visit and snacks before the vessel returns to Kawthung.

Disembarkation Day: Following breakfast on board and immigration clearance out of Myanmar, disembarkation is scheduled for between 09:30 and 10:00am, after which you will visit the Immigration Office in Ranong to obtain an entry stamp back into Thailand before departing on your transfer.

*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.

Rocky Island

Under the surface, you will find a steep rocky reef with lots of tube and fan corals and huge, colourful anemone garden where large schools of yellow five lined snappers hang out. A garden of small granite boulders at depth, provide a home for octopus and cuttlefish, as well as a variety of moray eels. Plenty of critters including nudibranchs, pipefish, razorfish, and seahorses hang around the cracks for the macro lovers to discover while hunting wahoo, tuna, and barracuda can be spotted passing in the blue. Visibility and currents can sometimes be challenging but it is a rewarding site.

North Twin and South Twin

Strong currents bring with them groups of schooling barracuda, hunting tuna, as well as mating cuttlefish. With often clear visibility the atmosphere on the reef at North Twin is breathtaking. Healthy gorgonian sea fans can be admired at depth, while soft corals adorn the reef and bring plenty of vibrancy and colour.

On South Twin, we can expect to see an abundance of moray eels, harlequin sweetlips, and cuttlefish. Eagle and devil rays may fly by while Kuhl's stingrays and spotted garden eels can be seen on the sandy bottom.

Black Rock

Black Rock stands alone in the Andaman Sea some 100 miles northwest of the Thai-Burmese border town of Kawthaung. The rock acts as a natural magnet for oceanic mantas and other large pelagics such as whale sharks and eagle rays. An excellent multi-level site, you can start your dive anywhere around the perimeter, depending on currents.

The underwater terrain on the south side consists of a vertical wall down to roughly 27m, where it becomes a more gradual slope. Just off the south-west corner is a particularly interesting area, where a detached rock formation rises from very deep water to about 24m. These rocks are covered with small, vibrant soft corals, and often attract schooling snappers and rainbow runners. Back at the main islet, deeper sections are decorated with orange gorgonian fans, along with fields of corallimorpharia (they look like stony corals) on the sloping west and north sides. At the eastern tip, watch for vast numbers of magnificent anemones, especially at dawn and dusk when they retract into sleep and show off their colourful bases.

A wide range of invertebrate life can be found at Black Rock, including smashing and spearing mantis shrimp, spiny lobsters, hermit crabs, sea stars, cowrie shells, harlequin shrimp, octopus and cuttlefish.

During safety stops, move slowly along the eastern and western ends of the south wall to find brilliantly coloured elegant hermit crabs and a variety of nudibranchs. Fish life is also abundant and varied, with a chance to see almost anything from scorpion fish and giant morays to marbled sting rays.

Three Islets

The three sites across these tiny islands (**Shark Cave, Submarine** and **Square Rock**) are covered in extremely rich and diverse marine life. There is a mix of caves, canyons, vertical walls, and sloping reef. Many areas are populated with fields of anemones, which are home to five different species of anemonefish. Elsewhere, large tubastrea coral trees sprout from the rocky terrain, accompanied by crinoids, gorgonian fans, blue dragons, and pastel green rope sponge. Tiger tail seahorses are often encountered on the deep edges of the slope, as are many varieties of morays - often several species in the same hole.

Cuttlefish may be found at nearly any depth, sometimes courting and mating. Ornate ghost pipefish, cowrie shells, octopus, reef squid, jaw fish, porcelain crabs, longnose pipefish, and mantis shrimps are often seen at this site. Scorpion fish are very abundant, so be careful where you place your hands!

Between the three pinnacles and surrounding bottom, **Shark Cave** easily lends itself to several dives, where you can enjoy the diversity of the reef and marvel at the chasm that splits the island. Nurse and white tip reef sharks can sometimes be found lurking inside the deeper part of the cavern along with marble rays, ghost pipefish and plenty of other fascinating creatures, including blue ribbon eels.

Sea Fan Forest

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

They are very healthy and support a large variety of marine life including feather stars, cowries, hawk fish and shrimps. Schooling fish include snapper, trevally, rainbow runners and fusiliers. Moray eels and scorpion fish are also numerous. We are also likely to find giant marbled groupers and eagle rays.

Western Rocky

A short trip south of Sea Fan Forest, Western Rocky consists of a main islet plus several detached pinnacles. Among the more striking features of the main islet is a huge underwater archway where schooling snappers often hang out.

The soft limestone island is riddled with holes and crevices, providing hiding places for hinge-beak, thorny oysters, cowrie shells, nudibranchs, spiny lobsters and moray eels. There is a good chance of finding frogfish and seahorses.

Large gorgonian fans and lush soft corals populate many of the deeper areas, while shallow portions of the south side wall are covered with orange cup corals and colourful encrusting sponges. Fish life can include almost anything from ornate ghost pipefish to frog fish to schooling batfish and barracudas. Several kilometres to the south, **Western Rocky Pinnacle** is shaped like a cheese wedge covered by both hard and soft corals, lots of trevally and tuna, and if you are lucky guitar sharks cruising in the sand.

Little Torres Island (10 nights only)

Due to its remote location this is a good dive site for appreciating a kaleidoscope of colours from the hundreds of corals types in abundance such as table corals, mosaic corals and red whip corals to name a few. The corals are surrounded by healthy reef life and huge submerged boulders, as well as the occasional sting ray and the rare leopard sharks on the sea bed nearby. There is also a good chance of seeing black banded sea snakes here. Chances of spotting sharks, whale sharks and mantas. The "Sea Fan Forest" is an enchanting patch where lionfish, moorish idols and several cowries are present.

Tower Rock (10 nights only)

As its name suggests, this is a magical dive site with towering walls descending into the depths. Below the water you will find a lunar site of boulders, made up from the taller reaches of Tower Rock in years past. The walls are laced with whip corals and sea fans, oysters and clams. White banded cleaner shrimp and ornate spiny lobster hide amongst the crags, whilst blue faced angelfish and yellow striped fusiliers dance their way up the walls. Larger visitors include manta rays and mobula rays, as well as blacktip and whitetip reef sharks. Moray eels, bearded scorpionfish, schools of snapper and fusilier are among the usual suspects.

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 dive@masterliveboards.com who will be pleased to assist and advise you.