

Southern Explorer, Thailand

2 or 3 Nights Itinerary

- **Embarkation & Disembarkation Point:** Chalong Pier, Phuket
- **Embarkation Time:**
 - 2 nights: 08:00
 - 3 nights: 19:00
- **Disembarkation Time:** 16:00

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

*Please note: Transfers for 2 night itineraries are from hotels in Rawai, Kata, Karon or Chalong only.

Marine Park & Port Fees: (to be paid on board)

- Divers: 35 USD per person
- Non-divers: 12.50 USD per person

Minimum dive certification and experience:

Diving conditions in and around the Andaman Sea are generally suitable for all levels of divers, although some of the dives offered may be challenging for novice or inexperienced divers.

We **recommend** that divers wishing to join this itinerary have **PADI Advanced Open Water certification***, or **equivalent**, with a minimum of **10 logged dives** and some experience in currents.

*Advanced Open Water Course can usually be completed on board (pre-booking required).

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.

Itinerary Details

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

Number of scheduled dives:

- 2 nights: Up to 10
- 3 nights: Up to 11

This itinerary involves some long distance travel and, whilst we endeavour to ensure the number of planned dives is fulfilled, bad weather and sea conditions 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 fully understand English, please let us at the time of booking.

The following is an example of the day-to-day itinerary.

2 Nights:

Day 1: Embarkation between 08:00 and 08:30 then cruise to the first dive site of a 3 dive day

Day 2: Your Cruise Director will schedule up to 4 dives; 3 day dives and a sunset or night dive. A typical diving day is scheduled as follows:

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

3 Nights:

Day 1: Embarkation at 19:00 followed by introductions, briefings and dinner

Day 2 & 3: Your Cruise Director will schedule up to 4 dives; 3 day dives and a sunset or night dive. A typical diving day is scheduled as follows:

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

Disembarkation Day: Two morning dives and an early afternoon dive* before the vessel commences her cruise back to Chalong. Disembarkation is scheduled for around 16:00.

*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 to offer diving at alternative locations. Following is a description of the dive sites that we may visit during your liveaboard.

The Racha Islands

Racha Yai

Just an hour and a half cruise from Chalong Bay, Rachai Yai is an excellent location for beginners and those who have not dived for a while. Indeed for any guests aboard carrying out Advanced Open Water courses, 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

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. 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.

Phi Phi Islands

Lying in Phang-Nga Bay, about 45 km east of Phuket, two breathtaking islands make up the greater part of Mu Ko Phi Phi National Park, an archipelago of 6 islands. Limestone cliffs rise majestically from the ocean where the trees take over which, along with the white sandy beaches, coves and bays, make for dramatic scenery to enjoy during surface intervals. The largest and only inhabited one of the islands is Phi Phi Don with the second largest being Phi Phi Leh. A short distance from Phi Phi Leh, the southernmost of the Phi Phi Islands chain are the small Bida Islands - Koh Bida Nai and Koh Bida Nok.

There are numerous diving possibilities around the Phi Phi Islands and the sites we visit on each trip will be based on optional conditions at the time. Many of the dives consist of walls ranging in depth from 10-25+ metres and featuring gorgonian fans, soft corals, black coral bushes, interesting rock formations and swim-throughs. Check the sea fans and coral bushes for tigertail seahorses and harlequin ghost pipefish. At the base of the walls, there are often hard coral gardens to explore; keep an eye out for leopard and nurse sharks sleeping on the sandy bottoms or blacktip reef sharks cruising the reefs. You can also expect abundant fish life, including lionfish, wrasse, Moorish idols, angelfish, rays and trevallies. Turtles are also commonly seen at many of the dive locations.

Shark Point and Anemone Reef

Northwest of Phi Phi Don, 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!

King Cruiser

King Cruiser was a car ferry that used to travel between Phuket and Koh Phi Phi until, 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! Although now largely broken up, she is covered with soft corals and hides some wonderful gems, as well as being home to several large schools of snapper. While currents can be strong and visibility sometimes challenging, this is a great site to dive as part of an Advanced Open Water Course.

Koh Doc Mai

To the west of Shark Point, Koh Doc Mai is a small limestone island located 20 kilometres east of Chalong Bay. Normally diving here will be focused along one side of the island depending on currents and waves although, if conditions are right, it is possible to circumnavigate the entire island in a single dive. The east side forms a steep wall from 5 metres to just over 25 metres, covered in soft corals, whip corals and sea fans, and features caves and overhangs where a host of delights can be discovered. The western side is a sloping reef with large beds of hard corals and anemones.

If you have any questions 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.