

Southern Thailand - The Phinisi

4 Nights Itinerary

- **Embarkation Point:** Chalong Pier, Phuket at 19:00 (7 pm)
- **Disembarkation Point:** Chalong Pier, Phuket at 14:00 (2 pm)

5 Nights Itinerary

- **Embarkation Point:** Chalong Pier, Phuket at 19:00 (7 pm)
- **Disembarkation Point:** Chalong Pier, Phuket at 17:00 (5 pm)

Shared transfers between Phuket Airport or local hotels in Phuket and Chalong Pier on embarkation and disembarkation days only are included in the liveboard price.

Private transfers, and those from and to hotels and resorts outside of the local Phuket area, can be arranged for an additional charge.

Marine Park & Port Fees: 50 USD per person (to be paid on board)

Minimum dive certification and experience:

Diving conditions at most locations on this itinerary are generally suitable for all levels of divers, although some of the dives offered may be challenging for novice or inexperienced divers.

We suggest that divers wishing to join this itinerary have Advanced Open Water certification*, or equivalent, with a minimum of 10 logged dives and experience diving 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.

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

Itinerary Details

The Southern Thailand itineraries involve 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 the number of dives that are possible.

Number of scheduled dives:

- 4 Nights*: Up to 14
- 5 Nights: Up to 19

*Guests looking to experience the '[Best of Thailand](#)' can combine the 4 nights Southern Thailand itinerary with a [6 nights Similan & Surin Islands](#) itinerary on The Phinisi which allows up to 33 dives while spending 10 nights on board.

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: Embarkation is followed by introductions, briefings and dinner.

Days 2-4 / 2-5: 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 & Dive 1
- Full Breakfast, relaxation followed by briefing & Dive 2
- Lunch, relaxation followed by briefing & Dive 3
- Snack
- Briefing for Dive
- Dinner

Disembarkation Day: Depending on disembarkation time, there are usually 2 or 3 dives* offered on the last day before the vessel commences her return to port for disembarkation.

*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. Should we be unable to reach any of the specified dive sites, we always do our best to offer diving at alternative locations.

Following is an overview of dive sites that are covered by the Southern Thailand liveaboard itineraries. Please note that some are dependent on the itinerary duration, weather and time of year so, not all of the listed locations are included on every trip.

The Racha Islands

Racha Yai

Located south of Phuket, Racha Yai offers the perfect location for a check dive with great visibility, sheltered sandy-bottomed bays, sloping hard coral reefs and underwater statues to explore.

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.

King Cruiser

King Cruiser was a car ferry that used to travel between Phi Phi and Phuket 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.

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

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.

Koh Phi Phi

Lying in Phang-Nga Bay about 45 km east of Phuket and 30 km 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 numerous dive sites around the Phi Phi island group, many of which feature limestone walls dropping to depths ranging from 10 to 25 metres. Along the walls, you will find a variety of soft corals, black coral bushes, gorgonians, interesting rock formations, swim-throughs and hard coral gardens at the bottom. Turtles are often seen at many locations and you can also expect a large amount of fish life, including lionfish, wrasse, Moorish idols, angelfish, rays and trevallies. Keep an eye out for leopard sharks sleeping on the sandy bottoms or blacktip reef sharks cruising the reefs and check the around the fans and coral bushes for tiger tail seahorses and harlequin ghost pipefish.

Koh Haa

Possibly some of the most underrated diving in the whole of Thailand, Moo Koh Haa (meaning Five Islands) sits almost halfway between Koh Phi Phi and Hin Daeng and is part of the Koh Lanta National Marine Park. While they may not be much to look at above water, these amazing islands offer a variety of pinnacles, walls, boulders, caverns, and swim-throughs beneath the surface. There are numerous dive sites around Koh Haa but the highlights are **Koh Haa Lagoon**, **Koh Haa Neua**, and **Koh Haa Yai**.

Encompassed by islands #2, #3 and #4, **Ko Haa Lagoon** is ideal for night dives, courses, and snorkelling. Protected by the surrounding islands, the calm, crystal-clear shallow water of the lagoon ranges in depth from 5-15 metres with an abundance of corals around the edges of the islands; clown frogfish, sea moths, and even guitar sharks are just some of the more unusual marine life that can be found in the sandy areas and around the corals.

At **Koh Haa Neua** (Island #1) **The Chimney** is a cavern system which features a narrow, vertical tunnel that experienced divers can enter at around 18 metres and ascend to an open chamber at 5 metres. Close to The Chimney entrance, scatterings of large, coral-covered boulders create crevices and swim-throughs that are suitable for everyone to explore and enjoy.

Koh Haa Yai, the largest of the islands, is where the stunning site known as **The Cathedral** is located; a massive underwater cavern which is infiltrated by shafts of light creating an ethereal experience. The surrounding reef extends beyond 30 metres and features large boulders and interesting rock formations that are covered in a variety of corals.

Hin Daeng & Hin Muang

Translating as Red Rock and Purple Rock, these remote pinnacles derive their names from the colour of the corals they host. Reaching down to over 70 metres and surrounded by open ocean, they are well known for manta rays and whale shark encounters. The nutrient-rich water which draws these majestic creatures to the area is also responsible for the thriving reefs and exceptional biodiversity that make Hin Daeang and Hing Muang world-class sites, on a par with Richelieu Rock.

In addition to oceanic pelagics, 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 covered in Dendronephthya Hemprichi soft corals, and huge Gorgonian sea fans.

Koh Lipe (October - April only)

This beautiful, pristine island near Langkawi Island and the Malaysian border harbours some amazing dive sites such as **Stonehenge & 8 Mile Rock**. As these locations are very exposed, strong currents are common and should be expected. It also means that diving Stonehenge, as well as 8 Mile Rock, depends on weather conditions and is not always possible. If we are unable to dive at either of these sites, there are plenty of other equally stunning ones to choose from around Koh Lipe.

Located on the southeast side of Koh Lipe, **Stonehenge** is a vibrant pinnacle densely covered in soft corals. Giant granite stones protruding from the sandy seabed are what earned this site its name, and add to the overall appeal of this colourful dive. Amongst the crevices and channels created by the rock formations, you will discover a variety of moray eels, shrimps, crabs and nudibranchs as well as the masters of disguise - stonefish and scorpionfish. Look out into the blue and you are likely to see schools of barracudas, trevallies and yellow snappers.

8 Mile Rock is a world-class dive site consisting of several submerged pinnacles located about 8 nautical miles (15 kilometres) south of Koh Lipe. Many large pelagics can usually be spotted cruising by - devil rays, mantas and eagle rays are among the usual suspects; others include tuna, mackerel, barracuda and trevallies.

Reaching up from the 45+ metres deep ocean floor to 15 metres below the surface, the pinnacles are a soft coral paradise, densely covered with soft coral trees in an array of colours. A variety of reef fish species can be found in large numbers including fusiliers and snappers. Other highlights include leopard sharks, big groupers and, if you are really lucky, you may even see a whale shark (or several).

Should you have any questions concerning the dive sites or whether this itinerary is suitable for your experience level, please contact our reservations team dive@masterliveaboards.com who will be pleased to assist and advise you.