

Southern Thailand - The Phinisi

4 Nights Itinerary

- **Embarkation Point:** Chalong Pier, Phuket at 18:00
- **Disembarkation Point:** Chalong Pier, Phuket at 14:00

5 Nights Itinerary

- **Embarkation Point:** Chalong Pier, Phuket at 18:00
- **Disembarkation Point:** Chalong Pier, Phuket at 17:00

Shared transfers between Phuket Airport or local hotels in Phuket and the vessel on embarkation and disembarkation day 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 & Port Fees: 50 USD per person

Marine park fees can be paid in advance, or 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

Number of scheduled dives:

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

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 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. In the event that 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.

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

The 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 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 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 Haa

Possibly some of the most underrated diving in the whole of Thailand, Moo Koh Haa (meaning Five Islands) sits almost halfway between Hin Daeng and Phi Phi 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 several dive sites around Koh Haa but the highlights are **Koh Haa Lagoon**, **Koh Haa Neua**, and **Koh Haa Yai**.

Ko Haa lagoon is ideal for night dives, courses, and snorkelling, while **The Chimney** and **The Cathedral** offer things that you cannot see on other Thailand liveaboard itineraries with caverns, swim-throughs and chambers littering 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

Translating as Red Rock and Purple Rock, with their names derived from the colour of the corals they host, these two sites are pinnacles 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 Lipe

PLEASE NOTE: Unless it is specified in the itinerary name for your liveaboard departure date, Koh Lipe is *not always included on 4 night Southern Thailand itineraries*.

This beautiful, pristine island near Langkawi Island and the Malaysian border harbours some amazing dive sites such as: **Stonehenge & 8 Mile Rock**.

Stonehenge is a vibrant pinnacle densely covered in soft corals. Look out in the blue for schools of barracudas, trevallies and yellow snappers. Smaller creatures include seahorses, varieties of shrimp, crabs and nudibranchs. Find the masters of camouflage: stonefish or scorpionfish. As this site is very exposed, strong currents are common and can be expected. It also means that diving Stonehenge, as well as 8 Mile Rock below, depends on local weather conditions and that it is not always possible.

8 Mile Rock is a world class submerged pinnacle located about 8 miles south of Koh Lipe. Many a large pelagic can be spotted cruising by: devil, manta and eagle rays are among the usual suspects. Other highlights include leopard sharks, giant barracudas and big groupers. When you are really lucky you may even see a whale shark on your dive! The pinnacle reaches up from the ocean floor at about 50m to 15m under the surface. It's a soft coral paradise: purple, blue and red soft tree coral pop up everywhere. A variety of reef species can be found here in great abundance and size.

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.