

# Mergui Archipelago, Myanmar

## General Destination & Trip Information

- **Arrival airport:** Phuket International Airport (HKT) or Ranong Airport (UNN)\*
- **Departure airport:** Phuket International Airport (HKT) or Ranong Airport (UNN)
  
- **Embarkation:** Ranong\*
- **Disembarkation:** Ranong

\*Ranong is located on the Andaman coast in Thailand, separated from Kawthaung in Myanmar by the 6 kilometre wide Kra Buri river estuary.

### Transfers

The distance from **Phuket to Ranong** is approximately 300 km and is a **5-hour transfer** by minivan. We provide a free shared transfer with two specific pick-up locations and times only in Phuket to arrive in Ranong at 11:00 on embarkation day. Please contact our reservations team for details and bookings. Transfer from Ranong back to Phuket is also provided free of charge on disembarkation day.

Transfers from and to hotels outside of these areas or at different times can be arranged for an additional charge.

Guests staying in Ranong before or after their liveboard will be picked up/dropped off at their hotel as part of the Phuket group transfer.

### Advice on Flights

We advise guests joining a Mergui Archipelago itinerary on Thailand Master to ***fly into Phuket and arrive at least one day before their liveboard*** embarkation date.

While there is an airport in Ranong, [flight options](#) are restrictive and may result in missing your liveboard embarkation. Guests intending to fly to Ranong must arrange flights to arrive the day before embarkation.

Phuket offers many more flight options; however, regardless of whether you choose to fly into Phuket or Ranong, we advise arriving at least one day before your embarkation date.

## Thailand Pre-Arrival Registration

**From 1st May 2025**, all foreign travellers to Thailand must have a Digital Arrival Card (TDAC), which needs to be presented to Thai immigration officials.

Registration can be completed online via the Immigration Bureau's official TDAC webpage: [tdac.immigration.go.th](http://tdac.immigration.go.th).

The TDAC can be completed up to three days before the arrival date in Thailand. The system will request information including Passport or Travel Document, personal details, travel details, accommodation in Thailand, and health details.

Once submitted, the TDAC can be downloaded, or the confirmation received through the specified email address can be presented to the immigration officer upon arrival in Thailand.

## Flights To/From Phuket

Due to the distance and early transfer times from Phuket to Ranong, ***it is not advisable to fly into Phuket on embarkation day.***

Numerous international airlines operate regular flights to Phuket, although some involve a short hop from a regional hub such as Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, or Singapore. Emirates, Qatar and Etihad Airlines fly direct to Phuket from their base countries, as do many Southeast Asian airlines and some from Australia.

**Phuket Arrivals:** You should arrange flights to *arrive in Phuket the day or night before the cruise embarkation date* to allow for possible flight delays and ensure you are on time for the transfer to Ranong.

**Phuket Departures:** Guests flying out from Phuket Airport on the day of disembarkation should arrange a flight that departs after 18:00, as it is not possible to get to the airport from Ranong in time to check in for earlier departures.

## Flights To/From Ranong

We do not recommend flying into Ranong unless guests intend to spend at least one day there before their liveaboard starts. Flight options are extremely limited (currently only one per day), they are not reliable, and do not fit with the liveaboard itinerary schedule.

Ranong Airport is a very small Thai regional airport located on the outskirts of Ranong Town, roughly 30 minutes drive from the embarkation point. It is served exclusively by a single daily flight from Bangkok operated by Thai AirAsia, which arrives later than Thailand Master's embarkation time.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Flights to Ranong depart from the Don Mueang Airport (DMK) in Bangkok, not Suvarnabhumi (BKK). ***The airports are NOT close to each other,*** but there is a free shuttle service between the two.

The distance from BKK to DMK is 48 km (30 miles), and transfer time from one to the other can be anywhere from 50 minutes to 2 hours, depending on the time of day and traffic.

*It is highly recommended that guests choosing to fly into Ranong arrive in Bangkok two days before their liveaboard, spend one night in Bangkok, and arrange flights to arrive in Ranong the day before embarkation.*

**Ranong Departures:** Due to the unpredictable amount of time required to clear both Myanmar and Thai immigration, guests flying out from Ranong Airport on disembarkation day should ensure they book a flight that departs later than 12:00 noon. If this is not possible, they should arrange a hotel for the night and depart the following day.

## Passports & Visas

**IMPORTANT:** Visa and passport regulations for different nationalities are constantly in a state of flux and can change at short notice. While we endeavour to keep the following information as up-to-date as possible, we can not guarantee that it will still be applicable for your travel dates.

We strongly advise guests to regularly check their home country's government advisories or embassies for Thailand and Myanmar for updates and changes that may affect them. Contact details and locations of Royal Thai Embassies and Royal Thai Consulates-General are available at [www.thaiembassy.org](http://www.thaiembassy.org), and Myanmar embassies can be found on the Myanmar Tourism website, here: [Myanmar Embassies Abroad](#)

### Passports

For entry into Thailand, your passport must be valid for at least 6 months beyond your arrival date. Your passport should also have at least two blank pages to provide space for Thailand and Myanmar entry and exit stamps.

You will be denied entry into Thailand if you do not have a valid travel document or try to use a passport that has been reported lost or stolen. Additionally, entry may be refused if your passport is damaged or has missing pages.

Thai Immigration officers may ask to see a confirmed ticket to leave Thailand within the maximum number of days you are allowed to stay in the country; You may also be asked to show evidence of adequate funds for the duration of your intended stay, equivalent to 20,000 Baht per person, or 40,000 Baht per family.

### Thailand Visas

As of July 15th, 2024, visa exemption agreements have been extended to apply to nationals of 93 countries, allowing visa-free single entry into the Kingdom for a stay of up to 60 days.

Passport holders of an additional 31 countries are eligible for a visa on arrival for a single stay of up to 15 days, which costs 2,000 Thai Baht, to be paid in cash and only in local currency.

However, *when re-entering Thailand from Myanmar, guests will usually only be issued a 15 day visa.* Please ensure your onward departure from Thailand is no longer than 15 days after disembarkation, or apply for a multiple-entry visa with your nearest Thai embassy or consulate.

Guests who need to apply for a Thai visa in advance must ensure they request a MULTIPLE ENTRY visa, otherwise, they are not allowed back into Thailand.

Details of nationalities who do not require a visa, and those eligible for a visa on arrival, as well as other relevant information, is available on the Tourism Authority of Thailand's website, here: <https://www.tourismthailand.org - Plan Your Trip>

**PLEASE NOTE.** Some countries are listed as both visa-exempt and visa-on-arrival. This is because some exemptions have been granted as a short-term agreement which could be revoked at any time. *It is your responsibility to check the latest visa information and requirements before travelling.*

You can also check whether you are exempt from visa requirements, or eligible for a Visa on Arrival via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand's official e-visa portal - <https://www.thaievisa.go.th/>, which also facilitates online visa applications for some nationalities that require a visa before travelling.

## Myanmar Visas

Guests joining a Mergui Archipelago itinerary on Thailand Master are not required to obtain a visa for Myanmar before embarkation; Our Operations Team and local agent will make the necessary arrangements on your behalf.

However, *you will need to provide the following no less than 1 month before departure:*

- A clear, coloured photocopy of your passport ID page (submitted with your [API](#))
- Your home contact details (submitted with your [API](#))
- Post-cruise hotel/flight details (submitted with your [API](#))
- A coloured passport-sized photograph (4.6 cm x 3.8 cm) by email

The visa cost is 50 USD, which is payable on board only. **The visa cost will be added to your onboard bill to be paid before disembarkation.**

## Insurance

***Insurance which covers scuba diving is mandatory.*** Your insurance must cover all scuba diving and snorkelling activities, including the maximum dive depths of the itinerary, recompression chamber treatment costs and emergency evacuation. We strongly recommend purchasing diving-specific insurance to cover any diving-related eventuality.

As outlined in our [Terms and Conditions](#), ***all guests are also required to carry full travel and cancellation insurance.*** We cannot be held liable for delays occurring during the cruise nor delays or cancellations of flights, accommodations, or tours and transfers that we organise on your behalf. For further details on why travel insurance is a crucial part of your holiday arrangements, take a look at our blog, '[Do You Really Need Travel Insurance?](#)'

Master Liveboards act as a referrer for DAN World, which offers short-term diving accident cover for up to 30 days, and DiveAssure, who offer combined dive and travel insurance policies, including short-term and multiple-trip policies.

Dive Assure's comprehensive 'Dive & Travel Plus' plan is specifically tailored for liveboard diving holidays and covers expenses in the event of missing your liveboard departure due to flight delays or missed connections, and also provides cover for lost diving days if for any reason the boat is required to abort the cruise; for instance, due to a guest injury, mechanical breakdown of the ship, air supply failure, inclement weather conditions, etc.

Please consult our insurance webpage for details and direct links to DiveAssure and DAN World booking portals: [www.masterliveboards.com/insurance](http://www.masterliveboards.com/insurance).

## Diving Information

Some of the diving in and around the Mergui Archipelago, and especially the Burma Banks, can be challenging due to the exposed nature of the area, dive site depths, and strong currents and, therefore, not suitable for entry-level divers or those who do not have experience in similar conditions.

## Guests' Level of Diving

Divers joining a Mergui Archipelago itinerary on Thailand Master **must have PADI Advanced Open Water certification**, or equivalent, **with a minimum of 30 logged dives** and be certified to dive with **Nitrox**. Ideally, you should also have experience diving in currents.

*Divers who the crew feel have insufficient experience to dive safely in certain conditions may be advised to sit out of some dives during the liveaboard.*

## Water Temperature and Exposure Suits

The tropical waters of the Andaman Sea are consistently pleasant throughout the year, averaging around 28°C (82°F). However, thermoclines may be encountered at various times during the season, which can reduce temperatures by several degrees. Most guests find that a 3mm full-length wetsuit or shorty is suitable, and many divers are comfortable with just a skin-suit or shorts and rash guard.

Guests who tend to get cold easily, especially after repetitive dives, are advised to bring extra thermal layers or the wetsuit they feel most comfortable in.

## Diving Equipment

A single 11.1 Litre (80 cuft) aluminium cylinder, weight belt and weights are provided free of charge.

Some domestic and low-cost airlines in the region have strict check-in luggage limits, so we can provide most rental equipment for an extra charge which includes:

- BCD – not weight-integrated
- Regulator - complete with alternate air source and depth/pressure gauge console
- Wetsuits - 3mm shorty
- Mask
- Fins - full foot or open heel and boots depending on availability
- Underwater torch/flashlight
- Dive computer\*
- 13 Litre (AL100) cylinders by special request and depending on availability

\*The use of a dive computer is compulsory.

*Please pre-book rental equipment and cylinders when confirming your liveaboard holiday, as they are subject to availability.*

## Diving Safety

All divers are responsible for their own dive profiles and are required to remain in buddy teams. For your safety, we ask all guests to always remain well within the limits of their dive computer and certification, follow the instructions of the cruise director and guides and make a safety stop at the end of each dive.

### Fit to Dive

All divers are responsible for ensuring that they are fit to dive and are required to provide a completed medical statement before their liveaboard departure. ***Guests who are taking medication, or have any medical conditions or symptoms that could be restrictive to diving need to obtain a doctor's evaluation and clearance to dive before travelling.***

The medical statement is available in English, German, Mandarin and Spanish and can be downloaded from our website at [www.masterliveboards.com/forms](http://www.masterliveboards.com/forms).

If you are unable to complete the medical statement as directed or provide a current doctor's certificate (less than 12 months old) clearing you to dive, you accept that you will not be able to take part in scuba diving activities during the liveaboard holiday you have booked with us.

### Flying after Diving

Current studies indicate that you should wait at least 18 hours before flying after multiple days of repetitive diving. However, we strongly recommend 24 hours. Please keep this in mind when you book your onward international or domestic flights.

### Diving Emergencies

The closest recompression chambers are located in Phuket and can only be reached by road from Ranong, once Myanmar and Thailand immigration formalities are completed, even in the event of an emergency. We strongly encourage all guests to dive conservatively at all times, remain well within their recognised limits, carefully follow dive guides' advice, and of course, purchase specific dive insurance before their trip.

*You are responsible for ensuring your insurance will fully cover and reimburse all evacuation costs in addition to recompression chamber and/or hospital treatment.*

## Destination Information

### Time Zone

The local time in Myanmar and Thailand is 7 hours ahead of UTC (GMT +7).

### Money Matters

The local currency in Thailand is the Thai Baht (THB) with coin denominations of 1, 2, 5 and 10 Baht and banknotes of 20, 50, 100, 500 and 1,000 values. The majority of established shops, hotels and restaurants accept major credit cards, although some may add a 3-5% service charge. Smaller establishments and vendors generally do not accept cards so it's a good idea to carry some local currency with you. There are money changers and ATMs at Phuket Airport and across the island as well as in all major tourist areas throughout the country.

**A word of warning** - most ATMs in Thailand are frustratingly slow and will return your card as the final step, after dispensing your requested cash and a receipt (if you want one). It is a common problem for tourists to 'lose' their card by walking away from the machine before the card has been ejected. Please ensure you retrieve your card from the machine if you are using an ATM to withdraw local currency.

## Health

No specific vaccinations are required unless you are coming from or passing through contaminated areas. However, we strongly advise that you ensure routine vaccinations are up-to-date (tetanus, polio, MMR, etc.) and check with your nearest travel clinic for the latest information and recommendations well in advance of travelling.

Yellow fever certificates are required for those who are coming from 14 following countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Angola, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mauritania, Mali, Nigeria, Sudan and Zaire.

Health services and medical facilities across most of Thailand are generally very good. There is a hospital in Ranong but, it is a government-funded, public facility and not comparable to Western standards or privately funded hospitals in other parts of the country. In major tourist areas most hospitals, including several in Phuket, are equipped with modern technology and have well-trained, English-speaking doctors but, they are not free. Therefore, it is imperative that you have insurance which covers medical emergencies and all consultation and other hospital costs. You will also find pharmacies everywhere should you need to purchase any kind of medicine.

Please make sure you use insect repellent and cover exposed skin to prevent any insect-borne diseases such as dengue fever. We recommend travellers follow sensible precautions with local food to prevent stomach upsets and to drink bottled water only.

## Travelling with Medication

There are certain medications, including psychotropics and painkillers containing Codeine, which are restricted or prohibited to bring into Thailand. Guidelines from the Thai FDA can be downloaded here: [Guidance For Travelers carrying personal medication](#)

If you are travelling with medication, please ensure you bring your physician's prescription with you.

## E-Cigarettes/Vapes

It is illegal to bring electronic cigarettes, vapes and vape juice into Thailand. However, they can be purchased in many locations in the country although ***their use is against the law and can incur heavy fines or a jail sentence*** for anyone caught using or in possession of one.

## Language and Religion

The Thai language is largely incomprehensible to the casual visitor but, the majority of Thais who work in the tourism industry speak some level of English. Road and street signs are found nationwide in Thai-English and most restaurants have menus in Thai and English.

The official language of Myanmar is Burmese although most Myanmarese also speak English.

More than 90% of Thais and Burmese are Buddhists although they have always subscribed to the ideal of religious freedom, allowing sizeable minorities of Muslims, Christians, Hindus, and Sikhs to freely pursue their respective faiths.

The Mergui Archipelago is home to the not-so-well-known Moken who are a shy, peace-loving Austronesian people also known as the 'Sea-Gypsies'. Numbering just under 3,000, they are indigenous people of the Mergui Archipelago who have their own unique language, culture and lifestyle. They have been sustaining themselves off the land and sea in the same way for centuries and most of the Moken still live boats and continue to roam around the archipelago although some have established themselves in a village on Lampi Island.

Their semi-nomadic, hunter-gatherer lifestyle means they have an unprecedented knowledge and respect of the sea; In 2004, being keenly attuned to the ocean, they were able to read the sea correctly and headed for higher ground just before the deadly Indian Ocean tsunami swept in, so preserving many lives that would otherwise have been lost when elsewhere the monster wave took over a hundred thousand lives.

## Climate and Weather

Thailand's and Myanmar's tropical climate is influenced by the southwest and northeast monsoons which can vary from one year to the next and affect the weather in different parts of the country. Generally, the southwest monsoon hits the western coast of Thailand and northern regions of the Andaman Sea from mid-May to mid-October, bringing strong winds and moist air up from the Indian Ocean making the Similan Islands, Surin Islands and Mergui Archipelago inaccessible. The northeast monsoon sweeps across the Gulf of Thailand from the end of October through to mid-February bringing cooler temperatures and drier air.

Influenced by these monsoons, there are three distinct seasons although there is some overlap and deviation in when they start and end: 'Hot' is generally considered to be March to May, 'Wet' from June to October, and 'Cool' from November to February.

To maximise passenger enjoyment and comfort, Mergui Archipelago itineraries are scheduled from early January to the end of March, which is normally the best possible weather period for diving in the region. The average daytime temperature during this period is around 31°C (86°F), with very little if any rain and slightly cooler temperatures in the evenings.

## Mobile Phone Coverage

Thailand is blessed with an extremely good mobile phone network, with 5G available in many locations and 3G or 4G in others. Most Western and Asian network providers have roaming services in Thailand but, it's important to make sure your phone is not geo-locked and that your home provider's network bands are compatible with Thai networks. Note that roaming charges can be very expensive so it's generally best to purchase a local SIM if you want to use your phone extensively.

Please note however that there is **no cell phone coverage in the Mergui Archipelago** so, there will only be connectivity when on or close to the Thai mainland.

The largest mobile network provider in Thailand is AIS with TrueMove H and DTAC being the second and third. All three providers offer SIM and data packages for tourists which can be purchased at Phuket Airport and many local stores throughout the country.



- AIS Tourist Plans: <https://www.ais.th/en/consumers/package/international/tourist-plan>
- TrueMove H Tourist SIMs: <https://www.truemoveh-thailandsim.com/>
- DTAC Tourist SIMs: <https://www.dtac.co.th/en/prepaid/products/tourist-sim.html>

Wi-Fi is available for customers to use, free of charge, in most hotels, bars, cafés, coffee shops and restaurants.

## Drones

Guests wishing to use a drone in Thailand must have drone insurance and register with the [NBTC](#) (National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission) and [CAAT](#) (Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand). Anyone caught flying an unregistered or uninsured drone faces heavy fines or even imprisonment. Further information and assistance with registration and insurance can be found here: <https://www.feic.co.th/aviation-insurance/drone-insurance/>

Drones can be used around the Mergui Archipelago but they should not be flown when close to the Myanmar/Thailand border, or where they may invade the privacy of locals. However, regulations are somewhat unclear but registration is required to use a drone across most of Myanmar.

## General Trip Information

### Advanced Passenger Information (API)

There are certain details that we require in advance for administrative purposes, including Myanmar visa applications. All guests are required to submit their prerequisite information via our secure online portal at [www.masterliveboards.com/portal](http://www.masterliveboards.com/portal).

### Forms

All guests are required to complete a medical statement, liability releases, and standard safe diving practices statement before the commencement of their liveaboard itinerary. To save some time, and to ensure you have no pre-existing conditions that could affect your diving, you can download the documents from the forms page of the Master Liveboards website, - [www.masterliveboards.com/forms](http://www.masterliveboards.com/forms) - fill them in and bring them with you. By completing and signing the forms, you verify that you have read, understood, and agree to the conditions outlined in them.

If you are unable, or unwilling to complete the forms as instructed, you accept that you may not be able to take part in certain aspects of the holiday you have booked with us.

## Life on Board

The main features of Thailand Master can be viewed on the Master Liveboards website: [www.masterliveboards.com/boats/thailand-master](http://www.masterliveboards.com/boats/thailand-master)

***Safety and dive briefings on board the vessel will be provided in English. If you do not speak or fully understand English, please let us know before you arrive.***

## Accessibility

Due to the yacht's layout, Thailand Master may provide challenges, or be unsuitable for guests with limited mobility and is not wheelchair accessible. Please contact us for further details if you have any concerns.

## Accommodation

Thailand Master can accommodate a total of 18 guests with five double-occupancy cabins and two quad cabins. Reduced cabin occupancy may be available on request and is subject to a supplemental charge.

## Cabin Facilities

All cabins have individually controllable air-conditioning and private en-suite bathrooms with centrally heated hot water. Other amenities include liquid soap, towels, bathrobes and lockable safety boxes.

There are no hair dryers on the boat. Should you need one, please bring your own.

## Food and Drink

Meals are provided on a full board basis including a light breakfast, full breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks with unlimited drinking water, tea, coffee, fruit juices and soft drinks. Electrolyte powders are available, free of charge, to help keep guests properly hydrated. Local beer (lager) and red or white wine are also available for an additional fee.

Meals are served buffet-style with a choice of International and locally inspired cuisine. We can cater to most dietary requirements with advance notice, although there may be some limitations. Should you have any specific dietary needs or food allergies, please advise your sales consultant at the time of confirming your liveaboard booking to ensure we can make provisions for you.

**Please note:** it can be difficult to find certain products that are common elsewhere. While we always do our best to accommodate dietary requests, please consider bringing specific food items with you if the lack thereof may constitute a health risk or seriously compromise your enjoyment of your holiday.

## Clothing and Footwear

For your time on board, we recommend casual and comfortable clothing, swimwear, shorts and t-shirts. A sweater or lightweight jacket is advised for the cooler evening temperatures, particularly after multiple dives.

We ask all guests to respect the wishes of others by donning clothing for meal times. While most guests prefer and are encouraged to walk barefoot while on the boat island visits may require sturdy sandals or cross-trainers.

## Electricity

Power outlets on Thailand Master are 220V European-style sockets (2 round pins). Although there are also some multiple adapter sockets available, it is always advisable to bring universal adapters with you if necessary.

## Staying Connected

We regret that we are unable to provide wi-fi or internet access on board Thailand Master.

Most mobile phones that have 'roaming' or a Thai SIM will function where a signal is available although service signal strength, where available, is likely to be very weak. As our Mergui Archipelago trips cover relatively remote locations, internet connectivity is intermittent at best and non-existent for large portions of the itinerary.

## Smoking

Smoking on board is allowed in designated outdoor areas only. **Cannabis is not permitted.**

Please note that *the use of e-cigarettes and vapes is against the law* in Thailand.

## Underwater Photography and Videography

Thailand Master offers features for underwater photographers and videographers which include:

- Large tables that can be used for the preparation and maintenance of cameras
- Large rinsing tanks with fresh water; changed frequently

Our crew are thoroughly trained in the handling of delicate camera equipment and will provide assistance when entering and exiting the water.

## Environmental considerations

Although there are recycling programs and facilities in Thailand, they are extremely limited and are non-existent in the places we visit in Myanmar; Most waste ends up in landfills or is incinerated. We therefore ask our guests to consider the following to help with our mission to reduce our environmental impact.

## Batteries

While some batteries may be available to purchase on board, please bring extras if your personal dive equipment may require a unique size, or need a lot of replacement batteries during your trip. We kindly request that you take spent batteries home so that they can be recycled or disposed of properly. Alternatively, **consider using rechargeable batteries** as there are plenty of sockets to plug in a charger on board.

## Water Bottles

Master Liveboards is dedicated to becoming single-use plastic-free on all of our vessels. Plastic straws and stirrers have been banned, and we do not provide single-use plastic bottles on board.

If you own a sports bottle, we simply ask that you bring it with you, or we can provide you with one on board for the duration of your cruise. We also have plenty of cups on board which you can use to ensure you remain well hydrated.

## Plastic bags and wrappers

We do not provide plastic bags for purchases made on board, although reusable canvas bags are available for sale. Please help us minimise plastic waste by removing plastic wrappers and packaging from items before travelling. If you bring plastic bags with you, please reuse them, and take them home.

## Toiletries

We kindly ask guests to consider the type and quantity of products they are bringing with them and, where possible, to bring only environmentally friendly toiletries for use on board, and take partially or unused products home.

If you are bringing cotton buds (Q-tips) with you, please avoid the types that have plastic stems. Many such products are available that use unbleached paper or bamboo instead of plastic and are therefore much more environmentally friendly.

## Sunscreens

In Thailand, *sunscreen products with chemical compounds that are harmful to coral are prohibited from being used in marine national parks*. The specific ingredients that are banned are Oxybenzone (Benzophenone-3, BP-3), Octinoxate (Ethylhexyl methoxycinnamate), 4-Methylbenzylidene Camphor (4MBC) and Butylparaben.

Guests joining a Mergui Archipelago itinerary on Thailand Master are encouraged to *only use reef-safe sunscreen products* containing mineral-based ingredients such as non-nano Zinc Oxide and Titanium Dioxide which studies have found to be safe for the marine environment. To minimise the need for sunscreen, we also recommend wearing a long-sleeve rashguard in the water and remaining covered up and in the shade on the boat.

## Payments on Board

### Marine Park and Port Fees

These fees cover port charges and Mergui Archipelago entrance fees only. The amount depends on the itinerary duration as noted in the [itinerary details](#). The applicable amount and the Myanmar visa cost will be added to your bill to be paid onboard before disembarkation

## Optional Extras

We offer a range of extras to make your time on board even more enjoyable including beach visits, where permissible. The following are also available for an additional fee:

- Beer & Wine
- Nitrox
- Equipment rental
- Dive Courses
- Fleet Merchandise

All prices onboard are in US dollars; However, we also accept cash payments in THB, EUR, GBP and AUD. Moreover, we accept payments by credit card (Visa & MasterCard), for which there is a 3.5% surcharge.

*Rental equipment, nitrox and courses booked and paid for in advance do not incur any additional charges.*

## Tipping

At Master Liveboards, we believe tipping is a matter of personal choice. Should you feel that our crew has made your holiday extra special, they will certainly appreciate a tip as a sign of your appreciation. If you are unsure how much to give, we suggest 5-10% of the liveboard cost.

Please note that *we are only able to accept tips in cash*. For this purpose, an envelope will be provided by the cruise director who will ensure the tips are divided equally amongst all crew members, including the captain and dive guides.

Guests are advised to ensure they have sufficient cash to cover any incidental expenses that may be incurred during land visits in addition to crew gratuities.

## Safety on Board

### Emergency Management & Equipment

All crew members have been extensively trained in emergency management procedures. A thorough boat safety briefing will be provided by your cruise director at the start of your trip, during which all guests will be requested to participate in a life jacket drill. Further practice scenarios may be performed during your cruise to assist our crew in keeping their skills sharp. Each yacht is equipped with modern safety features such as automated life rafts, EPIRB, satellite communication and emergency pumps.

Additionally, there is a full complement of medical-grade oxygen which can be administered to divers through DAN kits or unit-specific attachments in the event of suspected DCI.

### First Aid

Our dive teams are all qualified emergency responders and Thailand Master is equipped with a fully stocked medical first aid kit for treating minor injuries and ailments, as well as for assisting trained medical professionals in remote locations. You will also find on board an

Automated External Defibrillator (AED), which has been proven to greatly increase the survival rate in the eventuality of cardiac fibrillation.

Should you feel unwell at any point during your cruise, please seek the advice of your cruise director who will be able to assist you.

## Extending your holiday

Travelling within Thailand can be made exceptionally easy when you book with Master Liveaboards. We can offer hotels, transfers, excursions and tour packages which can be arranged for before and/or after your liveaboard.

### Optional, additional Thailand package

Upon arrival in Thailand, you will be met at the airport and transferred to the hotel of your choice. Spend 1-5 nights anywhere within Thailand before travelling to your vessel on the day of your trip departure. You can also take advantage of one, or more of the many excursions we have to offer either in Phuket, Khao Lak or Ranong.

Our package includes:

- Up to 5 nights of accommodation at a hotel of your choice
- Transfers throughout
- Domestic flight assistance
- One of several additional land or boat-based excursions.

Should you require any assistance, please contact our reservations team who will be more than happy to provide further information or suggestions and make reservations on your behalf.

## FAQs

If you have any questions that have not been answered here, please visit the [Myanmar FAQs](#) or email us at [dive@masterliveaboards.com](mailto:dive@masterliveaboards.com).

## Contact Information

### Thailand Office - Master Liveboards

10/512 Moo 3,  
Tambon Vichit,  
Muang Phuket 83000,  
Thailand

Open Monday - Friday 08:30 - 18:30 and Saturday 09:00 - 17:00 ICT (UTC / GMT +7)

Thailand Office: +66 (0) 76 367 444

UK number: +44 (0) 208 099 2230

USA (Toll Free): +1 866 258 6398

WhatsApp: +66 (0) 62 668 7136

Web: [www.masterliveboards.com](http://www.masterliveboards.com)

Email: [dive@masterliveboards.com](mailto:dive@masterliveboards.com)

### Thailand Master Operations

Tel / Line / WhatsApp: +66 (0) 810 142 748

Emergency (Poan): + 66 (0) 822 753 908 (24hrs)

### Master Liveboards 24-hour emergency only:

In the event of an emergency, if you are unable to get a response from the numbers listed above, please call: +44 7862 126398

## What to Bring

Our blog, [Packing for a Scuba Diving Liveaboard](#) provides useful tips on what to pack.

The following is a checklist of the essential items you should ensure you bring for your trip aboard Thailand Master.

### Passport

6 months validity and at least 2 empty pages for visa stickers and stamps

### Travel Documents

Flight tickets - International & Domestic; hotel booking; excursions

### Cash & Credit Card for emergencies

Recommended amount (additional to park & port fees): 250 - 500 USD

### Diving Certification & Logbook

Including Nitrox Card if certified & intending to use Nitrox

### Travel and Diving Insurance Documents

To include emergency medical evacuation

### Essential Diving Items

Dive computer with full battery

### Toiletries & Medications

Including insect repellent and Reef-safe sunscreen  
Inform the booking team of medical conditions

### Essential Clothing Items

Swimwear, hat and lightweight jacket

*Guests are strongly advised to carry essential items in hand luggage in case of lost or delayed luggage through International or Domestic Flights.*