

Southern Explorer, Thailand

Trip Information

- **Arrival airport:** Phuket International Airport (HKT)
- **Departure airport:** Phuket International Airport (HKT)
- **Embarkation Point:** Chalong Pier, Phuket at 08:30 hr
- **Disembarkation Point:** Chalong Pier, Phuket at 16:00 hr

Flights and Transfers

Transfers between Patong, Karon, Kata, Rawai & Chalong and the vessel on embarkation and disembarkation day are included in the liveboard price.

Transfers from and to hotels and resorts outside of the local area, as well as to/from the airport can be arranged for an additional charge.

Advice on International Flights

There are several airlines that offer direct international flights to Phuket International Airport, though you may need to book a short hop from another local hub such as Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, or Singapore. We recommend staying 1 night in Phuket before cruise departure, so you are well rested before the start of the cruise. Please inform us in which hotel you will stay so we can organise your transfer. If you make your own way to the embarkation point, embarkation time is 18.00 pm.

Visa and Passports

Passport holders of most western countries will be issued a visa upon arrival for stays of up to 30 days in Thailand. Please make sure that your passport has validity for the duration of your stay in Thailand (6 months validity upon arrival is advisable). You may be required to show a confirmed ticket to leave Thailand within the maximum number of days you are allowed to stay in the country.

Visa and passport regulations for different countries are constantly in a state of flux. We always advise our guests to check regularly for updates and changes, please visit the Thai Embassy website at www.thaiembassyuk.org.uk/visa_exemption.html for more information.

Insurance

Insurance which covers scuba diving is mandatory aboard all of our vessels. All guests are also required to carry full travel and cancellation insurance, in accordance with our Terms and Conditions. We cannot be held liable for delays occurring during the cruise, nor any delays or cancellations of flights, accommodations or tours and transfers that we organise on your behalf.

Your insurance must cover all of your scuba diving and snorkelling activities, including the costs for recompression chamber treatment and emergency air evacuation. We therefore strongly recommend purchasing diving-specific insurance to cover any diving related eventuality.

Master Liveboards act as a referrer for DiveAssure who offer dive and travel insurance policies, including short term and multiple trip policies. Their comprehensive 'Dive & Travel Plus' plan has been specifically developed for diving liveboard 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 webpage for details and direct link to DiveAssure's booking portal: www.masterliveboards.com/insurance.

Diving Information

We are happy to welcome divers of all levels on our vessels in the and around the Similan and Surin Islands.

Guests' Level of Diving

It is recommended that guests wishing to get the most out of diving in the area have a **minimum of 10 logged dives**.

The Advanced Open Water course may be completed on board. Please contact our reservations team for further information.

Some of the diving in the area may not be suitable for inexperienced divers due to prevailing conditions, depths, and/or strong currents. Your cruise director will be able to advise you whilst on board, and may recommend that guests with insufficient experience sit out certain dives.

Any guests who do not fulfil the recommended minimum requirements, or who the crew feel have insufficient experience in certain conditions, may be denied participation in some or all dives during the liveboard.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the diving conditions please contact our reservations team directly.

Fit to Dive

All divers are responsible for ensuring that they are fit to dive, and are required to complete a medical statement upon arrival in resort. Guests who have any symptoms that could be restrictive to diving will need to obtain a doctor's note clearing them to dive, prior to arriving in resort. The medical statement can be found on our website at www.masterliveboards.com/forms.

If you are unable to complete the statement as directed, or provide a current doctor's certificate (less 1 year old) clearing you to dive, you accept that you may not be able to take part in certain aspects of the holiday you have booked with us.

Diving Safety

Guests are responsible for their own dive profiles and must stay within the limits of their certification.

For your safety, we ask all guests to always remain well within the limits of their dive computer, follow the instructions of the cruise director and guides and make a safety stop at the end of each dive.

Flying after Diving

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

Diving Emergencies

There are two recompression chambers located in Phuket that can be reached within a few hours by speedboat from anywhere on this itinerary. They provide emergency treatment for decompression illness in the unlikely event of an accident. We strongly encourage all guests to dive well within their recognised limits, carefully follow dive guides' advice, and of course, purchase specific dive insurance before their trips.

As per our [Terms & Conditions](#) adequate dive insurance and travel insurance are mandatory.

Water Temperature and Exposure Suits

The warm tropical waters of the Andaman sea are pleasant throughout the year averaging 27°C (82 °F), although it is not uncommon to encounter thermoclines at various times during the year. Most guests find that a 3mm wetsuit or shorty is suitable and many dive with just a skin. For guests who tend to get cold easily, especially after repetitive dives, we recommend you bring the wetsuit you feel most comfortable in.

Diving Equipment

Since some of the domestic airline carriers in the regions we operate have strict check-in luggage limits, we can provide most rental equipment for an extra charge. Our rental equipment 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
- 12 litre tanks (15 litre tanks by special request and depending on availability)
- Weight belt and weights
- Underwater torch/flashlight
- Dive computer*

* Please note that the use of a dive computer is compulsory on our vessels. For your safety, we ask all guests to always dive within the limits of their dive computer and make a safety stop at the end of each dive.

Please pre-book rental equipment and cylinders at the time of confirming your liveboard holiday, as they are subject to availability.

Underwater Photography and Videography

Both of our Thailand vessels offer 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.

General Information

Advanced Passenger Information (API)

There are certain details that we require for the airlines and our own administrative purposes prior to travel. Guests are required to submit the required information via our secure online portal at www.masterliveboards.com/portal.

Forms

It is a requirement for all guests to complete the following forms prior to or upon arrival in resort - medical statement, liability releases, and safe standard practice statement, which can be found at www.masterliveboards.com/forms.

To save some time, and to ensure you have no pre-existing conditions that could affect your diving, you can download the forms from the above link, fill in, and bring them along. By completing and signing the forms, you are confirming that you have read, understood, and agree to the conditions outlined in the forms

If you are unable 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.

Time Zone

The local time in Thailand is +7 hours UTC (GMT).

Money Matters

The local currency is the Thai Baht (THB). The majority of established hotels and restaurants accept major credit cards, however; smaller, family-run places probably will not. There are money-changers and ATM machines located at the airport and near the meeting point for your convenience.

Health

No inoculations or vaccinations are required unless you are coming from or passing through contaminated areas, 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 in Thailand are generally very good. Hospitals in major tourist destinations have modern technology and well trained doctors, including several in Phuket.

Please make sure you use insect repellent and cover exposed skin to prevent any insect borne diseases. We recommend that travelers follow normal precautions with food in order to prevent stomach upsets, and be sure to drink bottled water only. Please consult your doctor or nearest health authorities for up-to-date medical travel information well before departure.

Language and Religion

Thai is the language in Thailand, which remains largely incomprehensible to the casual visitor. However, nearly all Thais who work in the tourism industry speak some level of English, and Thai-English road and street signs are found nationwide.

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

Safety and dive briefings on board the vessels will be provided in English. If you do not speak and understand English please let us know prior to arrival.

Climate and Weather

There are 3 distinct seasons – “summer” from March through May, “rainy” (still with plenty of sunshine) from June to September and “cool” from October through February. The average annual temperature is 28°C (83°F), ranging anywhere from 30°C in April to 25°C in December.

Thailand’s tropical climate is influenced by the southwest and northeast monsoons. From Late May to October, the southwest monsoon hits the western coast of Thailand, and the northeast monsoon sweeps the Gulf of Thailand (east coast) between mid-October to mid-December.

Life on Board

The main features of the vessels can be seen at www.masterliveboards.com/boats/the-junk and www.masterliveboards.com/boats/the-phinisi.

Accessibility

Due to the layout, our vessels may provide challenges, or be unsuitable, for guests with limited mobility. Please contact us for further details if you have any concerns.

Accommodation

The Junk has two of each - twin/double cabins, triple cabins, and quad cabins.

The Phinisi has 5 twin and/or double cabins and 2 quad cabins.

Reduced occupancy may be available on request for all cabin types on both vessels 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 facilities include hair dryer, towels, bathrobes and lockable safety boxes.

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.

Local lager (beer), wine, or spirits from our cocktail bar are available for an additional fee.

We offer a choice of International and locally inspired cuisine and can cater to special dietary requirements with advance notice. Should you have any specific dietary needs, allergies, or special requests, please advise your sales consultant at the time of confirming your liveaboard trip to ensure we are able to make provisions for your needs.

Please note: It can be very difficult to find low-fat or soya products that are common elsewhere. While we always do our best to accommodate dietary requests, please consider bringing some of your own foods if the lack thereof may constitute a health risk or seriously compromise your enjoyment of your holiday.

Clothing and Footwear

For sojourning on our yacht, we recommend guests bring casual and comfortable clothes; swimwear, shorts and t-shirts. A sweater is advised for cooler nights, particularly after multiple dives.

We do request that guests respect the wishes of others by donning clothing for meal times. Most guests prefer to walk barefoot on board of our vessel; however, island visits may require sturdy sandals or cross-trainers.

Electricity

On board we have 220V with 2 round pin sockets (European style) with multiple adapter sockets available. It is always advisable that you bring universal adapters with you if necessary. Electrical current in Thailand is 220 Volts.

Staying Connected

We regret that we are unable to provide an internet service on board our vessels. Our trips are in relatively remote locations and internet service is intermittent at best. Most mobile phones that have 'roaming' will function during your cruise. However; service signal strength can be very weak and in some areas of your cruise, there may not be a signal at all. The cost of calls made is determined by your service provider.

Our out of office contact numbers can be found below, should your family need to contact you during the cruise, however this number is reserved for emergencies only.

Smoking

Smoking on board is permitted in designated outdoor areas.

Environmental considerations

Although there are recycling programs and facilities in place in Thailand, they are limited. 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

We are dedicated to becoming single use plastic free across all of our fleets. Plastic straws and stirrers have been banned on all of our boats 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 use 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 that guests consider the type of products which they are bringing with them and, where possible, to bring environmentally friendly toiletries for use on board, and to take partially or unused products home with them.

Payments on Board

Marine and Port Fees

Marine park and port fees are dependent on the duration and diving areas of your trip; please refer to your itinerary details for further information. The applicable amount can be added to your invoice to pay prior to departure, or they can be paid on board.

Optional Extras

We offer a range of services to make your stay on board even more enjoyable. We offer beach visits during your cruise. The following are also available for an additional fee:

- Beer & Wine
- Nitrox: 10 USD per fill or 25 USD per day
- Nitrox Package
- Dive Courses
- Torch & Dive Computer Rental
- Fleet Merchandise

All prices are given on board in US dollars; however, we also accept cash payment in THB, Euro, GBP, and AUD. Moreover, we accept payments by credit card (Visa & MasterCard), for which there is a 3.5% surcharge. Guests are advised to bring additional cash to Marine Park & port fees, for any incidental expenses.

Tipping

We believe that tipping is a matter of personal choice. Should you feel that your crew has made your holiday extra special, they would certainly appreciate a tip. Please note we are only able to accept tips in cash. For this purpose, you can use the envelope provided by the cruise director. He/she will make sure the tips are divided equally amongst all crew members, including the captain and dive guides.

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.

First Aid

Our vessels are 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. It has a full complement of medical grade oxygen which can be administered to divers through DAN kits or unit specific attachments.

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. Our dive teams are all qualified emergency responders. 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

Traveling to/from and within Thailand can be made exceptionally easy when you book with Master Liveaboards. As well as a range of domestic flights, we can offer hotels, excursions and tour packages, which can be arranged for before and/or after your liveaboard.

Should you require any assistance, please contact our reservations team who will be more than happy to make reservations on your behalf.

Optional, additional Thailand package

Upon arrival into Thailand 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 of the many example excursions we have to offer.

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.

For further information about hotel and excursion options and costs, please contact our reservations team.

FAQs

If there are any questions that have not been answered, please visit our website at www.masterliveaboards.com or email us at 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+7)

Web: www.masterliveboards.com

Email: dive@masterliveboards.com

Thailand Office: +66 (0) 76 367 444

UK number: +44 (0) 208 099 2230

USA (Toll Free): +1 866 258 6398

WhatsApp: +66 (0) 93 574 4529

The Junk/Phinisi Operations

Tel: + 66 (0) 822 753 908 (24hrs)

And: +66 (0) 98 052 8632

What to Bring

The following is a check list of items that you should ensure to bring with you for your trip aboard a Master Liveboards vessel.

Passport

6 month validity & 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
Airport Departure Tax in local currency

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 sunscreen & insect repellent
Inform 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.