

Thailand

General Destination & Trip Information

- **Arrival airport:** Phuket International Airport (HKT)
- **Departure airport:** Phuket International Airport (HKT)

Embarkation and disembarkation locations and times depend on the itinerary. The start and end points for each departure date are indicated on our Thailand schedules and will also be shown on your booking confirmation details.

Flights and Transfers

A shared transfer between Phuket Airport or local hotels and Thailand Master on embarkation and disembarkation days only is included in the liveboard price for all departures, regardless of embarkation and disembarkation point.

Private transfers, transfers on other days, or from and to hotels beyond the local embarkation and disembarkation areas can be arranged for an additional charge.

If you intend to arrange your own transfer to the embarkation point, please ensure you arrive before the embarkation time shown on your booking details.

Phuket Airport is a 1-1½ hour drive from Tap Lamu, and 2-2½ hours drive from Chalong.

Please allow at least 2½ hours for international flight check-in and 1½ to 2 hours for domestic flights.

Advice on International Flights

Numerous international airlines operate regular flights to Phuket, although some involve a short hop from a local 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. We recommend arriving in Phuket at least 1 day before your liveboard embarkation date so you are well-rested before the start of the cruise.

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.

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.

Applications can be edited, and submissions can also be made as a group.

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 check their home country's government advisories or Thai Embassy regularly 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

Passports

Please make sure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months beyond your date of arrival in Thailand and has at least one blank page. You will be denied entry 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.

You may be asked to show 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.

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.

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 since 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.

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.

Insurance

Insurance which covers scuba diving is mandatory. Your insurance must cover all scuba diving and snorkelling activities, including recompression chamber treatment costs and emergency air evacuation. We therefore strongly recommend purchasing diving-specific insurance to cover any diving-related eventuality.

All guests are also required to carry full travel and cancellation insurance, as outlined under section 3 of our [Terms and Conditions](#). 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 of 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 DiveAssure who offer dive and travel insurance policies, including short-term and multiple-trip policies. Their comprehensive 'Dive & Travel Plus' plan is specifically created 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 webpage for details and a direct link to DiveAssure's booking portal: www.masterliveboards.com/insurance.

Diving Information

Diving in Thailand is possible all year round, although the areas that are accessible depend on the [season](#); Similan and Surin Islands are out of bounds from May to October.

Generally, most areas covered on our Thailand liveboard itineraries are suitable for divers of all levels. However, due to depths, currents and surge, some dive sites can be challenging and unsuitable for newly certified divers or those who have not dived in similar conditions before.

Guests' Level of Diving

Please refer to the itinerary-specific information documents for details of recommended or mandatory certification and experience requirements.

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

Water Temperatures and Exposure Suits

The warm tropical waters of the Andaman Sea are pleasant throughout the year, averaging around 28°C (82°F), although it is not uncommon to encounter thermoclines at various times during the season, which can reduce temperatures by several degrees. Most guests find that a 3mm wetsuit or shorty is suitable, and many dive with just a skin-suit or shorts and rash guard. For guests who tend to get cold easily, especially after repetitive dives, we recommend you bring extra thermal layers or the wetsuit that you feel most comfortable in.

Diving Equipment

A single 11 Litre (80 cuft) 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 (100 cu ft) cylinders by special request and depending on availability

*The use of a dive computer is compulsory on Thailand Master.

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

Diving Safety

All divers are responsible for their own dive profiles and 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 liveboard 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.

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

There are two recompression chambers located in Phuket that can be reached within a few hours by speedboat and road from anywhere within the Similan Islands and Phi Phi Islands. 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.

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

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

Destination Information

Time Zone

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

Money Matters

The local currency 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 before the card has been ejected. Please make sure you retrieve your card from the machine if you are using an ATM to withdraw local currency.

Language and Religion

The Thai language is largely incomprehensible for 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.

More than 90% of Thais 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.

Health

No specific vaccinations are required unless you are coming from or passing through contaminated areas. However, we strongly advise that you ensure standard 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 in Thailand are generally very good. Hospitals in major tourist destinations have modern technology and well-trained, English-speaking doctors, including several in Phuket but, they are not free. 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.

Climate and Weather

Thailand'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 from mid-May to mid-October, bringing strong winds and moist air up from the Indian Ocean and making the Similan Islands and Surin Islands 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.

Regardless of the season, most of Thailand is hot all year round. Temperatures around Phuket and other southern areas range from 38°C+ in the hottest months (April/May) to 26°C in the coolest (December/January). Even during the wet season, when there are often days with heavy and sustained downpours, temperatures average around 31°C with plenty of sunshine in between.

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.

The largest mobile network provider 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 Thailand.

- 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

The use of drones in Thailand is permitted, but regulated. Visitors wishing to use a drone in the Kingdom 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/>

General Trip Information

Advanced Passenger Information (API)

There are certain details that we require for administrative purposes before guests travel. All guests are required to submit their prerequisite information via our secure online portal at 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 Liveaboards website, - 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

Safety and dive briefings on board the vessels 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 liveboard booking to ensure we can make provisions for you.

Please note: Although Thailand has the advantage of being able to provide for most special diets, 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.

Mobile phones with international roaming will work during your cruise with the same limitations as locally purchased sim cards; the cost of calls made and data used is determined by your service provider. Our itineraries cover some relatively remote locations; In some areas service signal strength can be very weak at times and, in others, there may be no signal at all so internet connectivity will be intermittent and mostly only possible when close to larger islands or the mainland.

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 handling 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 not well managed; 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

Sunscreen products with chemical compounds that are harmful to coral are prohibited from being used in Thai Marine National Parks. The banned chemical compounds are Oxybenzone (Benzophenone-3, BP-3), Octinoxate (Ethylhexyl methoxycinnamate), 4-Methylbenzylidene Camphor (4MBC) and Butylparaben.

Violators can be fined up to 100,000 Baht

All guests are advised 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

Marine Park and Port fees depend on the itinerary duration, and the areas covered; Please refer to your booking or itinerary details for further information. The applicable amount will be added to your invoice to 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
- Equipment rental
- Dive Courses
- Fleet Merchandise

All prices onboard are in US dollars; however, we also accept cash payments 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 sufficient cash to cover any incidental expenses and crew gratuities, in addition to Marine Park & Port fees.

Items booked and paid for in advance do not incur any additional charges.

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 who will make sure the tips are divided equally amongst all crew members, including the captain and dive guides.

Safety on Board

Thailand Master is equipped with modern safety features such as automated life rafts, EPIRB, satellite communication and emergency pumps.

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.

First Aid

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. 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

Travelling within Thailand can be made exceptionally easy when you book with Master Liveboards. We can offer hotels, transfers, 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 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 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, please contact our reservations team.

FAQs

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

Contact Information

Thailand Office - Master Liveboards

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

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USA (Toll Free): +1 866 258 6398

WhatsApp: +66 (0) 62 668 7136

Web: www.masterliveboards.com

Email: dive@masterliveboards.com

Thailand Master Operations

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

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

Master Liveboards 24-hr 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 1 empty page 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.