

THE JUNK

Southern Explorer, 2 nights

Chalong Pier, Phuket | Racha Islands and Koh Phi Phi, Thailand

Granite boulders, large swim-throughs and a year-round chance of manta rays make Racha Noi a favourite, often described as a mini Similans with some of the best visibility in the area.

Around Phi Phi, limestone cliffs rise into the sky and drop away below as walls of gorgonian fans, soft corals and swim-throughs.

Leopard sharks sleep on the sandy bottoms, blacktip reef sharks patrol the reefs and turtles are quite commonly seen.

A sunken car ferry is covered in soft corals, and nearby pinnacles are blanketed in colourful soft corals and anemones.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
3 days / 2 nights	Chalong Pier	Chalong Pier	Advanced recommended







Your route

STOP 1

Embarkation

Embarkation at 08:30 followed by a cruise to the first dive site of a three dive day.

STOP 2

Diving day

Your Cruise Director schedules up to 4 dives: 3 day dives and a sunset or night dive.

STOP 3

Last day

After dive 3 the vessel cruises to port, with disembarkation at around 16:00.

THE TRIP

How the trip works

ITINERARY DETAILS

The itinerary involves some long distance travel, and bad weather and sea conditions may reduce the number of dives.

WEATHER AND ROUTE

The itinerary is an example. The route and dive sites depend on local regulations, weather and sea conditions, and are at the Captain's discretion. Where a named dive site cannot be reached, the crew offers diving at an alternative location.

DIVING EXPERIENCE

We recommend divers have PADI Advanced Open Water certification, or equivalent, with a minimum of 10 logged dives and experience in strong currents. The Advanced Open Water course can usually be completed on board with advance notice. Guests who do not fulfil the minimum certification and experience requirements may be denied participation in some or all dives. Diving insurance covering emergency evacuation and recompression is mandatory. Leave a minimum of 24 hours between your final dive and the departure of your flight. Safety and dive briefings are given in English.

THE DIVING

Dive sites

Named sites are examples of where the boat may dive; which sites are visited depends on conditions and the length of the trip.

RACHA YAI

This trip in general is an excellent trip for beginners and those that have not dived for a while. Indeed for any guests aboard carrying out Advanced Open Water courses, Racha Yai offers the perfect opportunity for course dives, with sloping hard coral reefs, white sandy bottoms and a choice of wrecks on the west coast.

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.

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.

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!