

# DREAM DESTINATIONS – ‘THE VERY BEST OF THAILAND’

## *A LUXURIOUS SEVEN DAY SEA SAFARI ABOARD THE SIAM JUNK*



### INTRODUCTION

With over one thousand kilometres of coastline the western seaboard of Thailand offers the discerning traveller the ideal destination for exploring the wonderful Marine National Parks that glitter like strings of emeralds in the turquoise Andaman Sea. With thousands of pristine islands, countless stunning white beaches, bountiful mangrove fringed creeks and imposing craggy headlands, combined with an ancient cultural heritage, this area is a visual feast for all. Let us welcome you aboard our beautiful yacht to experience an unforgettable and mystical journey touring some of the most picturesque and interesting sites in the world.



### THE SIAM JUNK

The Siam Junk is a fabulous hand-crafted wooden junk rigged motor yacht built to deliver modern western comforts while using traditional Thai methods. She boasts six beautiful, well appointed suites (two VIP suites and four junior suites) fitted with comfortable king-sized double beds. Our tallest clients appreciate the 2.5 metres of headroom in each of the five below deck rooms, and the four junior suites each have a generous floor area of 24 square metres, while the VIP suite offers over 30 square metres. The Sea Breeze Suite is our exceptionally spacious upper level VIP accommodation with picture windows and a large terrace providing our guests with the perfect location to take in the ever changing panoramic views.



## OUR ON BOARD FACILITIES, ENTERTAINMENT AND SERVICES

### ALL ROOMS HAVE THE FOLLOWING AMENITIES:

Flat screen TV  
DVD player  
Mini-bar  
Air-conditioning (except the Sea Breeze Suite)  
Roomy en-suite toilet  
Powerful full sized spa shower  
Hairdryer  
Clothes storage and hanging space  
Dressing table



### IN ADDITION WE OFFER OUR GUESTS THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

A la carte dining  
Bar with a full drinks menu  
Tea and coffee making facilities  
Karaoke system  
Massage services  
Waterskiing, wakeboarding and fun rides  
Sea kayaks  
Fishing equipment  
Snorkelling gear  
A large DVD library  
Games console  
Board games, playing cards etc  
Books and magazines



### OPTIONAL FACILITIES BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT:

Diving equipment  
Qualified Dive Master

We have a sumptuous communal lounge/dining room with a well stocked bar incorporating a 42" flatscreen TV with DVD player, a full music system and two bathrooms. The total deck space is over 200 square metres with shade provided by removable sunbrellas, sun loungers and comfortable seating for guest. Our powerful tender is available for water sports and fishing in those areas where these activities are permitted.

## YOUR CHOICE OF DREAM DESTINATIONS

We have created the following itinerary around our personal favourite destinations combined with the most popular routes our clients have enjoyed: the tour includes the internationally renowned Marine National Parks of the Similan and Surin archipelagos, along with some of the most scenic islands in the highly photogenic Phangna Bay. If you require more time for snorkelling, for beach exploration or trekking etc, The Siam Junk team will be delighted to advise you on creating a customised version of this itinerary, or assist you in creating an entirely new one to meet your requirements.

Let the mystical journey begin...

### THE SIMILAN ISLANDS

This group of islands can be found some 90km north west of Phuket and, despite its proximity to the mass tourism there, the archipelago has benefited greatly from its protected status as a Marine National Park since official designation in 1982. The waters surrounding the Similans are crystal clear and teeming with vividly coloured tropical fish grazing on beautiful kaleidoscopic coral. The area offers some of the best diving in the world for those who like to explore deeper waters, although snorkelling with turtles and swimming with dolphins can be experienced even by the least adventurous guests. There are stunning palm fringed powder white beaches to explore, often experienced with no other travellers in sight, and steep winding mountain tracks to trek for those willing to exert themselves to experience the most spectacular views. Our guests can also enjoy water sports and fishing when we moor just a few kilometres out from the islands.

#### DAY 1 DEPARTURE:

At around 3:00pm we will happily welcome you aboard our beautiful yacht, The Siam Junk. Welcome drinks will be served in the lounge during a brief introductory talk and safety briefing from your on board Host. Meanwhile our helpful and professional staff will deliver your luggage to your suite, and later talk you through your in room facilities. Rest assured that they will do everything they can to guarantee your comfort. When everyone is settled in we will get underway for our overnight cruise to the Similan Islands Marine National Park, serving dinner and cocktails as the sun sets on the horizon.

#### DAYS 2 & 3 AT THE SIMILAN ISLANDS:

We will take a leisurely cruise through the nine fantastic islands that form the Similan archipelago, taking time for snorkelling, diving, trekking in the lush forests and strolling on the pristine beaches that abound. Many of our guests have been fortunate enough to swim with giant turtles, dolphins, manta rays and even harmless whale sharks – the aquatic life here is truly amazing and varies with each tour. At the end of the day our talented chef will conjure up a delicious barbeque to be served on deck while the fiery tropical sun dips below the horizon.

During our third day we will continue exploring this group of islands to find more secluded coves and beaches. Later in the afternoon we will leave Koh Similan and head to Koh Bon and Koh Tachai ('Koh' is the Thai word for 'island'). There is wonderful snorkelling and diving with an abundance of exotic marine life here. Koh Tachai is simply stunning and offers sweeping views along its giant white beach. After another delicious dinner prepared by our acclaimed chef we will take an overnight cruise to the Surin Marine National Park.



## THE SURIN ISLANDS

This marine national park is the northernmost Thai archipelago and is adjacent to Burmese waters (Myanmar). The Surin Marine National Park is uninhabited apart from a handful of park rangers and a small community of Chao Lay Sea Gypsies. These nomadic sea people continue their relatively primitive way of life as, in many ways, time has stood still for them, allowing our guests a unique insight into ancient Thai culture, glimpsing a slice of 'living history.' In fact Time itself is a vague notion to the Chao Lay people as none of them wear watches, they don't know their own ages as such a concept is of no use to them, and living their simple life means they have no need (nor ability) to count beyond the fingers on their hands. Yet they are at the same time a highly advanced civilization and truly skilled in the areas that are essential for their survival: they fashion and build extremely sturdy ocean going boats using the simplest of tools, they catch fish by hand – literally – and they are famous throughout the world for their amazing ability to dive for pearl oysters, remaining underwater for several minutes at a time without the use of scuba tanks. They are a unique and highly interesting people who deserve and receive our respect.

The Surin Islands themselves consist of two main islands with numerous off-lying islets and rocks. The incredible coral formations and crystal clear waters are of world class standard. Between the two main islands there are the coral reefs that are simply amazing, offering an unforgettable experience for snorkellers and divers alike. Dazzling white beaches shimmer and sparkle in the sun, while lush jungle vegetation awaits those who want to experience more than merely fabulous diving or snorkelling...

### DAYS 4 & 5 EXPLORING THE SURIN ISLANDS:

Another leisurely day of cruising around these beautiful islands, taking in the sights of the coastlines of Koh Torinla, Koh Surin Tai, Koh Surin Nua, with regular stops for diving, snorkelling and beach combing during the day. Our captain will speak with the Chao Lay sea gypsies and we will trade them some on board produce for their 'catch of the day', providing some delicious seafood for our chef to transform into a sumptuous gourmet dinner for the evening of our fourth day. Jumbo shrimp, crab, oysters and lobster are often available and served so fresh you will be able to taste the sea, enjoying a wonderful dinner party on deck as we watch our crew light traditional Thai 'Com Loy' lanterns on the beach and send them soaring into the night sky.

On the 5th day we will explore the remaining Surin islands, including a visit to the Chao Lay Sea Gypsy Village where you will have the opportunity to meet these fascinating people and inspect their beautiful and unique handicrafts. Later in the afternoon we will visit Ao Mai Ngam beach which is usually very entertaining as it is home to hundreds of comical rock monkeys. After dinner we will make an over night crossing to Koh Phi Phi Lay, situated in the magical Phangnga Bay.

## KRABI & THE PHI PHI ISLANDS

The amazing beaches and limestone formations of the Phang Nga Bay and Krabi region are iconic images recognisable from the many movies and advertisements filmed here and broadcast throughout the world, and many visitors agree that the level of natural beauty here is unsurpassed. Koh Phi Phi and the Krabi area constitute a geographic extension of the karst sea mountains of Phang Nga bay, yet being further south offer deeper, clearer water than the mangrove swamp fringed northern islands.

This is a stunning area, again offering exceptional snorkelling, diving, trekking and photographic opportunities. In these final days of our Sea Safari we will explore the wonders of Koh Phi Phi Lay,



the famous Maya beach (the location of the 1999 movie 'The Beach'), and Koh Phi Phi Don with its beautiful hilltop view points. We then cruise for a couple of hours north to Railay beach – which can only be reached by boat – and the beautiful Koh Hong. From there we head up to Krabi Pier where you may disembark The Siam Junk, bidding a reluctant farewell to our staff before joining your transport to the airport, or you may continue on to Phuket for links to your next destination.

## DAY 6 EXPLORING KOH PHI PHI LAY AND KOH PHI PHI DON:

When you wake up in the morning of our sixth day and stroll on deck you will immediately register that the scenery has changed dramatically to awe inspiring limestone cliffs soaring skyward. After a hearty breakfast we will explore the glorious Maya Bay, a spectacularly scenic lagoon. Our early morning arrival should ensure some peace and quiet too – before the hordes of tourists flock here from Phuket. For a couple of hours we should have the three sandy beaches beach to ourselves before we move on!

In the afternoon we will cruise around Phi Phi Don to Hin Klang, arguably the best diving and snorkelling to be found in Thai waters outside of the Similans/Surins. A delicious dinner will be served and then we will cruise overnight to our final destination, the Koh Dam Hok island group.

## KOH DAM HOK GROUP AND KOH HONG ARCHIPELAGO (SOUTHERN PHANG NGA BAY, KRABI)

The Koh Hong Archipelago is a small group of islands situated between Krabi and the northern arc of the Phang Nga Bay, offering simply stunning scenery and beautiful secluded beaches. Koh Hong (Thai for 'room') is an amazing hollow island that we will explore by dinghy: it is a photographer's paradise. The entrance to the island chamber is very narrow but once inside the cliff walls open out onto a blue lagoon which is simply amazing. Rumour has it that an old man lives in the many caves and hollows and apparently he can occasionally be seen harvesting the swallows nests for brewing into birds' nest soup....

Day 7 Sunrise arrival at Koh Dam Hok and Koh Dam Khwan: Watching the sun rise above these amazing limestone structures is an unforgettable experience. At low tide these majestic islands are connected by a pristine beach that is lovely for cool walks, paddling in sparkling clear water. The pinnacle at the south end of the island is amusingly called Chicken Head rock – you will understand why when you see it!

Disembarkation from The Siam Junk at Krabi or Phuket:

As our final lunch is served we will head to Krabi Pier where we will disembark those clients who wish to head for the nearby airport: arrival at the pier is usually around 2pm.

When we leave Krabi those clients wishing to disembark in Phuket may remain aboard for a sunset dinner as we cruise directly back to Chalong Pier for arrival at around 8pm.



## NOTES:

All meals, snacks, some soft drinks, tea and coffee are included. Alcoholic drinks will be available from the bar at our standard prices – please see our menu. Please notify us of any special dietary restrictions at the time of booking to ensure we can fulfil your requirements.

Diving, waterskiing, wakeboarding and other motorised water sports are all undertaken at the clients' risk. Water sports will be charged by the hour.

This special Dream Destination Sea Safari tour includes fuel, although we reserve the right to impose a surcharge if the local price of diesel rises above 25 Thai Baht per litre on or before the date of departure (currently 18 Baht during February 2009). Applicable Marine Park fees are payable by clients directly.

Please treat this itinerary as a guide only: all times, destinations and departure points need to be flexible to account for tides and prevailing weather conditions.

Onward connections and transfers are by arrangement with, and the responsibility of, the booking agent.

More details can be found at [www.siamjunk.com](http://www.siamjunk.com).

(This website contains no contact details as bookings for this special package must

