



Ultimate Burma Yachts

11-DAYS / 10-NIGHTS – SOUTHERN THAILAND & MERGUI ISLANDS



From Phuket, embark upon a journey to the islands of Phang Nga Bay, the Surin National Park and Myanmar's Mergui archipelago. Two worlds apart, pairing the buzzing with night life on the Thai islands with Myanmar's secluded lost archipelago - a complete experience of the Andaman Sea.

THAILAND'S SOUTHERN ISLANDS

From the bustling shores of Phuket, where towering rainforests and coconut plantations meet glitzy marinas, to a treasure chest of jewel-like islands dotted across the Andaman Sea, Southern Thailand provides a tropical getaway that is thoroughly worthy of its popularity. The Similan Islands are a cluster of 11 protected isles known for their unique granite boulder topographies, while the Surin Islands are even smaller, with just five isles famed for mangroves and powdery shores. The southerly islands including Koh Racha, Koh Rok and Koh Muk blend low-key beach culture with hidden coves. Far from the busy coastline, Thailand's southern islands are fringed with some of the country's most pristine coral reefs, and the underwater geography here attracts all manner of marine life.

MERGUI ARCHIPELAGO

The Mergui archipelago is a string of some 800 almost completely deserted tropical islands off the coast of Myanmar in the Andaman Sea. For almost 50 years following Burma's independence, the Mergui Islands were off limits to the outside world, frozen in time due to the Burmese government's isolationist policies. As an indirect result, the islands were handed back to the indigenous Moken, a people of Sea Gypsies who have lived a semi-nomadic sea dwelling lifestyle for centuries, surviving off the land and bartering fish and sea cucumbers. The Mergui islands distinctive landscape is characterised by jungle-clad hills, lagoons, rivers and mangroves. Wildlife thrives, with monitor gibbons, civet cats, monitor lizards, pythons and mouse deer inhabiting the tropical forests alongside a plethora of birds including hornbills, white kits, kingfishers, emerald doves and sea eagles. This forgotten wilderness is sometimes dubbed "the lost world" and not without reason; it's a veritable paradise, where cruising gives access to spectacular natural wonders, endemic wildlife and interesting culture alike.



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SAMPLE ITINERARY

DAY 1: PHUKET TO KOH HONG

Upon arrival, you will be met by a representative and transferred to the harbour to board your private yacht. After a safety briefing, you can relax on deck with a welcome drink as the yacht sets sail into the Phang Nga Bay, stopping at Koh Hong (Room Island). Koh Hong's Pelay beach is framed by limestone, where during high tide, speed boats are able to enter the "room" and visitors can swim in crystal clear water about a metre deep. The yacht will moor here overnight.

DAY 2: PHANG NGA BAY

Today, we'll explore Phang Nga Bay and sail through the characteristic karstic islands that became the symbol of Phuket worldwide after appearing in James Bond film "The Man with the Golden Gun". Phang Nga Bay is a place like no other with islands that can be enjoyed by speedboat or kayak. The best time to visit the "James Bond island" is early morning or late afternoon before day travellers hit this very popular spot.

DAY 3: KRABI

This morning we'll sail to Le Rai Beach nearby Ao Nang, one of Krabi's most beautiful coves. Le Rai is famous for its sunsets, sometimes accompanied by spectacular display of cloud to cloud lightning over the Andaman Sea. Many shops, restaurants and bars line the shore along this popular bay.





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DAY 4: PHI PHI DON & LEI

The “Koh Dam Kwan” islands - Phi Phi Don and Phi Phi Lei - are extremely picturesque with crater like bays and towering cliffs plunging into the crystal clear water. Hill tops are scalable and offer a perfect view of the bays before sunset. Towards the end of the afternoon, we'll cruise to Ko Rachai to moor overnight.

DAY 5: KOH RACHAI-SURIN

Koh Racha Noi is a blissfully quiet island getaway to the south of Phuket. The area is good for snorkelling and perfect for a relaxing day. Before sunset, we will begin the cruise north, heading for the Surin Archipelago and sailing overnight.

DAY 6: SURIN

The Surin Islands benefit from an offshore location and are arguably the best snorkelling and diving grounds in this part of Thailand. Given that only dive liveaboard yachts can reach it, the beaches are totally spared by tourism, the corals are healthy and teeming with underwater life. We'll spend the night moored in Surin.





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DAY 6: KAWTHAUNG & SOUTH BAY

Early this morning, we'll head to Kawthaung, the gateway to the Mergui archipelago. Clearance will be processed directly onboard and we will depart around noon to South Bay where we will anchor for the night in a peaceful bay - and make our first contact with the sea and the beaches of the Mergui Islands.

DAY 7: COCK'S COMB TO MACLEOD

Cockscomb's or Hidden Lagoon is a pool-like shallow lagoon surrounded by rocky walls. Access to this secret spot is made through a small arch allowing only small craft to get in at low tide. This enclosed lagoon act as a reef shark nursery and it's not unusual to spot the wild but shy creatures while silently kayaking. After cruising in the very southern part of the Mergui, we head to the north to MacLeod Island.

DAY 8: MACLEOD ISLAND

The only island with a 'resort' (some low key timber chalets hidden among a coconut grove) MacLeod offers a deep and sheltered bay in the south with stunning scenery that can be fully appreciated from the top of the hill after a short trek. The bay offers good snorkelling and trekking through to other beaches, one known as 'nautilus' beach for the shells that can be found there.





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DAY 9: '115'

After a last morning swim in MacLeod's stunning bay, the yacht will cruise east to '115' (named after its elevation above sea level) where you can enjoy swimming and snorkelling in a pristine environment and go ashore to stroll along the deserted beaches of fine white sand.

DAY 10 : PONI-BARWELL.

The "mid term" group of islands composed by Poni, '115', Bada, Pine islands among others offer some infinite option for exploration by speedboat, kayak or jet skis. End of the afternoon, before sunset, we'll cruise to Barwell island and stay there overnight.

DAY 11: KAWTHAUNG

Today, the yacht will return to Kawthaung where the crew will assist you with disembarking and transferring to the airport for your flight home.

Please note that all itineraries are subject to change, depending on weather conditions, progressing harbor clearances, changes to domestic flights and other deciding factors. Please contact martin@u-b-y.com to discuss your requirements.

