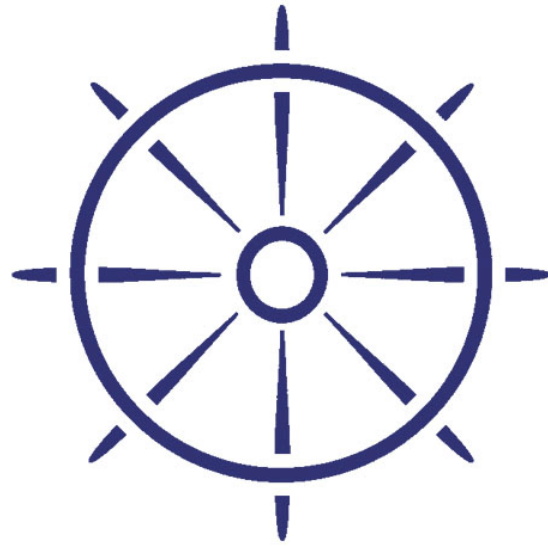


Colona Liveboards



Thailand – Myanmar
Andaman Islands

2010 - 2011 Season

6 day/6 night Northern Cruise aboard MV Colona VI



Similan & Surin Islands - Ko Bon - Ko Tachai - Richelieu Rock



Many thanks for your enquiry into the 6 day/6 night cruise aboard MV Colona VI with Colona Liveboards.

This itinerary is perfect for those with a little extra time who wish to see the best of both **The Similan & The Surin Islands**. Unlike the majority of 'standard' 4 day Similan schedules, Colona VI takes an extra 2 days allowing you to explore the much less dived (and definitely underrated) Surin Islands.

It also means that your cruise is a little more relaxed than the standard 4 days allowing the chance of more island visits where you can discover the true beauty of the area above as well as below the waves.



The Itinerary...

... will include at least two full days diving on the Similan Islands, diving such sites as East of Eden, Deep 6, Elephant Head Rock, Shark Fin Reef, North Point, and Three Trees before heading north via, Ko Bon and Ko Tachai, to the Surin Islands and Richelieu Rock.

You have plenty of time in both the Similan and Surin Islands and as such we will encourage you to visit the islands whenever possible between dives so that you can experience the islands to the full. Examples of these would be Princess Bay and Ao Guerk on the Similans, the spectacular North Beach on Ko Tachai, as well as Ao Sai Ane and Ao Born on the Surin Islands.



What can you see?

Over the six days you will see gently sloping hard coral reefs, soft coral covered pinnacles, and spectacular boulder formations. All of these sites are filled with Snapper, Goat Fish, Groupers, Green & Hawksbill Turtles, Antheas, and Damsel Fish, among many others. Definitely don't forget your camera and housing on this trip!!

Over the last season Colona VI guests dived with Manta Rays, Whale Sharks, Leopard Sharks, Hump Head Parrot Fish, schools of Barracuda as well as Sea Horses, Harlequin Shrimp, and many more in these waters.

Don't forget also the spectacular views and short jungle treks available on the islands themselves.

At the end of this 6 day itinerary you will disembark in Chalong, Phuket leaving a very short transfer to your hotel on the island.





Your Trip Itinerary

Departure Day - Friday		
17:30 - 18:30		- Pick up from Hotel or Airport as required
19:00 - 20:00		- Board Colona VI, welcome briefing and introduction to your crew
		- Depart for Similan Islands while having dinner
Day	No of dives	Schedule and Dive Sites
Saturday	4	After an all inclusive dive and safety briefing the first three of your day dives around the Similan Islands begin. There will be a chance of a late afternoon to visit Ko Miang to see the beach and/or view point. Dive four will be a <i>night dive</i> , usually on Honeymoon Reef. Stay overnight in one of the secluded bays.
Sunday	4	Dives five to seven will again be around the Similans, but this time working our way north through the nine islands, with another possibility to visit the beach. This time at Ao Guerk and the famous 'Sail Rock'. Often day two's dive will be a <i>sunset dive</i> before dinner and bed in another tropical bay.
Monday	4	Today it's onward to Koh Bon for dives nine and ten (keep fingers tightly crossed for Manta Rays here!!). Dives eleven and twelve are likely to be at Ko Tachai with a chance of another beach visit if the tide is right. Over dinner you will cruise to Ko Surin where you will overnight while enjoying a movie or a book.
Tuesday	4	Day four is often spent exploring the Surin Islands with dives thirteen to fifteen being selected from Ko Torinla Pinnacle, Hin Kong, Dragon Island, Turtle Ledges, and several more. Another chance to visit the islands here at either the Ranger Station or the Surin Moccan Village where you can see something very very traditional. A <i>night or sunset dive</i> will follow as well as more relaxing.
Wednesday	4	Today you will normally head straight east to the world famous Richelieu Rock where you will generally do <i>at least</i> dives seventeen and eighteen. Conditions will then normally dictate whether you do any more dives here and how quickly you head back south toward Similan, possibly via Ko Tachai or Ko Bon.
Thursday	2	Often an earlier start today with dive 21 often a repeat of a customer favourite (or an all new site, there are plenty to choose from!!). This will often be followed by either Shark Fin Reef or Boulder City for your final dive. Once everyone is aboard and the rib is safely stowed then it's back to Chalong Bay. Disembarkation at Chalong Bay is usually from 17:00 onwards.

The above itinerary is purely an example. Other dive sites and island visits may be substituted in or out without notice at the discretion of the Cruise Director or based on time and prevailing weather conditions.



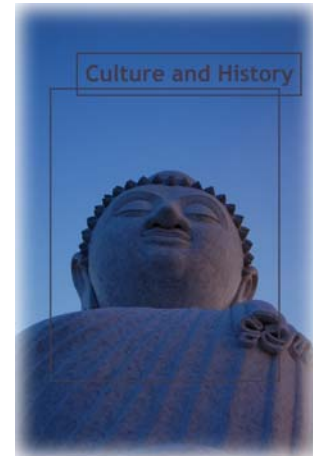
About Thailand and Phuket

Thailand



Thailand is a massively popular tourist destination that has something for all the huge number of visitors that arrive here each year. The major draws are usually the beautiful beaches, clear azure waters and great climate, as well as the amazing scenery across the whole country and the seemingly endless islands and temples. But there is more. Thailand has a fascinating history and civilisation with masses of culture, and a hugely friendly population. The low cost of living, lively nightlife, and great food is also a big draw.

The vast majority of the country is land locked to the north with borders on Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos, and there are countless places to eat up an entire holiday here including the capital Bangkok, Ayuttaya, Kanchanaburi, Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai. But it's the peninsular to the south (the spectacularly named Isthmus of Kra) that links with Malaysia and on to Singapore where the best scuba diving opportunities lie. On the west side of the peninsula lies Phuket, 'the Jewel of the Andaman', which is in reality only an island by a matter of a few hundred yards, though serendipity has placed it within reach of some of the finest scuba diving in Asia.



Colona Liveboards always endeavour to provide up to date information, but it is always worth checking with www.tourismthailand.org, the Official Site for Tourism in Thailand, if in doubt.

Phuket



Phuket is the largest island in Thailand at around 49km from north to south and 21km across. The island sits squarely in the tropical zone off the west coast of mainland Thailand, a little under 900km to the south of Thailand's capital city Bangkok. The landscape around Phuket is hugely varied, with rocky limestone cliffs, lush green hills blanketed in tropical rainforest, huge granite boulders, powdery-white beaches, and serene, tranquil azure bays.

And that's before we even go onto the fine dining, quality shopping, huge range of accommodation from exclusive villa resorts to budget guesthouses. There are also endless activities including Elephant trekking,



rafting, sea canoe, mountain biking, and of course the obligatory temple visits. All of this, and of course access to some of the world's top diving destinations, means visitors return year after year!

www.tourismthailand.org/destination-guide/phuket-83-1-1.html is a highly recommended web site that can offer you accurate and up to date information on how to reach Phuket and what you can do once you get here. You can also download a very informative 'Phuket brochure'.

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Things to Know and Frequently Asked Questions

International Flights

There are two major airports in Bangkok, with all international flights and many domestic flights arriving to the new international airport of *Suvarnabhumi* (airport code BKK). Most major airlines fly direct to at least Bangkok, and often to Phuket. Thai Airways International (THAI) is the national airline and is regarded as world class, with other highly regarded local carriers being Malaysian Airlines and Singapore Airlines who have multiple flights to Bangkok and Phuket daily.

Phuket also has an international airport (airport code HKT), with at least five flights a day (this varies from high-season to low-season) arriving from Bangkok year-round. Phuket also welcomes flights from Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, and certain parts of Europe to its airport.

Internal Flights

If you have a connecting flight to Phuket from Bangkok then it can leave from either *Suvarnabhumi* (BKK) or from the old international airport of *Don Mueang* (airport code DMK). Please check your tickets, transfer times, and lay-over times between flights as passage from one airport to the other can be time consuming and travel agents will not always point out the differences between the two.

There are a several discount and budget domestic airlines in Thailand which can be good as long as you don't want to change your travel plans. You can save 50% or more using these carriers if you book early but remember that they usually limit your luggage weight to 15kg (33lbs). For many divers this is simply not enough and by the time you pay the over weight fees, you may not end up saving any money. Always check the small print before booking.

It is strongly advised that you arrive in Phuket at least one day prior to boat departure. This means that you can avoid most potential problems and it will also allow you time to acclimatise before heading out on the trip. Also *remember the '24 hours after diving' rule* when booking your return flights.

Visa Requirements

All travellers to Thailand must have a passport that is valid for at least six months from the date of entry into the Kingdom. Although nationals of most countries in Southeast Asia, Europe, America, and Oceania are granted visa on arrival for up to 30 days, some are only granted 15 days, and still others must have visa before arrival. See www.mfa.go.th/internet/document/ChartVisa.pdf for an up to date list of what is required for your country of origin. If still in doubt please contact the Thai embassy in your country for more information.

Accommodation upon Arrival in Phuket

As stated above, it is highly recommended that you arrive at least one day prior to your cruise. Colona Liveboards can arrange accommodation for you based on your needs, for our recommended hotels check out www.diving-thailand-phuket.com/index-accommodation.htm. If you require a longer stay either before or after your trip we can, of course, arrange this also.

Transfer to and from MV Colona VI

Colona Liveboards offer a transfer service for our guests free of charge from/to the boat on departure and arrival days on Phuket from most major areas as well as Phuket International Airport. Obviously Colona Liveboards need to be informed of the pick up and drop off locations as early as possible. Any late changes that require extra transport over and above our usual may lead to the customer being liable for the extra transfer cost.



Documents to bring along

The only documents you will need to bring aboard the boat are your diver certification card (remember your Nitrox card if you wish to dive Nitrox), logbook and dive insurance card/certificate.

Insurance

Please note that personal dive insurance is compulsory on board MV Colona VI. We also strongly advise that you obtain cancellation insurance in case your trip is cancelled by either party for any unseen reason.

If you do not have your own dive insurance, or cannot provide a policy number, our dive staff can assist you with temporary diving and travel insurance through our agents at INDEPTH insurance on arrival aboard MV Colona VI. If you wish to purchase your own insurance in advance we recommend the following:

- DAN USA : www.diversalertnetwork.org
- DAN EUROPE: www.daneurope.org
- DAN ASIA PACIFIC : www.danseap.org
- DIVE ASSURE : www.diveassure.com
- <http://insuremytrip.com> (for individuals)
- <http://insuremygroup.com> (for groups of over 9 people)

It is also worth noting that on boarding MV Colona VI you are required to sign a liability waiver stating that you are on board at your own risk.

Boat Orientation

After boarding MV Colona VI the dive team will present the crew and all facilities on board. This will include the boat layout, cabins, general procedures, and the "do's and don'ts" for the duration of your stay on board.

Dive Briefings

Before each dive the dive crew will give a detailed dive briefing. They will present the dive site (including maps) and prevailing diving conditions, as well as information on the aquatic life that may be encountered on each dive site. There will also be a procedures and safety briefing before the first dive. ***Divers must attend the safety briefing and all dive briefings where they intend to dive.***

Diving Equipment

12 litre aluminium tanks (and limited 15 litre tanks at a small extra cost) with both DIN and Yoke attachments, weights (2lb, 0.9kg), and weight belts are all provided on board. Obviously you may bring your own diving equipment but if you prefer to travel light then all equipment is available for rent, please inform us in advance if this is your choice. The water temperature in the Andaman Sea is generally very pleasant and averages between 27°C and 30°C (80°F - 86°F), although sometimes thermoclines can occur. A 3mm short wetsuit (our standard rental suit) is normally enough, though with 4 dives per day you may want to think about a full length suit, particularly if you are susceptible to the cold. Please contact the office a week or so prior to the trip for current water temperatures if you are concerned.

Note that any failure or loss of personal dive equipment will require that you rent equipment on board MV Colona VI at the standard published rates, although some spare parts may be available for purchase where possible. If Colona Liveboards equipment is lost or damaged full replacement cost will be charged at the discretion of the tour leader. Equipment prices are available on board.

It is strongly recommended that you use a dive computer. If you do not own one of your own we have them available for rent on board.



Enriched Air Nitrox

Nitrox is available on board Colona VI for all EANx certified divers on production of a valid certification card. Our dive staff are also available to teach the EANx course on board for those who are not certified but would like to be.

Our Nitrox on board is prepared using the partial pressure method from pure oxygen which means that we have a potentially limited supply. For this reason we advise that you pre-book your Nitrox package in advance.

Non-Diving Activities

During the cruise MV Colona VI will often be moored for long periods of time in sheltered bays, so a dip in the water (or a 'running bomb' from the sun deck) is generally possible on most days. Almost all areas will offer some excellent snorkeling too, so grab your mask and fins and away you go. For all in-water activities just check with the Cruise Director to be sure that the boat will not be moving for any reason, we like to know where our guests are at all times!

There is almost always an opportunity for island visits from MV Colona VI, with several options available. Several islands have stunning beaches where you can simply lounge in the sun or shade and paddle in the shallows. There are also a few official 'jungle walks' that lead to view points that have some spectacular panoramic views over the Similan Islands.

For those requiring entertainment involving less movement an extensive DVD and book library is available on board, as well as a music system that can be connected to most personal music systems.

Electricity Supply

In both Thailand and aboard MV Colona VI 220Volt/50Hz is standard with sockets mixed between 2 and/or 3 pin flat and/or round pins. To avoid confusion or disappointment we suggest guests bring at least one travel adapter with you.

You can check the socket system visually at www.travelproducts.com/electricity_guide.htm.

Clothes and Accessories

With a minimum air temperature in the area of around 23°C (73°F) you will need mainly light clothes, though a sweater or cardigan may be advisable for evenings, especially after night dives. Towels are provided in your cabin though you will need to bring your own personal products such as shower gel, shampoo, toothpaste, shaving foam, etc. Don't forget your sunscreen and sunglasses as the sun is very strong in this region, especially at sea.

Female customers, please be advised that you will need to bring your own sanitary products as these are not available on the boat.

Storage space on board Colona VI is limited and as such we advise that you carry soft sided luggage if possible, and that any baggage not required on the trip be stored securely at our office. Please make sure that all luggage is clearly labelled. Life on board is casual and so only a few T-shirts, shorts, swim suits, and possibly that sweatshirt for the evening are necessary. As a general rule, the less you bring the more comfortable you are likely to be.



Food and Drink

All meals are a mix of Thai and International Cuisine and are served buffet style aboard MV Colona VI. Should you have any special dietary requirements or restrictions please let us know upon booking and we will be more than happy to accommodate wherever possible.

Drinking water, tea, coffee, hot chocolate, and electrolyte drinks are all available 24 hours per day and are free of charge. We also provide free soft drinks at lunch and dinner. Extra soft drinks and alcohol (beer and wine) are available for sale on board and are payable on the boat at the end of the trip. You are welcome to bring your own favourite drinks aboard.

Please note that there is no consumption of alcohol between dives. If alcohol is taken between dives then guests will not be allowed in the water for the rest of the day.

Currency and Payment

Cruises, courses, equipment rental and Nitrox packages can all be paid for before arrival by bank transfer or PayPal, or in the office by cash (THB, US\$, Euro, and GB £) or Visa/Mastercard.

Courses, Nitrox packages, and equipment rental can also be paid for on board at the end of the cruise. Drinks and other sundries will also be included in this bill which can be paid in either US\$, Euro, Thai Baht or GB £.

We also accept Visa and Mastercard though please note that there will be a 3% bank charge on all Visa/Mastercard transactions levied at the time of payment.

Park Fees

The park fees for this trip total 2000 Thai Baht per person. This breaks down as entry to the two national parks (Similan Islands and Surin Islands/Richelieu Rock) at 400 THB per person plus 6 days diving at 200 THB per day. Park fee must be paid on board along with your on board bill. Please be aware that the Thai Forestry Commission set these prices, as such they are out of the control of Colona Liveboards and they are liable to change without notice, as such we do not accept pre-payment in any form.

Tips

It is traditional on liveboard boats in Thailand to tip the crews. They can only accept tips in cash, although any currency is acceptable. Tips are payable on the boat at the end of the cruise and many guests give a gratuity based on 5-10% of the trip price. Please note that tipping is voluntary and the above is a guideline only.



6D/6N Northern Cruise Prices

Standard Cabin	52,800 thb
Master Cabin	55,800 thb
Full Charter - up to 14 People	692,400 thb

Costs on board

Rental Equipment

	Price Onboard
Please let us know your requirements and sizes on booking	
Full Set	800 thb
BCD	320 thb
Regulator Set	320 thb
Wetsuit (3mm shorty)	200 thb
Mask & Snorkel	100 thb
Fins (open heel with boots)	200 thb
Dive Computer (not included in full set)	300 thb
15 litre tank	300 thb

Note : All prices above are per day

Diving Courses

	Pre-booked price *	Price Onboard
PADI Advanced Course	6750 thb	7500 thb
SSI Advanced Course	5400 thb	6000 thb
PADI Nitrox Course	6400 thb	7000 thb
SSI Nitrox Course	4950 thb	5500 thb

Note : Others courses are usually available on request. Please ask us about the full range and prices.

Nitrox

	Pre-booked price*	Price Onboard
Enriched Air Nitrox per fill	N/A	250 thb
Enriched Air Nitrox <i>6D/6N package</i>	4125 thb	5500 thb

Others

	Price Onboard
Soft Drinks	30 thb
Beer	70 thb
Wine (per bottle)	800 thb
Wine (per glass)	100 thb
Colona T-shirt	400 thb
Colona Polo Shirt	600 thb
Surface Marker Buoy	1900 thb
Colona Mask Strap	300 thb
Massage - 30 minutes	400 thb
Massage - 1 hour	700 thb

** Please be aware that the 'pre-booked' price is only valid if the item is pre-booked AND pre-paid*