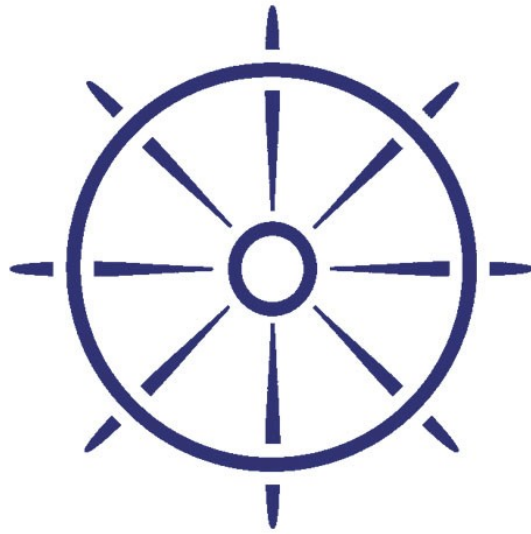


Colona Liveboards



Thailand – Myanmar
Andaman Islands

2011 – 2012 Season

8 day/8 night Andaman Islands Special aboard MV Giamani



Barren Island - Narcondam Island - Invisible Bank - Inner Islands

Many thanks for your enquiry into the 8 day/8 night special to the Andaman Islands aboard MV Giamani with Colona Liveaboards.

While they are virtually unknown to most people, the Andaman Islands are a large group of over 500 islands sitting around 280 miles to the north west of Phuket, in the Bay of Bengal. And large is the word, they cover an area of approximately 3000 square miles of land and ocean. And while they are much closer to both Thailand and Myanmar they are in fact an Indian territory, as you will realize the moment you step foot on them.



Surprised you've never heard of them? Well now you can dive there!! The islands are very slowly opening up to scuba divers and you can be among the first to experience them aboard MV Giamani with Colona Liveaboards.



With 8 days of diving there is something for everyone in the Andamans including expansive hard coral reefs, walls, pinnacles, white sand, remote islands, and volcanic lava.

There is also a huge variety of marine life with pelagics including White Tip, Black Tip, Nurse and Leopard Sharks. On some of the deep water sites there is even the chance for guests to see Silvertip, Oceanic White Tip and Hammerhead Sharks.

There are also cleaning stations en-route where guests can see groups of Barracuda hovering right by the reef, Hump Head Parrotfish and Napoleon Wrasse by the dozen as well as the chance of Eagle Rays, Devils Rays and the kings of them all, Manta Rays.

If large pelagics are not your thing then fear not, there is a huge variety of macro life on Andaman Islands too. Over the dive sites that we cover guests can see Seahorses, Ornate Ghost Pipefish, Cowries, Squat Lobsters, scores of Shrimps, and Nudibranchs.

If you just love being in the water and enjoying the view then how about the endless hard corals, soft corals, Gorgonian Sea Fans, schools of Jacks, Surgeon Fish, Sweetlips, Snapper, Fusilier, Rainbow Runners, Groupers, and Sting Rays that are waiting for you under the water.

At the end of this 6 day itinerary, guests will disembark in Port Blair, leaving a very short transfer to your hotel.





Your Trip Itinerary

Departure Day		
16:00 - 17:00		- Pick up from Hotel or Airport in Port Blair as required
17:00 - 18:00		- Board MV Giamani, welcome briefing and introduction to your crew
		- Dinner in Port Blair, followed by departure to the Button Islands
Day	No of dives	Schedule and Dive Sites
1	4	After an all inclusive dive and safety briefing you will do a few easy dives on each of North, Middle and South button Islands (with a chance of a beach visit in between times). Dive number 4 will be a <i>night dive</i> also on South Button.
2	4	Dive numbers 5 and 6 will be a little further north on Button Shoal, a great place for Napoleon Wrasse!! This is likely to be followed with 7 and 8 on Campbell Shoals, the second one being a <i>sunset dive</i> . Overnight cruise to Narcondam Island.
3 & 4	8	Some fantastic diving planned for two days here on the island that Jacques Cousteau described as one of his favourite dive sites. See 1990's 'The Invisible Islands' to see masses of footage from here. Absolutely everything and anything can turn up here. With little movement over these days, the chances of an island visit between dives are obviously good.
5	4	After 8 dives on an extinct volcano, dives 17-20 will be on a live one!! A full day diving the coast of Barren Island, famed for its black reefs, bubbling waters, and chances of large pelagics. The activity of the island itself will dictate whether an island visit is possible here.
6	4	A cruise through the early hours will bring you to Invisible Bank and Flat Rock for the day. An enormous stretch of submerged mountain that just, and only just, breaks the surface 64 km east of the closest land fall.
7	4	After 4 days of extreme diving, things will hopefully wind down a little today with dives around The Sisters and Passage Island
8	2	High energy start to the day on Fish Rock, submerged just to the north of Passage Island. This will be followed by a gentle finish on North Cinque. If time allows there may be a chance to visit the beautiful beach here before heading back in to Port Blair and disembarkation to your hotel.

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 The Andaman Islands

History

The Andaman Islands are virtually unheard of as a tourist destination, and yet they cover an enormous amount of territory in the Indian Ocean. Known as far back as Ptolemy in the 2nd century the islands were always looked upon as dangerous tribal territories. In fact Marco Polo stated that inhabitants would 'eat anyone not being of their own nation' in 1290, although in fairness there is doubt as to whether he saw the islands as anything other than shadows in the distance.

It was the British who were the first recorded outsiders to actually settle the islands in 1788 with a view to creating a penal colony here. And so the current capital city of Port Blair was founded, though it wasn't until 1858 that the first prisoners were finally brought to the islands. From hereon in many political prisoners considered dangerous to the interests of the Raj (along with dangerous criminals that were not political) were kept by the British in order to keep them away from an already agitated Indian population in the hopes that rebellion could be avoided. It was for this reason that the islands were often known as the 'Black Water Prison' or 'Kala Pani'.

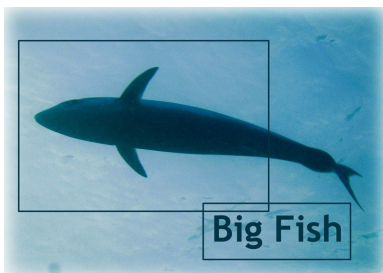


The Andaman Islands finally gained their independence in 1947 and have slowly but surely shed off their reputation for terror to the point now that they are recognized as one of the final unspoiled wildernesses the planet has to offer.

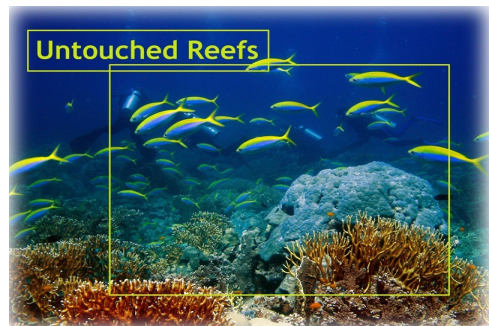
Tourism

The Andaman Islands are considered to be almost untouched by human interference and are a naturalist's heaven. With an almost untarnished environment, unobtrusive modern infrastructure, massive amounts of greenery as well as unpolluted fresh air it is a paradise for all nature lovers. The beautiful virgin tropical rain forests and waters of Bay of Bengal are the home of a vast collection of plant, animal and marine life.

In general the islands are very hilly and often fringed with coconut palm, covered with tropical jungle, and of course empty powder white



beaches beyond number. Adventure tourism such as trekking, camping, snorkelling, and of course scuba diving are the main attractions. An almost unobtainable mix of nature's finest, the Andaman Islands are a once in a lifetime holiday experience



And if you wish to stay on the islands either before or after your cruise then you can choose between Port Blair and Havelock island with masses of history to explore or simply the chance to recline and relax in a tropical paradise.

For up to date information and a plethora of other information on the Andaman Islands, Colona Liveboards recommends <http://www.and.nic.in/>.

Colona Liveboards Sales Office

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Skype : colona-diving

Things to Know and Frequently Asked Questions

Getting to the Andaman Islands

Due to the schedule of MV Giamani and direct flight schedules, all Andaman Island Special guests must join us in Port Blair, the capital of the Andaman Islands. At the current time there are only flights to Port Blair from within India from either Chennai (Madras), Kolkata (Calcutta), or Delhi. Although the airport in Port Blair is undergoing extension and there are rumours about that flights will soon be allowed from Bangkok and Singapore, the information here is correct at the time of writing.

Airlines with current schedules to the Andaman Islands are...

Air Deccan	www.airdeccan.net
Indian Airlines	www.indianairlines.in/index.aspx
Jet Airways	www.jetairways.com
Jetlite	www.jetlite.com
Kingfisher	www.flykingfisher.com

Colona Liveboards will be happy to help you with your flight bookings, please feel free to contact us by email.

It is strongly advised that you arrive in Port Blair 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 foreign nationals must apply for a tourist visa **BEFORE** arrival in India (with the exception of Nepal and Bhutan nationals). The cost for a tourist visa varies slightly with nationality but is around the US\$ 60 mark. When applying for your visa we advise that you enter Chennai, Kolkata, or Delhi (as appropriate) as your destination otherwise the Indian government will insist you also have a Restricted Area Permit (RAP) with your visa which will delay your application by as much as 1 month. Restricted Area Permits can be obtained at the airport in Port Blair on arrival which can make things easier for you. Also, the applicant must have a passport that is valid for at least 6 months.

In order to speed up paperwork at our end it is essential that you e-mail or fax us a copy of your passport as soon as possible before departure.

Accommodation upon Arrival in Port Blair

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, please contact us for more details. If you require a longer stay either before or after your trip we can, of course, arrange this also.

Transfer to and from MV Giamani

Colona Liveboards provide free transfer from/to the boat on departure and arrival days from anywhere within the Port Blair area. 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.

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Customs Clearance Fees

There is a fee for each guest boarding MV Giamani for immigration and customs clearance that also covers embarkation and disembarkation fees levied by the Indian government. This is payable before departure so please be sure that you have the required fees on collection from your hotel.

Note that clearance fees are liable to change by the Indian government and though we will endeavour to inform you of this before the cruise date it may not always be possible.

Insurance

Please note that personal dive insurance is compulsory on board MV Giamani. 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 Giamani. 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
- Insure My Trip: www.insuremytrip.com (for individuals)
- Insure My Group: www.insuremygroup.com (for groups of over 9 people)

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

Boat Orientation

After boarding MV Giamani 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. 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.

Please note that any failure or loss of personal dive equipment will require that you rent equipment on board MV Giamani 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.

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Enriched Air Nitrox

Nitrox is available on board MV Giamani 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 continuous flow 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 Giamani 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, we like to know where our guests are at all times!

There is almost always an opportunity for island visits from MV Giamani, with several options available. Several islands have stunning beaches where you can simply lounge in the sun or shade and paddle in the shallows. If conditions are favourable, there is also the chance to step onto a real volcano!!

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 Giamani 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.

Photo and Video Viewing On Board

As underwater cameras and video become more accessible to the masses we are seeing more guests on board with varying sizes of cameras and housings. To cater for this we have rinse tanks for electrical equipment, camera set up and storage areas, and recharging areas above and below decks. We also have a PC workstation on MV Giamani which can be used for the viewing of digital photos and video. The computer has most necessary card slots, software programs, and a CD burner for you to back up your treasures.

You can also view your video on the computer in the saloon, or on the TV in the outdoor saloon. Most standard cables and card readers are carried by our dive staff though if you are in doubt please bring your own to avoid disappointment.

Clothes and Accessories

With a minimum air temperature in the Andaman Islands 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.

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Storage space on board MV Giamani 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 Giamani. 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 the guest will not be allowed in the water for the rest of the day.

Currency and Payment

Cruises, diving 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.

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.



Andaman Islands Cruise Prices

Deluxe Triple Share	86,400 thb
Standard Cabin	88,000 thb
Deluxe Twin Share	96,000 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 (<i>not included in full set</i>)	300 thb
15 litre tank	300 thb

Note : All prices above are per day

Diving Courses

	Price Onboard
PADI Advanced Course	7500 thb
SSI Advanced Course	6000 thb
PADI Nitrox Course	7000 thb
SSI Nitrox Course	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 8D/8N package	5600 thb	7500 thb

Others

	Price Onboard
Beer	70 thb
Wine (per bottle)	800 thb
Wine (per glass)	100 thb
Colona Liveaboards T-shirt	400 thb
Colona Liveaboards Polo Shirt	600 thb
Surface Marker Buoy	1900 thb
Colona Liveaboards Mask Strap	300 thb
Dive Torch	2550 thb

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

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