

Northern Route

Phuket – Ko Surin – Similan islands – Ko Rok Nok – Langkawi – Ko Kradan – Phang Nga, Ko Hong – Phuket

All tours are offered with English speaking guides. The length of the tours is given as an indication only as it may vary depending on the road, weather, sea and traffic conditions and the group's pace.

Time spent on site is also given on an indicative basis only. Minimum number of participants indicated per coach or group

The level of physical fitness required for our activities is given as a very general indication without any knowledge of our passenger's individual abilities. Broadly speaking to enjoy activities such as walking, hiking, biking, snorkelling, boating or other activities involving physical exertion, passengers should be fit and active. Passengers must judge for themselves whether they will be capable of participating in and above all enjoying such activities.

All information concerning excursions is correct at the time of printing. However Star Clippers reserves the right to make changes, which will be relayed to passengers during the Cruise Director's onboard information sessions.



Excursions including snorkelling may have to be modified (change of location) or indeed cancelled without compensation if the organiser and/or captain of the boat judge that local conditions are not consistent with passenger safety.

Hiking tours in National Parks, please note : Jungle or Green guides are employed by the National Park Authority. They are specially trained to conduct park tours with emphasis on the knowledge of fauna and flora. They are usually natives who live around the same area. English is not their mother tongue hence they may not be very smooth in engaging long conversation with guests. The park authority does not allow outside guides to conduct tour within the vicinity. The local guide who will take care of visitors is their decision only.



The Andaman Sea, with Phuket at its hub, will always be the jewel in Thailand's maritime crown. Some of the world's most stunning scenery is to be found here, framed by beautiful crystal-clear waters. The vegetation is lushly tropical with forests reaching up to 80 metres high, and vast rubber and coconut plantations, instead of the rice and sugar cane fields of central Thailand.

The region's heartland is characterised by the sheer limestone crags which pierce the horizon, providing stunning views from the road and enhancing the dramatic intensity of the landscape. Even more spectacular is the Andaman Sea itself; the translucent turquoise water is so clear that in some places you can see to a depth of 30 metres. Home to the country's largest coral reefs, it is without doubt the best diving area in Thailand.

All calls depend on weather conditions and tide. The Captain onboard may decide to change the itinerary or the schedule of a call.

Phuket, Thailand

Phuket (pronounced "poo-ket") island, the gem of the Andaman Coast, is Thailand's top beach resort. Shaped like an irregular pearl and measuring approximately 21 km wide by 48 km long. Phuket is Thailand's largest island and a province in its own right. Phuket has prospered since the last century when Chinese merchants became involved in tin mining and sea trading and later established a flourishing rubber industry there.

Phuket remains the wealthiest province in Thailand with the highest per capita income; unsurprisingly, the primary source of revenue is tourism. Apart from the town itself the area is sparsely populated, and the landscape is one of lush green hills, coconut groves, rubber plantations and a coastline dotted with a dozen spectacular beaches. Set against a backdrop of palm trees and casuarinas, each idyllic stretch of sand has a character and charm all its own. The island's size and plethora of beaches mean that there is something to suit every taste. Patong beach for example is the most developed area and appeals to those who seek a variety of attractions and easy access to all parts of the island. Ao Patong is the most developed beach in Phuket and also the most popular. Located 5km south of Ao Kamala and 15km west of Phuket town, the broad 3km beach offers great sand and plenty of shade beneath the casuarina trees and parasols, plus top hotels and the best choice of water sports activities and diving spots.

Ko Surin, Mu Koh Surin Marine National Park, Thailand

Ko Surin is a national park comprising five islands about 60 kilometres off shore. It lies just inside Thai waters on the Myanmar border. The spectacular shallow reefs around these islands offer some of the best snorkelling and diving on the Andaman coast. The easiest to explore and most beautiful are the reefs surrounding the two main islands in the group, Ko Surin Nua to the north and Ko Surin Tai to the south, separated by a narrow channel. Surin Nua which is the largest of the two (5 kilometres across) houses the national park headquarters, visitor centre and park bungalows on its southwest coast. The water is so clear and the reefs so close to the surface, you can admire a forest of sea anemones while sitting in a boat just 10 metres from the beach. Visibility reaches a depth of 40 metres off the coast of both islands.

Across the channel, Surin Tai is the home of a community of Chao Ley or Sea Gypsies who divide their time between boat building and fishing. Every April as part of the Songkhran New Year festivities, hundreds of Chao Ley from nearby islands congregate to celebrate with a ceremony which includes releasing several hundred turtles into the sea. For Thai and Chinese people, the turtle is a symbol of longevity.

Snorkel safaris will be offered here. Low tide makes it difficult to access the beach by tender or zodiac, so that is when we offer snorkel safaris to the reef.



Similan Islands, Thailand

Diving enthusiasts rave about the Similan islands and their incredible underwater panorama. The water is so clear here that you can see to depths ranging from 2 to 30 metres. The Similan islands are also known as Ko Kao or Nine islands, because the name "Similan" derives from the Malay word Sembilan, meaning nine, and there are a total of nine islands, each with its own designated name and number.

Ko Bon, Kop Ba-Ngu, Ko Similan, Ko Pay, Ko Miang (which is composed of two islands set close to each other), Ko Payan, Ko Payang and Kop Hu Yong.

Apart from park officials and tourists, these islands are uninhabited. The islands are particularly well known for the 32 indigenous and migratory bird species to be found there, as well as reptiles, amphibians and mammals such as the bush tailed porcupine and flying lemur. Koh Similan is the island with the most sheltered bay and boasts a beautiful white sandy beach and interesting forest walks. A climb to the top of the distinctive rock formation overlooking the north end of the beach is well worth the effort. There is excellent snorkelling to be enjoyed around the rocks on the north side of the bay. Visitors often come from the mainland to spend the day in the archipelago.

Depending on weather & tidal conditions the ship anchors either off Ko Similan (island 8) or Ko Miang (princess island 4)

Elephant Camp & Bamboo Raft Experience

By speed boat and van

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 44

Duration 7h30

Lunch included

Euros 138

Your guide will pick you up straight from the ship and take you to Tap Lamu Pier by private speed boat.

From here you will board the airconditioned van for a 20-minute drive to the Rafting Station.

After 40 minutes of Zen like tranquillity, floating down the river on your bamboo raft and admiring the scenery, it will be time to get back on the van and drive to Khao Lak Hill for a buffet lunch at a local restaurant.

The Elephant camp is a 15 minutes' drive from the restaurant. Here you will be able to interact with the elephants: feed them, bathe with them, and take some wonderful photographs as well as picking up some interesting facts about these gentle giants.

It all started with a village chief who ran a one-man campaign to rescue baby elephants. He was having a hard time scraping together the money to feed them until a local businesswoman stepped in and came up with the idea of raising money to feed the elephants by opening an elephant camp for tourists. The camp started out with 4 elephants who were recently joined by a fifth inmate whose owner no longer wished to keep him. There is no way these elephants could survive by themselves in the jungle as they have been brought up by humans since they were born. The elephants are well taken care of and unlike in other camps, they are unfettered and are not forced to work or made to carry tourists on their backs.

Time permitting, we will also visit the Sea Turtle Conservation Centre where turtle eggs are taken to hatch in safety and the young turtles are nurtured until they are strong enough to be released.

Lunch includes soft drinks and water

Soft drinks and water are available on the speed boat

This tour is not recommended for people with walking difficulties, disabled visitors or pregnant women

The speed boat ride can be bumpy in rough seas

1h30 transfer by boat to Tap Lamu pier and back

Each bamboo raft can carry just two passengers

You will spend one hour at the elephant camp

Take swimming clothes and beach towel with you



Ko Rok Nok, Ko Lanta National park, Thailand

A collection of islands surrounded by beautiful coral reefs make up Ko Lanta National Park. Ko Rok Nok is one of the 15 islands that make up the Lanta group. One of the highlights of Ko Rok Nok is its stunning powder-white beach. On the north side of the island you can see the coral reefs and colourful fish through crystal clear blue waters.

Take note: Depending on weather conditions or tide, the ship could anchor at Ko Rok Nok or Ko Muk.

Langkawi, Malaysia

Langkawi is an archipelago of 99 islands and is part of the state of Kedah, next to the Thai border. The largest island is Pulau Langkawi; some of the others are so small that when viewed from the air they look like tiny dots in the emerald green ocean. Langkawi offers scenery of unparalleled natural beauty and it is no surprise to learn that it is known officially as "The Jewel of Kedah". This idyllic tropical island, "far from the madding crowd", is an Escapist's paradise comprised of white sandy beaches, lush tropical vegetation and limestone cliffs. According to local legend, Langkawi got its name from the eagle or helang as it is known in the Malay tongue. Kawi means "russet brown" so Langkawi simply means a russet brown eagle.

On a more sinister note, Langkawi is said to have been cursed for seven generations. In the eighteenth century a beautiful princess named Mahsuri was unjustly accused of committing adultery and executed. She died protesting her innocence and declaring that Langkawi would not prosper for seven generations because of the injustice done to her. As Langkawi is now a thriving holiday destination with a worldwide reputation, it is safe to assume that the curse has been lifted.

Langkawi Island Tour

By air-conditioned motor coach and by foot

Duration 7 hours

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 80

Euros 108

Lunch included

Discover the legends and tales that surround beautiful Langkawi. Through rice paddies and rubber plantations, our excursion takes you first to visit the Makam Mahsuri, the birth place and tomb of Langkawi's most famous legendary princess, who, falsely accused of adultery with her favourite troubadour, placed a curse on the island for seven generations.

On the way there you will see rubber trees and learn how latex is tapped.

Afterwards you will explore the mangrove swamps aboard local boats, gaining an insight into this unique ecosystem and its wildlife, and getting the opportunity to keep watch for brown eagles, tree crabs, iguanas and Macaque monkeys (wildlife cannot be guaranteed)

The excursion continues with a drive through the countryside to reach a typical village, where you will stop for lunch. From here you will take a cable car and glide over the rainforest, past tropical trees and waterfalls until you reach the peak of Gungung Machinchang. On arrival you will enjoy panoramic views of many of the 99 islands surrounding Langkawi, and out towards Thailand, Kos Butang and Ko Tarotanu. You will then return to the Star Clipper anchored at the south western tip of the island.

The direction of the tour may change

If the weather is bad the cable car ride may be cancelled and replaced by another attraction

Drinks are not included with lunch. (they can be paid with \$ or € with the return change in local currency)

Express lane included at the cable car



Jungle trekking in the rainforest

Transfer by van

Minimum 6 participants, maximum 19

Duration 4 hours

Euros 66

You will set off from the pier and take a 30-minute drive to the tropical rain forest where you will start the jungle trek, accompanied by an experienced naturalist guide.

The jungle trails across Langkawi's ancient rainforest are quite challenging; as you penetrate the lush vegetation you will appreciate the incredible richness of the local flora and fauna at first hand. Your naturalist guide will point out the interesting plants and trees as you slowly trek along the trail, pausing for water breaks and allowing you to immerse in the sights and sound of the rainforest.

As you venture deeper into the rainforest and be enveloped by the thick canopy, look out for different species of monkeys, birds, butterflies and many other species of wildlife and rare plants in the rainforest. There is a high chance to see flying lemurs resting in their natural habitat and this is an extraordinary wildlife found only in small parts of South East Asia.

Wear light cotton wear, trekking shoes or hiking boots and long pants

Bring sun protection and insect repellent

Bring a small back pack (2 small mineral water will be provided per participant)

There is 30 minutes transfer each way – the trekking is approximately 3.9 km with an elevation of 159 meter during the walk

Fitness level : above average (hilly terrain)

Jungle Trekking and Kayaking

Transfer by van

Duration 8 hours

Minimum 10 participants, maximum 19

Lunch included

High activity level

English speaking guide only

Euros 119

You will set off from the pier and take a 30-minute drive to the tropical rain forest where you will start the jungle trek, accompanied by an experienced guide.

The jungle trails across Langkawi's ancient rainforest are quite challenging; as you penetrate the lush vegetation you will appreciate the incredible richness of the local flora and fauna at first hand. Look out for different species of monkey, birds, butterflies and many other species of wildlife and rare plants in the rainforest. (wildlife sightseeing cannot be guaranteed)

After the trek, you will be driven to the Kilim River base for a briefing on our kayak safari through the mangrove forest, before going on to the local fish farm to pick up the kayaks.

Before the safari, there will be a tour of the fish farm. Many different species of fish both big and small are kept in a sea water tank. They are quite tame, and you will be able to interact with them, by feeding and stroking them as they play in the water.

Lunch will be served on site at the fish farm.

Then it's time for our Kayak safari. Paddle through small rivers, inaccessible by boat and see the land crabs, squirrels and monitor lizards which inhabit the Mangrove forest. We may even be lucky enough to see a monkey.

After the Kayak expedition we will take a small boat to the Bat Cave, a dark cavernous grotto, which from time immemorial has been home to generations of bats, before returning to Kilim jetty for the drive back to the cruise terminal.

A good physical condition is required for that tour

Drinks are not included at lunch (they can be paid with \$ or € with the return change in local currency)

Participants must be able to swim

The jungle trek will be led by a Park Guide you will meet on spot



Ko Kradan, Thailand

One of 47 Islands in the Talay Trang archipelago, Ko Kraden is part of the Had Chao Mai National Park and home to its small Headquarters located on the beach. Clear waters and attractive white sand beaches on the west coast contrast with rocky beaches on the east coast and provide excellent opportunities for swimming and diving

Phang Nga Bay, Thailand

Phang Nga Bay, shielded from the ravages of the Andaman Sea by Phuket, offers the visitor a strange and wonderful seascape. The area covers some 400 square kilometres of coast between Phuket and Krabi, punctuated by sheer lime stone cliffs reaching up to 300 metres in height, covered with lush jungle vegetation. The Bay is said to have come into being about 12 thousand years ago, when mountain ranges were suddenly flooded up to their summits by a dramatic rise in sea level.

Koh Panyi & James Bond Island

By speed boat

Duration approx. 5 hours

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Euros 115

Asian snacks included

Leave the Star Clipper behind and cruise through picturesque Phang Nga Bay with its dramatic limestone islands, before reaching James Bond Island, one of the locations featured in the film "The Man with the Golden Gun". After a brief stop on the island, the trip continues through the bay until you reach Koh Panyi village, one of the region's typical Muslim villages. En route you will cruise through mangrove swamps and get the opportunity to explore some remarkable grottoes.

Koh Panyi village was founded in the eighteenth century by Nomadic Malay fishermen; it was built on stilts in the shallow waters of the bay because at that time only people of Thai origin were allowed to own land. You will get the opportunity to look around and learn about everyday life in the village.

Enjoy Asian specialities at one of the little restaurants where you will be offered a buffet of local dishes. Afterwards there will be some free time for you to relax or explore the village some more. You will then leave Koh Panyi and journey back to the ship through Ao Phang Nga.

Refreshments will be served on the tour boats throughout the excursion (toilets are available on the boats).

The tour is by speed boat only, it is operated accordingly to tide and water condition level

The tour direction can be reversed

The speed boat ride may get a bit bumpy in rough seas

The tour includes 2 stops where you will get off the boat, other sightseeing is from the boat

The exact total duration of the tour depends on sea conditions and currents

Soft drinks are provided on the speedboat

Soft drinks, water and tea are not included at the local restaurant

Restaurant is traditional, simple and basic

Be ready for a possible wet landing at James Bond island

No swimming opportunity during the tour



Koh Hong, Thailand

The Koh Hong archipelago is a group of small islands lying between Krabi and the northern part of Phang Nga Bay. Unlike the northern Phang Nga Bay area, the water here is clear enough for snorkelling, with good visibility during spring or neap tides. The name Koh Hong means Room Island, because it is framed by limestone cliffs which give it an enclosed feeling. There is a large interior lagoon which is accessible only by dinghy, through a dramatic cliff passage. This large Hong (or chamber) is one of the collecting points for the nests used to make that expensive delicacy Bird's Nest soup. The island is 200 metres across with a small entrance on the north side of the island which often has gill nets strung across it at low tide.

The spectacular scenery provides many great photo opportunities and you can swim in the hong during high tide.

Star Clipper will anchor south of the island in front of a white silica sand beach broken up by monolithic rocks that provide shade all day long. Fringed by a coral reef, this is one of the prettiest bays in the area.

