



# THAILAND

- Best of Thailand -

18 - 28  
April  
2023  
from  
**3,100 USD\***  
per person

## THE EXPEDITION

During this expedition we will follow a special itinerary designed to explore the **very best diving that Thailand has to offer!**

On our route we will venture into the **Racha Islands** to dive Racha Noi for our first chance at encountering manta rays. With beautiful hard corals, boulders with large swim throughs and a beautiful pinnacle to the south, this site is a guaranteed great dive. **Koh Haa** is possibly the most underrated diving in the whole of Thailand. Around these amazing islands the underwater landscape is stunning, with pinnacles, walls, boulders, caverns, and swim-throughs populated by ornate ghost pipefish, morays eels, octopuses, hawksbill turtles, sea horses, and marble rays.

**Hin Daeng and Hin Muang** are among the main highlights of the expedition. These two sites are ocean pinnacles descending to over 70m, and are well known for **manta and whale shark** encounters! At these sites you will also see pharaoh cuttlefish, schooling rainbow runners, barracudas and groupers. The generally good visibility and dramatic topography combined with huge number of fish, soft corals and gorgonians makes for excellent diving.

In the North, the famous **Similan Islands** scenery offers stunningly beautiful white sandy beaches while under the surface you may experience a diverse life including zebra sharks and blue spotted stingrays. These coral gardens, swim-throughs and boulder formations found here are wonderful to dive.

**Koh Bon** is another of the highlights of our expedition as this is the place where it is most likely to see **manta rays!** Encounters with Napoleon wrasses and great barracudas are also common. **Koh Tachai** will offer us another chance of seeing mantas alongside turtles, barracudas, pipe fishes and stunning nudibranches. Finally, we will visit **Richelieu Rock**, where gorgeous purple soft corals and magnificent sea anemones cover most of the site. The marine life here is prolific and includes, amongst many other things, Pharaoh cuttlefish, octopuses, ornate ghost pipefish, mantis shrimps, harlequin shrimps, tiger tail sea horses, frog fishes, schooling snapper and occasionally even manta rays and whale sharks!

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TRIP LEADER

JAMIE MONMANEERAT

The winner of Miss Scuba International 2012 and project leader of Thailand Manta Project, Jamie has always been fascinated by the oceans and their inhabitants.



Over the last 5 years she has been traveling, diving and promoting marine conservation to the world. With so much love for the oceans, Jamie further her knowledge and received her diploma education in Marine Biology with distinction at Oxford College.

Jamie's devotion to the manta rays started when she learnt about manta gill trade back in 2012. Although frustrated, she stayed optimistic and dedicated herself to the conservation of these majestic species. In 2014 she spend 3 months working with the Manta Trust in Maldives. After countless hours in the water with hundreds of manta rays, Jamie decided to develop the experience and knowledge she gained in Maldives into a manta project in her home country. In 2015 Thailand Manta Project was established with the goal to research the Manta population in Thailand and increase local protection to manta and mobula rays in Thai waters. Since then, Jamie has been dedicating her time to educate and raise awareness on manta rays and marine conservation in Thailand and its neighbouring countries.

Apart from her love for manta rays, Jamie is also very passionate about diving. With over 4 years working experience as a PADI dive instructor in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. Join Jamie on board Manta Expedition, as she will be sharing her local diving knowledge as well as giving presentations on manta rays and how you can help make a difference to the current ocean crisis.

CITIZEN SCIENCE - GET INVOLVED!

On this expedition, you'll have the opportunity to experience and participate in **cuttingedge conservation** research to protect one of the ocean's most majestic animals. Manta Trust scientists will be collecting photographic identification images of all mantas encountered throughout the expedition - a task that guests are welcome and encouraged to participate in. All new manta rays will be added to the database and guests will be invited to name these new mantas.

THE MANTA TRUST

A UK registered charity, the Trust's mission is to advance the worldwide conservation of manta rays and their habitat through robust science and research, by raising awareness and providing education, influence and action. The Manta Trust was formed in 2011 to co-ordinate global research and conservation efforts for these amazing animals, their close relatives and their habitat.

**Data Collection:** The Manta Trust has a number of research projects worldwide, incorporating population data, research on manta movements, and genetic analyses - to name a few - in order to better understand the general ecology of manta and mobula rays.



THE BOAT | THE PHINISI

Officially known as 'Cheng I Sao', The Phinisi is fully equipped to accommodate 18 divers in 7 en-suite cabins with individual air conditioning units. Guests can choose between flexible double/twin, fixed twins, and quad cabins. Full of character and charm, The Phinisi also has quite a remarkable history. Custom-built in 2007 as a liveaboard yacht in classic Indonesian Phinisi style, she became part of the WVDAS fleet as Sampai Jumpa Lagi. In 2008, she was renamed Siren; the first vessel to bear the name of what later became the well-known Siren Fleet. The Phinisi has had a break from hosting liveaboards for the last couple of years; instead she has been cruising on day trips around the islands near Phuket. Now she is back as The Junk's sister! New colours, new name, but with the same characteristic style and outstanding service that people have become accustomed to on The Junk.

BOOKING

To reserve your place on this Manta Expedition, or for more information please send an email to Niv Froman at [info@mantaexpeditions.com](mailto:info@mantaexpeditions.com).

Payment and booking for this Manta Expedition will be handled by our trip partners, **Master Liveaboards**. Trip costs for this 10-night expedition includes transfers from Phuket, full board accommodation, and up to 4 dives / snorkelling excursions per day. Pick-up from Phuket airport or nearby hotels will be arranged free of charge.

\* Not included: National Park, port and tax fees (115USD/ pers), rental of dive gear, Nitrox and crew tip.

Room category prices per person: Quad Cabin USD 3,100 and Double/Twin Cabin USD 4,150.



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