



Cruising the Thai Islands from Phuket

Overview & Itinerary

Start	Phuket, Thailand
Finish	Phuket, Thailand
Destination	Thailand
Style	Comfort
Theme	Adventure Cruising
Code	TTMT
Trip rating	4.75
Validity	01 Nov 2019 to 31 Mar 2020

Is this trip right for you?

- This is a small ship adventure cruise, which means you'll be sailing on a yacht with 30–50 other people. The boat is spacious and comfortable, but it focuses more on the destination than on-board activities. Instead of a pool, we have the sea itself. Instead of a casino, we've got board games and a good book. There's also no formal dress code to worry about. Wi-Fi is available for a small charge.
- Our ship moves under engine power, rather than sailing, so all cabins will experience light engine noise when the ship is moving (and occasionally when we drop anchor). It's probably worth packing earplugs if you're a light sleeper.
- If you're concerned about seasickness, there are seasickness tablets on-board. The ship will experience some roll and pitch in choppy conditions, however all of our ships come equipped with stabilisers to minimise movement. Most of our departures run in peak season, when the seas are calmer. Your crew will do all they can to minimise any discomfort.
- There are no lifts (elevators) on-board our ships, so you'll have to navigate a few steep flights of stairs. Handrails are always available.
- This trip is very much focused around marine activities so confidence in the water will allow you to make the most of the snorkelling opportunities. Flotation aids will be available as well as kayaks and stand up paddleboards and plenty of time to just enjoy the small ship cruising life.

Physical rating

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No particular level of physical fitness is required for our adventure cruises, although you should have a good level of mobility and enjoy good health. We do ask that you read through the trip notes to ensure that this trip is right for you.

Please keep in mind that there are a number of shore excursions offered on your voyage. Some are walking tours and may involve a reasonable amount of walking over varied terrain. We recommend you bring a good pair of walking shoes or boots, carry a water bottle and don't forget the sunscreen and hat. Depending on the excursion, disembarking the ship may be by zodiac, tender or onto a dock. Very occasionally, it will be a beach landing where you may need to wade through shallow water a short distance to reach the shore. This will be highlighted in the trip notes.

Snorkelling and fishing equipment is provided on board all of our vessels. To snorkel, we request that you consider your fitness level and your confidence in the water before taking part.

Joining point

Phuket Deep Sea Port
Mueang Phuket District
Phuket
83000
THAILAND

Problems and emergency contact information

In case of a genuine crisis or emergency, you can reach our local operator on the number below:

Intrepid's Thailand office: +66 898 103 722

Itinerary

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Day 1: Arrival Phuket

Welcome to Phuket. On arrival, you will be transferred to your hotel for the night. Enjoy the night life of this lively beach area, or enjoy a quiet meal under the tropical stars. The choice is yours.

Meals Included

There are no meals included on this day.

Special Information

An arrival transfer is included from the airport to the joining hotel if you are arriving today. If you are arriving earlier and have booked additional nights at the same hotel, a transfer is included. If you are staying elsewhere, please make your own way to your hotel and then to the joining hotel for your stay tonight.

Day 2: Embarkation in Phuket

This morning, you will be taken on a guided tour of the old town of Phuket before boarding the Panorama II late afternoon. Attend a welcome meeting and safety briefing to go over the finer details of your upcoming journey. After dinner onboard with your fellow travellers, set sail at around 9 pm, heading for Ko Similan overnight.

Included Activities

- Welcome Dinner
- Phuket old town tour

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Dinner

Day 3: Koh Miang

Arrive nice and early in Ko Similan, one of the gorgeous Similan Islands. Renowned among divers for good reason, these islands combine rainforest, white sands and clear blue water to dazzling effect. Enjoy a morning of swimming and snorkelling. Late afternoon sailing for Koh Surin. Overnight at sea.

Optional Activities

- Kayaking from the Panorama II - Free
- Stand Up Paddleboarding from the Panorama II - Free
- Fishing from the Panorama II - Free
- Snorkelling from the Panorama II - Free

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

Special Information

The transfer from the Panorama II to Ko Similan will be by local motor boat.

Day 4: Ko Surin Tai

Visit Moken Village for a tour with a local guide. This is the home of the Moken people, a Sea Gypsy ethnic group of Austronesian origin who still mostly live a seminomadic hunter-gatherer life (despite Thai and Burmese attempts to assimilate them into the wider culture). Notice their colourful poles, known as labong, which represent their ancestors. Lunch is included so you can enjoy some local cuisine.

Later, in the afternoon, enjoy some snorkelling and relaxing on the beach. We will spend the night at anchor.

Included Activities

- Guided Moken Village Visit

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

Day 5: Ko Surin Tai

Today is a day of pure relaxation. Enjoy the beautiful beaches and make use of all the toys that the Panorama II has onboard. Lunch will be a picnic on the beach. Tonight, we will sail south to Mu Koh Kam

Optional Activities

- Snorkelling from the Panorama II - Free
- Fishing from the Panorama II - Free
- Kayaking from the Panorama II - Free
- Stand Up Paddleboarding from the Panorama II - Free

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

Special Information

The transfer from the Panorama II to the beach will be by a local longboat.

Day 6: Mu Koh Kam

Travel by longtail boat to Baan Talay Nok village. Enjoy a local-guided tour around the village, which was actually destroyed by 2004 tsunami. You'll hear some eye-opening stories of survival and how the village has recovered. For lunch, sit down with local families and dine on some tasty local dishes. Try your hand not only at soap-making but also at some cooking, preparing a local dish of grilled coconut wrapped in leaf. Tonight we'll enjoy under the stars at anchor near Mu Koh Kam.

Included Activities

- Baan Talay Nok - Community visit including lunch

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

Day 7: Mu Koh Kam

Today will be a day that reads like a page from the Swiss family Robinson. The Kam islands are undeveloped and rarely visited. Our last day of beach and sea activities will be spent in these idyllic

surroundings. But unlike a castaway, you won't want for sustenance as your lunch will be a sumptuous beach BBQ.

Included Activities

- Beach BBQ

Optional Activities

- Kayaking from the Panorama II - Free
- Stand Up Paddleboarding from the Panorama II - Free
- Snorkelling from the Panorama II - Free
- Fishing from the Panorama II - Free

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

Day 8: Khao Lak

On arrival at Khao Lak, we will disembark for a day of land activities to help you get our land legs back. A visit the Sai Rung (rainbow) waterfall is a chance for a fresh water swim so be sure to have your swim suit with you.

Having met survivors of the 2004 tsunami at Ban Thalay Nok, the Ban Nam Khem tsunami memorial may seem that much more poignant. The wave shaped memorial represents the wall of water that invaded the beaches around Khao Lak on boxing day 2004, and features hundreds and hundreds of names of the tourists and locals that were lost that day. We finish our day around Khao Lak at the beautiful Bangsak beach. Your last chance to enjoy the warmth of the Andaman Sea. Tonight, the Captain will host a farewell dinner to toast your journey.

Included Activities

- Farewell Dinner
- Bangsak Beach
- Ban Nam Khem Tsunami Memorial
- Sai Rung Waterfall

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Dinner

Day 9: Disembark in Phuket

Arriving in Phuket early in the morning, disembark after breakfast as the adventure comes to an end.

Meals Included

- Breakfast

Special Information

A departure transfer is not included but can be booked for an additional cost to the airport or Phuket hotel.

Finishing point

Phuket Deep Sea Port
Mueang Phuket District
Phuket
83000
THAILAND

Itinerary disclaimer

Travelling by sea is a fantastic way to explore, but it brings some challenges when weather conditions are not ideal.

The itinerary may be subject to change, based on winds and sea conditions which may render anchorage and landing at some stops difficult. We reserve the right to change the itinerary for the safety of passengers and the ship.

Shore excursions are subject to shore and weather conditions and are based on a minimum participation.

Each days' schedule will be posted by the cruise co-ordinator listing necessary information such as arrival/departure times, meal times, days activities and other information. This is given as a guideline and is subject to change.

Feedback

After your travels, we want to hear from you! We rely on your feedback. We read it carefully. Feedback helps us understand what we are doing well and what we could be doing better. It allows us to make improvements for future travellers. Below link will take you to the feedback site:

<http://www.intrepidtravel.com/feedback/>

Essential Trip Information

Important notes

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Adventure Cruising trips have a deposit of A\$600 per person (different amounts apply in other currencies) and the balance is due 90 days before departure.

If a booking is cancelled 90 days or more before departure - the cancellation fee is the full loss of the deposit paid.

If a booking is cancelled between 89 and 31 days before departure - the cancellation fee is 50% of the total booking cost, or the deposit, whichever is greater.

if a booking is cancelled 30 days or less prior to departure - the cancellation fee is 100% of the total price of the voyage.

Other fees may apply for air tickets and other arrangements booked in conjunction with a voyage.

SINGLE TRAVELLERS

Rooming on this trip is twin-share. Single travellers will share a Twin room with another traveller of the same gender. If you'd prefer not to share, a single cabin supplement is available at an additional charge.

Please note, it is not possible to share with a stranger in any double cabin category (as bedding in these cabins is one double bed).

PORT FEES AND GRATUITIES

All Port and National Park fees are included in the cost of your voyage. Gratuities for the ships' crew and any local guides or drivers are also included. A tip for your tour leaders is not included and is at your discretion.

PASSPORT DETAILS:

Passport details are required at least 30 days prior to departure. This is due to a limited number of tourists allowed to visit the Similan Islands National Park each day and the entry permit has to be organised in advance.

Passport and visas

Visas are the responsibility of the individual traveller. Entry requirements can change at any time, so it's important that you check for the latest information. Please visit the relevant consular website of the country or countries you're visiting for detailed and up-to-date visa information specific to your nationality. Your consultant will also be happy to point you in the right direction with acquiring visas. Visas can take several weeks to process, so familiarise yourself with any requirements as soon as you have booked your trip to allow for processing time.

As a general rule most countries expect that your passport has a minimum of 6 months validity remaining. Please ensure the name on your passport matches the name on your booking and airline tickets. Your passport details are required to complete your booking. Your consultant will contact you when this is required.

Take a copy of the main passport pages and other important documents with you, and leave another copy at home with family or friends.

THAILAND:

If entering by air most nationalities will be granted a 30 day stay on arrival. If entering by a land border, you will be granted a 15 day stay only (some exceptions are citizens of the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, France, Italy, Germany and Japan who are eligible for 30 day visa at land borders). A visa extension can be obtained in Thailand at an immigration office for approx. 2000THB or alternatively you can apply for a Thailand visa in advance from your embassy or consulate that will allow a 30 day stay when entering at an overland border.

If planning to enter Thailand via a land border multiple times during your travels, we recommend you pre-obtain a 60 day multiple entry visa from you embassy or consulate before you travel rather than attempting to obtain a visa at the border on multiple occasions which may result in being denied re-entry into the country.

Medical and health information

All travellers need to be in good physical health in order to participate fully on this trip. When selecting your trip please make sure you have read through the itinerary carefully and assess your ability to cope with our style of travel. Please note that if, in the opinion of our group leader or local guide, any traveller is unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group, Intrepid Travel reserves the right to exclude them from all or part of a trip without refund.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information or for any necessary vaccinations before departure. We recommend that you carry a first aid kit as well as any personal medical requirements as they may not easily be obtained at the locations on this trip. Please ensure that you are adequately prepared.

There is no doctor on board for this voyage. In case of an emergency, some crew members are trained to offer basic first aid. Medical care is available in all ports we visit and our voyages are mostly cruising around coastal waters meaning we are never far from a port.

As we are mostly cruising in coastal waters, we should not regularly encounter rough waters. However, if you know you are prone to sea sickness, please ensure you bring with you appropriate medication. You must also bring with you any general medicines you may need such as pain relief along with any prescribed medications you take. A general first aid kit is also a good idea.

If you are feeling unwell, please let a member of the crew know. Travelling on a boat means that everyone is sharing the same common areas and illness can spread very quickly to your fellow travellers.

Food and dietary requirements

While travelling in Asia, you'll experience the vast array of wonderful food available in this region. Meals on board are made by our on board chef using fresh local produce and will have the flavour of the region we are sailing in. To give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat, not all meals are included in the trip price (except more remote itineraries where off ship eating opportunities are limited). Your group leader will be able to suggest restaurants to try on your trip during your free time. As a rule our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There's no obligation to do this though. On board, we are able to cater for most special dietary requirements. Please advise any special dietary needs at least 4 weeks in advance of travel.

Accommodation

Small cruise ship, 7 nights

Cruise:

Wifi is available on all ships at EUR15 for 200MB or EUR20 for 250MB. The coverage can be very intermittent and unreliable. On shore in most countries, you should find fast, free wifi available in cafes or restaurants. Internet connections in Cuba are very unreliable.

Transport

Small cruise ship, zodiac, bus

Money matters

When it comes to money matters on the trip, every traveller is a little different. You know your spending habits better than we do, so please budget a sensible amount for things like meals not included, drinks, shopping, optional activities, tipping and laundry. It's always better to bring a little more than you think you'll need.

Also make sure you've read your trip details thoroughly so you know what's included in the trip price and what isn't. This should make budgeting a little easier. You'll find this info in the Inclusions section of your Essential Trip Information (that's this document).

EMERGENCY FUNDS:

We try to plan for every eventuality, but there are still some things beyond our control. Please make sure you bring an extra USD500 for emergencies (e.g. natural disasters or civil unrest). Sometimes these things necessitate last minute changes to our itineraries, and we can't guarantee there won't be some extra costs involved.

ON BOARD ACCOUNT

An account will be opened for your cabin for purchases aboard ship. This will include bar purchases laundry and communication charges. Cash, Visa or Mastercard are all accepted for settling your ship on board account. It is wise to travel with sufficient cash (in local currency) to pay for incidentals on your last day such as shipboard items, airports taxes and taxis.

Most of our voyages are half board, so breakfast, and at least one other meal daily will be included whilst on board the ship. This leaves plenty of opportunities for you to go out and explore local cuisines on shore for the remaining meals. Please ensure you have read the Essential Trip Information carefully and have budgeted for meals not included.

TIPPING

While gratuities for essential services that you will receive as part of your tour package, from specialist local guides to minibus drivers, and the crew who will take care of you onboard are included as part of your tour cost, the voyage fare does not include the customary, optional gratuity for your Tour Leaders. If you are happy with the services received, US\$2 - \$4 per passenger per day for your tour leader is an appropriate amount. While it may not be customary to you, it is of great significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels, inspires excellent service and is an entrenched feature of the tourism industry across many destinations.

There is a fully stocked bar on board the Panorama II. Please make additional allowance for bar expenses. The Panorama II accepts cash and credit card for bar transactions.

All prices are quoted in EUR€.

Hard spirits (Vodka, Gin, Rum, Tequila): €6.50 - €9.00

High balls: €7.00 - €8.00

Brandies & Cognacs: €6.00 - €8.00

Liqueurs: €7.00

Cocktails: €4.00 - €8.50

Coffee with Liqueurs: €6.50

Wines (by the glass): €4.00 - €5.00

Beers: €3.00 - €4.50

Soft drinks & mixers: €2.50

Sparkling & Still mineral water: €1.00 - €3.50

Coffees & Ice Tea: €2.00 - €2.50

Bottles of wine and champagne can also be purchased on board, please speak to the bar staff for a wine list.

All prices are subject to change.

Packing

Please travel as lightly as possible so as not to restrict space in your cabin. Soft bags are more practical than hard suitcases.

The dress code on board ship is casual. You may want to bring something slightly dressier for the Captain's dinner or for a nice meal ashore, but as a rule, neat casual will suffice.

Swimming will be offered on most days so swimwear is essential. We recommend at least 2 pairs so as to allow drying time in between swims.

Below is a suggested general packing list.

Daypack (a smaller back pack that you can take with you on shore excursions)

Comfortable clothing for warmer temperatures [shorts, t-shirts, light long sleeved tops and pants]

A sweater or jacket for the cooler evenings or early mornings

A light rain coat or poncho

Comfortable walking shoes for shore excursions

Sandals or thongs/flip flops/jandals

Sunscreen [bio degradable and waterproof if available] and lip balm [to combat the effects of wind burn]

Sunglasses

Sunhat [that can be secured as it can get windy out on the water]

Swimming costume

Bio-degradable shampoo, conditioner and soap

Insect repellent

Power adaptor/electrical plug (on board plugs are 2 pin European)

Camera

Filtered water is available on board and a water bottle will be provided (yours to keep)

Phone and internet access

Wifi is available on all ships at EUR15 for 200MB or EUR20 for 250MB. The coverage can be very intermittent and unreliable. On shore in most countries, you should find fast, free wifi available in cafes or restaurants. Internet connections in Cuba are very unreliable.

Group Leader

On your voyage, as well as the ship and hospitality crew, there will be between 1 and 3 local tour leaders (depending on the total number of passengers). These leaders will be with you on board the ship, and on all included shore activities. They will have good general knowledge of the areas you are passing through including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects, as well as being able to recommend great local eating venues for your on shore meals and what you might like to do with your free time (when you're not relaxing and enjoying the ship's facilities).

Safety

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure and ensure that your travel insurance covers you for all areas your itinerary covers. Please refer to our website's safety page for links to major travel advisories and updates on safety issues affecting our trip.

We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe-keeping of your passport, air tickets, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Your cabin has a safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables whilst on board. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage.

A couple of rules

Everyone has the right to feel safe when they travel. We don't tolerate any form of violence (verbal or physical) or sexual harassment, either between customers or involving our leaders, partners or local people. Sexual relationships between a tour leader and a customer are strictly forbidden.

Use or possession of illegal drugs will not be tolerated on our trips. If you choose to consume alcohol while travelling, we encourage responsible drinking, and expect that you'll abide by the local laws regarding alcohol consumption.

The sex tourism industry is known to exploit vulnerable people and have negative consequences on communities, including undermining the development of sustainable tourism. For this reason, patronising sex workers will not be tolerated on our trips.

By travelling with us you are agreeing to adhere to these rules. Your group leader has the right to remove any member of the group for breaking any of these rules, with no right of refund.

If you feel that someone is behaving inappropriately while travelling with us, please inform your tour leader or local guide immediately. Alternatively, contact us on the emergency contact number detailed in the Problems and Emergency Contact section of this Essential Trip Information.

Travelling on a group trip

As you travel on a group trip you will be exposed to all the pleasures and maybe some of the frustrations of travelling in a group. Your fellow travellers will probably come from all corners of the world and likely a range of age groups too. We ask you to be understanding of the various needs and preferences of your group - patience with your fellow travellers is sometimes required for the benefit of everyone's travel experience. Remember too that you have responsibilities to the group. If you are requested to be at a place at a certain time, ensure that you don't keep the rest of the group waiting. We have found time and time again that the very best trips we operate are those where the dynamics within the group work well - this takes just a little effort on your part. Due to privacy reasons we are unable to provide you with contact details and any personal information about your fellow travellers booked on your trip prior to departure.

Single travellers on this voyage can be matched with a passenger of the same gender in a twin cabin. If you wish to have a cabin to yourself, this can be arranged with the payment of a single supplement and is possible in any cabin category.

Pre and post voyage accommodation will always be on a single basis for solo travellers.

This trip is run by our sister company, Peregrine Adventures. Your group will be a mixture of Intrepid booked passengers and other international like-minded travellers from Peregrine.

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory for all our trips. We require that, at a minimum, you are covered for medical expenses including emergency repatriation. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects.

When travelling on a trip, you won't be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance and the insurance company's 24 hour emergency contact number has been seen by your leader.

If you have credit card insurance your group leader will require details of the participating insurer/underwriter, the level of coverage, policy number and emergency contact number rather than the bank's name and credit card details. Please contact your bank for these details prior to arriving in-country.

<http://www.intrepidtravel.com/insurance.php>

Responsible Travel

Travelling responsibly is all about making good choices. It's about ensuring you have an incredible trip while also having a positive impact on the local environment, community and economy you're travelling in. How can you be a Responsible Traveller? See our tips below:

- * Choose to travel with a responsible travel company like us! We've already offset the main carbon emissions of your trip, so your footprint is already lighter.
- * Consider offsetting your flights too.
- * Bring a refillable water bottle and some water purification tablets (or a Steripen) to cut down on plastic bottle waste.
- * Be an animal-friendly traveller. Only go to venues that respect animals by allowing them to live normally in their natural environment. Steer clear of venues that use animals for entertainment or abnormal activities and/or keep animals in poor and unnatural conditions.
- * Eat at local restaurants, buy from regional artists and support social enterprises so you can contribute directly to locals and their economy.
- * Always be respectful of local customs and ask permission if you want to take a photo of someone.
- * Learn a few words of the local language and engage with the people around you.
- * Carry a cloth or re-usable bag so you can avoid plastic bags.
- * Give back by making a donation to a local project via The Intrepid Foundation.

Share your thoughts with us by completing your feedback form after your trip. This helps us to continue to improve our commitment to responsible travel.

The Intrepid Foundation

Help us change thousands of lives by creating meaningful work and supporting skills training in communities around the world.

The Intrepid Foundation is the not-for-profit for Intrepid Group. We work with local organisations around the world to improve the livelihoods of vulnerable individuals and communities through sustainable travel experiences. With our travellers' help, we've contributed more than AU \$6 million to over 100 community organisations since 2002.

Did you know that tourism is one of the biggest contributors to the global economy, making up 1 out of every 10 jobs? That's why we support local projects that create meaningful jobs and give people the skills they need to work in the destinations we take you to. And it's why we exist – to make it easy for travellers to give back to the communities and places they've been in an effective and meaningful way.

All donations to The Intrepid Foundation are matched by Intrepid Group dollar for dollar (up to AU\$10,000 per donor and AU\$500,000 in total each financial year, excluding emergency appeals). And because Intrepid Group covers all administration costs, every cent goes directly to the projects. Donating is simple and secure. Please ask your leader for information about the projects we support through The Intrepid Foundation or visit our website:

<http://www.theintrepidfoundation.org/>