

STAR CLIPPER**7-NIGHTS NORTHERN ROUTE:**

Fall 2016 - Winter 2017

**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 as it may vary depending on the road, weather, sea and traffic conditions and the group's pace.

Depending on what activities you would like to participate in, the general fitness levels vary. If you like to enjoy walks and other sporting activities like hiking, snorkeling and boating, an average to good fitness level is required.

The Andaman Sea, with Phuket as its hub, will always be Thailand's reigning maritime jewel. Some of the world's most stunning geography is here, surrounded by beautiful crystal clear water. The vegetation is lushly tropical, with forests reaching up to 80 meters in height, with massive rubber and coconut plantations replacing the rice and sugar cane fields of central Thailand. In this region's heartland, sheer limestone crags, topographical landmarks that spike every horizon and make for stunning views from the road, enhance the drama of the landscape. Even more spectacular – and what draws the crowds - is the Andaman Sea itself. Its water is translucent turquoise, and in some places so clear that you can see to a depth of 30 meters. It harbors the country's largest coral reefs and is unquestionably the best diving area in Thailand.

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 kilometers wide by 48 kilometers long, Phuket is Thailand's largest island and a province in its own right. Phuket has prospered since the last century, when Chinese merchants got in on its tin mining and sea trade before establishing a rubber industry. Phuket remains the wealthiest province in Thailand, with the highest per capita income, with tourism as its primary industry. Sparsely populated outside Phuket Town, 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 palms and casuarinas, each idyllic stretch of sand has a character and charm all its own. The island's size and its wealth of beaches offer plenty of different focal points, each with its own identity. Patong Beach, for example, is the most developed area, and suits those who like a variety of attractions along with ready access to all parts of the island. The most developed of Phuket's beaches, Ao Patong, is also the most popular. Located 5 kilometers south of Ao Kamala and 15 kilometers west of Phuket town, the broad 3-kilometer beach offers good sand and plenty of shade beneath the casuarinas and parasols, plus top hotels and the island's greatest number of choices for water sports and diving spots. Please note: depending on weather conditions, the ship could be either at Patong Bay or Phuket Deep Sea Port.



KO SURIN, MU KOH SURIN MARINE NATIONAL PARK, THAILAND

Ko Surin is a national park comprising five islands about 60 kilometers offshore. 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 most beautiful and easy to explore of the reefs are those surrounding the 2 main islands in the group, Ko Surin Nua to the north and Ko Surin Tai to the south, which are separated by a narrow channel. Surin Nua-- slightly larger at about 5 kilometers across--houses the national park headquarters, visitor center and park bungalows on its southwest coast. The water is so clear and the reefs are so close to the surface, you can make out a forest of sea anemones while sitting in a boat just 10 meters from the park headquarters' beach. Visibility off the east and west coasts of both islands reaches to a depth of 40 meters. Across the channel, Surin Tai is the long-time home of a community of Chao Ley who divide their time between boat building and fishing. Every April, as part of the Songkran New Year festivities, hundreds of Chao Ley from nearby islands congregate to celebrate with a ceremony which includes the release of several hundred turtles into the sea. The turtle is a symbol of longevity, and is especially precious to Thai and Chinese people.

At low tide it is difficult to reach the beach by tender or zodiac, snorkel safaris to the reef will then be offered during that time.

SIMILAN ISLANDS THAILAND

Diving enthusiasts should not miss the Similan Islands and their incredible underwater vistas. The waters are so clear you can see to depths ranging anywhere from 2 to 30 meters. The Similans are sometimes referred to as Ko Kao or Nine Island. The island's name stems from the Malay word sembilan, meaning nine, and there are a total of nine islands, each having a designated number as well as a name: Ko Bon, Kop Ba-Ngu, Ko Similan, Ko Payu, Ko Miang (which is made of 2 islands close to each other), Ko Payan, Ko Payang and Kop Hu Yong. Except for park officials and the occasional tourist, these nine small islands are uninhabited. The islands owe their beauty in large part to the 32 indigenous and migratory bird species, reptiles, amphibians and mammals like the bush-tailed porcupine and flying lemur that make the island their home. Koh Similan has the most protected bay in the group and boasts a beautiful white sand beach and stimulating 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 around the rocks on the north side of the bay. Day trip visitors often come from the mainland to spend the day in the archipelago.



**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 colorful 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 Island Tour
By air-conditioned motor coach
Minimum 15 participants, 80
maximum Duration: 7 hours
Euros 100
Lunch included

Discover the legends and tales that surround beautiful Langkawi. Through rice paddies and rubber plantations, our excursion takes us first to visit the Makam Mahsuri, the birthplace and tomb of the princess who, falsely accused of adultery, placed a curse on the island for seven generations. On the way, you will be shown rubber trees and you will see how latex is tapped.

In the mangrove forest you will board local boats to enjoy a trip through the mangrove swamps for a glimpse of the wildlife and to learn about their importance to local ecology. You will see the feeding of wild sea eagles.

Through the rural area of the north you reach the 'oriental village' for lunch. From there you will go by cable car, gliding over the rainforest, crossing tropical timber trees, passing high waterfalls to the 2100 feet high Gungung Machinchang. From the platform you'll have an excellent view over many of the 99 islands surrounding Langkawi and towards Thailand and Kos Butang and Ko Tarotaru. The tour will also stop at Kuah town, the island's capital, with its famous giant eagle monument. You will have the opportunity to explore this fascinating multicultural town and do some duty free shopping. From there the tour returns to the Star Clipper at the southwestern tip of the island

- The direction of the tour might change.
- In case of bad weather conditions the cable car's ride might be cancelled and replaced by another at-traction.
- Drinks are not included at lunch.



The Ultimate Adventure**Tour Transfer by van****Minimum 6 participants, 20 maximum****Duration: 4 hours including all transfers Euros 69****English speaking guide only**

Meet on arrival and transfer by van/bus to the “Book Village” to start your tour. There, you will be briefed by your experienced guide and after gearing up with harnesses, helmets and other necessary equipment.

The ultimate adventure tour starts with a jungle trek up 700 steps to reach the first challenge: a river crossing by means of a steel rope followed by some abseil training. The next activity is a 6-8m tree climb and the thrill of a breath taking 60 m zip line... it's not over yet! Our adventurers now face a 6m ra-vine and will have to brave the notorious “Postman’s Walk” to get to the other side safely. The expedition continues with 12-15m abseiling, a 20m traverse climb and then another 30m abseiling down a sheer rock face. After a hike back through the jungle you will reach the safety of the car park at Book Village and be driven back to the ship for a well-deserved rest. We're willing to bet that you will remember the “Ultimate Adventure Tour” for a very long time to come.

- 30 minutes transfer each way to Book Village.

Jungle Trekking and**Kayaking Transfer by van****Minimum 11 participants, 20 maximum Duration: 7 hours****Euros 129 Lunch****included High activity level****English speaking guide only**

Depart from pier and take a 30 minutes drive to the tropical rainforests, where you start your jungle trekking accompanied by an experience guide.

Proceed through moderately challenging trails that will take you through Langkawi's ancient rainforests where you will enjoy the fascinating ecological system of flora and fauna at its best. Look out for different species of monkeys, birds, rare plants, butterflies and many other wildlife in the rainforest.

Finishing the jungle trekking, we then proceed to the Kilim River base by our transportation for briefing on the routing through the mangrove forests by kayaks. We will proceed by boat to the fish farm, where our kayaks are kept.

You will enjoy a tour of the fish farm and see the many types of fish kept in seawater enclosure. See the tame fishes, big and small playing and you are able to feed and touch them. Lunch will be served on the fish farm.

After lunch we proceed on our kayaking experience through the mangrove forests through small rivers where boats cannot access and view the various species of land crabs, squirrels, monitor lizards and if we are lucky rare monkeys. A

fter completing the Kayaking course, we proceed by small boat to the Bat Cave, an ancient dark cave filled with hundreds of bats before we proceed back to Kilim Jetty to board your transport back to the cruise terminal to board your ship.

- A good physical condition is required for that tour.
- Drinks are not included at lunch.
- Participants must be able to swim.



KO KRADAN

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 provide excellent opportunities for swim-ming and diving

PHANG NGA BAY, THAILAND**Koh Panyi & James Bond Island**

By speed boat

Minimum 20 participants, no Max

Duration: approx. 5 hours

Euros 99

Lunch included

Departing from the Star Clipper, you will cruise through picturesque Phang Nga Bay with its dramatic limestone islands en route to James Bond Island, one of the locations used in the movie The Man with the Golden Gun.

You will make a brief stop on the island before continuing through the beautiful bay to Koh Panyi village, one of the typical Muslim villages of the region. En route, you will cruise through some of Phang Nga Bay's mangrove swamps and, if the tides permit, you have the chance to enter some of the remarkable grottoes. Koh Panyi village is completely built on stilts over shallow water in the bay. You will tour the village and learn about Koh Panyi daily life.

Enjoy lunch at one of the local restaurants where you will be served a variety of local cuisine. After-ward, there will be some free time to explore the vil-lage or just relax. Leaving Koh Panyi, you will begin the 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 speedboat ride might get a bit bumpy in rough seas.
- Drinks are not included at lunch.
- Exact duration of the tour depends on sea and cur-rent conditions.



KOH HONG, THAILAND

The Koh Hong archipelago is a group of small islands lying between Krabi and the northern part of Phang Nga Bay. In contrast to northern Phang Nga Bay, the water here is clear enough for snorkeling, with good visibility at slack water in the springs or during a neap tide. The island Koh Hong is so named because of its large internal lagoon, accessible only by dinghy across a shallow reef during tides above 1 meter. This large hong (Thai for room) has a small entrance at the north of the island, which sometimes has gill nets strung across it during low tide. The hong, about 200 meters across, is one of the biggest in the area. Sheer cliffs on all sides make it a picturesque backdrop for shutterbugs. You can swim in the hong at high tide. Star Clipper will anchor south of the island before a white silica sand beach broken up by monolithic rocks that provide shade all day. Fringed by a coral reef, this is one of the prettiest bays in the area. Depending on weather conditions and tide, Star Clipper may anchor either at Ko Dam Hok or Ko Ong.

