

STAR CLIPPER

7-NIGHTS SOUTHERN ROUTE:

Fall 2016 - Winter 2017

Phuket – Ko Butang – Penang – Ko Adang –
Ko Rok Nok – Phang Nga – Ko Hong –
Similan Islands – 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 ADANG, BUTANG GROUP, THAILAND

Located 43 kilometres west of Tarutao and 80 kilometres from Pak Bara is Ko Adang Island, covered with forests and freshwater streams and close to 30 square kilometers in size. Because it is supplied with fresh water year round, green sea turtles come ashore between September and December to lay their eggs (which proves to be a popular attraction). Star Clipper will anchor in front of a lovely beach.

PENANG, MALAYSIA**Penang Island Tour**

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 15 participants, no maximum

Duration: 4h30

Euros 50

This tour takes you to explore Penang, “Pearl of the Orient”, from its sandy beaches to its quaint countryside and historic sites.

You will pass the beaches of Batu Ferringhi, visit a Batik handicraft cottage industry and Penang Butterfly Sanctuary which has its own butterfly hatchery and museum. Stop at a typical Malay Village, feel the tranquility of the countryside and learn of the village folks’ life style. After that, pass the Free Trade Zone, visit the mysterious Snake Temple where Pit Vipers adorn the altar.

Retrace your route and visit Wat Chayamankalaram, which houses one of the world’s largest reclining Buddhas before an exciting trishaw ride through the bustling streets of inner Georgetown, ending at the pier.



Penang National Park Jungle Trek

By air-conditioned motor coach, by foot and by boat

Minimum 10 participants, maximum 30

Duration: 6 hours

Euros 88

Picnic included

Pantai Kerachut may be the smallest rainforest National Park in Malaysia, but it offers an amazing variety of local flora and fauna (417 flora and 143 fauna species). After a 30 minute drive, you will reach the park entrance. The hike begins with a climb up a steep flight of steps, after which you will cross a stream, and follow a track to the highest point of the park where you will enjoy a well deserved panoramic view. On the way back down you will see many different varieties of trees with botanical tags so you can identify the various species. Look out for the famous *Eurycoma Longifolia*, locally known as Tongkat Ali, which is said to have aphrodisiac qualities. You will also see carnivorous Pitcher plants (monkey cups) as well as ferns (some like the *Selaginella* are purported to have anti-cancer properties), wild Bamboo orchids and tropical hard woods. If you are lucky you will catch a glimpse of some shy Dusky Leaf or Spectacle monkeys or long tailed macaques. Wildlife also includes squirrels and other small mammals. The last part of the trail involves a steep descent into the Pantai Kerachut valley. One of the attractions is the Meromictic lake, visible for only six months of the year. A meromictic lake has different layers of water that do not intermix. The bottom layer of sea water is normally warmer than the surface level which consists of fresh water. The salt water, which has more density, stays at the bottom.

As you continue along the beach you will see a turtle hatchery. This sandy beach is also the resting place of the Green Turtles which come ashore to nest between the months of April and September. From here you will take a boat to Monkey beach, so called because of the crab eating Macaques that live there. This beautiful stretch of white sand at the edge of the forest is the ideal spot to enjoy your specially prepared picnic box.

The boat will then take you for a short ride to Teluk Bahang where your motor coach awaits.

- The tour includes a round trip transfer by coach between the pier and Teluk Bahang, a 2 hour gentle walk from the entrance of the park to Pantai Kerachut and a return by boat to Teluk Bahang Muka Head (Monkey Beach)
- The picnic lunch will include a sandwich, bottle of water and piece of fruit



KO BUTANG, THAILAND

The Butang group is part of the Tarutao marine national park and provides the clearest waters and most beautiful coral gardens in the area. The group consists of Koh Butang, Koh Lipe, Koh Rawi, Koh Adang and Koh Sawang. Koh Butang offers many attractions with its crystal-clear water, verdant rain-forest growing all the way down to pure white sand beaches, birds, monkeys and superb snorkelling. In case of bad weather/tidal situation ship might anchor at Adang or Lipe island or another island of the group.

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.

PHANG NGA BAY, THAILAND

Koh Panyi & James Bond Island

By speed boat

Minimum 20 participants, no Max

Duration: approx. 5hrs

Euros 99

Asian snacks 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. Afterward, there will be some free time to explore the village or 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 current conditions.



KO 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.

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.

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

