

STAR CLIPPER

7-NIGHTS THAILAND & SINGAPORE:

Fall 2016 - Winter 2017

Singapore – Malacca – Langkawi – Ko Adang –
Phang Nga bay – Ko Hong – Similan Islands –
Ko Surin – 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.

SINGAPORE

The first mention of Singapore comes from a Chinese manuscript dating from the third century where the island is called « Pu-Luo-Chung” which translates as “Island at the edge of the peninsula”. In the 14th century Singapore became part of the powerful Sri Vijaya empire and was known rather appropriately as Temasek, or sea town. Singapore is located at the centre of a maritime crossroads at the edge of the Malaysian Peninsula. It has always been a port of call and in its time has welcomed: Chinese Junk ships, Indian vessels, Arab Feluccas, Portuguese Man-of-Wars and traditional Indonesian sailing ships. In the 14th century this strategically placed island got another name “Singa Pura”, the Lion City. It is said that a seafaring prince, visiting the islands off the coast of Sumatra, got caught up in a violent storm and ended up at the mouth of the Singapore River. Once on land he saw a strange animal which he took to be a lion. As the lion was considered to be a sign of good fortune, he decided to name the island after the creature: Singa means lion in Malay, while Pura stands for City. The British have also played a major role in Singapore's history. In the 18th century, they realised the importance of the island as a port of call where they could repair, restock and protect their fleet. The British empire was expanding and they needed to stop their Dutch rivals from extending their influence. In January 1819 Sir Thomas Stamford Bingley Raffles established a free trade port in Singapore. The success of his enterprise attracted merchants from all over Asia as well as from the United States and the Middle East. In 1819 there were 150 inhabitants in Singapore, and a mere five years later the population swelled to 10.000. By 1832 Singapore had become the centre of government for three areas under British rule: Penang, Malacca and Singapore and in 1867 it became a Crown Colony.

In 1959 with the rise of Nationalism a more independent form of government was put in place and on August 9th 1965 Singapore attained independent status.



MALACCA, MALAYSIA

Historical Malacca

By air conditioned motor coach and by foot

Minimum 15 participants, no maximum.

Duration: 3h30

Euros 50

Despite the successive influence of Portuguese, Dutch and English settlers, Malacca is often called the cradle of Malay civilisation.

This historical tour starts off on St Paul's hill where you will enjoy fine views of the town and the river as well as seeing the ruined chapel of St François Xavier, built in 1521. The saint was buried here for nine months before his remains were transferred to Goa. The Jesuits called the church "Nossa Senhor do Monte", but in 1641 it was re-consecrated for Dutch Reform use and renamed St Paul's church. There are quite a few Dutch gravestones still standing. Next you will visit the "Baba Nonya" museum which showcases the local history of ethnic Chinese-Malays called Baba-Nyonya or Peranakan in Malacca. The excursion continues with a trip on the river Malacca to Kampong Morten a Malaysian heritage village named after J.F Morten who was the British Land Commissioner in the early 1920's when many of the houses were built. Explore a different side of Malacca, and admire some charming riverside houses, fine examples of traditional Malay architecture.

You will then visit Cheng Hoo Teng temple "the Temple of perpetual clouds", which is the oldest Chinese temple in Malaysia. Your guide will tell you about Chinese religious practices and describe how the Malays honour the memory of their ancestors.

Afterwards you will have some time to go shopping in Jonkers Street before returning to the ship at your leisure

LANGKAWI, MALAYSIA

Langkawi Island Tour

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 15 participants, 80 maximum

Duration: 7 hours

Euros 90

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 attraction.
- 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 ravine 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. After 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 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.

PHANG NGA BAY, THAILAND

Koh Panyi & James Bond Island

By speed boat

Minimum 20 participants, no Max

Duration: approx. 5 hours

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 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 current 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.

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 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 Songkhran 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.

