

# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

## Thailand Aggressor

*Andaman Sea: 7 Night Charters (Saturday to Saturday)*



## ***ANDAMAN SEA ITINERARY***

### **WHERE IS PHUKET?**

Phuket lies in the Andaman Sea off the southwest coast of Thailand in the geographic region of Mainland Southeast Asia. Phuket is separated from the mainland by the Chong Pak Phra Channel at its northernmost point, where the Sarasin Bridge connects the island to the mainland. Countries bordering Thailand are Malaysia, Burma, Cambodia and Laos.

### **FACTS ABOUT PHUKET, THAILAND**

- Phuket is the largest Thai island, located 530 miles south of Bangkok and the size of Singapore.
- Phuket is known as ‘The Pearl of the Andaman’ for its natural beauty. Thailand is known as ‘The Land of Smiles’ for its warm and friendly people
- Population: Over 1 million
- Capital: Phuket City
- Tourist Capital: Patong Beach
- Local currency is THB Thai Baht.
- Day Temperature: 28-38C/82-100F
- Night Temperature: 24-28C/75-82F
- 24 Beaches with soft white sand on the west coast

### **FACTS ABOUT SAMUI, THAILAND**

- Ko Samui is Thailand's second-largest island after Phuket, located about 35 km northeast of Surat Thani town (9°N, 100°E).
- Thailand is known as ‘The Land of Smiles’ for its warm and friendly people.
- Population: 62,500
- Capital: the original capital, Nathon; Tourist Capital: Chaweng Beach
- Local currency is THB Thai Baht.
- Day Temperature: 28-38C/82-100F; Night Temperature: 24-28C/75-82F
- Koh Samui beaches are world-famous for their fine white sands, clear waters, and parties under the soft light of the full moon.

### **YACHT:**

All staterooms are air conditioned and fitted with private toilets, showers, sinks, and hair dryers. Fresh towels are placed in each stateroom as needed. Breakfast (cooked to order), buffet lunch and an elegant chef prepared meal at dinner with tableside service are served in addition to fresh mid-morning and mid-afternoon snacks. Beverages (soft beverages, local beer and wine) are complimentary while onboard. Filled tanks, weights and weight belts are included.

### **ANDAMAN SEA SAMPLE ITINERARY:**

#### **Sample Itinerary (All charters are Saturday to Saturday)**

- Saturday; Arrival Phuket, boarding 6:00 pm
- Sunday to Friday Afternoon; Andaman Sea; Eat, Sleep & Dive
- Friday Evening –Cocktail party and dinner onboard.
- Saturday, Check out 8:00 am

### **WELCOME**

As you prepare for your diving adventure aboard the Thailand Aggressor, we extend a most hearty welcome. Please download or view the most recent “Know Before You Go” before your vacation. It is important to notify our office of last minute changes concerning your airline arrival and departure times or any changes in your e-mail address and telephone numbers. The Reservations Office and Thailand Aggressor are in constant communication. In the event of an emergency family and friends may contact you at the above numbers.

We recommend you pack a swimsuit, change of clothes, medication and toiletries in your carry on bag. Having these few items with you can make an unexpected luggage delay more bearable. Don't forget to use your Aggressor luggage tags. They will help the crew identify you and your bags at the airport or host hotel.

## **EXTENDED TRAVEL**

We highly recommend adding an extension to your itinerary by spending a few days in Bangkok. Aggressor Adventure Travel, Aggressor Fleet's in house travel department specializes in extended packages.

Bangkok is the capital city and largest urban area in Thailand. It is a city with contrasts and diversity; a melting pot of exotic aromas, interesting sights and visual delights. It's a city with infinite layers, which you need to explore to reveal its hidden secrets. If you're planning a trip to Bangkok - or Krung Thep as it's called in Thai - make sure to allow enough time to see some of the treasures that has given this city iconic status. From Bangkok City & Temples, Ampawa & Floating Market to Chinatown, there is so much to do in see.

## **ARRIVAL/DOCKING**

Transfers are free of charge for either itinerary on the charter arrival/departure dates at the following pick up points.

### **ANDAMAN SEA ITINERARY:**

#### *Charter Start Date*

- Saturday 4 pm Phuket International (HKT) for transfer to **Tap Lamu Pier** depending on your charter.
- Saturday 8 am departure to Phuket International Airport (HKT).

Guests arriving at the Phuket (HKT) International Airport on the day of the charter and the host hotels will be met at the above times by a Thailand Aggressor representative. Due to recent renovations at the Phuket Airport, there is now a domestic terminal and international terminal with new information for meeting the 4PM transfer at the international waiting area and the 4-4:10 transfer at the domestic waiting area to Tap Lamu Pier.

If arriving on an International flight into Phuket, the meeting area is on the lower level, outside at the rest area next to the Air Asia sale counter. If you want to go back inside the terminal, you will be required to have all bags scanned again. If arriving on a domestic flight, the meeting area is on the lower level, outside, in front of the Billion Coffee & Ice Cream Parlor.

If returning back to the airport to meet the transfer to the dock, please wait at the international terminal meeting point. A Thailand Aggressor staff will meet you then call the bus for the pick up since they cannot wait in front.

If you are already on island, you may make your own way to the Thailand Aggressor, docked at **Tap Lamu Pier** at 5:30 pm for a 6 pm boarding or, you may meet at one of the above pick up points.

### **(7-Day advance notice for transportation reservations is required.)**

At the end of the charter, the boat will dock at **Tap Lamu Pier** Saturday morning at 8 am where guests will depart by mini bus to the host hotels or airport. (taxis can be arranged to other locations)

Free transfers are only provided to/from the above pick up/drop off points. We highly recommend arriving in Phuket prior to staying on the Thailand Aggressor to get acclimated to the time change.

Please notify the Reservations Office of your arrival time and/or hotel reservations so they will be expecting you. At the end of the charter the crew will assist organizing transportation to either the airport or hotel if you are extending your stay. Free transfers are only provided to/from the above pick up/drop off points.

## **SAMPLE TIME ZONE & FLIGHT SCHEDULE**

The time zone is GMT+ 7 hours with no daylight savings time. When it's 3 pm Tuesday in Phuket and Samui, it is: !

Los Angeles 1 am Tuesday !

Frankfurt 10 am Tuesday

Hong Kong 4 pm Tuesday

Moscow 12 noon Tuesday

London 9 am Tuesday

## **PASSPORTS & DOCUMENTATION**

Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months beyond your period of stay. It is the travelers responsibility to ensure they have adequate funds to support themselves, a return airline ticket, and the proper visa to travel into each country on his or her itinerary and for re-entry and return back to their country. Please check with the appropriate consulate to ensure proper passport and visa requirements are met. US citizens may go to the US Department of State website at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) for more information. The website also has information for consulates by country to assist with requirements. There are special requirements for children leaving the US and many countries have adopted requirements for the protection of children. Since regulations vary by country, contact your consulate or embassy of your country for the requirement. *The Reservation Office and Staff cannot assume responsibility for passengers not having correct documentation.*

## **C-CARDS & DIVE THE WORLD CLUB**

Remember to bring your c-card or proof of certification. The divemaster requires proof of certification before the first dive. If you are a repeat guest, you are automatically enrolled in the Dive the World Club and will receive on board discounts. Your membership is indicated on the Captain's rooming list.

## **GUEST INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)**

The Reservations Office and the Thailand Aggressor require each guest to complete a Cruise Application and Waiver form, prior to departure and boarding. The GIS (Guest Information System) allows guests to interactively complete all required paperwork that includes the application/waiver, special requests and travel information. If you haven't received a link to access the GIS, please contact an Aggressor Fleet agent. Passengers who fail to complete the GIS or an application/waiver prior to boarding, will be denied boarding. Many Aggressor destinations require passenger information for itinerary approval.

## **INSURANCE**

We strongly recommend each guest purchase comprehensive accident, medical, baggage and trip cancellation and interruption insurance when space is reserved. Trip insurance will protect you from financial disappointment if you are prevented from making your scheduled trip due to illness or family illness, or in the event that unforeseen circumstances prevent the airline or yacht from making its scheduled trip. In the event you cancel your trip prior, be familiar with Aggressor Fleet cancellation policies. More information can be found on travel and diving insurance on our website.

## **FEES & TAXES (per person)**

Each guest must pay a \$95 US park tax when diving either itinerary on a 7-night charter. If traveling on a

longer charter, this will be prorated. A 7% VAT tax for onboard services/purchases must also be paid onboard. Fees and taxes are not included in the charter rate.

## HEALTH

The Thailand Aggressor has a first aid kit onboard, including oxygen and an AED. You may want to bring motion sickness medication if you feel you will need it. We suggest you bring over-the-counter motion sickness medication or consult your doctor about prescription brands, such as the trans-dermal patch or Scopace tablets. Currents and winds may cause moderate movement of the yacht at times. We recommend a complete physical before your trip. The nearest recompression chamber is located in Phuket Town at the Phuket International Hospital.

Aggressor Fleet yachts and their staff are unable to accept any medication brought onboard for safekeeping including those that require refrigeration. Should a guest have a medication requiring temperature control, they will need to travel with a travel cooling case or small storage cooler with several blue ice packets. The crew will be happy to store and recharge the blue ice but are unable to accept possession or responsibility for the proper care and storage of medication. This should be kept in the stateroom. There is **NO smoking allowed inside the boat or on the dive deck**. Smoking is only permitted on the rear of the sun deck.

## THE YACHT

The Thailand Aggressor is a spacious 115' yacht with a 23 ft. beam, built and powered for comfort, safety and stability. She is diesel powered, cruises at 9 knots and has 220-volt/50 hz power onboard. Comfortable accommodations for 16 guests include 8 spacious staterooms each independently air-conditioned, a private head and shower, picture window or porthole view, mirrored cabinet, hair dryer, fresh towels and volume controls. Each stateroom has a 22-inch flat screen TV with a hard drive containing a selection of movies



- 3 Master staterooms with a queen bed
- 3 Deluxe staterooms with two twin beds or one queen bed
- 2 Deluxe twin staterooms with two twin beds or can make into a king

The Thailand Aggressor has a beautiful spacious salon, large sun deck with shading, Jacuzzi hot tub, chaise lounges and deck chairs, bar, grill and a complete photo/video center. The onboard video format is both NTSC and PAL. The yacht is not responsible for any lost, damaged or stolen items. We highly recommend extreme caution and care be taken if you plan to travel onboard with electronic equipment. This equipment should always be stowed after use to avoid the risk of damage.

## INTERNET/EMAIL

Email is available onboard through the satellite system. There is a charge for incoming and outgoing email. Private calls may be made from the yacht.

## FOOD

The menu aboard is varied and plentiful, with a variety of Thailand feasts, barbecues and local cuisine. If you have any special dietary requirements, please add this to your reservation through the GIS and speak to the yacht chef once onboard so he/she can adequately prepare to meet your needs. You will wake up to fresh fruits, hot entrees, cereals and juices. Lunches are buffet-style, featuring hot soups, homemade breads, salads and sandwiches and/or entrees. Dinners are chef prepared and served each evening and include salads, vegetables, seafood, beef or chicken with a fresh homemade dessert. Certain special dietary and beverage requests may not be available due to the remote nature of this location so we highly recommend you bring these items with you.

## BEVERAGES

The Aggressor's selection includes fruit juices, soft drinks, iced water, iced tea, coffee, and a limited selection of local beer and wine, which are complimentary. Due to the high duty charged on liquor, we suggest you bring your favorite brand. Drinking and diving do not mix. Once you consume alcohol, you

become a snorkeler until the next day.

## **CLOTHING**

Please plan to travel light, as on all live-aboard dive yachts, space is limited. We recommend that you pack your gear in soft luggage such as a duffel bag for easy stowage and to add to your comfort in your cabin. Clothing should be lightweight, comfortable sportswear and swimsuits are a must. A light sweater or jacket is ideal for evenings. Dress is always casual and informal. Additional items you may want to bring are sunscreen, sunglasses, a hat and walking shoes for your time on shore.

## **ENTERTAINMENT**

There is a variety of nightly entertainment, including diving, marine life identification presentations, movies, games and more. If you have a favorite movie, digital slide show or a video to share, we encourage you to bring it along. A small library of books for exchange is maintained onboard as well as marine life identification books for reference.

Whether it's your anniversary, birthday, honeymoon, wedding or you are celebrating a 100<sup>th</sup> dive, please let us know so the crew can celebrate your occasion. Kindly advise the US office prior to traveling so the crew is notified in advance.

## **DIVING CONDITIONS**

You'll be diving in water that averages 78-82°F. Most guests make as many as 5 dives each day, so some sort of protection is needed. A 3mm wetsuit should be comfortable and adequate. We suggest divers bring safety items such as a Dive Alert, Safety Sausage, and any other safety items you feel necessary. We also recommend you bring a dive computer which is mandatory.

## **DIVING**

The crew of the Thailand Aggressor, with their unique combination of talents, offers the ultimate in service. While onboard you may pick a buddy of your choice or dive with one of the yacht's crewmembers. There is ample storage space for your diving equipment. The Thailand Aggressor provides 80 cubic feet tanks, weight belts, and weights. All tanks have K-valves (American type), no DIN (European) valves.

All dives are made from the Thailand Aggressor outboard skiffs capable of carrying 9 guests each for quick access to even the most remote dive sites. The boarding ladders were designed for convenience to allow divers easy exits and entries. Guests will still be in close proximity to Thailand's finest diving. Skiff diving has proven itself in this location. In between dives, you may snorkel, explore secluded beaches, or just relax with a cold drink and mid-morning snack. Guests may dive up to 4-5 dives per day plus night diving.

We suggest you pack the following: mask, fins, snorkel, regulator with visible pressure gauge, depth gauge, dive computer, buoyancy compensator, and dive gloves. Strongly recommended: Spare mask, a dive watch, dive light, safety sausage, whistle, Dive Alert, mirror and/or other safety devices. Each piece of gear should be marked with waterproof paint or tape. Please see our "Captain's Log" on our website for current diving conditions.

## **DIVING SUPERVISION**

You've chosen a LiveAboard vacation for the diving freedom that it offers. While in the water, you and your buddy are in charge. Every dive starts with a dive briefing from the yacht staff. However, as a certified diver, you and your buddy are responsible for planning and conducting your own dives within the limitations set forth by the briefing. The staff will be on the dive deck providing surface support for divers. They will also have staff in the water offering support, u/w photography and videography, and critter spotting services as well. On some dive sites a staff member will offer to lead a group and assist them in locating specific points of interest. However they do not offer direct supervision of dives. If you start out with a group, as long as you and your buddy remain in contact with each other and are ok – you may follow your own dive plan. Divers who desire more personal attention and structured/supervised dives

should consider taking one of the numerous specialty courses. An underlying skill featured in all of specialty training is planning, executing, and debriefing after your dive in order to build a more confident diver.

## **CONSERVATION LAWS**

Aggressor Fleet does not permit spear guns or Hawaiian slings on any of the yachts.

## **RENTAL DIVE EQUIPMENT**

A full line of **Aqua Lung** rental gear is available aboard including regulators, BCDs, dive computers, and night lights. If any of your dive equipment fails while onboard, the crew will loan you equipment free of charge, compliments of **Aqua Lung**.

## **CERTIFICATION & SPECIALTY COURSES**

Several PADI diving specialty courses are offered onboard including Nitrox, Advanced Open Water, UW Photography, Master Diver and more. The list of available courses and prices are available on our website.

## **PHOTO/VIDEO EQUIPMENT**

The Thailand Aggressor offers a complete digital photo facility including a PC for downloading photos. The Photo pro is available for free coaching with equipment rental. Photo equipment is available to rent separately or as a complete set up. The Thailand Aggressor has a strobe charging station and a large camera table available for your camera and video equipment. Guests should bring their own battery chargers. Voltage aboard is 220/240 volts.

## **UNDERWATER VIDEO/DVD**

The Video Professional can capture your diving adventure onboard the Thailand Aggressor to share with family and friends. The video of the week/DVD (includes all guests and crew) is \$65 US.

## **SHIPS BOUTIQUE & CREDIT CARDS**

There is a mini-boutique onboard with assorted t-shirts, and miscellaneous items. Due to limited availability, we recommend bringing extra batteries and CD's for photos. The Thailand Aggressor accepts cash, Visa, and MasterCard. Sorry, no personal checks, American Express or Discover cards are accepted.

## **GRATUITIES**

Crew gratuities are not included in the charter. We believe gratuities should be voluntary and based upon the quality of service the crew has provided. When settling your account, the Captain will have an envelope for gratuities that will be divided equally among the crew. Payment can be made by cash or credit card (sorry no travelers or personal checks).

## **FRIDAY**

The Thailand Aggressor returns to Tap Lamu Pier Friday evening. A sunset cocktail party and dinner is served onboard.

## **CHECKOUT**

Checkout time is at 9:00 am Saturday morning. The Thailand Aggressor can arrange transportation to the airport or your hotel if it has not been prearranged.

