

# The Junk – Best of Thailand Manta Expedition with the Manta Trust

## 8 Nights – Trip Information

**Arrival Airport:** Phuket International Airport (HKT)

**Departure Airport:** Phuket International Airport (HKT)

**Embarkation:** Sea Dream Guest House, Patong, Phuket @ 18:00pm

**Disembarkation:** Tap Lamu Pier, Khao Lak @ 10:00am

## Flights, Hotels, Transfers & Excursions

Travelling within Thailand is exceptionally easy when you book with The Junk. From booking domestic flights and hotel accommodation to land tours, we can arrange everything you need before and after your cruise. Prices for these add-ons vary dependent on the time of booking – please contact our reservations team for more information.

### Advice on international flights

There are several airlines that offer direct international flights to Phuket International Airport, though you may need to book a short hop from another local hub such as Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur or Singapore. We recommend staying 1 night in Phuket before cruise departure, so you are well rested before the start of the cruise. Please inform us in which hotel you will stay so we can organise your transfer. If you make your own way to the embarkation point, embarkation time is 18.00 pm.

When you fly in on embarkation day, you can book our free transfer from Phuket Airport at 15.30 hr. Please ensure that you arrive on time for this transfer. Day 1 and day 7 are reserved for embarkation and disembarkation; there will be no diving on these days. For the final day aboard (the 6th day) we schedule 3 dives to allow plenty of time for off-gassing before disembarkation and your flight home. Disembarkation at the end of the cruise will be just before 10.00am. Phuket airport is about a 1 hour drive from the embarkation and disembarkation point. Please allow at least 2-3 hours for international flight check-in and 1.5-2 hours for domestic flights.



**THE JUNK**  
JUNE HONG CHIAN LEE

Please note if you are arranging your own transfers to Patong, you should let the driver know that Sea Dream Guest House is on Thawewong Road, next to Rayaburi Beach Club.

## **Insurance**

The Junk strongly recommends that all guests carry full travel and cancellation insurance as we cannot be held liable for delays which occur during the cruise, nor any delays or cancellations of the flights, accommodation, tours & transfers we organise on your behalf. The Junk works in partnership with DiveAssure and can offer you a selection of competitively priced dive and travel insurance policies, including short term and multiple trip policies. These policies can also be purchased with a 'Liveaboard Rider' that covers you in the event of missing your liveaboard departure due to missed connection, lost diving days due to a number of reasons (including accident to another passenger) requiring the boat to abort diving, mechanical breakdown, air supply failure, changes or cancellations due to weather and more. Please see our webpage at [www.thejunk.com/insurance.html](http://www.thejunk.com/insurance.html) or contact our reservations team at [thailand@wwdas.com](mailto:thailand@wwdas.com) for more information.

## **General Information**

### **Visas and Passports**

Passport holders of most western countries will be issued a visa upon arrival for stays of up to 30 days in Thailand. Please make sure that your passport has validity for the duration of your stay in Thailand (6 months validity upon arrival is advisable). You may be required to show a confirmed ticket to leave Thailand within the maximum number of days you are allowed to stay in the country.

Visa and passport regulations for different countries are constantly in a state of flux. We always advise our guests to check regularly for updates and changes, please visit the Thai Embassy website at [www.thaiembassyuk.org.uk/visa\\_exemption.html](http://www.thaiembassyuk.org.uk/visa_exemption.html) for more information.

### **Time Zone**

The local time is 7 hours ahead of UTC (GMT).

### **Money Matters**

The local currency is the Thai Baht (THB). The majority of established hotels and restaurants accept major credit cards, however; smaller, family-run places probably will not. There are money-changers and ATM machines located at the airport and near the meeting point for your convenience.



**THE JUNK**  
JUNE HONG CHIAN LEE

## **Health**

No inoculations or vaccinations are required unless you are coming from or passing through contaminated areas, Yellow fever certificates are required for those who are coming from 14 following countries; Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Angola, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mauritania, Mali, Nigeria, Sudan and Zaire.

Health services in Thailand are generally very good. Hospitals in major tourist destinations have modern technology and well trained doctors, including several in Phuket. Please make sure you use insect repellent and cover exposed skin to prevent any insect borne diseases. We recommend that travelers follow normal precautions with food in order to prevent stomach upsets, and be sure to drink bottled water only. Please consult your doctor or nearest health authorities for up-to-date medical travel information well before departure.

## **Language and Religion**

Thai is the language in Thailand, which remains largely incomprehensible to the casual visitor. However, nearly all Thais who work in the tourism industry speak some level of English, and Thai-English road and street signs are found nationwide.

More than 90% of all Thais are Buddhists, although they have always subscribed to the ideal of religious freedom, thus, sizeable minorities of Muslims, Christians, Hindus and Sikhs freely pursue their respective faiths.

## **Climate and Weather**

There are 3 distinct seasons – “summer” from March through May, “rainy” (still with plenty of sunshine) from June to September and “cool” from October through February. The average annual temperature is 28°C (83°F), ranging anywhere from 30°C in April to 25°C in December. Thailand’s tropical climate is influenced by the southwest and northeast monsoons. From Late May to October, the southwest monsoon hits the western coast of Thailand, and the northeast monsoon sweeps the Gulf of Thailand (east coast) between mid-October to mid-December. The Junk has chosen the best possible weather period during November to May in order to maximise passenger enjoyment.

## **Water Temperature and Exposure Suits**

Water temperatures in the Similan Islands & Mergui Archipelago average around 28°C (80F), although sometimes you may experience thermoclines. Most guests find that a 3mm shorty and possibly a rash vest are suitable for the water temperature in the warmer months, when we will be diving. However, for guests who feel the cold easily, especially with repeated diving, then we recommend to bring an extra vest/hood. In short, bring what you feel most comfortable in.



**THE JUNK**  
JUNE HONG CHIAN LEE

## Life on Board

### Food and Drink

Guests will be offered a choice of international and Asian cuisine served buffet style in the indoor dining area. We cater to special dietary requirements; please simply inform our reservations team prior to your trip to ensure that we have plenty of dishes to suit your needs. A range of carbonated soft drinks, fruit juices, black, green and herbal teas are available, as well as some 'naughty' treats should you feel hungry between meal times. Guests may also select beer, wine or spirits from our cocktail bar for an additional fee.

### Clothing and Footwear

Dress code on board The Junk is very casual and most guests feel comfortable in little more than swim wear, shorts and t-shirts. A sweater is advised for cooler nights, particularly after multiple dives. Most guests prefer bare feet on board the yacht; however island visits may require sturdy sandals or cross-trainers.

### Electricity

On board The Junk we have 220V with 2 round pin sockets (European style). Please make sure you bring universal adapters with you if necessary. Electrical current in Thailand is 220 Volts.

### Smoking

Smoking onboard is permitted in designated (outdoor) areas.



**THE JUNK**  
JUNE HONG CHIAN LEE

## **Safety on Board**

A thorough yacht safety briefing will be provided by your cruise director at the start of your trip.

### **Emergency Equipment**

The Junk is equipped with modern safety features such as an automated life raft and emergency pumps.

### **First Aid**

The Junk is equipped with a fully stocked medical first aid kit for treating minor injuries and ailments, as well as for assisting trained medical professionals in remote locations. She has a full complement of medical grade oxygen which can be administered to divers through DAN kits or unit specific attachments.

Our dive teams are all qualified emergency responders. Should you feel unwell at any point during your cruise, please seek the advice of your cruise director who will be able to assist you.

### **Staying Connected**

We regret that we are unable to provide an internet service on board The Junk. Our trips are in relatively remote locations and internet service is intermittent at best. Most mobile phones that have „roaming“ will function at some points during your cruise. However; service signal strength can be very weak and in some areas of your cruise there may not be a signal at all. The cost of calls made is determined by your service provider.

Our out of office contact numbers can be found below, should your family need to contact you during the cruise, however this number is reserved for emergencies only.



**THE JUNK**  
JUNE HONG CHIAN LEE

## Payments on Board

### Marine Park and Port Fees

The marine park and port fees are 95 USD, which will be added to your final cruise invoice in advance of your cruise. Alternatively, it can be paid on board The Junk. There is a marine park flat fee of 35 USD for non-divers. Note that these fees are liable to change without notice.

### Optional Extras

The Junk offers a range of services to make your stay on board even more enjoyable. We offer beach visits during your cruise. The following are also available for an additional fee:

- Beer & Wine
- Nitrox: 10 USD per tank or 25 USD per day
- Dive Courses
- Torch & Dive Computer Rental
- The Junk Merchandise

All prices are given on board in US Dollar, however, we also accept cash payment in Euro, GBP, TBH, and AUD. Moreover, we accept payments by credit card (Visa & Master Card), for which there is a 3.5% surcharge. Guests are advised to bring additional cash to Marine Park fees, for any incidental expenses.

### Tipping

At The Junk we believe that tipping is a matter of personal choice. Should you feel that your crew has made your holiday extra special then a tip is always appreciated. On the day of disembarkation, a tip box is provided for your convenience; all gratuities are divided equally amongst the crew, including the captain and dive guides. Please note that we can accept tips in cash only.



**THE JUNK**  
JUNE HONG CHIAN LEE

## **Diving Information**

### **Guests' Level of Diving**

The Junk welcomes everyone from non-divers to seasoned divers. This itinerary has different diving conditions based on the time of the trip. Whilst all of our trips are suitable for each and every experience level, there may be some dives offered that are not suitable for beginners. Your cruise director will be able to advise you whilst on board however if you have concerns regarding the conditions of the destination you wish to visit then please contact your agent or The Junk reservations team.

### **Scuba Equipment**

Since some of the domestic airline carriers in the regions we operate have strict check-in luggage limits, we can provide most rental equipment for an extra charge. Our rental equipment includes:

- BCD – not weight-integrated
- Regulator - complete with alternate air source and depth/pressure gauge console
- Wetsuits - 3mm shorty
- Mask
- Fins - full foot or open heel and boots depending on availability
- 12 litre tanks (15 litre tanks by special request and depending on availability)
- Weight belt and weights
- Underwater torch/flashlight
- Dive computer\*

\* Please note that the use of a dive computer is compulsory on The Junk. For your safety, the Junk asks all guests to always dive within the limits of their dive computer and make a safety stop at the end of each dive.



**THE JUNK**  
JUNE HONG CHIAN LEE

## Diving Health

### Flying after diving

Current studies show that you should wait at least 24 hours after multiple repetitive dives before you fly. Please bear this in mind before you book your onward international or domestic flights.

### Diving Insurance

Diving insurance is mandatory aboard The Junk. Your insurance must cover all of your scuba diving and snorkeling activities, including the costs for recompression chamber treatment and emergency air evacuation. Whilst many general travel insurance companies will cover scuba diving activities, they often fall short on recompression treatment or evacuation. The Junk strongly recommends purchasing diving-specific insurance and is working with Dive Assure to offer policies that cover everything our guests need. You can find more details at the following link on our website: <http://thejunk.com/insurance/>

The Junk can offer short-term diving insurance coverage (1-4 weeks) though we advise that requests must be made to our reservations team at least 1 week prior to your cruise departure date to ensure adequate time for arrangements.

### Diving Emergencies

There are two recompression chambers located in Phuket, that can be reached within several hours by speedboat from anywhere within the Similan and Surin Islands. They provide emergency treatment for decompression illness in the unlikely event of an accident. We require that all guests dive well within recreational dive limits and follow dive guides' instructions.

### FAQ's

If there are any questions that have not been answered then please visit our website at [www.thejunk.com](http://www.thejunk.com) or email us at: [thailand@wwdas.com](mailto:thailand@wwdas.com) and our team will be happy to assist you.

### Contact Information

The Junk Operations

Tel: + 66 (0) 822 753 908 (24hrs.)

And: +66 (0) 98 052 8632

General questions: +66 (0) 76 367 44



**THE JUNK**  
JUNE HONG CHIAN LEE

## What to Bring

Below you will find a checklist of items that you will need to bring with you on your liveaboard cruise on The Junk:

### Passport

6 month validity & at least 2 empty pages for visa stickers and stamps

### Travel Documents

Flight tickets- International & Domestic; hotel bookings; excursions

### Cash & Credit Card for emergencies

Recommended amount (additional to marine park fees): 250-500 USD

### Diving Certification & Logbook

Including Nitrox Card if certified & intending to use Nitrox

### Travel and Diving Insurance Documents

To include in case of emergency medical evacuation

### Essential Diving Items

Dive computer with full batteries

### Toiletries & Medications

Including sunscreen & insect repellent

Inform booking team of pre-existing medical conditions

### Essential Clothing Items

Swim wear, hat and lightweight jacket

**Guests are strongly advised to carry essential items in their hand luggage in case of lost or delayed luggage through international or domestic flights.**



**THE JUNK**  
JUNE HONG CHIAN LEE