# **Southern Explorer** The Junk – June Hong Chian Lee





Join the June Hong Chian Lee exploring the very best diving that can be done around Phuket, taking in highlights such as Shark Point, Koh Bida Nok, Anemone Reef as well as the islands of Koh Phi Phi and Racha Noi.

What to do?		The Basics:
$\square$	Suitable for photographers	Reefs: A mix of colourful reefs, submerged pinnacles, granite boulders and limestone walls
V	A mix of large and small life	Large Fish & Pelagics: Leopard Sharks, barracuda Macro: Seahorses, nudibranchs, frog fish
$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$	Colourful Reefs	Night Dives: 2
$\overline{\mathbf{Q}}$	Experience Levels	All Levels: Ideal for AOW courses

## Your Schedule

Your Cruise Director will schedule up to 4 dives per day; 3 day dives and a night dive. The diving day has a typical schedule as follows:

- ➤ Boarding in Chalong at 8.30 am or wake up followed by light breakfast and a briefing & dive 1
- Full Breakfast, relaxation followed by briefing & Dive 2
- Lunch, relaxation followed by briefing & Dive 3
- > Snack
- > Briefing for Sunset or Night dive or disembarkation around 4pm on day 3
- Dinner



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For your final day aboard we schedule 2 morning dives and a single dive after lunch to allow plenty of time for off-gassing before disembarkation. The Cruise Director is happy to listen to requests from guests to visit or remain at certain sites and providing it is possible and the schedule allows, then guest's requests are respected.

# Your Itinerary

\*Important\* We wish to show you the very best diving possible but a number of factors can determine where we visit. Weather, tides, currents and how busy a site is with other dive vessels all play a part in the Cruise Director's decision of which route the yacht takes. Whilst we attempt to ensure the number of dives we have scheduled is fulfilled, bad weather can hinder the yacht's ability to reach a specified dive site in good time. The safety of all on board is paramount and we always do our best in offering diving at alternate locations should we be unable to visit those sites listed below:

### Koh Phi Phi

With mini-walls and shallow coral gardens predominating, there are a host of dive sites to choose from around the



Phi Phi national Park. *Hin Bida, Koh Bida Nok, Koh Bida Nai, Pilay Wall, Hin Dot* and *Ao Maya* all offer something special. Wildlife is hugely varied across the sites with black tip reef sharks common, tigertail seahorses, ornate ghost pipefish, cornet fish, octopus, scorpion fish, blue fin trevally, barracudas and more.

# **Shark Point and Anemone Reef**



These pinnacles are part of the same reef system and are only a very short distance apart from each other. Both sites are covered with colourful soft corals and anemones with a variety of fish to suit all divers. From barracuda to seahorses and for the lucky ones of course, the iconic leopard shark!



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## **King Cruiser**

The King Cruiser was an ex-car ferry that used to travel between Phi Phi and Phuket. In 1997, however, 'the cruiser' hit anemone reef on her crossing and sank a short distance away. No lives were lost, but divers were left with a great wreck dive! While she is largely broken up now, she is covered with soft corals and hides some wonderful gems as well as being home to several large schools of snapper. While currents can be strong and visibility less than perfect, this is a great site to dive as part of an advanced open water course.

#### **Koh Doc Mai**

'Flower Island' is a tiny piece of sheer rock sat between Shark point and Phuket but, although tiny, dives here can provide divers with amazing memories! From a spacious cavern to frog fish, ornate ghost pipe fish and even bamboo sharks, Koh Doc Mai never fails to surprise.

### Racha Yai & Racha Noi

Racha Yai is an excellent trip for beginners and those that have not dived for a while. Indeed for any guests aboard carrying out Advanced Open Water courses on-board, Racha Yai offers the perfect opportunity for course dives. with sloping hard coral reefs, white sandy bottoms and a choice of wrecks on the west coast.

Racha Noi has some of the best visibility of all sites in the area. Often described as a 'mini Similans' the granite boulder topography is also unique from other sites. With a choice of hard coral reefs, boulders with large swim throughs and the beautiful pinnacle on the south point of this island. Strong currents can make the southern sites challenging, however, with a year round chance to see manta ray it's worth the effort to dive here.

### **Top Side**

Along the route there are some incredible views from the boat including Phi Phi's famous beaches and limestone karsts climbing vertically from the ocean. There will be opportunities to leave the boat and take a walk on the islands or spend an evening ashore on Phi Phi Don.



