



PARADIVE THAILAND

Tourism Authority of Thailand
Singapore Office
2027
Summer Edition

Thailand's beauty does not end at the shoreline.

Beneath the surface lies another world — coral gardens, rocky pinnacles, hidden reefs and open-water sites filled with marine life. From the clear waters of the Andaman Sea to the islands and underwater landscapes of the Gulf of Thailand, each region offers a different character and a different reason to dive.

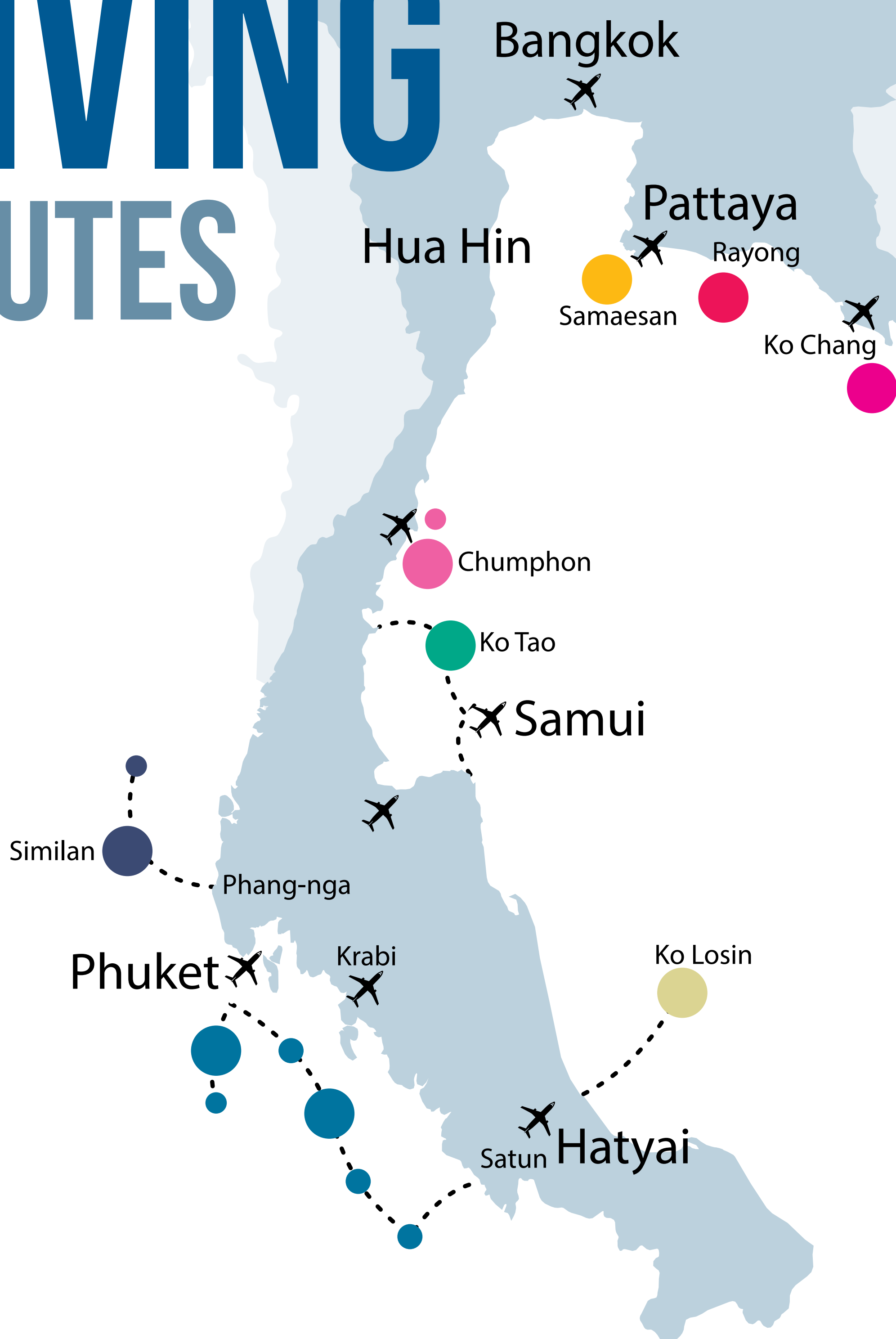
Some places are known for dramatic underwater scenery and encounters with large pelagic species. Others invite slower exploration among colourful reefs, soft corals and small creatures hidden in the details. There are sites for experienced divers seeking deeper adventures, as well as calm waters where beginners can discover the underwater world for the first time.

Paradise Thailand brings together diving destinations from across the country, revealing a side of Thailand best discovered below the surface.



THAILAND
DIVING
ROUTES

Hua



- North Andaman
- South Andaman
- Ko Losin Pattani
- Ko Tao Surat Thani
- Chumphon - Prachuap Khiri Khan
- Chon Buri - Pattaya
- Hin Phloeng Rayong
- Ko Chang Trat

NORTH ANDAMAN

Route

The Andaman Sea is often divided by divers into two distinct regions, with Phuket serving as the natural gateway between them. The northern section stretches from Phuket toward the waters bordering Myanmar. A glance at the map reveals that this coastline opens directly onto the vast Indian Ocean, giving the Northern Andaman its defining characteristics: exceptional water clarity and the deep blue hues that have become synonymous with diving in this region.

At the heart of the Northern Andaman lies the world-famous Similan Islands, featuring nine islands arranged along a north-south axis. Beyond the main archipelago lie two isolated islands, Ko Bon and Ko Tachai, both are renowned for their rich marine ecosystems and are among the most sought-after dive destinations in the region.

The route also includes the waters of the Muko Surin National Park, located farther north. Here lies one of Thailand's most celebrated dive sites: Richelieu Rock. Covered in colourful soft corals and surrounded by immense schools of fish.



West of Eden

Located on the western side of Ko Payu (Island No. 7), West of Eden is one of the most topographically diverse dive sites in the Similan Islands.

Beneath the surface, enormous granite boulders are stacked upon one another, forming a maze of swim-throughs, narrow passages, and hidden corners. Exploring the site feels much like navigating an underwater labyrinth, making every dive both exciting and unique.

Many of the larger rock formations are densely covered with soft corals and large red gorgonian sea fans, particularly in areas exposed to the current. Along the sandy seabed, divers can search for smaller marine creatures such as ghost pipefish and a variety of colourful nudibranchs, making the site equally rewarding for macro enthusiasts.

- Depth: 12–30 metres
- Suitable for: Divers of all certification levels.

Elephant Head Rock

This offshore rock formation lies between Ko Similan (Island No. 8) and Ko Payu (Island No. 7). The exposed rocks above the surface are said by some to resemble a skull, while others see the shape of an elephant's head — giving rise to the site's well-known name, Elephant Head Rock.

Beneath the surface, enormous granite boulders are scattered throughout the area, creating a dramatic underwater landscape filled with tunnels, swim-throughs, and narrow passages. Exploring the site often feels like navigating through a submerged canyon, making it one of the most exciting dives in the Similan Islands.

- Depth: 5–40 metres
- Diver Level: Intermediate to Advanced



Three Trees Bay

The dive site is located on the eastern side of Ko Bangu (Island No. 9). A gently sloping fringing reef extends along the coastline, creating a dive profile that gradually transitions from shallow to deeper water. The site is easy to navigate and suitable for divers of all experience levels.

The underwater landscape consists of sandy patches interspersed with coral formations, providing habitat for a wide variety of reef life. More experienced divers can venture into deeper water beyond the main reef, where large granite boulders rise from the seabed. These formations are covered with colourful soft corals, creating a striking contrast against the clear blue water of the Similan Islands.

- Depth: 5–25 metres
- Diver Level: Suitable for all levels of certification.
- Conditions: Generally mild currents and easy diving conditions.



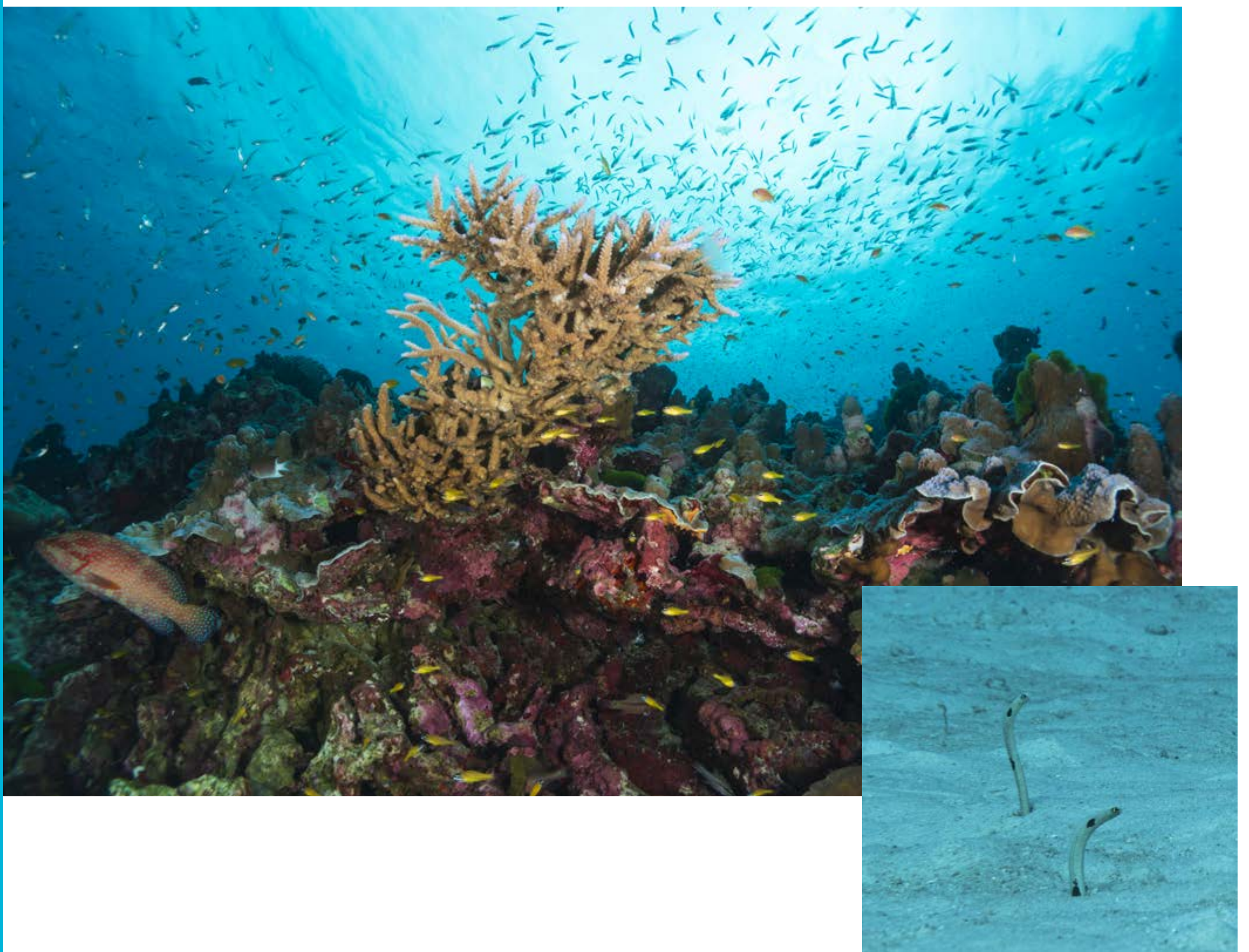
North Point

North Point takes its name from its location at the northern tip of Ko Bangu (Island No. 9), the northernmost island in the Similan archipelago. The site is renowned for its enormous granite boulders, which are scattered across the reef in dramatic formations.

The underwater topography consists of sloping granite formations descending to depths of more than 35 metres before reaching a broad expanse of clean white sand. This sandy area is home to large colonies of garden eels.

In the shallower sections, between 5 and 12 metres, the tops of the boulders are covered with healthy hard corals, creating one of the most beautiful safety stop areas in the Similan Islands.

- Depth: 5–35+ metres
- Diver Level: Advanced Open Water and above
- Conditions: Moderate to strong currents may occur.



NORTH ANDAMAN

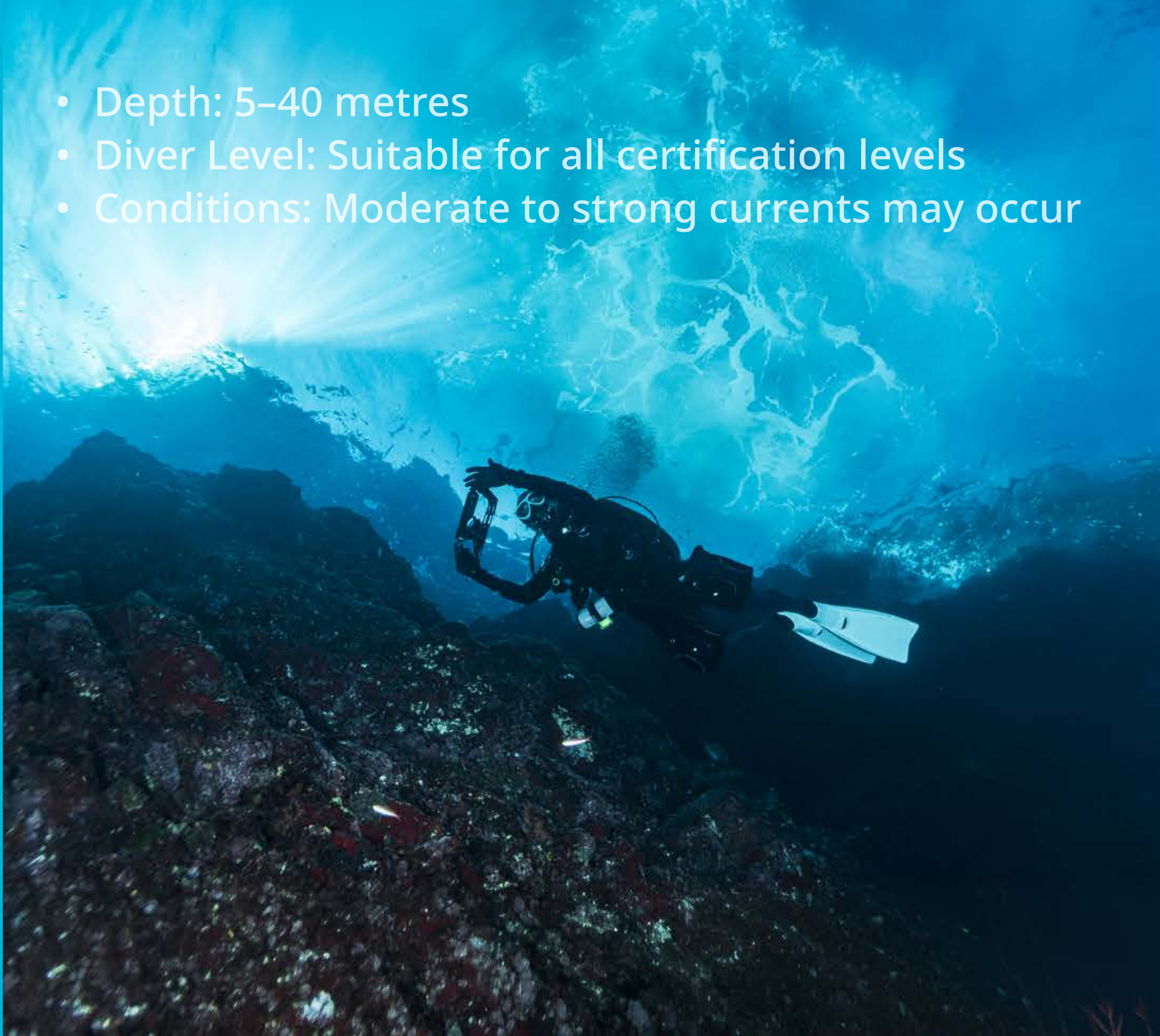
Ko Bon

Ko Bon is nevertheless one of Thailand's most famous dive sites. It is best known as one of the most reliable locations in the country for manta ray encounters.

The most popular area for manta ray sightings lies off the island's western point, where a dramatic underwater wall drops into deeper water. The wall is covered with colourful soft corals and attracts a variety of pelagic fish.

Another unique feature is found beneath the northern cliff, where a spot known as "The Waterfall" creates a spectacular underwater scene. Waves surge into a natural basin above the waterline before crashing back onto the surface below, producing swirling bubbles and shafts of light that are especially striking when viewed from underwater.

- Depth: 5–40 metres
- Diver Level: Suitable for all certification levels
- Conditions: Moderate to strong currents may occur



Tachai Pinnacle

Also known as Twin Peaks, the site consists of two large underwater pinnacles rising from deeper water. Strong currents are common throughout the area, creating ideal conditions for large gorgonian sea fans that spread across the reef to filter plankton from the passing water.

Many divers consider Tachai Pinnacle to have some of the most impressive sea fan formations in Thailand. Near the top of the pinnacles, dense clusters of sea fans cover the rocky slopes, creating a spectacular underwater landscape that appears almost carefully arranged by nature.

- Depth: 12–45 metres
- Experienced divers recommended
- Strong and unpredictable currents are common.



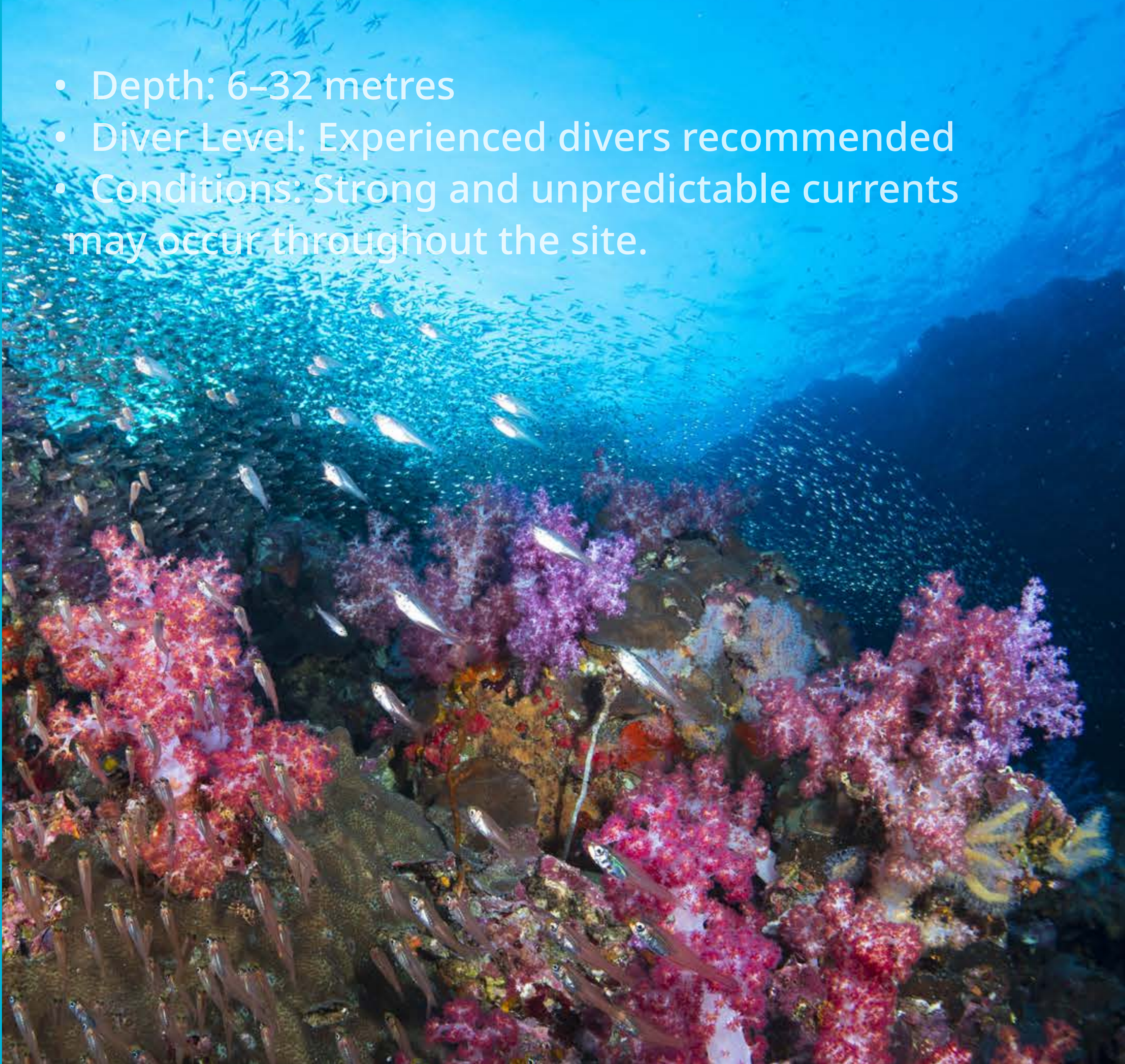
Richelieu Rock

Richelieu Rock is constantly nourished by nutrient-rich currents flowing in from the open ocean. These conditions support one of the richest marine ecosystems in Thailand and have made Richelieu Rock a world-renowned dive site.

The site consists of a large submerged pinnacle whose summit lies just below the surface. Almost every surface is covered with colourful soft corals, sea fans, and other reef life.

Marine life here is exceptionally abundant. Massive schools of baitfish attract predators such as groupers, trevallies, and barracuda, while lionfish and other reef species inhabit the coral-covered slopes. Larger visitors, including whale sharks and manta rays, are also regularly encountered.

- Depth: 6–32 metres
- Diver Level: Experienced divers recommended
- Conditions: Strong and unpredictable currents may occur throughout the site.



INFORMATION

Most North Andaman dive trips depart from Thap Lamu Pier in Phang Nga, near Khao Lak. Liveaboard trips typically last around four days, while day trips and flexible liveaboard itineraries are also available through dive centers in Khao Lak.

Local Dive Operators

Similan Seven Sea Club

 (66) 7648 5237

 www.similansevenseaseaclub.com

Khaolak Explorer

 (66)8 4325 8106

 www.khaolakexplorer.com

Khaolak Scuba Adventures

 (66) 7648 5602, (66) 7648 5662

 www.khaolakscubaadventures.com

South Siam Divers

 (66) 7628 6017, (66)9 8017 2215

 www.southsiamdivers.com

Sign Scuba

 (66) 7641 0855

 www.signscuba.com

Sea Dragon Dive Center

 (66)8 3176 5873

 www.seadragondivecenter.com

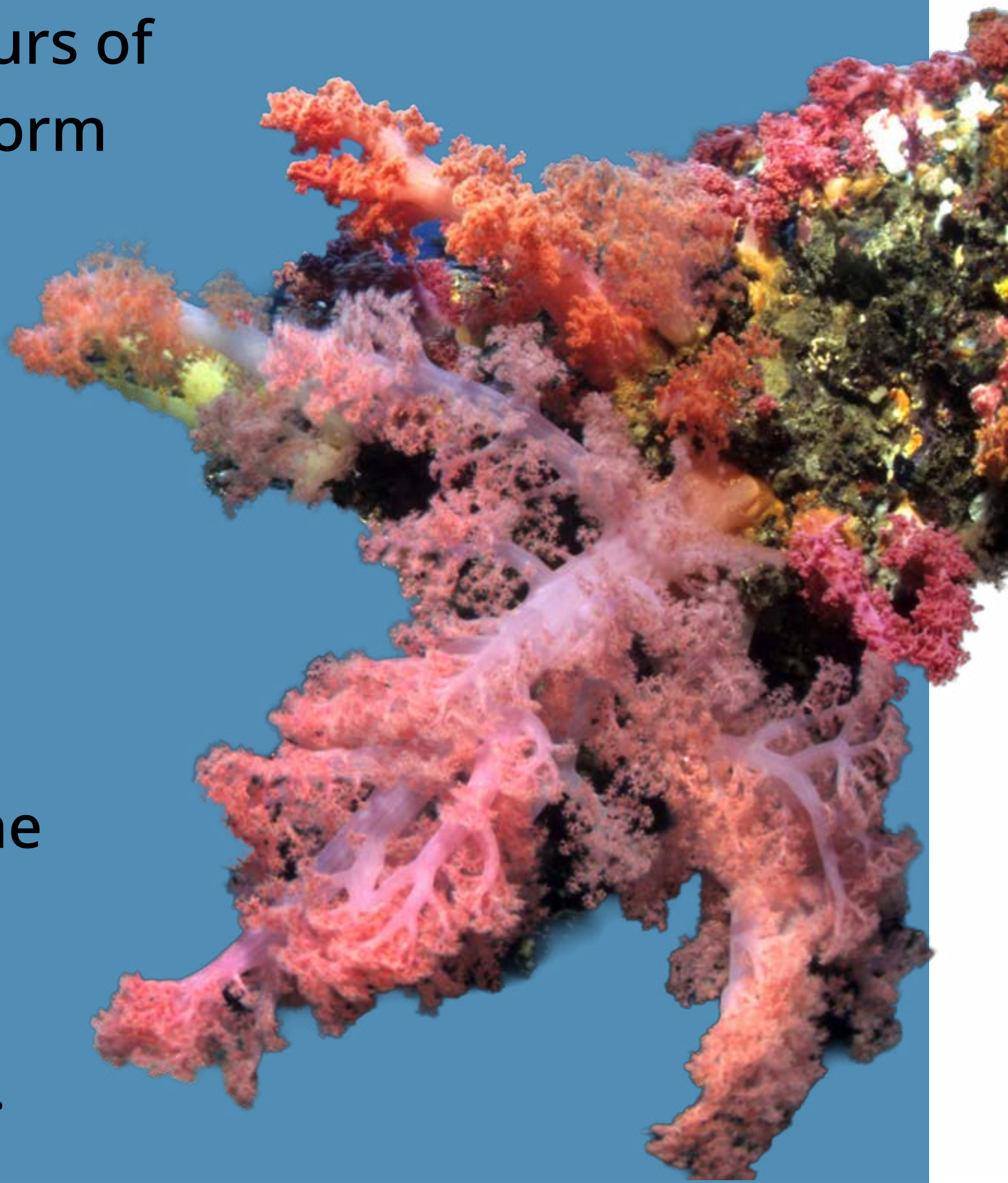
MARINE LIFE

Soft Coral

Colours of the Underwater World

The brilliant colours of soft corals transform Thailand's reefs into living underwater gardens.

Purple, pink, orange, and red colonies sway gracefully with the current, creating unforgettable scenes for divers.



Soft corals are close relatives of hard corals but lack a rigid limestone skeleton. Instead, they have flexible tissues supported by tiny internal structures. Their delicate polyps extend into the current to capture drifting plankton.

Soft corals flourish where water movement is strong, making their colourful displays a good indicator of a healthy and productive reef ecosystem.

Best Places to See Soft Corals

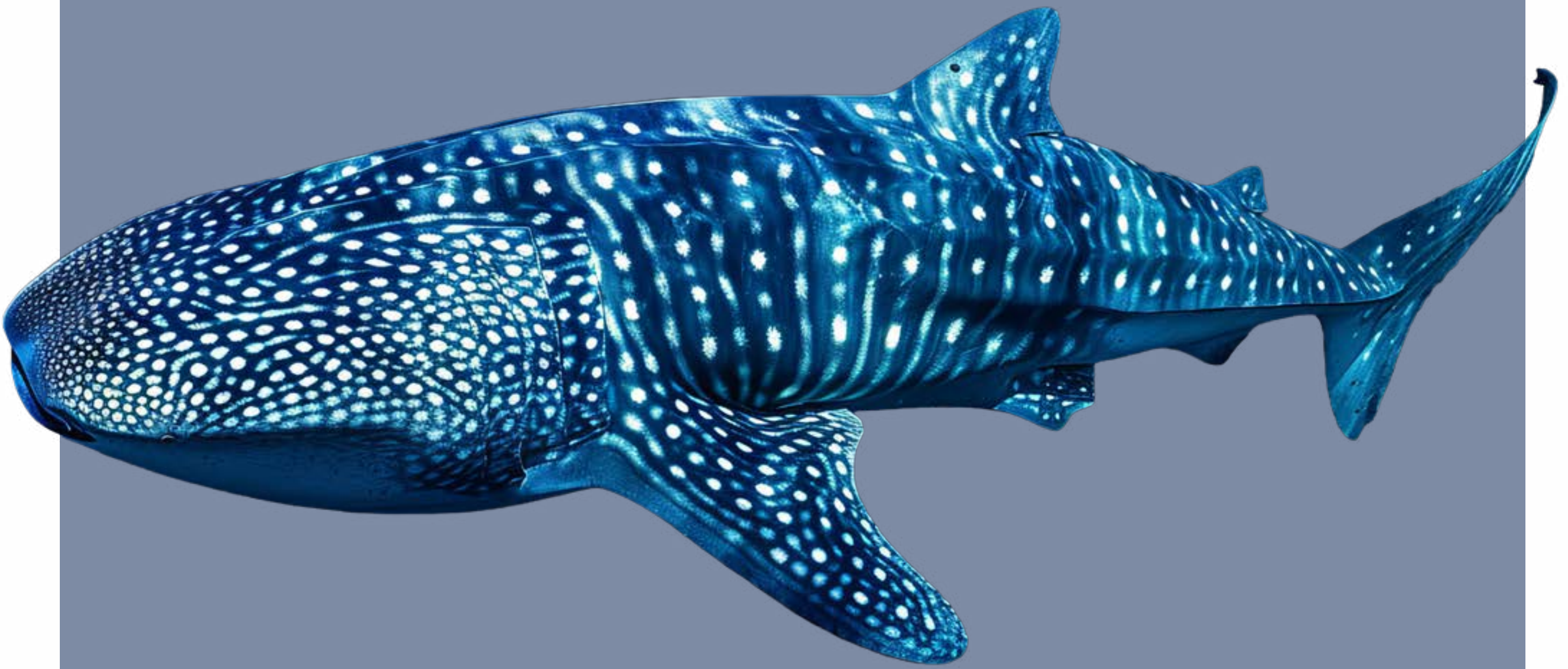
- Richelieu Rock
- Stonehenge Pinnacle
- Muko Ha Islands

MARINE LIFE

Whale Shark

The Gentle Giant

Despite its name, the whale shark is not a fearsome predator. It is the largest fish on earth, growing over 10–12 metres in length and weighing several tonnes. It feeds peacefully on plankton and small fish by filtering seawater through its wide-open mouth. Unlike whales, which are mammals that breathe air, the whale shark is a true fish.



Each whale shark has a unique pattern of white spots, much like a human fingerprint. Scientists use these patterns to identify individuals and track their migrations. Some whale sharks travel across entire oceans before returning to Thai waters.

Best Places to See Whale Sharks

- Richelieu Rock
- Mu Ko Chumphon Islands
- Ko Tao
- 8 Miles Rock

SOUTH ANDAMAN

Route

Divers commonly refer to the waters south of Phuket as the Southern Andaman. This region extends from Phuket through Krabi and Trang, all the way to Satun Province at Thailand's southern maritime border.

The Southern Andaman differs noticeably from the Northern Andaman. Located near the entrance to the Strait of Malacca, its waters are generally less clear than those of the open-ocean dive sites farther north. Yet the region has a character entirely its own. Towering limestone islands rise dramatically from the sea, sheltering underwater caves, swim-throughs, and some of Thailand's most spectacular coral-covered pinnacles.



SOUTH ANDAMAN

Mu Ko Racha

Located off the southern coast of Phuket, the Mu Ko Racha consist of two islands: Racha Yai and Racha Noi. Their remote position away from the mainland gives the area some of the clearest and most vividly blue water in Thailand.

The islands are popular with both beginner and experienced divers. Around Racha Yai, numerous dive sites fringe the coastline where excellent visibility, gentle conditions, and sandy patches between coral reefs create ideal environments for training and recreational diving. The island is also home to several easy-access wreck dive sites.

Racha Noi offers a different experience. While sites such as Banana Bay and Racha Noi Bay are suitable for most divers, the famous South Tip is regarded as one of Phuket's premier advanced dive sites. Strong currents, dramatic underwater terrain, and the possibility of encountering larger pelagic species make it a favourite among experienced divers.

Ko Racha Noi

Ko Racha Noi is the most remote of Phuket's offshore islands. The island and its surrounding waters retain a remarkably pristine natural environment.

The island's long, narrow shape creates several dive sites along both coasts. The most popular is Banana Bay, a sheltered site that remains accessible even during periods of seasonal swell. Its greatest attraction is one of the healthiest hard coral reefs in Phuket. Extensive fields of massive corals and staghorn corals are joined by beautiful lettuce corals, whose layered formations resemble blooming underwater flowers.

Another favourite site is Racha Noi Bay, known for its clear water, healthy coral reef, and occasional encounters with enormous schools of barracuda.

- Depth: 3–25 metres
- Diver Level: Suitable for all certification levels.



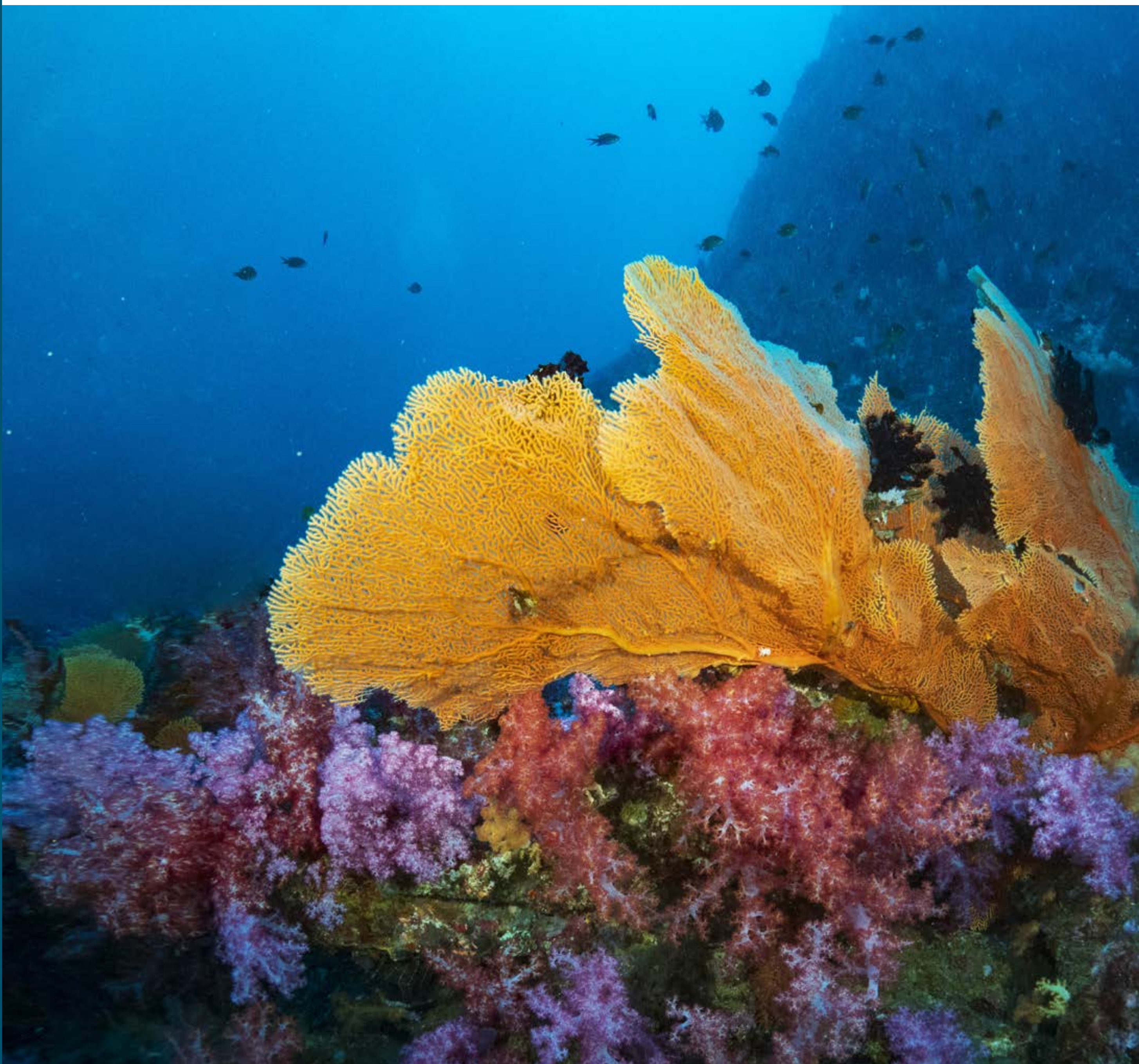


South Tip Pinnacle

Recently discovered, South Tip Pinnacle has quickly become one of Phuket's most sought-after dive sites.

Located off the southern tip of Racha Noi, the pinnacle sits where currents from both sides of the island converge. These nutrient-rich waters support an extraordinary concentration of marine life. The rocks are covered with colourful soft corals and sea fans, while schools of reef fish gather throughout the site. Encounters with manta rays are most likely between Feb - Apr.

- Depth: 15–60 metres
- Advanced Open Water divers with experience recommended
- Strong and unpredictable currents are common.



SOUTH ANDAMAN

King Cruiser Wreck

The King Cruiser was a passenger ferry operating between Phuket and the Phi Phi Islands. On 4 May 1997, the vessel struck Anemone Reef and sank. All passengers on board were successfully evacuated without loss of life.

Today, the King Cruiser Wreck is one of Thailand's best-known wreck dive sites. Nearly three decades underwater have caused parts of the structure to collapse, but its location within a strong current channel has allowed soft corals to flourish across the wreck. Schools of fish now use the structure for shelter, transforming the former ferry into an artificial reef that closely resembles a natural one.

- Depth: 14–33 metres
- Experienced divers recommended
- Strong and unpredictable currents.
- Visibility may be limited during certain periods





Shark Point

Located midway between Phuket and the Phi Phi Islands, Shark Point earned its name from the frequent sightings of zebra sharks that were once common in the area. Today, it remains one of the most popular dive sites in the region, known for its colourful reefs and healthy marine ecosystem.

The site consists of three pinnacles aligned along a north-south axis. The northernmost pinnacle breaks the surface and is marked by a navigational beacon. The second pinnacle rises to within 5 metres of the surface, while the southernmost pinnacle reaches a depth of around 15 metres. The middle pinnacle is the most popular among divers due to its moderate depth and spectacular underwater scenery.

- Depth: 5–25 metres
- Suitable for all certification levels
- Generally mild to moderate currents.
- Visibility may vary depending on the season.

An underwater photograph showing a vibrant coral reef. In the foreground, there are large, branching corals with a mix of pink, orange, and white hues. The background is a deep blue, with many small, silvery fish swimming in schools. The lighting is bright, creating a clear view of the underwater environment.

SOUTH ANDAMAN

Mu Ko Phi Phi National Park

Mu Ko Phi Phi National Park are best known as one of Thailand's most iconic island destinations. For scuba divers, however, the Phi Phi Islands offer far more than beautiful scenery above the surface. At Bida Nok, a small limestone island south of the main archipelago, shallow coral reefs provide habitat for a resident population of blacktip reef sharks. These graceful sharks are harmless to humans and can often be seen patrolling the reef in the early morning.

The limestone walls surrounding many of the islands also create excellent dive sites. One of the best known is Turtle Rock (Maya Wall), located outside Maya Bay. Here, colourful soft corals and large sea fans grow beneath towering underwater cliffs, creating a dramatic and atmospheric setting. Schools of fish are commonly seen moving along the reef, bringing constant activity to the underwater landscape.



A vertical underwater photograph showing a diver silhouetted against a bright light source coming from a cave opening. A large school of fish is gathered near the light. The water is dark blue, and the cave walls are visible on the left and right.

SOUTH ANDAMAN

Mu Ko Ha

Mu Ko Lanta National Park

Discover a world of limestone cliffs, underwater chambers, and coral gardens at Mu Ko Ha, one of the highlights of Muko Lanta National Park.

The name Mu Ko Ha simply means “Five Islands,” referring to a cluster of five small limestone islets rising from deep blue water. Whether viewed from above or explored beneath the surface, the scenery is among the most spectacular in the Andaman Sea.

The islands offer a variety of dive environments, including coral reefs, underwater caverns, swim-throughs, and sandy-bottom sites. This diversity makes Mu Ko Ha suitable for a wide range of divers, from beginners to experienced underwater explorers.

The Cathedral (Ko Ha Yai)

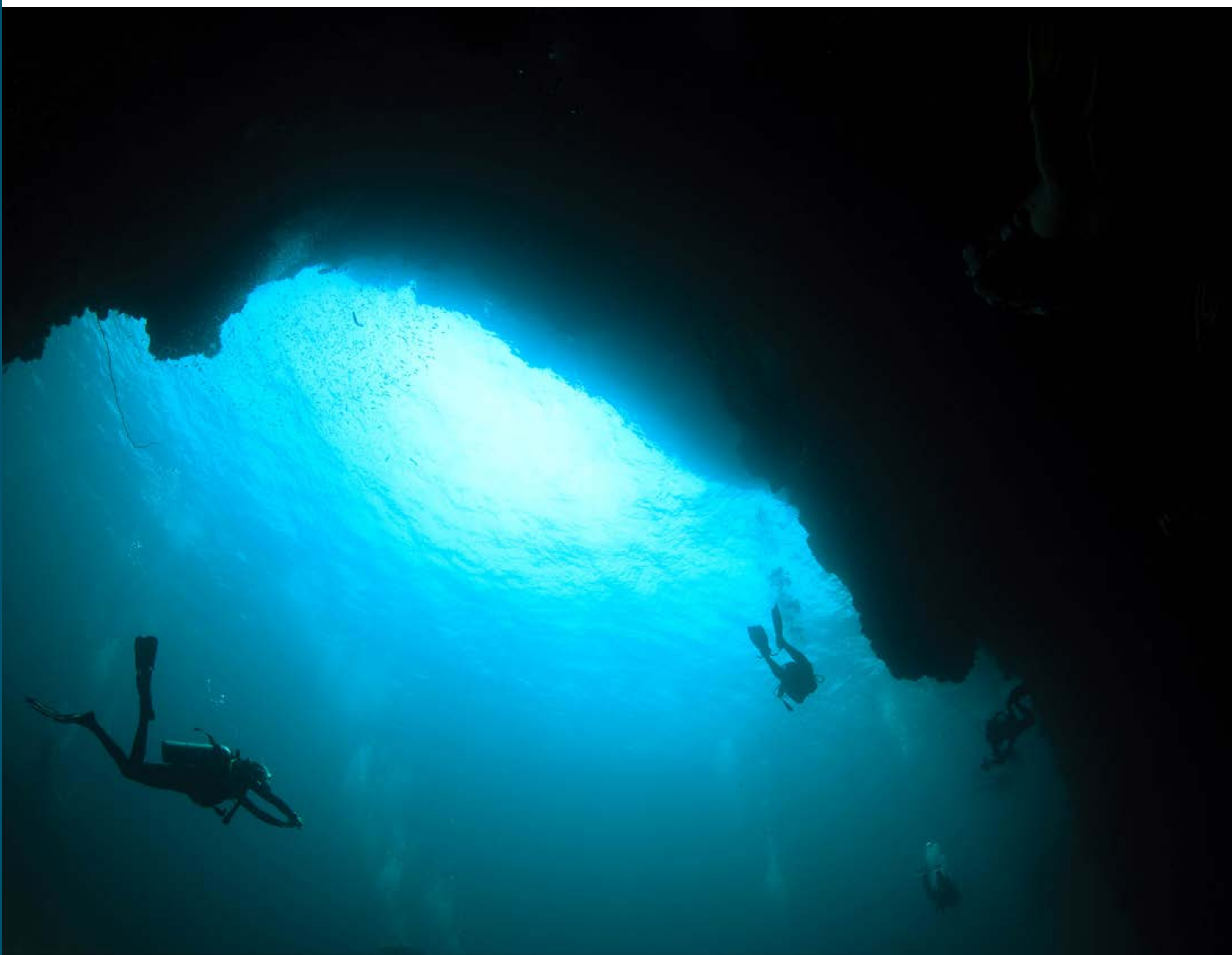
Ko Ha Yai is home to Thailand's most famous underwater cavern. At a depth of around 15 metres, two large chambers connect beneath the island's limestone cliffs, forming a spacious cavern that remains open to natural light.

Because the cave is relatively shallow and well illuminated, it can be explored safely by recreational divers.

The most memorable view comes from inside the cavern looking back toward the entrance.

Sunlight streams through the openings in the rock, creating an atmosphere reminiscent of a grand underwater cathedral. This remarkable sight inspired early visiting divers to name the site "The Cathedral."

- Depth: 5–25 metres
- Suitable for all certification levels
- Extra caution is recommended when entering the cavern. Carrying a dive light is advisable.



A vibrant underwater photograph showing a scuba diver in the center, surrounded by a dense field of bright pink and orange soft corals in the foreground. The water is clear blue, and sunlight filters down from the surface, creating a shimmering effect. Many small fish are visible swimming in the background.

SOUTH ANDAMAN

The Chimney (Ko Ha Nuea)

The highlight of Ko Ha Nuea is a narrow underwater chimney located at a depth of around 10 metres.

The dive begins with a short swim through a dark passageway. As your eyes adjust to the darkness, beams of sunlight become visible streaming through the opening above. Schools of small fish often gather within the shaft, creating a beautiful scene as light filters through the water.

Divers can ascend through the chimney, following the beams of light toward the surface, or turn right into a narrow tunnel that leads to a second chamber adorned with colourful soft corals.

- Depth: 5–28 metres
- Diver Level : Intermediate to Advanced
- Exercise caution when ascending through the chimney and monitor depth changes carefully.

SOUTH ANDAMAN

Hin Muang & Hin Daeng

Hin Daeng, or “Red Rock,” is the only one of the two pinnacles that breaks the surface. From above, it appears to be little more than an isolated rock in the open sea. Beneath the surface, however, the reef reveals dramatic walls covered with red and purple soft corals.

Nearby, Hin Muang, or “Purple Rock,” is a fully submerged pinnacle whose summit lies at a depth of around 8 metres. The reef extends along a dramatic underwater ridge before dropping into deep blue water.

- Hin Daeng Depth: 5–42 metres
- Hin Muang Depth: 8–65 metres
- Experienced advance openwater divers recommended
- Strong currents and deep profiles are common.
- Weather and sea conditions can change rapidly.





SOUTH ANDAMAN

Ko Adang-Rawi

Tarutao National Park

At the southernmost edge of Thailand's Andaman Sea lies the idyllic Adang-Rawi Archipelago, home to Ko Adang, Ko Rawi, and Ko Lipe. This is a dream destination for divers, thanks to iconic sites such as Stonehenge Pinnacle (Hin Talang), one of Thailand's most celebrated dive sites. The surrounding reefs are also renowned for their incredible diversity of nudibranchs, with hundreds of species recorded in the area.

Divers can reach Ko Adang-Rawi in several ways. Many arrive on liveaboards from Phuket, exploring dive sites along the Andaman coast before ending their journey at Ko Lipe. Others travel directly to Ko Lipe from Satun, stay on the island, and join relaxed day trips aboard traditional long-tail boats to explore the surrounding reefs.

Stonehenge Pinnacle (Talang Pinnacle)

Stonehenge Pinnacle is renowned for its extraordinary colours, rich marine life, and some of the finest soft coral reefs in the country.

The site's signature feature is a group of four granite pillars standing together near the summit of the reef. Surrounding the pillars are countless boulders covered in red, purple, blue, yellow, and white soft corals, interspersed with large sea fans.

Unlike many offshore pinnacles, Stonehenge Pinnacle remains relatively shallow. Sunlight penetrates throughout much of the reef, illuminating the corals and revealing their vibrant natural colours.

- Depth: 5–20 metres
- Experienced Advanced Open Water divers recommended
- Strong and unpredictable currents are common.



SOUTH ANDAMAN



8 Mile Rock

Named after its location approximately eight nautical miles south of Ko Lipe. The site consists of a single massive granite pinnacle rising from the seabed. Its summit lies at a depth of around 12–14 metres before dropping steeply to sandy bottom areas beyond 40 metres.

8 Mile Rock is best known as a hotspot for big-animal encounters. Whale sharks and manta rays are regularly sighted here, while large schools of barracuda often circle the pinnacle, creating some of the most memorable diving experiences in Thai waters.

- Depth: 12–40 metres
- Advanced Open Water divers recommended
- Strong currents and reduced visibility may occur during certain periods.

INFORMATION

The South Andaman dive region stretches from southern Phuket to Krabi, Trang, and Satun. Divers can explore the area on multi-day liveaboard trips or join convenient day trips from the region's major coastal destinations.

Most liveaboards depart from Chalong Pier in Phuket and typically run for three to four days, covering renowned dive sites around the Phi Phi Islands, Ko Lanta, Ko Haa, Hin Muang, and Hin Daeng. Depending on the season, some itineraries continue as far as Ko Lipe and Ko Adang-Rawi, while others include the Racha Islands, just south of Phuket.

Day trips are also widely available through local dive centers. Popular departure points include Phuket (Racha Islands, King Cruiser Wreck, and Phi Phi Islands), Ko Phi Phi Don (Phi Phi dive sites), Ko Lanta (Ko Haa and Hin Muang-Hin Daeng), and Ko Lipe in Satun Province.



Local Dive Operators

Phuket

Mu Ko Racha Islands route
and King Cruiser wreck - Phi Phi Islands route.

Freedom Dolphin Diving

 (66)8 6947 3666

 www.freedomdolphindiving.com

MV Mandarin Queen

 (66)9 5005 8789

 www.phuketdivecenter.com

South Siam Divers

 (66) 7628 6017, (66)9 8017 2215

 www.southsiamdivers.com

Local Dive Thailand

 (66) 7638 4285

 www.localdivethailand.com

All 4 Diving

 (66) 7634 4611

 www.scubadiving-phuket.com

Sea Bees Diving

 (66) 7638 1765

 www.sea-bees.com

SOUTH ANDAMAN

Ko Lanta Yai

Mu Ko Ha route, Hin Muang - Hin Daeng route

Lanta Divers

 (66)8 7891 4141

 www.lantadiver.com

Go Dive Lanta

 (66) 7566 8321, 08 1892 8321

 www.godive-lanta.com

Scuba Fish

 (66)8 3175 3077

 www.scubafish.com

Phoenix Divers

 (66)9 9232 5319

 www.phoenixdivers-kohlanta.com

Ko Lipe

Satun Dive Resort

 (66)8 9467 1996

 www.satundivelipe.com

Adang Sea Divers

 (66)9 0070 0233

 www.adangseadivers.com

Forra Diving Resort

 (66)6 2072 5226

 www.forradiving.com

Castaway Dive Resort

 (66)8 7478 1516

 www.kohlipedivers.com

MARINE LIFE

Manta Ray

The Ocean Glider

With wings stretching several metres across, manta rays glide effortlessly through the water like birds soaring through the sky. Watching one pass gracefully overhead is an experience every diver remembers.



Like sharks, manta rays are cartilaginous fish. They feed on plankton and tiny marine animals, using their cephalic fins to guide food into their mouths as they swim.

Manta rays are highly intelligent, with one of the largest brain-to-body ratios of any fish. They also return repeatedly to the same cleaning stations, where small reef fish remove parasites from their skin.

Best Places to See Manta Rays

- Tachai Pinnacle
- Ko Bon (Similan)
- Hin Muang - Hin Daeng

MARINE LIFE

Blacktip Reef Shark

Guardian of the Reef

The blacktip reef shark is one of the shark species most commonly encountered by divers in Thailand. Although its appearance may seem intimidating, it is naturally cautious and rarely shows interest in people.



As an important reef predator, it helps maintain the balance of the ecosystem by controlling populations of fish and other marine animals. Healthy populations of blacktip reef sharks are often a sign of a thriving coral reef.

Young blacktip reef sharks spend their early lives in shallow reefs and coastal waters before moving into deeper offshore habitats as they mature.

Best Places to See Blacktip Reef Sharks

- Ko Bida Nok (Phi Phi Islands)

KO LOSIN

Losin is often regarded as Thailand's smallest island. Above the surface, it is little more than a rocky outcrop of around 10 square metres, marked only by a lighthouse that serves as a navigational beacon. Yet under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Losin qualifies as an island, allowing Thailand to extend its maritime boundaries hundreds of kilometres offshore. These surrounding waters are of immense national value, containing rich marine resources and natural gas fields jointly managed with neighbouring countries, earning Losin the reputation as the "treasure island" of the Gulf of Thailand.



KO LOSIN

Although Losin island lies within Pattani Province, most dive expeditions depart from Songkhla. The journey covers about 145 kilometres and takes more than 10 hours by boat, making it one of the longest offshore dive expeditions in Thailand.

Above the water lies an isolated rocky islet, but beneath the surface stretches an extensive coral reef system so vast that it takes two to three days of diving to fully explore.

Its great distance from the mainland keeps the waters remarkably clear, with very little sediment or pollution reaching the island. Visibility is exceptional, and even at depths of 30–40 metres, divers can often see the seabed with remarkable clarity.



KO LOSIN

The abundant sunlight supports flourishing coral growth. Losin is home to Thailand's largest and healthiest fields of staghorn coral, alongside an impressive diversity of hard corals in shades of brown, purple, and blue. These vibrant colours come from the symbiotic algae living within the coral tissues, giving the reef both its beauty and its life.

For many divers, however, Losin is best known for one unforgettable encounter—the whale shark. These gentle giants regularly visit the reefs around the island, using them as natural cleaning stations. Hovering almost motionless in the water, they allow cleaner fish to remove parasites from their skin, creating one of the ocean's most fascinating examples of symbiosis and one of Thailand's most memorable scuba diving experiences.

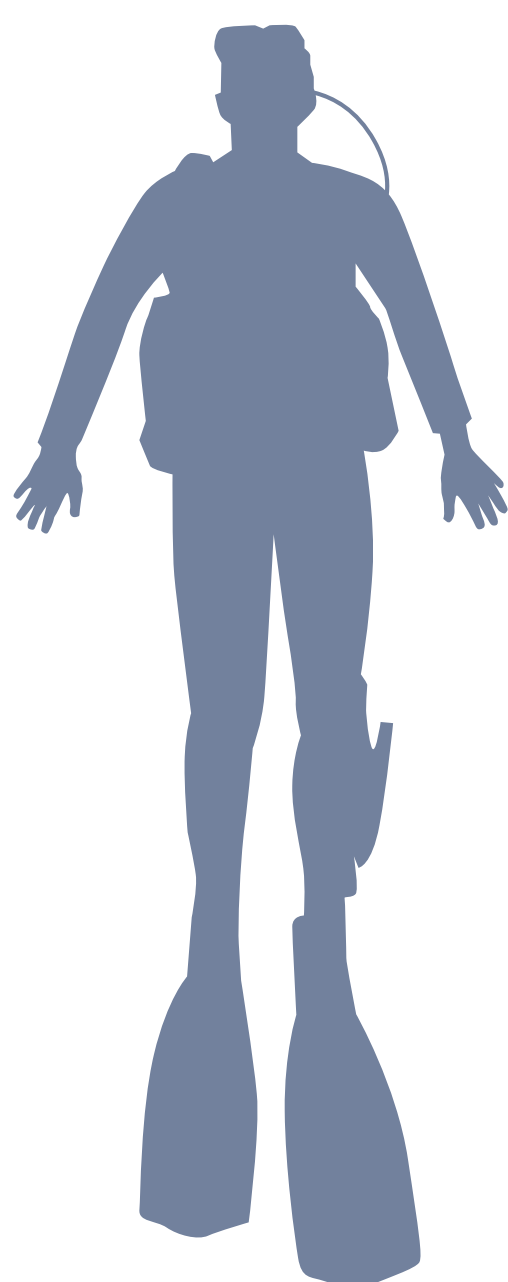


INFORMATION

Losin lies within Pattani Province, about 65 km offshore, while most dive expeditions depart from Songkhla, covering approximately 150 km and taking around 10 hours by boat. Most operators offer 3–4 day liveaboard trips, with prices starting from THB 17,000.

The reef ranges in depth from 12–60 metres, although most dives are conducted at depths of 28 metres or shallower.

Best diving season: June–September.



MARINE LIFE

Hard Coral

The Architects of the Reef

Often called the rainforests of the ocean. They provide shelter for thousands of marine species, and hard corals are the builders that create this underwater world.

Although they resemble rocks, hard corals are colonies of tiny invertebrate animals, each no larger than the tip of a pencil. Living together in vast colonies, the polyps build limestone skeletons over hundreds or even thousands of years, gradually forming massive coral reefs—much like an underwater city inhabited by countless residents.

Many hard corals grow extremely slowly, with some species adding only a few millimetres each year.

Best Places to See Hard Corals

- Ko Tao
- Ko Losin
- Ko Racha Noi
- Ko Chang



KO TAO

One of Thailand's premier diving destinations, famous for its white sandy beaches and some of the healthiest coral reefs in the Gulf of Thailand.

Divers from around the world come to Ko Tao to learn and explore. The island offers ideal conditions for training, and over the years it has grown into one of the world's largest centres for scuba diving education. And second home for divers.

More than 20 dive sites surround the island. Sheltered bays feature gentle slopes, calm conditions, and shallow reefs, making them ideal for beginners. Farther offshore pinnacles offer richer marine life, and more challenging conditions for experienced divers.



A vibrant underwater photograph showing a dense field of staghorn coral in shades of orange and brown. Above the coral, a large number of small, black and white striped fish are swimming in clear blue water. The scene is well-lit, suggesting a shallow depth.

KO TAO

Tanot Bay

Located on the eastern coast of Ko Tao, Tanot Bay is one of the island's most popular dive sites. Its gentle underwater terrain, moderate depth, and calm conditions make it an ideal location for beginner divers.

Experienced divers also enjoy Tanot Bay for its healthy hard coral reefs, particularly the extensive fields of staghorn corals found at depths of 5–7 metres. Because this is the ideal depth for a safety stop, divers have plenty of time to admire the reef and its abundant marine life before surfacing.

- Depth: 5–17 metres
- Suitable for all certification level divers

KO TAO

Hin Wong Bay

Located on the northeastern coast of Ko Tao, Hin Wong Bay offers a gradual transition from shallow coral reefs within the bay to deeper rocky reefs offshore, creating a variety of underwater landscapes in a single dive.

The shallow reef is home to diverse hard corals and large schools of reef fish. Farther out, divers will find unusual leather corals with mushroom-like shapes, colourful sea whips that glow bright red under strobe light, and healthy coral formations along the rocky slopes.

- Depth: 8–30 metres
- Suitable for all certification levels, with deeper areas recommended for experienced divers.
- Conditions: Moderate to strong currents may occur around the deeper offshore reef.



KO TAO



Shark Island

Located just one kilometre southeast of the island. The reef surrounding Shark Island is extensive, often requiring two dives to explore fully. It supports a rich variety of corals, including black corals with striking yellow polyps and bright red sea whips that sway gracefully in the current. At the southern end of the island, colourful soft corals cover the reef, although this area is often exposed to stronger currents.

- Depth: 4–28 metres
- Experienced divers recommended
- Strong currents may occur, particularly around the southern reef.

KO TAO

Southwest Pinnacle

Southwest Pinnacle is one of Ko Tao's signature dive sites, located about 13 kilometres southwest of the island. The site consists of seven granite pinnacles scattered across depths ranging from 5 to 30 metres.

The pinnacles are covered with hard corals and colourful sea whips that sway with the current. Large schools of barracuda and yellowtail scad are frequently seen circling the reef, creating an impressive spectacle.

One of the site's most memorable features is the extensive field of sea anemones covering the shallowest pinnacle at around 5 metres.

- Depth: 5–25 metres
- Suitable for experienced diver
- Conditions: Moderate currents may occur.



A large school of yellowtail snappers swims in a dense, undulating formation in clear blue water. A diver is visible in the upper right corner, providing a sense of scale. The text 'KO TAO' is overlaid in the top left corner.

KO TAO

Chumphon Pinnacle

Located about 11 kilometres northwest of Ko Tao, on the route toward Chumphon, Chumphon Pinnacle is widely regarded as one of the island's premier dive sites.

The pinnacle rises to around 14 metres below the surface, with most dives taking place between 20 and 25 metres. The reef is covered with a variety of hard corals, graceful sea whips, and large fields of sea anemones near the summit. Vast schools of yellowtail scad and barracuda are a constant presence, creating spectacular underwater scenes.

Chumphon Pinnacle is also one of Ko Tao's best sites for whale shark encounters. These gentle giants are regularly sighted here, making every dive an exciting opportunity for a memorable encounter.

- Depth: 14–25 metres
- Advance open water divers recommended
- Strong currents may occur.

KO TAO

Sail Rock

Located midway between Ko Tao and Ko Phangan, about 22 kilometres from Ko Tao, Sail Rock is the most distant dive site on the island's regular dive schedule. Despite the longer journey, it remains one of the Gulf of Thailand's most iconic dive sites.

From the surface, Sail Rock appears as a solitary rock rising from the sea. Beneath the water, however, it forms a massive underwater pinnacle descending to around 35 metres.

The site is home to vast schools of fish. Whale sharks are regularly sighted, making every dive a memorable experience.

- Depth: 12–30 metres
- Experienced divers recommended
- Moderate to strong currents may occur.



KO TAO

INFORMATION

Ko Tao, in Surat Thani Province, is accessible by high-speed ferry from Ko Samui, Ko Pha Ngan, and Chumphon mainland , with several operators offering 2–3 departures daily.

The island is a well-developed diving destination with accommodation for every budget, along with dozens of dive centres. Most operators run day trips with 3–4 dives per day, while some split their schedule into two morning dives and two afternoon dives. Dive sites are scheduled in advance, allowing divers to choose the itinerary that best suits their interests.

Ko Tao's weather differs from much of Thailand because it lies in the Gulf of Thailand. The island experiences its roughest seas and heaviest rainfall during the northeast monsoon at the end of the year, when much of the rest of Thailand is in its cool season. From March onwards, conditions are generally excellent for diving, and even during the mid-year rainy season affecting much of the country, Ko Tao usually continues to offer calm seas and favourable diving conditions.



KO TAO

Local Dive Operators

Koh Tao Divers

 (66) 7745 7085

 www.kohtaodivers.com

Koh Tao Scuba Club

 (66) 7745 7074

 www.kohtaoscubaclub.com

Koh Tao Dive Resort

 (66)8 4850 6000

 www.kotaoresort.com

Carabao Diving Center

 (66) 7745 6635

 www.carabaodivingkohtao.com

Crystal Dive

 (66) 7745 6107

 www.crystaldive.com

Coral Grand Divers

 (66) 7745 6519

 www.coralgranddivers.com

Nava Scuba Diving

 (66) 7760 1198

 www.navascuba.com

Ban Diving Resort

 (66) 7745 6466

 www.bansdivingresort.com

KO TAO

Big Bubble Dive Resort

 (66) 7745 6669

 www.bigbubble.info

Big Blue Diving

 (66) 7745 6415

 www.bigbluediving.com

Chaba Diving

 (66) 6 6161 1099

 www.chabadiving.com

Phoenix Divers

 (66) 7745 6033

 www.phoenixdivers.com

New Heaven Dive School

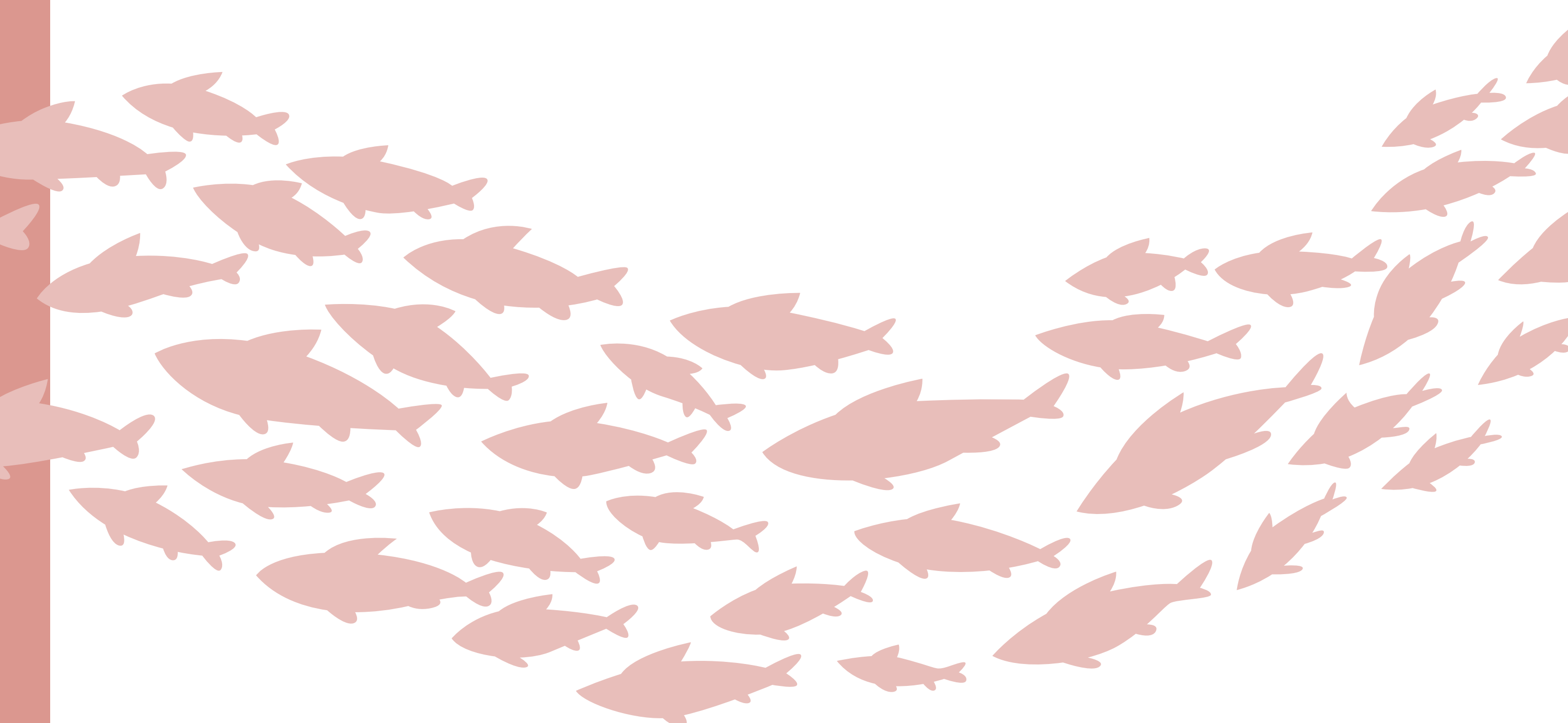
 (66) 7745 7045

 www.newheavendiveschool.com

Asia Divers

 (66) 7745 6227

 www.asia-divers.com

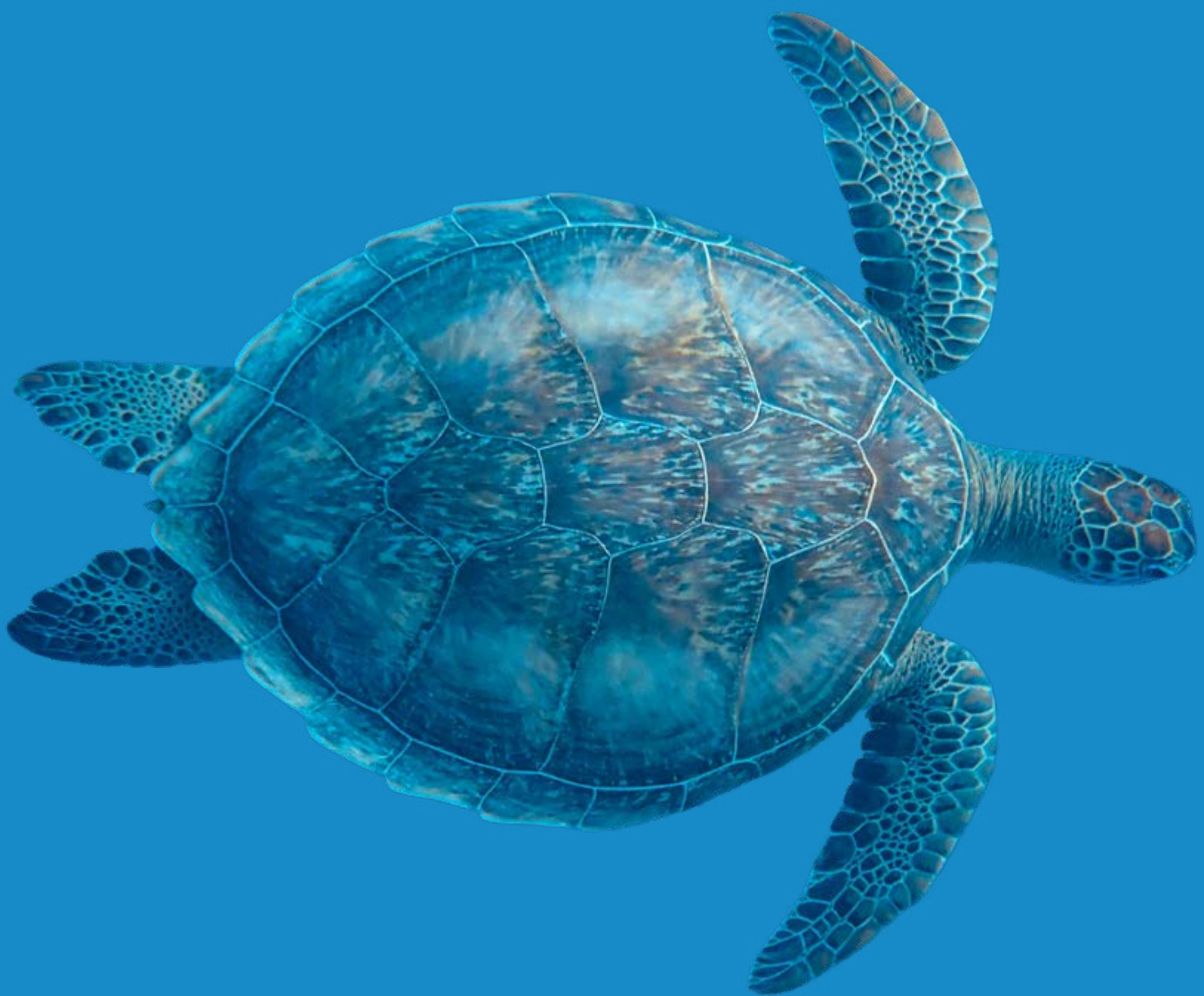


MARINE LIFE

Sea Turtle

The Ocean Voyager

Sea turtles spend most of their lives in the open ocean, travelling thousands of kilometres between their feeding grounds and nesting beaches.



Thailand is home to several species, including the hawksbill turtle and the green turtle, both of which are regularly encountered around coral reefs and seagrass meadows.

One of the most remarkable facts about sea turtles is their ability to return to the very beach where they hatched decades earlier. Scientists believe they navigate using the Earth's magnetic field.

Best Places to See Sea Turtle

- Ko Tao
- Similan Islands

CHUMPHON AND PRACHUAP KHIRI KHAN

The coastal waters of Chumphon and southern Prachuap Khiri Khan offer a quieter alternative to Thailand's better-known beach destinations.

The dive sites stretch along the coastline from north to south. At Bang Saphan, Bo Thong Lang Bay is a popular shore dive renowned for its remarkable diversity of nudibranchs.

Ko Ran Ped–Ko Ran Kai features a unique heart-shaped underwater cavern, while the Mu Ko Chumphon is home to vast sea anemone fields, enormous schools of fish, and accessible wreck dives.

Many divers choose to explore the region by car, travelling between dive sites at their own pace while enjoying the relaxed atmosphere of the coastal towns.
along the way.



CHUMPHON AND PRACHUAP KHIRI KHAN

Mu Ko Ngam Muko Chumphon National Park

Mu Ko Ngam is the premier diving destination in Chumphon, offering a variety of underwater landscapes within a single trip.

Part of Muko Chumphon National Park, the twin limestone islands of Ko Ngam Yai and Ko Ngam Noi lie just 17 kilometres offshore. Rising steeply from the sea, the islands have no beaches or flat land, but beneath the surface they are surrounded by healthy coral reefs and diverse marine life.

- Mu Ko Ngam is located approximately 17 km offshore within Mu Ko Chumphon National Park.
- Day trips depart from Saphli Pier and Pak Nam Chumphon.
- A typical itinerary includes 2–3 dives, while a two-day trip allows divers to explore most of the area's signature sites.

CHUMPHON AND PRACHUAP KHIRI KHAN

Ko Ngam Yai

The island's signature feature is a vast sea anemone field found in shallow water at depths of just 3–8 metres. These anemones are home to Clark's anemonefish, a species commonly found in the Gulf of Thailand. The shallow reef is equally enjoyable for snorkellers, freedivers, and scuba divers.

Farther down the reef, divers will encounter healthy table corals, colourful sea whips, and large barrel sponges. Ko Ngam Yai is also one of the best places to spot the Chumphon butterflyfish, a species rarely seen elsewhere in the Gulf of Thailand.

- Depth: 3–20 metres
- Suitable for all certification levels.



An underwater photograph of the HTMS Prab wreck. The ship's hull is visible, resting on the seabed. Two divers are present: one is positioned near the top of the wreck, and another is further away to the right. The water is clear and blue. The text 'CHUMPHON AND PRACHUAP KHIRI KHAN' is overlaid in a light blue, sans-serif font at the top of the image.

CHUMPHON AND PRACHUAP KHIRI KHAN

HTMS Prab Wreck

HTMS Prab is one of the easiest wreck dives in Thailand. Originally built as a U.S. Navy landing ship, it was later transferred to the Royal Thai Navy and remained in service until its retirement in 2006. In 2011, the vessel was intentionally scuttled south of Ko Ngam Noi to create an artificial reef and a new dive attraction.

The wreck rests on a sandy seabed, with the main deck at 22 metres and the bridge rising to just 11 metres below the surface. Its simple layout, clear water, and generally mild currents make it an excellent introduction to wreck diving.

Divers can explore the deck, gun turret, and bridge, all now covered with marine growth. Schools of batfish and trevallies gather around the structure. Whale sharks also make occasional appearances.

- Depth: 11–22 metres
- Advance open water divers recommended.

CHUMPHON AND PRACHUAP KHIRI KHAN



Hin Phae

Hin Phae is a broad underwater rocky reef formed by numerous granite boulders scattered across the seabed.

Hin Phae is particularly famous for its black corals, whose dark branches are covered with bright yellow polyps that sway gracefully in the current. The site is considered one of the best places in Thailand to observe these distinctive corals.

Large schools of reef fish are also a highlight, especially yellowtail scad, which often gather in the tens of thousands and move across the reef in shimmering formations

- Depth: 5–16 metres
- Suitable for all certification levels.

CHUMPHON AND PRACHUAP KHIRI KHAN

Ko Ran Ped & Ko Ran Kai

Just a short boat ride from the mainland, these twin islands offer healthy reefs and excellent visibility throughout much of the diving season.

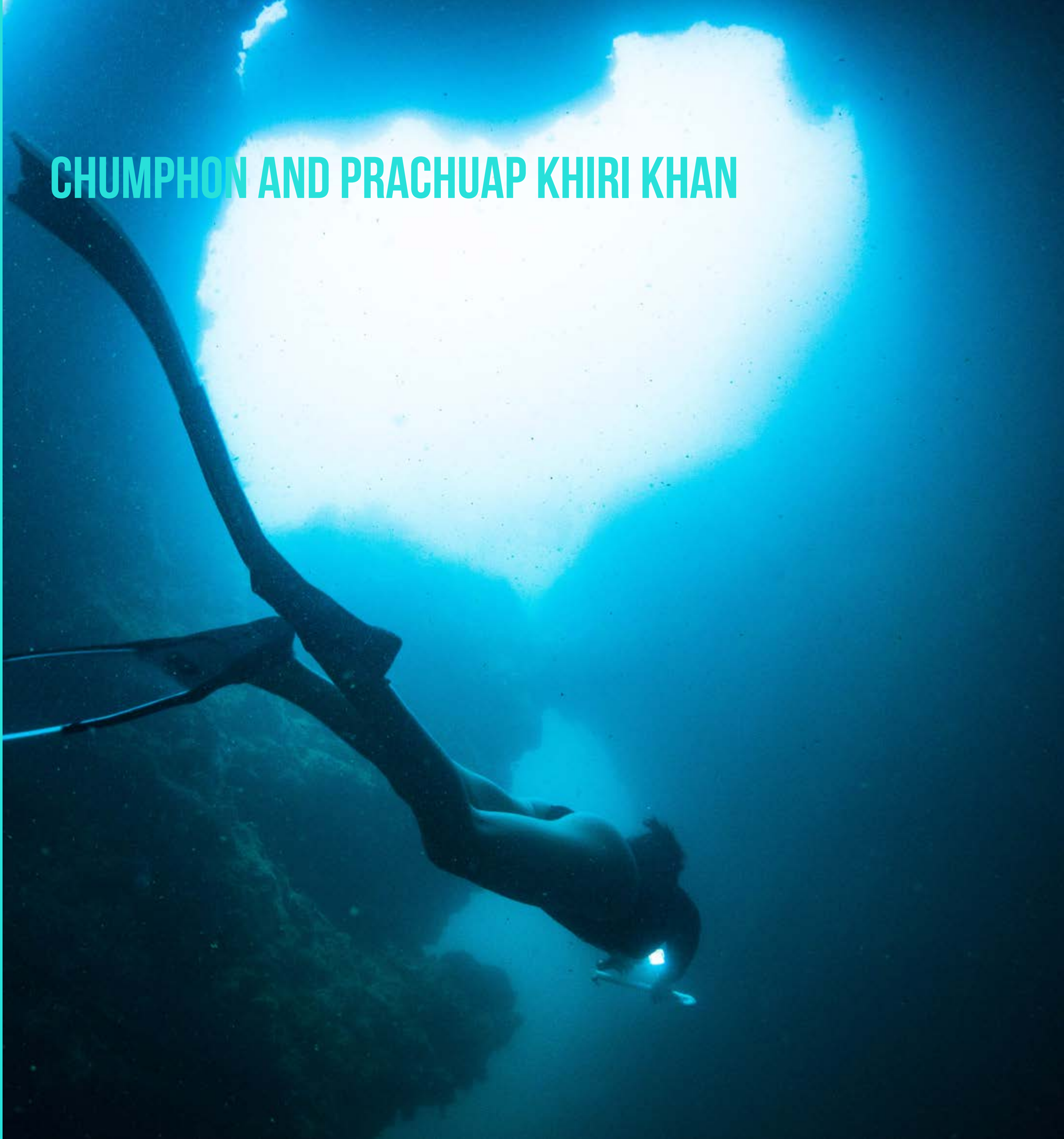
The islands are best known for their extensive sea anemone fields, home to large numbers of Clark's anemonefish. The reef also features black corals, purple barrel sponges, and bright red sea whips.

A unique highlight at Ko Ran Kai is a small underwater cavern at a depth of about 7 metres. Looking back from inside the chamber, the cave entrance forms a distinctive heart-shaped opening, making it one of the area's favourite underwater photography spots.

- Ko Ran Ped and Ko Ran Kai are located approximately 10 km offshore from Pathio District, Chumphon.
- Day trips depart from Pathio and take around 45 minutes by boat.
- Day trips typically include 2–3 dives, with prices starting from around THB 2,500.
- Best diving season: February–October.



CHUMPHON AND PRACHUAP KHIRI KHAN



CHUMPHON AND PRACHUAP KHIRI KHAN

Ao Bo Thong Lang

Recently discovered shore dive that has quickly become a favourite among macro photographers and nudibranch enthusiasts. The sandy seabed is dotted with rocks, coral outcrops, and sponges that provide habitat for an impressive variety of nudibranchs. Other macro subjects, including hairy shrimp, anemone shrimp, and hermit crabs.

The site is explored as a shore dive, with an easy beach entry and relatively shallow depths, allowing divers to spend plenty of time photographing the reef's tiny inhabitants.

- Located in Bang Saphan District, Prachuap Khiri Khan, approximately 85 km south of Prachuap Khiri Khan town.
- Shore dive equipment rental start from around THB 500.
- Best diving season: February–October.
- Dive operator: Ao Bo Thong Lang Seafood, Tel. (66)9 7953 9808, (66)8 7221 0788, (66)9 1009 8443.



INFORMATION

Local Dive Operators

Chao Koh Diving

☎ (66) 7763 0345

🌐 Chaokoh Diving

Chumphon Diving

☎ (66)8 4098 7658

🌐 www.chumphondiving.in.th

Sensui Diving

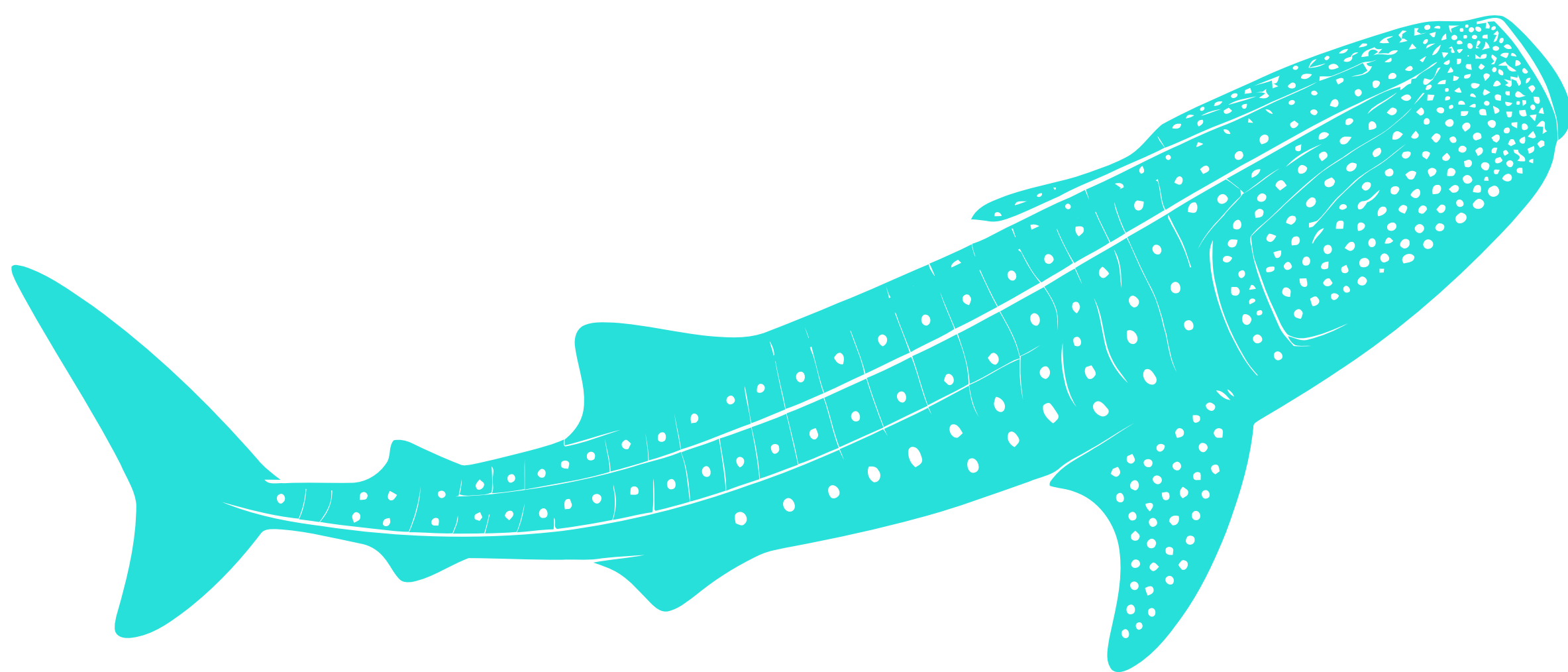
☎ (66)9 2895 3958

🌐 www.sensuidive.com

The Ocean Dive Center

☎ (66)8 9586 7120

🌐 Facebook : The Ocean Dive Center



MARINE LIFE

Sea Anemones

Home of the Clownfish

Sea anemones resemble underwater flowers gently swaying in the current, but they are actually animals closely related to corals and jellyfish. Their tentacles contain stinging cells used to catch prey and defend themselves.

Many species live in partnership with clownfish. The clownfish gain protection among the stinging tentacles, while helping defend the anemone and keep it clean.

Large sea anemones can live for decades and reproduce by dividing, eventually forming vast anemone fields that become some of the most beautiful habitats on the reef.

Best Places to See Sea Anemones

- Ko Tao (Chumphon Pinnacle, Southwest Pinnacle)
- Muko Ngam Islands
- Ko Ran Ped - Ko Ran Kai
- Hin Ploeng Pinnacle



MARINE LIFE

Nudibranchs

Jewels of the Reef

Despite measuring only a few centimetres long, nudibranchs are among the most fascinating creatures in the underwater world.

Their brilliant colours, intricate patterns, and extraordinary shapes have made them favourites of divers and underwater photographers alike.



Nudibranchs are soft-bodied marine molluscs that lose their shells as adults. Many feed on sponges, soft corals, or hydroids, and are often found hiding among rocks, coral colonies, and sponges, rewarding divers with a keen eye.

Some nudibranchs can store toxins from their prey for their own defence, while others even recycle the stinging cells of the animals they eat.

Best Places to See Nudibranchs

- Mu Ko Adang-Rawi Islands
- Samaesan
- Ao Bo Thong Lang Bay

CHON BURI

Chon Buri is home to Samaesan Bay, one of the region's most popular diving areas. Located at the southern end of Sattahip District, this island group has become a favourite weekend destination for divers. Most dive boats depart from Samaesan Village, a traditional coastal community closely connected to the local diving scene.

In recent years, alternative dive destinations such as Ko Rin and Ko Lom Fang have also gained popularity among divers seeking sites farther offshore. These remote island groups lie to the southwest of Chon Buri and can be reached by dive boats departing from Bang Saray Bay.



Samaesan

Located at the far end of the horse shoe shaped inner coastline of the Gulf of Thailand, Samaesan Bay marks the southernmost part of Chon Buri Province. There are several popular dive sites scattered throughout the Samaesan archipelago. Among them, Ko Juang is one of the best known, largely because of its size and natural protection from waves and wind. Other dive sites such as Ko Rong Khon, Ko Rong Nang, and Ko Yung Kluea each offer their own distinctive coral formations and underwater scenery. Most of these sites are relatively easy dives, making them suitable for divers of all levels.

- Samaesan Bay is located in Sattahip District, Chon Buri, approximately 50 kilometres from Pattaya.
- Prices generally start from around THB 2,500 for a full-day diving trip covering 2–3 dive sites.
- The best diving season is from October to May.



Hardeep Wreck

Originally a steam cargo vessel, the ship was requisitioned for military service during the Greater East Asia War before being bombed and sunk by Allied aircraft on 1 June 1945.

Today, the Suddhadib Wreck has become home to large schools of fish and a wide variety of marine life, making it the oldest wreck dive site in Thailand. The wreck rests on its starboard side at a depth of around 28 metres. Divers can explore the exterior structure of the ship.

The entire wreck is now covered with encrusting corals, sea whips, gorgonians, and colourful sponges, creating a dramatic underwater landscape. Numerous reef fish inhabit the wreck, while macro enthusiasts may also discover nudibranchs and other small marine creatures hidden among the corals.

- Depth: 16–28 metres
- Strong currents and low visibility may occur during certain periods.



Ko San Chalam

Ko San Chalam is the farthest dive site within the Samaesan archipelago, but it is also considered one of the most beautiful and dramatic underwater landscapes in the area.

Although the island itself is quite small, it is surrounded by coral reefs in every direction. The reef is home to a variety of hard corals, enhanced by colourful sea whips, barrel sponges, and small gorgonians hidden among rocky crevices.

Beyond the vibrant coral scenery, the underwater topography of Ko San Chalam is particularly impressive. Beneath the surface, steep rocky walls descend dramatically into deeper water, creating a striking underwater cliff landscape.

- Depth: 12–28 metres
- Strong currents may occur during certain periods.

Ko Rin & Ko Lom Fang

Ko Rin is an island under the care of the Royal Thai Navy, where divers are permitted to visit under strict environmental protection measures.

The beauty of Ko Rin's underwater world is not limited to either shallow or deep water. At depths of around 15–17 metres, scuba divers can encounter fields of rare purple soft corals — an uncommon sight in the Gulf of Thailand. Meanwhile, near the surface at depths of only 3–7 metres, both snorkellers and freedivers can experience one of the healthiest hard coral reefs in Thailand, with extensive staghorn coral fields mixed with a wide variety of coral species.

- Ko Rin is located in Sattahip District, Chon Buri, approximately 23 km. offshore. Diving boat normally service from Bang Sare pier (20 km. from Pattaya)
- Prices generally start from around THB 2,500 for a full-day diving trip.
- The best diving season is from October to May.



INFORMATION

Local Diving Operators

Samaesan Area

MV Wayoon

☎ (66)9 3561 4526

🌐 Facebook : WayoonDiving

MV Warasin

☎ (66)8 1949 9303, 08 1762 7620

🌐 www.warasinresort.com

MV Orca

☎ (66)9 8549 6951

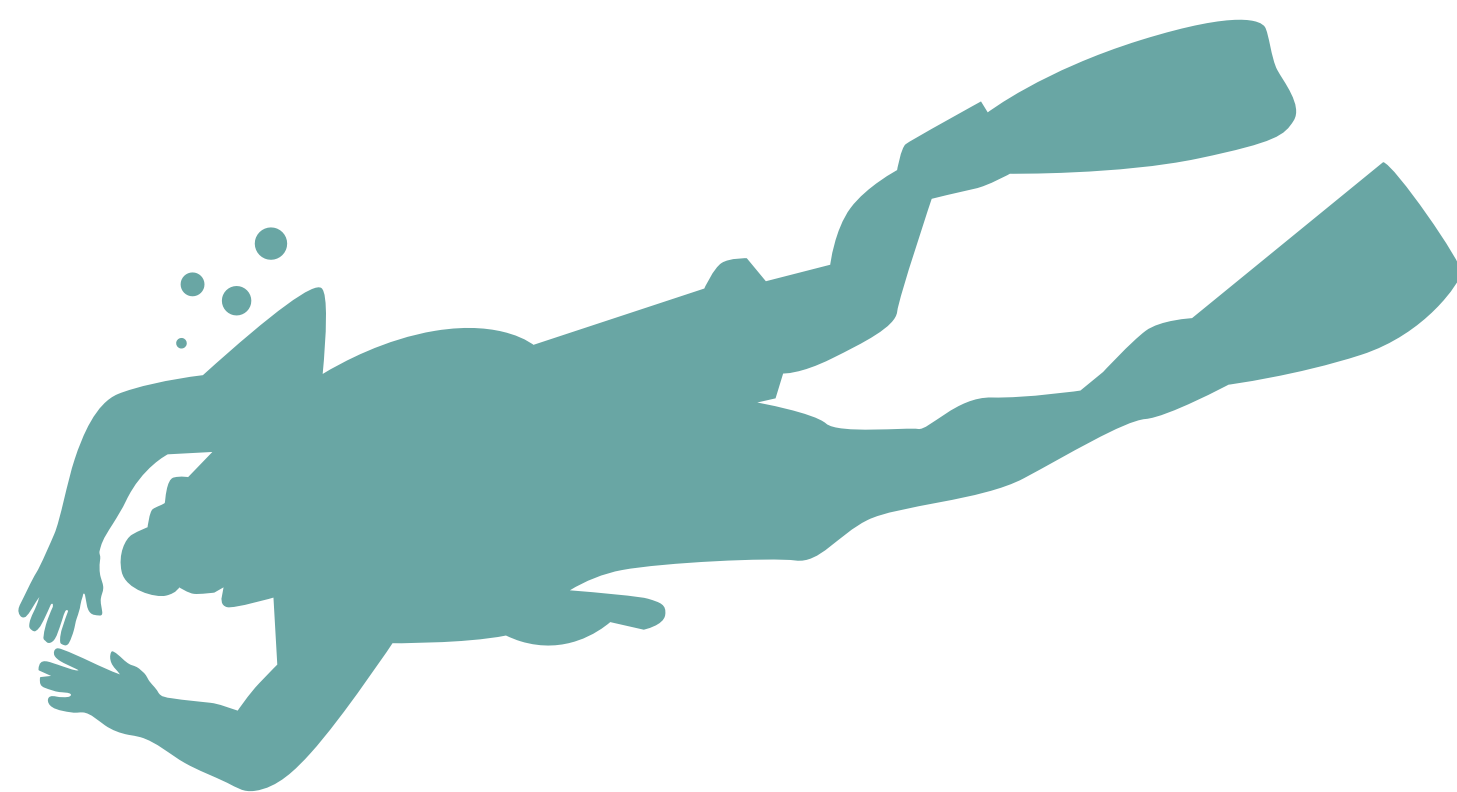
🌐 Facebook : MV.Orca

Bang Saray Area (Ko Rin)

BBK Dive Sattahip

☎ (66)9 5462 9961

🌐 Facebook : BBK Dive sattahip



HIN PHLOENG

Many divers regard Hin Phloeng as one of the most beautiful dive sites in Eastern Thailand.

Located around 25 kilometres offshore, the site enjoys remarkably clear water, and on good days the coral reef below can even be seen directly from the boat above.

The name Hin Phloeng, meaning “Flaming Rock.”, they describe how, when viewed pinnacle from the surface, the swaying sea anemones covering the reef resemble flickering flames beneath the water.

The English name of the site, Alhambra Rock, also appears on old nautical charts. The name is believed to reference the rich reddish tones of the corals visible near the top of the reef, reminiscent of the brick-red walls of the Alhambra — the famous hilltop palace in Granada, Spain.



HIN PHLOENG

Hin Phloeng is an offshore pinnacle dive site surrounded by open sea, with no nearby islands or land in sight. Yet beneath the horizon lies a massive underwater mountain covered almost entirely with fields of deep red sea anemones. When gentle currents sweep across the reef, the countless anemones sway gracefully together like underwater flames dancing in the current. Among them, clownfish dart playfully in and out of the tentacles, bringing constant movement and life to the reef.

As divers descend deeper, the scenery becomes even more dramatic. Large forests of sea whips begin to dominate the landscape, resembling dense tangled vegetation in a tropical rainforest. In reality, these sea whips are living colonial animals related to soft corals. Looking closely, tiny polyps can be seen lining each branch, patiently filtering food particles drifting through the current.



HIN PHLOENG

INFORMATION

Hin Phloeng pinnacle is located offshore of Klaeng District, Rayong, approximately 23 kilometres from the coast. Dive trips are available through local dive operators, most commonly departing from Ao Khai Pier and Laem Mae Phim.

Prices generally start from around THB 3,500 for a full-day diving trip (2–3 dives).

The best diving season is from October to May.

Local Dive Operators

Rayong Dive Center

☎ (66)8 9892 8476

🌐 www.rayongdivecenter.com

The Toy Tour

☎ (66) 3863 9102, (66)8 1664 3953

🌐 www.thetoytour.com



KO CHANG

Ko Chang is Thailand's second largest island and has long been well known among both travellers and scuba divers.

Interest in the island's diving scene grew even further after the decommissioned HTMS Chang was intentionally sunk to create a new artificial reef and wreck diving site. Since then, many divers visiting Ko Chang have also discovered the unique character of the surrounding dive sites scattered around the island.



A full-page underwater photograph showing three divers swimming around a large, rusted metal structure, which is the wreck of the HTMS Chang. The divers are equipped with scuba tanks and fins. The water is clear blue, and many small fish are visible swimming around the wreck. The wreck itself is a large, rectangular metal frame, heavily corroded and covered in marine growth.

KO CHANG

HTMS Chang Wreck

Originally the USS Lincoln County, the vessel was intentionally sunk in November 2012 to create an artificial reef. Today, HTMS Chang has become the largest wreck dive site in Thailand, transforming into a vast underwater oasis inhabited by a remarkable variety of marine life.

Marine life around the wreck is abundant. Large schools of batfish, giant groupers, yellowtail barracuda, and yellowstripe scad circle the structure constantly. Hidden within small crevices, divers may also spot yellow boxfish and other macro creatures. Occasionally, whale sharks are known to make surprise appearances around the wreck.

- Depth: 12–29 metres (maximum depth around 32 metres on the sandy bottom)

Blueberry Hill

Blueberry Hill is an underwater rocky reef distinguished by its dramatic terrain, with ridges and narrow channels resembling submerged valleys. The site is home to expansive coral fields filled with marine life and vibrant colour.

The most distinctive coral found here is plate coral, a particularly fragile species with thin layered formations resembling flower petals. At Blueberry Hill, these corals spread across the seabed like an immense underwater garden in full bloom

- Maximum Depth: 18 metres



Hin Rap South

Hin Rap South is a rocky reef rich in both hard and soft corals, particularly known for its extensive plate coral fields and striking red whip coral gardens swaying gracefully in the current.

The dive usually begins along a shallow coral reef before continuing beside the main rocky wall, where well-camouflaged scorpionfish are often found resting naturally among colourful sea anemones, barrel sponges, and beautiful blue staghorn corals.

Hin Rap South is also home to a wide variety of marine life, including bluespotted stingrays, tiger tail sea cucumbers, white-eyed moray eels, hawksbill turtles, cleaner shrimp, and the ever-curious titan triggerfish, which frequently make appearances around the reef.

- Maximum Depth: 15 metres



INFORMATION

Ko Chang, in Trat Province, is located about 320 km from Bangkok, with a driving time of approximately 4.5 hours. Vehicles can be taken across to the island by ferry.

Most dive centres on Ko Chang operate day trips, with boats typically departing from Bang Bao Pier.

Prices start from THB 3,500 for a 2–3 dive day trip.

Best diving season: October–May.

Local Dive Operators

Thai Ocean Academy Koh Chang

 (66)6 5579 3003

 www.kohchangdiving.com

Chang Diving Center

 (66)8 9401 3927

 www.changdiving.com

BB Divers

 (66)8 6129 2305

 www.bbdivers-koh-chang.com



Tourism Authority of Thailand
Singapore Office

www.tourismthailand.sg