Sail & Dive Mergui Safari

7 Nights / 8 Days cruise in Myanmar's Mergui Archipelago
Aboard SY Dallinghoo

A Unique
Diving Expedition
BAREFOOT LUXURY - PRISTINE BEACHES & ISLANDS - GUIDED DIVES ADVENTURES
UNIQUE EXPERIENCE - LUXURY EQUIPEMENT & AMENITIES - EXPERIENCED CREWS & CHEFS
FRESH DAILY CATCH - NATURE & CULTURE DISCOVERIES
ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS HOLIDAYS

Explore an Untouched World

Located just across the Thai border, on an extensive coastline distributed along over 600km of the Andaman Sea, the Mergui archipelago is a pristine tropical paradise in the south of Myanmar .

The region was off-limits until the late 1990s, with only a sparse population, The Moken, calling a few of the 800 islands home. Today, the Mergui Archipelago is one of the planet's most unspoilt destinations as well as the last few frontiers of diving.

Think white beaches lined with tropical trees, dense jungles and amazing dive sites away from the masses.

The region offers various dive sites particularly along the western edge of this vast island world, with some of the best spots being Black Rock, Burma Banks, Three islet (Shark Cave), High Rock, North Rock, Fan Forest Pinnacle, Twin Cheeks, and the Western Rocky.

The diversity of marine life is incredible. Most reefs are in good condition, while some are recovering from impacts of the past with aid by reef conservation. Dive sites are not yet crowded and still offer the chance to encounter interesting species.

Discover a Spectacular Biodiversity

MERGUI ARCHIPELAGO

The Mergui Archipelago is of high global importance to marine and coastal conservation, with the region containing majority of Myanmar's coral reef along with some of its best preserved mangrove forests and seagrass meadows.

The region houses vital sites for wildlife, including breeding beaches for sea turtles, aggregation sites for marine life like manta rays at Black Rock, and group roosting sites for migratory and non-migratory birds.

In 2015, the FFI, "Flora and Fauna International Organisation", carried out extensive studies in the Archipelago. In just a few weeks, they recorded over 700 coral, invertebrate and fish species, including several unidentified specimens.

The variety of underwater topography ranges from reefs to boulders, to hard coral gardens and rock pinnacles, with a general visibility of 10 to 40 meters.

This region boasts a host of marine wildlife and micro wildlife. Divers are likely to encounter some of the following indigenous species:

Sharks: Whale sharks, Blacktip and Whitetip Reef Sharks, Guitar Sharks, Leopard Sharks, Grey Reef Sharks, Tawny Nurse Sharks...;
Rays: Manta Rays, Blotched Fantail Rays, Kuhl's Stingrays, Mangrove Whiprays, Mobular Rays, Jenkin's Whiprays..
Cephalopods: Octopus, Squid and Cuttlefish;
Fishs: Giant and Clown frogfish, Ghost Pipefish, Neon Fusiliers, Tuna, Scorpionfish, Moray Eels, Snappers, Schools of Big-eye Trevally, Fusiliers and Barracuda;
Others: Seahorses, Harlequin and Peacock Mantis Shrimp, and more.

Visit the Moken, the Last "Sea Gypsies"

The traditional inhabitants of the Mergui Archipelago are the Moken, a people who have lived by and on the sea for the past hundreds—maybe thousands—of years. Sometimes called "sea-gypsies", this ethnic minority group leads a traditional, semi-nomadic lifestyle that includes diving for sea cucumbers, fishing and bartering.

Over generations, they have adapted to their environment and developed incredible skills useful for a life lived partly underwater. Moken divers often descend to depths of more than 20 meters without oxygen tanks and studies of Moken children have shown that they have incredible underwater vision—twice as good as that of European children of the same age.

The Moken used to roam the archipelago in their traditional sailing boats, known as Kabangs. In recent years, many families have settled on the islands and fish in the surrounding waters from their dugout canoes.

"The Moken are the soul of this archipelago, the expression of a world that has begun to fade. My hope is that as the rains continue to come and go, so too will the Moken, from sea to land and back again."

- Jacques Ivanoff, National Geographic, 2005 -

More than a Classic Liveaboard

The spirit behind this "Sail & Dive cabin charter cruise" is to offer qualified divers a memorable week out at sea. To enjoy adventurous moments (diving, sailing, snorkelling, trekking, kayaking, fishing & exploring), have a relaxing time (reading, napping, sunbathing) and share experiences on board a luxurious, fully crewed sailing yacht - the Classic Schooner SY Dallinghoo.
Take pleasure in exceptional diving sessions combined with an stress-free life on board; gastronomy, getting sun-kissed and finding solace are guaranteed throughout the trip.

SY Dallinghoo is a beautiful classic schooner that is fully-decked in teak wood, and is one of the few gaff-rigged wooden yachts present in Southeast Asia. She has a vibrant history, is fully-equipped for scuba-diving, and features a classic design perfectly weaved into the romance of a tall ship while boasting the comfort of a modern yacht.

Discover hidden gems of the region on the SY Dallinghoo and meet the crew who are passionate about sailing.
Captain Bruce Issel has been sailing around Southeast Asia for more than 15 years. Originally from Australia, he has worked for more than 25 years as a sailing instructor, engineer, dive master and captain on many yachts. He is an encyclopaedia of knowledge with regards to marine conservation, cruising, diving and Southeast Asia. The First Mate is a great sailor and knows the region perfectly, while Chef Fu is an expert in Asian food, adapting menus to suit dietary requirements.

Come enjoy an exciting combination of wild diving sessions, the pleasure of a culinary journey throughout Southeast Asia, and experience a high standard of hospitality on the seas.

SAIL, DIVE & RELAX

“The rarely visited islands present white-sand beaches for sunbathing and starlight barbecues, diving, snorkelling and fishing, and a chance to meet and talk with the local sea nomads who sail the waters in dugout canoes."

Condé Nast Traveller

7N/8D Sail & Dive Safary

7N8D ITINERARY

DAY 1 - Upon arrival in Kawthaung, check in and take a land tour to temples, local wares and the markets. Enjoy dinner and the first night aboard SY Dallinghoo, along the bustling border town of **Kawthaung**.

DAY 2 - Upon daybreak, we set sail 40 Nautical Miles to South Bay **Zardet Kyee** Island via Heart Lagoon (if the tides allow for kayaking into the enclosed Lagoon) and **Say Tan Island**. This is a day to settle down, visit beaches, kayak and get to know each other. Scuba-diving begins tomorrow.

DAY 3 - An early start from the South Bay will take you to our first dive site, **Western Rocky** - a mid-ocean site with rocky outcrops piercing the surface. This is a great site where two dives can be organised. The second exciting dive site is at **Fan Forrest Pinnacle**, a mid-ocean sea mount which stands 6 meters above the water surface.

DAY 4 - Dive at **Boulder Island** where there are several diving sites and walking tracks. With an abundant wildlife above and below the water surface, diving, walking, kayaking and snorkelling are activities of the day on this pristine, well-protected tropical island.

DAY 5 - We depart for the first dive at the southern rocks of **Bo Wei Island**, following a short passage to **Jar Lann Kyun** Village and/or **Kyun Pila** East Bay. **Jar Lann Kyun** count a small village that houses a big temple, local shipyards and a busy fishing transfer port. This spot offers an opportunity to those wanting to experience the Mergui culture.

DAY 6 - A short passage takes us to one of the best dive sites in the Mergui Archipelago, named **Three Islets**. Following the dive, we will head to **Salet Galet**, a unique fishing village, to explore a beautiful mangrove river if the tide allows.

DAY 7 - Departing early and 40 Nautical Miles south-bound, we head to **Island 115** for lunch, swimming and snorkelling. A further 24 Nautical Miles to **Barwell Passage** will bring us to our final night anchorage in the Mergui.

DAY 8 - Setting sail on a 3-hour passage takes us back to **Kawthaung**. If time permits, take a swim and enjoy some beach time before departure if transfers allow it.

*__**Sample itinerary**__ - *may be modified by the captain according to the weather conditions and government regulations*

"Perhaps one of the few remaining places in the world still left almost completely untouched."

Bloomberg Businessweek

Trip Highlights

Barefoot Luxury

Spectacular dive sites

Great Food

Amazing Sunset

Adrenaline Rush

Discover & Explore

Paradise Beaches

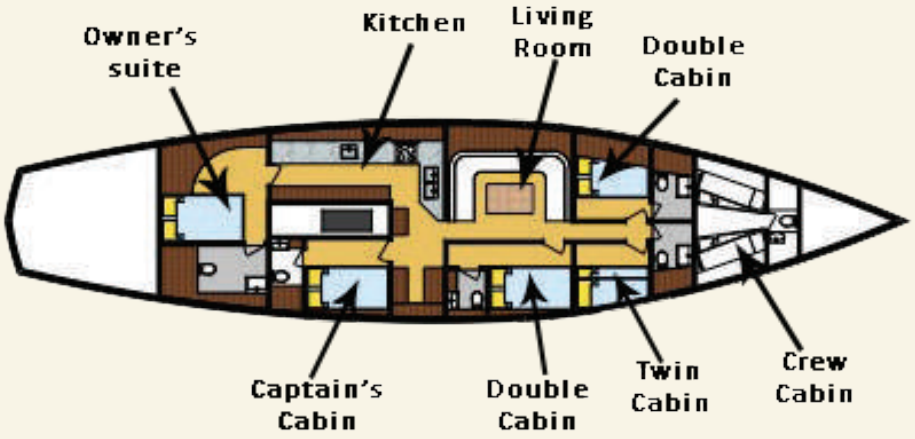
Dedicated Crew

EXPERIENCES

SY Dallinghoo

This full-keel topsail gaff-rigged beauty intertwines classic designs with romance, embodying the comforts of a modern yacht. SY Dallinghoo was crafted by the renowned yacht designer Dudley Dix of Rhode Island New York. She offers a modern and well-equipped interior, which is completely new and fully air-conditioned

Boat Type	Schooner
Year Build	1990
Last Refit	2016
Flag State	Malaysia
Length (LOA)	99ft / 30.12m
Beam (width)	19ft / 5.80m
Speed	8 Knots
Passengers	8 guests (4 cabins: 1 owner's suite, 2 doubles & 1 twin)
Air Condition	Available
Electricity	12V / 220V - USB charging points in all cabins and saloon.
Crew	7/8 (1 captain, 1 chef, 1 guide, 1 dive master, 3/4 deckhands)
Equipments	Water maker - 8 pax dinghy - 2 SUP - fishing gear - 4 sea kayaks - Snorkeling Equipment - Classic gaff-rigged sailing dinghy - TV & movies All diving equipments (8 full sets of scuba gear with a selection of tropical wetsuits in various sizes; Compressor Maximator 140 + Honda back up ; Smartfinder AIS beacon)



SY DALINGHOO

Getting There is Easy!

All of our regular cabin charter trips in the Mergui Archipelago depart from Kawthaung in Myanmar's south, just across the border from Thailand. Getting there is easy, and there are several travel options.

Flying to Kawthaung

If you are arriving from within Myanmar, you can book online and fly directly to Kawthaung Airport. We'd be more than happy to help you organise transportation and meet you at the airport.

Flying to Ranong

Another option is to fly to Ranong Airport. There are daily flights from Bangkok by Nok Air and Air Asia. The airport is well served by local taxi drivers but we can also pick you up from Ranong Airport, of course.

Once you are in Ranong pier, you will take a 30-minute longtail boat ride across the Pakchan River to Kawthaung on the Myanmar side. We will help you with the immigration procedures before boarding the yacht.

Arriving via Phuket

Phuket International Airport is a convenient and well-connected place to fly to. From there, it's a scenic 3 - 4-hour car ride to Ranong, the Thai border town. We'd be more than happy to organise transport for you.

F.A.Q

What's included?
A fully crewed yacht, all on-board meals, all non-alcoholic drinks, all dives & diving equipment, professional Dive Master, official MOHT guide, all other equipment on board (snorkeling, kayaks, SUP, dinghy...), fuel, etc.
Not included are visa fees, airport transfers, and the visitor fee that all foreigners are required to pay by the government of Myanmar.

Do I need to know how to sail?
No. Our experienced crew can do all the sailing for you while you relax. If you like, our crew will be happy to let you get involved or learn sailing during your trip.

Do I need to know how to dive?
Yes. To join our Sail & Dive cruise you need to have at least an OpenWater dive certificate.

Will I need a visa for Myanmar?
Yes. Most travellers will get a visa-on-arrival in Myanmar and we will take care of the procedure upon your arrival.

What should I bring?
You don't need much. Bring your bathers, sunscreen, a hat, sunglasses, your camera and you're pretty much set! It's best to also bring a mosquito repellent and you may want to consider bringing anti-malaria tablets. Do remember to get a travel insurance before joining our cruise. On board, you won't need shoes but you can bring flip-flops or reef shoes for beach outings. We provide full lodging, including bedding, towels and biodegradable amenities. We also provide fishing and snorkeling equipment and first-aid, if necessary.

What's the best season to go?
The best time for sailing is between mid-October and end of April. The rainy season starts mid-May.

What temperature to expect?
During daytime about 28-32°C. The water temperature will be about 26-29°C.

Is there on-board power, fresh water, internet?
Every cabin has power points (plus fans and air-cons). There is fresh water for showering conumption. Limited internet in the southern islands is available.

Will I have to share a bathroom? Every cabin has its own private bathroom and each comes with a shower, sink and toilet.