

# Luxury Sailing Adventure

5 Nights / 6 Days in Myanmar's Mergui Archipelago





The Mergui Archipelago in Myanmar's South

## Be One of the First to Explore an Untouched World

Think white beaches lined with palm trees and dense jungle. Think swimming in azure water amongst colourful reef fish, spotting corals, and collecting seashells. Now, picture eagles circling above, gibbons and monitor lizards eyeing you from the thickets, while a sundowner is being mixed for you on board the yacht.

And best of all: you have this entire experience to yourself. You can sail for days on end and meet not a soul but the odd fisherman in a dugout canoe.







Explore and Discover

# Visit the Moken “Sea Gypsies”

The traditional inhabitants of the Mergui Archipelago are the Moken, a people who live off, and on, the sea. Sometimes called "sea-gypsies", this ethnic minority group leads a traditional, semi-nomadic lifestyle, dominated by diving for sea cucumbers, fishing and bartering.





## Nature and Activities

# A Paradise all for Yourself

Explore tropical forests, hiking through valleys and up hills, walk along kilometres of beach with the only foot prints those behind you, kayak through enchanted mangroves, swim, snorkel, and go fishing: you've got it all. The Mergui Archipelago is teeming with wildlife.

Due to government neglect and the region's long isolation, its 800 plus islands have remained virtually untouched. They are composed of limestone and granite and vary in size from tiny to islands larger than Singapore.

Most of them (we have yet to find one that isn't) are covered in thick jungle growth, which drops into azure waters, interrupted only by beaches, rocky headlands, tidal rivers, and mangrove forests. Lampi, one the largest islands, is part national park and home to some of the planet's oldest mangrove forests.







# Trip Highlights

Barefoot  
Luxury



Paradise  
Beaches



Discover &  
Explore



Play with  
the Wind



Amazing  
Food



Underwater  
Encounters



"It was a dreamy voyage that took us beyond internet connectivity, from green coastal waters to the kind of blue inked in by 100ft depths, past piratical-looking fishing boats and islands with the outlines of rusty blades. Scampering macaques foraged for crabs on the islands' rocky shores, white-bellied sea eagles wheeled."

The Sunday Telegraph



# Cruise Itinerary

**Day 1** After the welcome aboard your yacht, we set sail to **Barwell Island** where we spend the evening on the beach. We'll go for a swim before dinner and drinks.

**Day 2** Leisurely breakfast on board. After a refreshing swim we start our passage to **Island No. 115**, a place often frequented by Moken sea gypsies. In the afternoon we will reach the group of small islands called Mid Group. If time permits, we go for a dinghy excursion into a nearby mangrove forest on **Island No. 88**. After the evening swim we have dinner in this beautiful covered area.

**Day 3** In the morning we slowly sail towards the little village on **Nyaung Wee Island** and visit the local sea gypsy settlement. After lunch we sail west to **Great Swinton Island**. Jungle walk along the creek and collecting seashells on the huge beach. For those interested in Buddhism, a short visit in a local monastery. Snorkelling, then sundowners on deck. Watching the bioluminescent plankton at night.

**Day 4** Early-morning sail to tiny **Ohway Island** for the best snorkelling (and great fishing) in the region. Observe the colourful life of the reef, full of soft and hard corals and plentiful of tropical fish. After lunch we set sails for **Jar Lann Kyun** and anchor in its large fjord, one of the most spectacular bays in the archipelago. In the mangrove forest we watch the hornbills at dusk. Fine dining on board. Relaxation time under the starry sky.

**Day 5** Long, leisurely sail towards **Za Det Nge Island** with its beautiful bays and beaches. Visit **Rhino Island** on the way. Its stunning turquoise waters are perfect for enjoying the sun. Later we move towards **Za Det Nge's** for a last dinner party on the beach.

**Day 6** Early morning passage towards **Kawthoung**. Casual brunch aboard before we reach the pier and say goodbye.







### Fleet

## Sailing Yacht Meta IV

Meta IV was designed by the naval architect Thomas E. Colvin, who gave the vessel her beautiful shape and robust hull. She is made entirely of Thai teak, one of the best woods for building classic boats.

**Details:** Length - 85 ft, 4 guest cabins with ensuite bathrooms, air condition and 220V power throughout the boat.







## Fleet

# Sailing Yacht Raja Laut

The Raja Laut is a magnificent gaff-topsail schooner built in the tradition of the 19th century Baltic traders. The 100 ft hull is entirely built of iron wood. Behind the classic lines is a modern luxury sailing yacht, equipped with the latest in navigation.

**Details:** Length - 100 ft, 6 guest cabins with ensuite bathrooms, air condition and 220V power throughout the boat.







## Getting There is Easy

**All our regular 6-day trips in the Mergui Archipelago depart in Kawthoung in Myanmar's south, just across the border from Thailand. Getting there is easy and you have several travel options.**

### **Flying to Kawthoung**

If you are arriving from within Myanmar, you can book online and fly directly to Kawthoung 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. 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, you will take a longtail boat across the Pakchan River to Kawthoung on the Myanmar side, which takes about 30 minutes. 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. Here, too, we are happy to assist you.

## Quick Facts

**What's included?** All on-board meals, all non-alcoholic drinks, all activities, fuel, etc. Not included are visa fees, airport transfers, and the visitor fee the government of Myanmar asks foreigners to pay. This fee is USD 250 per person.

**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, get involved or learn sailing during your trip.

**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 when you enter the country while you relax or explore.

### **Is it safe to travel in Myanmar's Mergui Archipelago?**

Yes, it is! There are no conflicts in our sailing area, nor are there any pirates. There is a mid-level malaria risk in

southern Myanmar and you should take precautions by using mosquito-repellent and wearing long sleeves and trousers if onshore at night (which you are unlikely to be much).

### **Is it ethically OK to travel to Myanmar?**

We think so. A few years ago, things have started to fundamentally change in Myanmar and Aung San Suu Kyi has been released. She and her party now embrace individual and ethical tourism by travellers whose money does not go straight into the pockets of the generals. We are here to support just that.

### **What else 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 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 if you want. We provide full lodging, including

bedding, towels, all meals, water and soft drinks. We also provide fishing and snorkelling equipment and first-aid, if necessary.

**What's the best season to go?** The best time for sailing is between late October and end of April. The rainy season starts in 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 and in the kitchen. Internet is not available on-board.

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

**What kind of food do you serve?** Our chefs specialise in Asian cuisine but also serve Western dishes. Six weeks prior to departure we ask all our guests about their preferences.



## 2015/2016 Departures

17-22 October  
24-29 October  
31 Oct. - 5 Nov.  
7-12 November  
14-19 November  
21-26 November  
28 Nov. - 3 Dec.  
5-10 December  
12-17 December

9-14 January  
16-21 January  
23-28 January  
30 Jan.- 4 Feb.  
6-11 February  
13-18 February  
20-25 February  
27 Feb. - 3 Mar.  
5-10 March

12-17 March  
19-24 March  
26-31 March  
2-7 April  
9-14 April  
16-21 April  
23-28 April

Recommended by

