

Mergui 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.

Just across from the Thai border, the archipelago opened to foreigners as recently as the late 1990s. With only a few of the 800 islands sparsely populated and a couple dozen visitors to the entire area each month, the Mergui Archipelago remains one of the planet's most unspoilt destinations.



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.

The Moken have been living as free divers and sailors in the Mergui Archipelago for thousands of years. Over the generations, they have adapted to their environment and developed incredible skills useful for a life partly taking place under water.

Moken divers often go deeper than 20 meters without oxygen tanks and they can stay there for minutes. And they can see the clearly under water where everything appears blurred to the rest of us. “Studies of Moken children have shown them to have incredible underwater vision—twice as good as that of European children of the same age”, writes the National Geographic



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.





Barefoot
Luxury



Paradise
Beaches



Discover &
Explore



Play with
the Wind



Amazing
Food



Underwater
Encounters



Trip Highlights

"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



Great Swinton Island

Ohway Island

Island 115

Nyaung Wee Island

Island 88

Jar Lann Kyun

Rhino Island

Barwell Island

Za Det Nge Island

Kawthoung

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 a 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 sheltered bay.

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 plenty of tropical fish. After lunch we set sail 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. Time to relax 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.





Yacht Introduction

Sailing Yacht

This boat 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' • 4 guest cabins with en-suite bathrooms • air condition • 4 crew • 220V • water maker • tender boat • 2 kayaks • fishing gear • SUP





Yacht Introduction

Sailing Yacht

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 and luxurious sailing yacht, equipped with the latest in navigation.

Details: Length: 100' • 6 guest cabins with en-suite bathrooms • air condition • 220V • water maker • tender boat • 220 V • 2 kayaks • fishing gear • SUP





Yacht Introduction

Catamaran

Meltemi is named after a wind in the Mediterranean Sea. She is our first catamaran: a French-built Lagoon 500, one of the most successful yachts ever designed for high-end charter. Meltemi has 4 comfortable guest cabins, each with king-sized beds and en-suite bathrooms. The spacious owner's suite in the starboard hull has its own couch area.

Details Length: 50' • 4 Crew • Air-con • Launch year: 2011 • water maker • tender boat • 220 V • 2 kayaks • fishing gear • SUP





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 started to fundamentally change in Myanmar and Aung San Suu Kyi's party has since won national elections. She now embraces 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. Upon booking, we ask all our guests about their preferences.

Recommended by



2016/2017 Departure Dates

15-20 October
22-27 October
29 Oct.-03 Nov.
05-10 November
12-17 November
19-24 November
26 Nov.-01 Dec.
03-08 December

10-15 December
17-22 December
23-28 December
30 Dec.-04 Jan.
07-12 January
14-19 January
21-26 January
28 Jan.-02 Feb.

04-09 February
11-16 February
18-23 February
25 Feb.-02 Mar.
04-09 March
11-16 March
18-23 March
25-30 March

01-06 April
08-13 April
15-20 April
22-27 April
29 Apr.-04 May
06-11 May

