

9 WONDERS OF THE ANDAMAN SEA

安达曼海九大奇观

The incredible Similan Islands and outer reefs off Phuket is a place where nutrient rich upwellings support a wondrous marine life.

不可思议的斯米兰群岛以及普吉岛外礁，营养充沛的上升流滋养着那里奇幻的海洋生物。

Text & Photo Glen Cowans & Louise Stazonelli



Divers enjoy a gentle drift dive over hard corals and reef fish.

在和缓的放流潜水中，游经珊瑚和礁鱼。



The ample dive deck and camera table setup on the Thailand Aggressor.

泰国侵略者号上的摄影机设备桌。



Cold upwellings are the source of life – rich in nutrients and food particles – nourishing corals, fish and plankton that permeate the waters of the Andaman Sea and the northern reaches of the Similan Islands. Further north, places like Koh Bon, Koh Ta Chai and Richelieu Rock offer some of the most spectacular locations for witnessing the circle of life.

Teeming with baitfish and fusiliers that swarm and school in constant pulsating motion as they try to feed and simultaneously dodge the jaws of death of passing opportunist: Blue trevally, giant trevally, tuna, jacks and barracuda. Firing my strobes, I realized, actually brought the trevally closer to me; I reckon the burst of light simulated the sudden reflex and flash reflection of sunlight off the bodies of mass silvery prey, raising the senses of excitable predators to some intriguing action in session.

We were diving the northern realm of the Andaman Sea exploring the Similan reef and rocky outcrops up to Surin National Marine Park near Myanmar. The name Similan was derived from the Malay word for nine and although the locals have also given them names, they are generally referred to as Island 1 to Island 9 from the south to north.

Cold upwellings can be witnessed on virtually every dive and sometimes at multiple times during a

上升流是生命之源——充足的营养及食物微粒——渗透了安达曼海及斯米兰群岛北部河段的海水，滋养着珊瑚、鱼类和浮游生物。再往北，像梦岛、泰猜岛和黎希留岩这样的地方则是见证生命生生不息的最引人入胜之处。

这里充斥着丰富且不断舞动的诱饵鱼和乌尾鲗，因为觅食的同时，它们也要尽量躲避平线若鲹、浪人鲹、鲷鱼、柑仔鱼和枪鱼等这些途经此地的投机主义者魔掌。我意识到，点亮闪光灯会让鲹鱼群更靠近我；我猜想，应是发出的光线会模拟成阳光反射在大量银色诱饵鱼身上的反光，激起这些躁动的捕猎者作出某种有趣的反应。

我们当时正在安达曼海的北部领域潜水，探访斯米兰的珊瑚礁以及岩石嶙峋的裸露岩块，其范围北至缅甸附近的苏林国家海洋公园。「斯米兰」来自马来语，原文是九的意思；虽然当地人也给它们各自命名，但通常它们指的就是由南向北的第一到第九座岛屿。

you can literally hear the whoosh as the scales of fish rush through the water when they all change direction and surge past in sudden acceleration.

Other current dives include a leisurely drift along a wall or a slope affording free rides across the stunning vistas as you cruise over large granite boulders stacked into impressive seascapes. When seen from a distance they seem to look like bald boulders; but look at the current-facing surface and you will find it literally carpeted in soft corals and gigantic sea fans or discover carpets of anemones with anemonefish and porcelain crabs. These outcrops of rubble and sand slopes are excellent for locating subjects like jawfish, gobies and mantis shrimp. Get focused on a subject too long and you will find that you have an audience of blennies checking you out. All of this, together with the great fish action of the pinnacles make for endless photographic opportunities, perfect for whichever lens you favor.

Healthy fish life such as this attracts smaller members of the food chain and I now know firsthand what it feels like to be a

黎希留岩位于大约30米深的海床之上，由一个主要的独立礁和一些满是岩石的裸露岩块组成，它们沐浴在滋养的海流中。小心别被海流干扰了，因为这里吸引了大量的海洋生物，是一处捕食的胜地。对潜水员来说，最好的停留点是迎面对着海流的独立礁或礁石的后方，这样你便可身处在海流活动的中心，让漩涡环绕你的四周。而这里也会是一个你可轻松悬停于此的平静地点，因为海流会在这里分裂开来并围绕着礁石。在海流强的时候，鱼群们会不一而同地改变游向并且在短时间内猛力地在水中全力冲刺，此时可以听到鱼群们呼啸而过的唳唳声。

其它的海流潜水还包括了一趟沿着海墙或是缓坡的悠闲放流潜水，当你漫游过一大块的花岗岩时，可以看到绝美的海底壮景。它们远远看起来像光秃秃的大卵石；但看到迎流面的时候，你就会发现它覆盖着软珊瑚和巨大的海扇，或者发现一大片海葵地毯，还有小丑鱼和瓷蟹游弋其中。露出海床的碎石和砂斜坡是观察颌鲭鱼、虾虎鱼和螳螂虾等生物的完美位置。观察一个目标太久，你

Where there are glassfish there are nearly always lionfish on the hunt.

只要有水晶鱼的地方，就能看到前来猎食的狮子鱼。

事实上每次潜水都可以看见寒冷的上升流，有时一趟潜水还会看见好几次。一开始能见度会很高，但当你沿着斜坡向下看时，就会看见一团漆黑模糊的东西逐渐上升。一旦这种情况发生，在水中就能看到闪烁一片，暖水寒流交汇处好像会放出光芒一样，然而这只发生在转瞬之间，当潮水流动之后，你又会置身清澈的海水之中，如同沐浴在温暖舒适的热水澡之中一样。

Louise videos her way through a swarm of baitfish.

Louise在一群群诱饵鱼中摄影。

dive. Initially the visibility was great, but looking down the slope you'll see a wall of darkness that gradually ascends towards you. Once it happens, the visibility shimmers, almost illuminating where the warm and cold waters collide and just as quickly as it arrived, it passes by and you are back in clear water that would feel like warm bathwater.

Richelieu Rock, rising from the sea floor at around 30m comprises of a main pinnacle and several rocky outcrops all bathed in healthy currents. Don't be put off by the current as it attracts marine life in great numbers making this an ideal location for fish to feed. For divers, the best place to plant yourself would be behind the reef or pinnacle facing the current and you will be in the midst of activity as it all swirls around you. It is also a calm spot where you can hang effortless because where the current splits up and around the reef. In the thick of the action,



fish as it is attended to at a cleaning station. On the first dive of the trip many of us experienced this, perhaps from a cleaner fish perspective, we appeared in need a good clean. First I felt a tickling at my ear, and then it became an insistent wriggling and gentle nipping. I thought it was something on my BCD brushing by me but then noticed the reflection on the back of my camera as it moved around to my cheek and attempted to pluck a hair from my beard. The cleaner wrasses here are so attentive to anything that hovers close to the reef that they rise up to give you a fastidious clean at the first opportunity they get.

It is wonderful how sites can change within a swim of each other. Koh Bon also has a more challenging dive site called Bon Pinnacle, here the top of the reef sits at around 20m and the boulders are carpeted in yellow soft corals, completely different in color to any other we had experienced elsewhere.

Our itinerary was based on the northern reaches of the Similans and one moving reminder of recent history for the region was the

会发现一位鳐鱼观众也在观察着你。所有的这些，还有大群鱼类活动，都给摄影制造了无穷无尽的机会，不管你喜欢用那种镜头。

这样健康的鱼群吸引了食物链中较小的成员，而且我现在亲身感受到当身处清洁站之中时，作为一尾鱼是什么感觉。此行的第一潜中，我们许多人都有相同的经历，也许从清洁鱼的角度出发，我们显得需要被好好清理一番。首先我感到有什么在瘙痒耳朵，然后变成持续的蠕动和温柔的啃咬。我以为是BCD上的什么东西碰到我，但当它游到我的面颊附近，试图拔下我的一根胡须时，我注意到相机

A shrimp gobie signals its back into the burrow as I get to close.

当我靠近它的时候，这只虾虎鱼赶忙逃回地洞。



“Diving here is different from typical Indonesian reefs and the dense fish life was as spectacular as that of the Maldives but with the bonus of healthy pelagic action that you don't often witness any more.”

underwater Tsunami Memorial, featuring a small temple and signs of the Thai zodiac. No article on Thailand could ignore the 2004 Tsunami, and yes the hard corals in the region have suffered, but the dive sites visited by the *Thailand Aggressor* made the most of healthy sites and much of the soft corals witnessed were reminiscent of Fiji, this juxtaposed over huge granite boulders made for spectacular dives.

The *Thailand Aggressor* explores the Andaman Sea on a six day charter, doing up to five dives each day. Catering for up to 16 divers, this luxury live-aboard yacht cruises both the northern and southern regions.

All meals and wine, beer and soft-drinks are included in your passage, and with a gourmet chef onboard you definitely won't go hungry. For those wishing a longer voyage, you can explore both southern and northern regions of the Andaman Sea itineraries (season dependent) back-to-back charter.

Thailand is often referred to as “The Land of Smiles” and we finished our voyage feeling we had experienced the friendliest and happiest crew on board the *Thailand Aggressor* and shared the week diving another wondrous part of this precious ocean planet.

背面中的倒影。这里的清洁隆头鱼可是极其留意徘徊在礁石附近的任何东西，一有机会它们便会立刻游过来开始打理你。

在一次潜水中便可以看到不同的景色是一件非常美妙的事情。梦岛也有一处更具挑战性的潜点叫做Bon Pinnacle，这个独立礁的顶峰坐落在约20米深处，岩体被黄色的软珊瑚覆盖，与我们曾见过任何一处的珊瑚颜色截然不同。

我们的潜水路线包含斯米兰群岛北边区域，以及一座会移动的近代历史里程碑，因为该地区就是水下海啸纪念馆所在地，这里有座小庙宇跟泰国十二生肖的雕像（泰国十二生肖与中国十二生肖类似，惟有排序不同：泰国以蛇为头，龙为尾）。没有一篇关于泰国的文献会忽略2004年的海啸，这里的硬珊瑚也遭受这场灾难，但是Thailand Aggressor号所造访的潜点都非常地健康，且多数我们所见的软珊瑚都令人联想到斐济，此地的巨大花岗岩能与之并驾齐驱，因此在此潜游能见识到极其秀丽的风光。在这里潜水与热带的印尼珊瑚礁截然不同，且其丰富的海洋生态不只和马尔地夫一样壮观，还可额外观察到健全的大型远洋鱼类活动，而这些可是非常罕见。

Thailand Aggressor号提供六日包船之旅巡航于安达曼海，每日最多安排五潜。这艘豪华的船宿游艇可游览北部和南部地区，可提供16位潜水员食宿，整趟行程中所有膳食及酒水全包，还有一位美食家主厨同行，绝对不会让你饿到肚子。期待更长航程的游客，你们可以在旅游活动日程（依据时令）选择紧接的行程，同时探访安达曼海的南北地区。

泰国常被称为「微笑的国度」，完成这趟航行后，我们深深感受到我们体验了Thailand Aggressor号上最友善愉快的船员，并分享了这颗珍贵的海洋地球上另一处奇幻潜点的美妙经历。

Information

Getting There

Most Asian countries have direct flights to Bangkok, Thailand. Then visitors can change to bus services to khaolak; or change to domestic flights to Phuket, then take boat to Similan Islands departing from Thaplamu Pier.

Visas

Tourists from Malaysia and ASEAN member countries (Brunei, Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) and HKSAR passport holders do not require a Visa for entry to Thailand. Travellers that do require one include tourists from China and Taiwan, but you can obtain a visa on entry on arrival at the airport. To confirm the visa requirement for your country of origin, visit www.thaiembassyuk.org.uk

Language

The traditional language is Thai but English is commonly spoken and understood even outside of your hotel accommodation and dive operations.

Currency

Thai Baht is the currency of Thailand (1USD = 30THB), however the US Dollar is widely accepted. Tipping on the liveaboard is voluntary and if you wish to tip, it is based on the quality of service you have received.

Electricity

Both 240v Australian outlets and 110v – US/Euro style outlets (twin flat pin or round). Large camera table and charging station right on the dive deck with compressed air. A separate rinse tank is maintained purely for camera equipment.

Operator

www.calypsophuket.com
www.divetheworldthailand.com
www.bigbluediving.com
www.aggressorfleet.com

交通

大部分亚洲国家都有直航飞往泰国曼谷。之后旅客们可以换乘巴士前往考拉；或者搭乘国内航班飞往普吉岛，之后在塔布拉姆码头乘船前往斯米兰群岛。

签证:

马来西亚或东盟成员国的游客（文莱、达鲁萨兰、柬埔寨、印度尼西亚、老挝、马来西亚、缅甸、菲律宾、新加坡、泰国和越南），以及持香港特别行政区护照的游客可以直接入境泰国。中国、台湾的游客需要办理签证，但也可以办理落地签。进一步确认签证要求，请上网查询 www.thaiembassyuk.org.uk

语言

泰语，但英文也广泛使用于在酒店或潜水店以外的地方。

货币

泰铢为泰国流通货币（1美元=30泰铢），但当地也使用美元。船宿上的小费为自愿消费，你可视服务质量决定。

电力

澳洲240伏双向插头，110伏欧美式插头（两个扁销或圆销）潜水平台上就设有一个大型的相机整理台及充电设备，还有空压机，且设置了相机设备专用的清洗池。

潜水业者

www.calypsophuket.com
www.divetheworldthailand.com
www.bigbluediving.com
www.aggressorfleet.com

ULTRAPOWER

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