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away to sea

Tarutao national park, Butang archipelago, koh lipe

Advanced Course in Koh Lipe

The diving

We'll repeat what we tell all people looking into diving courses on Koh Lipe; if you want your course to be on a tropical island with white crunchy beaches and an atmosphere that makes you want to build a shack and adopt a coconut, you should go to Koh Lipe. The island is still a very unspoiled island both on land and in the surrounding ocean. It has all the charm a paradise island should have and each year it is attracting many young backpackers making the place even more interesting no matter what you are into.

During your Advanced Water Course, you will see reefs in a good condition, plastered with soft coral gardens, and amazing topography. It is the Andaman Sea, meaning that the diversity of fish here is very large. No doubt you will see many different species on one single dive. The variation of the dive sites is just as great, and you will rarely turn up at one site and find another boat there. In the Advanced Course, you will do 5 different dives, introducing you to new levels of diving. The variety of Koh Lipe will make your next step in diving very interesting and challenging in all the good ways.

Area name / Island name
Tarutao national park, Butang archipelago, koh lipe

Nearest airport
Langkawi, Hat Yai, Phuket, Krabi

Season
All year

Center type
CMAS Dive center
PADI Course
Friendly and experienced
French-Thai owned

Experience level
PADI Open water diver or equivalent
Is suitable for all experience levels. The dives are easy accessible with a short boat ride

Minimum age for participation
12 Years

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Location
Koh Lipe remains one of the most enchanting islands in the Andaman Sea, offering a balance of natural beauty and vibrant island life. Nestled in the Tarutao National Park, part of the Butang archipelago, this tropical haven invites visitors with its crystal-clear waters and still-beautiful coral reefs, perfect for snorkeling and exploring. While it has grown in popularity, the island maintains its laid-back charm, with soft white sand beaches, chilled beach bars, and cozy accommodations that make you want to stay forever. Life here feels timeless, surrounded by lush greenery and the warm, welcoming spirit of the Sea Gypsies, whose roots trace back to the island's fascinating past. Koh Lipe is a slice of paradise that blends the best of island living with an authentic yet vibrant edge.

Your resort
Forra Dive Resort Sunrise Beach is a hidden gem on the northern tip of Sunrise Beach, nestled between Lipe Beach Resort and the charming Sea Gypsies village. The 18 cozy bungalows are arranged around a lush garden, where a wood-built lounge and restaurant offer a peaceful space to relax, read, or connect, all with Wi-Fi. Just 100 meters from the beach, you'll find the beachfront clubhouse and dive center, with a stunning view of the majestic Koh Adang island, rising 700 meters into tropical rainforest. Rent snorkeling gear or a kayak and discover the vibrant marine life at Koh Kla, just 200 meters offshore—a true paradise for snorkelers and freedivers alike.

Your room
Your private basic bungalow with garden view is fitted with mosquito net and a fan. It features a private terrace with hammock. and a spacious tiled bathroom with an open-air shower. The bungalow is 2 minutes walk from the beach.
If you are traveling 3 people together, or do not wish to sleep in a queensize bed, upgrade to the Family Bungalow upon booking.

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away to sea

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Introduction to course

The PADI Advanced Open Water course will get you even more comfortable in the water by simply completing five adventure dives under the supervision of a PADI Instructor. If you're looking to build your confidence and gain more experience, this is the natural next step on the ladder. The course is designed so you can go straight into it after the Open Water Diver course. The course builds on what you've already learned and develops new capabilities by introducing you to new activities in diving.
Alter your skills by completing 5 adventure dives introducing you to:

- Underwater navigation
- Deeper water diving (from 18-30 meters)
- 3 Adventure Dives of your choice

You and your instructor choose from 15 types of Adventure Dives to complete your course. Best part about the Advanced course is: There is NO exam... Just lots of good diving.

WHEN TAKING THE COURSE

The Advanced course is a sure step. To enroll, you need to be certified as PADI Open Water Diver or equivalent. A refresher dive is recommended prior to the course if you've been out of the water for more than 6 months or have little experience. (Yet)

SSI PADI padi.com

The course in short:

Number of Dives:
2 mandatory dives
(deep dive & Navigation dive)
3 Adventure dives of own choice
(Please seek advice of the instructor prior to choosing dives)

Knowledge Development:
Five theoretical modules matching the 5 dives in the course

Prerequisites:
10 years for Junior Advanced Open Water Diver
15 years for Advanced Open Water Diver

Materials you'll need:
PADI ADvanced Open Water Crew Pack
(Included in your package)

Equipment you'll use during the course:
Mask, fins, snorkel, tank, regulator, buoyancy compensator, weightbelt, submersible pressure gauge and a wetsuit
(Included in your package)

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away to sea

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Advanced Course in Koh Lipe

Itinerary
The PADI Advanced Open Water Course is performance based. That means you have to understand and pass the theory and perform the in-water skills correctly and with ease. Therefore, the itinerary can vary slightly from course to course. The course will take 2 to 3 days depending on the students enrolled. 5 dives will be spread out on the available days. No more than 3 training dives will be conducted each day. To give you an idea of what to expect, see the itinerary below:

Day 1: Arrive and relax, start reading the chapthers that apply to your course

Day 2: Reviewing of the chapters applying for the dives of the day

Day 3: Reviewing of the chapters applying for the dives of the day

Day 4: Relax & check out. Or go fun diving!

If you want a longer itinerary, you can add extra days of diving and accommodation upon booking.

Please note
Due to ocean and weather conditions, the itinerary can be subject to change.

If you are traveling 3 people together, or do not wish to sleep in a queensize doublebed, upgrade to the Family Bungalow upon booking.

Activity starts
Beginner courses are run on a daily basis, Courses on all levels can start every day. Please note that daily pick-up and start times can vary from course to course. You will be notified upon arrival

Activity starts from
All students meet at the Dive Center each day, and usually end up hanging out there after the dives. It's a great place to relax. Please contact your dive center no later than one week prior arrival to confirm your arrival and pickup times

Group Size
No limit
Max. 4 divers pr. Instructor/Divemaster

Language
English

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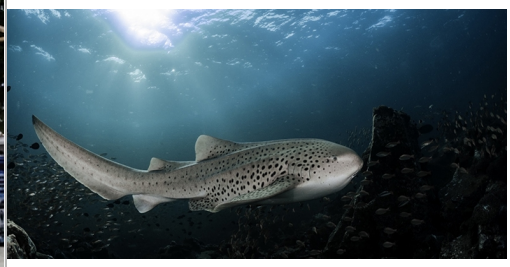
Transfer information

It's easy to get to Koh Lipe from Southern Thailand. In high season there are several ferry routes in the Andaman Sea. From November until May you will find direct ferries from Koh Phi Phi, Koh Lanta, Langkawi, Pak Barra, Koh Ngai, Koh Muk and Koh Laoliang. Coming from the islands on the east coast like Koh Tao or Koh Samui, it is recommended you stay the night on Koh Lanta, from where it's easy traveling to Koh Lipe.

From Bangkok to Hat Yai: Trains leave every day from Bangkok's Hua Lamphong Trains Station between 17.00h and 20.00h. It is a 15 hour journey and first or second class sleepers are recommended. For a similar price you can take a much less comfortable bus.

From Hat Yai to Pak Barra: Minibuses leave every hour to Pak Barra. The ride to Pak Barra takes around 2 hours and costs around 150 THB per person. Any travel agency can help you book your minibus.

From Pak Barra: The last ferry leaves at 2PM. Tickets range from 650 to 750 baht and can be obtained by the check in desks. There is no pier on Koh Lipe, Local Chao Ley (Sea Gypsies) will come with their longtail boats to pick you up from the ferry.



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Advanced Course in Koh Lipe

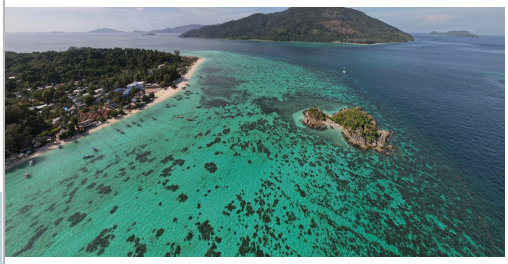
Prices below are based on 2 persons sharing accommodation, unless stated otherwise.

ADVANCED COURSE - PRIVATE BUNGALOW	
Days / Nights	4/3
Amount of dives	5
Price (incl. accommodation)	521 EUR

Supplements	
Extra day of diving (2 dives, incl. equp.)	101 EUR
Extra night of accom. (after)	20 EUR
Extra night of accom. (before)	20 EUR
Upgrade to Family Bungalow - (person per night)	4 EUR

Prices for supplementary accommodation are based on 2 persons sharing accommodation, unless stated otherwise.

Supplements
A supplement can be choosen to add on your package. All supplements can also be booked on site. In high season, bungalows and boats get filled fast - you might find trouble getting an extra night in your resort or an extra day of diving. If you are booking a course, it is recommended to book an extra night of accomodation prior your course, to get settled and get up front on the studying.



Included
Diving as stated in package
All dive equipment
Instructor
Accommodation

Not included
All meals and drinks
Alcoholic beverages
All transfers
Insurance
National park fee

Diving Insurance
Dive insurance is mandatory. Can be purchased locally (70thb) or via DAN Europe or your own insurance company.

Also available on site
Extra Accommodation if available
Extra days of diving if available

Continuing education
All continuing courses available on site

Cancellation
Terms on voucher

Dive insurance
Basic dive travel insurance required

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General terms and conditions

GENERAL CONDITIONS

CHANGES OF BOOKINGS:
You can change your booking request or start date free of charge.
If you need to change your booking you must contact the **dive center** directly by e-mail or phone. You will find the contact details on your voucher. For verification purpose, please remember to mention your name and booking ID.

If you want to change your start date, we recommend that you do so minimum 10 days before the beginning of your dive package. Later than this, might cause the accommodation to be fully booked for alternative dates. During high seasons, 10 days might not be sufficient time, please allow extra time for changes in the high season. As a reminder, you will receive an email with general information and contact information of your dive center 10 days prior to your start date.

CANCELLATION RULES:
Any customer has the right to cancel their booking with Blue Venture Diving. In order to do so, you must contact your selling agent. The cancellation fees and rules of your selling agent will apply for your cancellation.

Blue Venture is not liable for any cancellations done by the customer of personal reason such as/or in the same category as sickness, family, missed flights etc, or other circumstances that is beyond reasonable control such as force majeure.

Blue Venture booking cancellation
In the unlikely event that Blue Venture is forced to cancel a booking, the customer will get direct notice. A cancellation will only happen if Blue Venture finds that the contracted dive center can't perform the needed service of the booked package or if the dive standards can't be fulfilled accordingly. Minor changes in the itinerary will not be defined as a valid cancellation reason, as diving is dictated by the environment and the people enrolled in the activity.
Blue Venture will always do their best to find another operator of same or higher standard, but it is up to the customer to decide whether they want to accept the change or get a refund.

INSURANCE:
A cancellation insurance is not included. It is highly advised recommended that you obtain adequate travel insurance prior to your departure from your home country.

REFUNDS:
Medical Statement
To enroll in an Open Water Course, all students MUST fill in the Medical Statement. Please ensure that you have received the medical statement from your travel agent. If any questions are replied with a "Yes", the medical statement must be signed by a doctor. Failing the medical statement at the destination, and therefore not being able to enroll in the diving course, you will not be entitled to a refund.

If you have not received your Medical Statement, please make sure to print it from this link.
https://blueventure.net/files/information/12.pdf

Medical statements, specifically for courses in Cairns (Australia)

Entry level (E.g. Open Water course)
https://blueventure.net/files/required/138.pdf

Continuing education (e.g. advanced course)
https://blueventure.net/files/required/139.pdf

Restricted dives
Diving is dictated by the environment and the people enrolled in the activity. All diving is performance based. It is up to the discretion of the dive guide/instructor to restrict divers from entering activities that goes beyond their experience level. All guides strive to reach the expectations of the customers. However, if they find that the safety of the group or an individual is jeopardized or at risk by one or several individuals, it is up to the dive guide/instructor to restrict any divers from entering the water.
In this event the dive center or Blue Venture is not obliged to give a refund.

Dives not completed

There is no refund for dives not carried out.
Refund for dives not done for any reason is up to the discretion of the dive center. Most dive centers do not give refunds for dives not done with personal causes such as seasickness, low on air situations or a failure in mastering the equipment etc. All log books will be checked prior to the dive and the dive sites will be chosen accordingly to the experience level. It is however expected that certified divers keep within their limits and do not cross their comfort zone. Blue Venture and your travel agent is never responsible to pay a refund for dives not done.

Courses not completed
There is no refund for courses not completed! All courses are performance based, but it is up to the instructor to pass the student. If a customer can not complete a course with success they will receive their course documents for an optional referral, but the contracted dive center, your travel agent and Blue Venture is not responsible to pay a refund.

Boats or dives not departing
If boats or dives are cancelled due to bad weather or sea conditions, it is up to the dive center to re-schedule and compensate with a similar dive trip when conditions allow. If the customer does not have adequate time to enroll in another trip/course it is up to the customer to make sure the dive center notify Blue Venture of this in order to secure a refund via the sales agent who completed the sale with the customer. There will only be refund on the diving and not the accommodation.

ACCOMMODATION:
Unless mentioned in the destination information folder the accommodation is always part of the package.
If the dive center by any means can't deliver the agreed accommodation, it is up to their discretion to supply immediate accommodation of the same or higher standard. (the destination information folder is found on the Blue Venture website.)
If the accommodation somehow does not live up to satisfactory standards of the customer, the customer must contact Blue Venture by phone or email as soon as possible (preferably while still on site) in order to solve the problem.

DIVE INSTRUCTORS & DIVE GUIDES:
All contracted dive centers has been handpicked based on their level of professionalism and expertise. Blue Venture ensures that all guides and instructors have the correct education and experience. In the unlikely event that a customer suffers a bad experience with any guide, instructor or dive center facilities, Blue Venture is entitled to know, but can't by any means be held liable.
At the end of you dive experience as questionnaire will be sent out to you, that we would like you to answer. By doing this, you help securing a high level of professionalism towards all customers.

MEDICAL STATEMENT & LOGBOOK:
If you are about to enroll in a dive course (entry level only), you must fill out the RSTC Medical Statement before you leave your home country. Please make sure your agent has provided you with the RSTC Medical Statement. You can also print the medical statement from the link, further up on this page. If you need the medical statement reviewed by a doctor, you have 10 days from the date of the booking with the option of cancelling for free.
If you are already certified as a diver and about to go fundiving, you must remember your current dive certificate and your personal logbook or dive computer.