



## MV Smiling Seahorse Itineraries 6 Day/5 Night

**Day 1:** the meeting time at our Dive Shop is 12.00, so we will have time to try equipment before going to our boat MV Smiling Seahorse. Before departure the Thai emigration comes on board and will stamp us out of Thailand. Then the boat will take us to Kawthoung where we will get our visa for Burma and permit to visit the archipelago. Officer will come onboard to control that all the papers are in order. Then it's departure: We will do a little ceremony to launch the trip and present the crew at sunset before having dinner.

**Day 2:** The first day will be in an area rich in macro life visiting High Rock or Rocky Point where we can often Spot Ray and Cobias as well as a lot of small stuff hiding in the coral. It's a good day to test your eyes! Here we can find all the special things like Pipefish, Pineapple Fish, Frogfish, Sea Horses and many different species of Nudibranchs. We will also show you one of the dive site we recently discovered with a tunnel often inhabited by the soft giants Nurse Sharks and do the night dive around Spanish garden, which we named that way because of the numerous Spanish dancers resident.

**Day 3:** We will spend the day around Shark Cave, with 3 dive sites to explore, after the second dive we will find a bounty beach where we can get some sand between our toes...

If you're lucky: Manta Ray, Eagle Ray, Whale Shark, Grey Reef Shark, Nurse Shark and big blotched Stingray...

Even if you are unlucky with the big stuff: Ghost Pipefish, Harlequin Shrimps, Frog Fish, Seahorse and gorgeous coral everywhere.

For the night dive, you can pick your favorite of these three dive sites and you will be sure to have an awesome time. Shrimps are everywhere you look and we often spot Spanish Dancers and other big Nudibranch here too.

**Day 4:** Today we're diving around North Twin. Our furthest point on this cruise which usually offer the best visibility and the highest chance for pelagic. Chance to see Manta Ray, Eagle Ray, Whale Shark, Grey Reef Shark, Nurse Shark, Zebra Shark and giant Sea Fans..

**Day 5:** The first dive will be around Seafan Forest a gorgeous site with giant Sea Fan like nowhere else on one side and purple vibrant soft coral on the overs. We can see up to 4 whales sharks at the same time on this site so we might stay for another dive here if they are around or we will do the next 3 dives around Western Rocky which is also absolutely amazing.

One of the highlights is a tunnel that goes all the way through the island inhabited by many lobsters.

We have spotted here various shark species (Bowmouth Guitarfish, Whale Shark, Reef Sharks) and often have resident Harlequin Shrimps, frogfishes and Sea Horses and a lot of shrimp and crab species are represented...

**Day 6:** The last dive goes into a volcano where a group of Black Tip Sharks likes to hang around, it is also a site rich in macro life. Here the question is not if you will see a seahorse, the question is how many? Up to 10 per dive if you have good eyes as well as rare species such as shaded Batfish, Comet Long Fins or Pineapple Fish.

After the last dive we will head back toward Kawthoung where there will be opportunity to explore the market or enjoy the Smiling Seahorse's hospitality with a beer in the local pub. Once we got our passports back from the Burmese authorities, we will sail back to Thailand where we get a new visa stamp. (30 days for G8 countries passport holders, 14 days for the others getting visa on arrival)

## 7 Day/6 Night

**Day 1:** Meeting time in our Dive Shop before noon for check in before we go to our boat MV smiling seahorse after lunch. We need to get everyone's passport in order to deal with immigration while you are enjoying your meal nearby. Then the boat will take us to Kawthoung where we will get visa for Burma. Then it's departure to the first dive site High Rock. Dinner under the stars...

**Day 2:** 4 dives around the very special "Shark Cave", one of my favorites where you always have good surprises big and small. In the afternoon we will find a bounty beach where we can get some sand between our toes and we might also pass by a local fishermen village. Chance to see Eagle Ray, Grey Reef Shark, Nurse Shark sleeping in their cave, blotched sting rays, frog fishes, leaf fish, Spearing Mantis Shrimp and many more. Beautiful coral makes it a very colorful dive site.

**Day 3:** After a night of crossing, we will reach Black Rock, a small rock out in open sea. Here we are going for big stuff, like Sharks and Rays and whatever is passing... This is the place to go for "Manta Festival" with Manta rays coming in dozens from everywhere (no guarantee of course but pretty common)... in this condition, it is quite difficult to focus on the coral side and find the small stuff but it is also very rich in Macro Life. Probably the best dive site in Myanmar but so far from civilisation that very few divers have been there.

**Day 4:** We stay far from the coast with North Twin for another good chance to cross Manta rays and sometimes eagle rays. We have also had many Zebra sharks sleeping on the sand patch near north twin pinnacle. Giant seafans are also a good spot to find smaller critters, keep your eyes peeled.

**Day 5:** Seafan Forest has a lot of beautiful seafan attracting all kinds of fishes. You will often see schools of barracudas or tunas in the blue. And it is our favorite spot to spot stone fish. In the afternoon we will go around Western rocky for 2 more dives including a magical night dive with so many yellow polyps flowering at dark, Spanish dancers and all types of crabs are often sighted.

**Day 6:** Probably the best known dive site in Burma, Western Rocky and its neighboring dive sites have enough to offer for an extra full day . Don't worry we still wont need to share it! Lobsters (and sometimes sleeper or red lobsters are hiding in its tunnel and come out at night. Rarer sights but still around from time to time: Bowmouth Guitar Fish, Whale Shark, Various shark species Harlequin Shrimp, Frogfish and Sea Horses...

**Day 7:** The last dive goes into a volcano where a group of black tip sharks likes to hang around... this is also a special space to find seahorse and rare tropical fishes like the comet long fin, the shaded batfish or the pineapple fish... open your eyes!

## 8 Day/7 Night

**Day 1:** Meeting time in our Dive Shop 12.00 where we will have time to try equipment before we go to our boat MV Smiling Seahorse. Before departure comes the Thai emigration on board and will stamp us out of Thailand. Then the boat will take us to Kawthoung where we will get visa for Burma. Then it's departure to the first dive site High Rock. Dinner under the stars...

**Day 2:** 1 dive at High Rock which is a great Macro spots. Here we can find all the special things like Pipefish, Ghost Pipefish, Pineapple Fish, Frogfish, Sea Horses and many different species of Nudibranchs.

1 dive at Stewart Island where 3 tunnels cross the islands from part to part. Afternoon and night dive at Tower Rock which can be a very special experience ... Opportunity to see Grey Reef shark, Nurse Shark (and they are big...) and a lots of small things like Sea Horses, Frogfish, Ghost Pipefish and spanish dancers in the evening.

**Day 3:** 4 dives around the very special Shark Cave, one of my favorites. In the afternoon we will find a bounty beach where we can get some sand between our toes and we might also pass by a local fishermen village.

Chance to see Eagle Ray, Grey Reef Shark, Nurse Shark sleeping in their cave, blotched sting rays, frog fishes, leaf fish, Spearing Mantis Shrimp and many more. Beautiful coral makes it a very colorful dive site.

**Day 4:** After a night of crossing, we will reach Black Rock, a small rock out in open sea. Here we are going for big stuff, like Sharks and Rays and whatever is passing... Out of 4 days we spent last year on this very special dive sites we had 2 days of "Manta Festival" with Manta Rays coming in dozens from everywhere during the whole dives... in this condition, it is quite difficult to focus on the coral side and find the small stuff but it is also very rich in Macro Life. Probably the best dive site in Myanmar but so far from civilisation that very few divers have been there.

**Day 5:** We stay offshore with North Twin and its pinnacle where there is another good chance to cross Manta Rays and sometimes eagle rays and even mobulas. Because there are many patches of sand between the boulders making the particularity of this dive site, we also sighted Leopard Sharks sleeping quite regularly. Giant Sea Fans are also often hiding wonders so look thoroughly!

**Day 6:** We will visit Seafan forest in the morning, its name says it all, many boulders and many Sea Fans attract many kinds of fish. You will often see schools of Barracudas or batfish on top of the site as well as tuna hunting schools of fusiliers. In the afternoon we will go around Western rocky for 2 more dives there.

**Day 7:** 4 dives around Western Rocky which is one of the most famous dive sites in Burma. Don't worry we still wont need to share it! One of the highlights is a tunnel (cave) at 20 meters depth that goes all the way through the island. You will see lobsters hiding in dark corners as well as sleeper lobster and many types of crabs (sponge crab, spider crab, anemone crab). We have also spotted Bowmouth Guitarfish, Whale Shark, Various shark species Harlequin Shrimp, Frogfish and Seahorses...

**Day 8:** The last dive goes into a volcano where a group of black tip sharks likes to hang around... this is also a special space to find seahorse and rare tropical fish like the comet long fin, the shaded batfish or the pineapple fish... open your eyes!

## 9 Day/8 Night

**Day 1:** Meeting time in our Dive Shop before 12.00 where you can try your equipment if you rent some and finalise the paperwork before we go to the boat. (we will need to see your passport with departure card, USD, photo and diver's certification card)

We will take care of Thai immigration for you while you have lunch in town and we will cruise to the other side of the border. We will stop in Kawthoung where Myanmar officers will come on-board to check the paperwork and as soon as they give us clearance, we will cruise toward our first dive site.

**Day 2:** The first dive sill be in the area of High rock with plenty of macro life and also some nice shark and rays to surprise tou. Here we can find all the special things like Pipefish, ghost pipe fish, Pineapple Fish, Frogfish, Sea Horses and many different species of Nudibranchs.

In the afternoon, we will show you a dive site we recently discovered and where we often see Nurse Shark (and they are big...) sleeping in a swim through the coral around is vibrant and take all colours.

It is also a great spot for the night dive and we named it Spanish garden because we often spot more than one Spanish dancer per night dive there.

**Day 3:** 4 dives around the very special "Shark Cave", with 3 dive sites to explore one of my favorites. In the afternoon we explore a paradise beach or a small fishermen settlement

In shark cave you can expect seeing Nurse Sharks or big blotched sting rays, a lot of Mantis Shrimp and crustaceans of all types. The coral around makes it a very colorful dive site.

For the night dive, you'll have the choice and can go to the site you preferred from the 3 you saw. All I can say is: This is a night dive you shouldn't miss!

**Day 4:** After a night of crossing, we will reach Black Rock, a small rock out in open sea. Here we are going for big stuff, like Sharks and Rays and whatever is passing... when you see Manta Rays here, they come by the dozen. If they are not around, you'll get more chance to look in the coral covering this rock and will find man wonders. Probably the best dive site in Myanmar but so far from civilization that very few divers have been there. We only go during our rare trip 4 and 5.

**Day 5:** Exclusively on this cruise: We will take it one step further Either North around Torres Islands or West toward the Burma Banks for some exploratory dives we hope to have some exceptional dives and you may be the first divers to explore some of these dive sites...

**Day 6:** We stay offshore one more day with North Twin and its pinnacle where there is another good chance to cross Manta rays and sometimes eagle rays and even mobulas. Because there are many patches of sand between the boulders, this is the site with the best chance for Leopard sharks sighting. Giant Sea Fans are also often hiding wonders so look thoroughly!

**Day 7:** Western Rocky: beautiful scenery and coral life is the setting for some fantastic dives. here you can encounter every Indian Ocean creature big and small from the nonchalant whale shark to the pretty Harlequin Shrimps.

**Day 8:** one more day around Western Rocky and some pretty secret pinnacles.

**Day 9:** We will do one dive in Volcano rich in soft coral and seahorses and visit a lovely beach.

After the last dive we will head back toward Kawthoung where you can visit the local market or enjoy The Smiling Seahorse's hospitality with a fresh beer at the local pub.

Once we got our passports back by the Burmese authorities, we will head back to Thailand where we get a new visa (30 or 14 days for visa on arrival).