

Island Safari Mergui

Archipelago







Mergui Archipelago

The Mergui Archipelago consists of over 800 small islands located in southern Myanmar. This ractically uninhabited wonderland greets visitors with the same pristine natural beauty that enchanted early explorers over 200 years ago. The lush tropical jungle spills down the hills of the countless islands and is separated from the sparkling azure waters by thin ribbons of beautiful white sand, broken only by ancient mangroves and mysterious sea caves. The islands are called home by many exotic species of mammals, reptiles and birds. Mouse-Deer, jungle cats, Armadillos and Monkeys can be seen frolicking in the undergrowth while Burmese pythons and monitor lizards laze in the sun. The bright blue sky teems with the spectacular colours of King Fishers, sea eagles, and rare South-eastern Hornbills.

Our island safari begins at Kawthaung, formally known as Victoria Point, which is close to the Thai border town of Ranong, about 300km north of Phuket. Our vessel, Sea Gipsy, is the perfect platform to explore this wild paradise offering access to the pristine islands and sea caves via kayak or stand-up paddle board and with amazing coral reefs just a step away and ready to be explored. This area contains many world renowned snorkelling sites containing hard and soft corals and a huge variety of tropical fish and other marine life.





The only full time inhabitants of the area are the almost extinct Moken, or Salone People. Often called 'Sea Gypsies' these people live almost exclusively on their boats as they roam the bountiful tropical seas extracting the rich bounty of the sea as hunter-gatherers. You will observe their ways of life, which are in perfect harmony with their aquatic environment and remain unchanged for centuries. Experience paddling a canoe carved by hand from a single tree trunk, and observe their traditional methods of spear-fishing and collecting their foods from the sea floor.

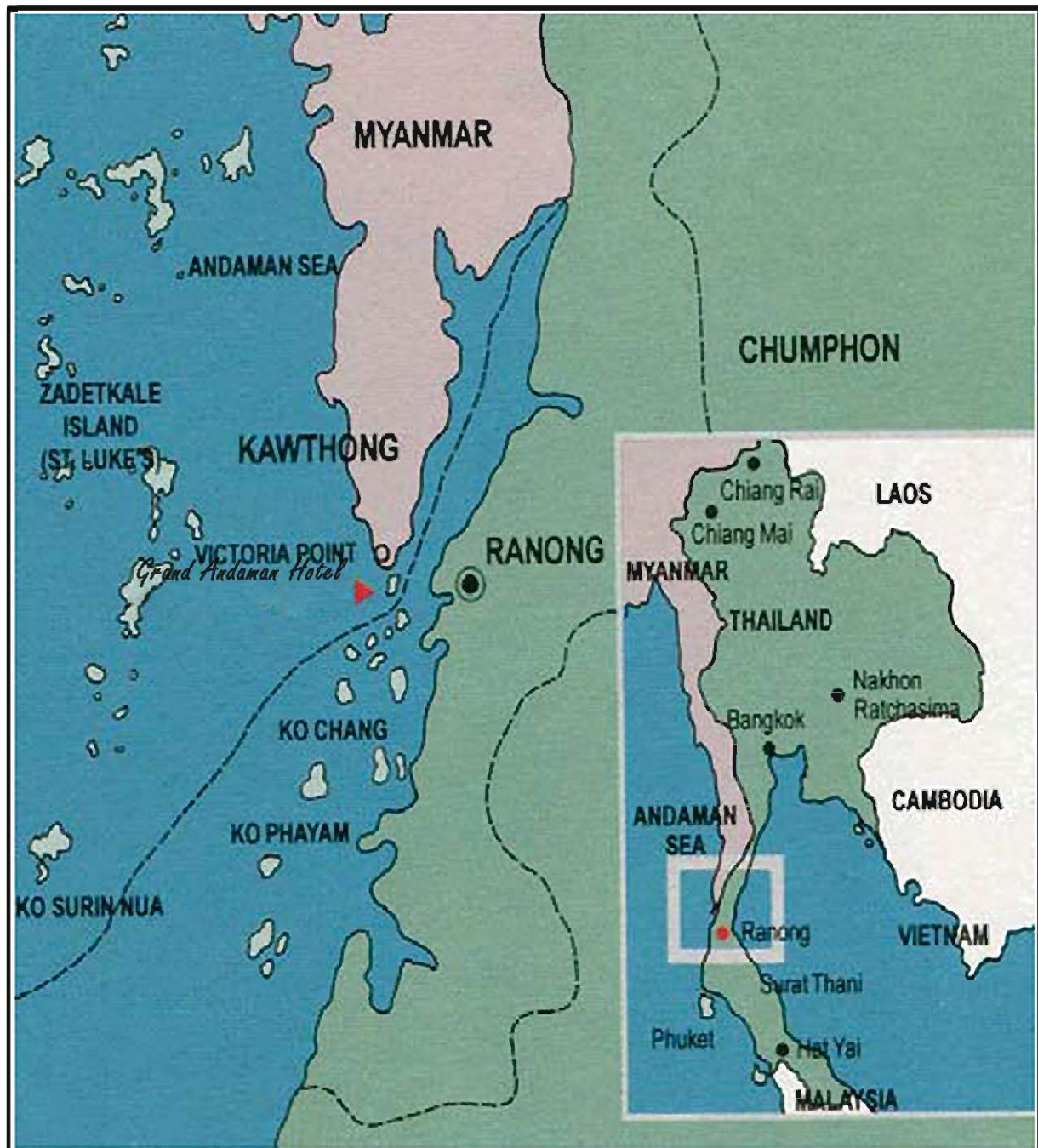
Awaken your inner adventurer, nature lover and romantic as you delve into the heart of this secluded and untouched paradise. Cast yourself back to a time where brave souls set sail for unknown lands and discovered the most breath taking pockets of this earth, and the amazing cultures that already called these places home.



Kawthaung / Ranong - Location

Kawthaung on the Myanmar/Burma side (formally known as "Victoria Point") is the southernmost border town in Burma. This bustling little fishing town lives off the border trade to and from Thailand and is the entry point to the Mergui Archipelago boasting over 800 tropical islands. Visit the local market to buy souvenirs, enjoy the "Victoria Point", the "King Bayint Naung" Statue and the Pyidawaye Pagoda on the hill overlooking the entire town with magnificent views across the Pakchan River to Ranong. Half-day sightseeing tours around Kawthaung can be organised on departure or arrival day of one of our Island Safaris.

Across the Pakchan River lays the border town Ranong (Ranong Province in southern Thailand). The river, which forms a natural boundary between Thailand and Myanmar, runs all the way up to Kra Buri ("Isthmus of Kra") 50km south of Chumphon, which is also the trading gateway from northern to southern Thailand. Ranong Province is famous for it's fertile ground attracting rubber tree-, palm oil-, and cashew nut plantations. Natural hot springs, waterfalls and lush tropical rainforest can be found in the area.





How to get there

Kawthaung can be reached from Yangon by domestic airlines during the whole year. Trip to Grand Andaman Hotel on Tha Htay Kyun can be organised. For flight schedules and prices, please contact our sales office.

Ranong can be reached by flight from Bangkok, by mini bus from Surat Thani (3-4 Hours) or Phuket (4-5 Hours) or from Bangkok with the overnight air-con VIP bus (8-9 hours). There are several regular daily flights from Bangkok to Surat Thani and Phuket with Nok Air or Air Asia. For flight schedules and detailed prices, please contact our sales offices. Day trips around Ranong and the neighbouring islands Koh Chang and Koh Phayam can be organised.





MV Sea Gypsy - Welcome onboard

MV Sea Gypsy is a Burmese-style Junk and was custom designed for the purpose to provide an ideal platform for snorkeling, adventure excursions and romantic overnight trips. The tastefully decorated boat features 5 comfortable open-air gazebo areas (Which can be transformed into beds with mosquito net for the nighttime) on the main and upper deck. There are two bath rooms with toilet and freshwater showers on the main deck.

The huge sundeck of MV Sea Gypsy invites to stretch out on the wooden deck-chairs for sunbathing in style or relaxing under the stars with a glass of wine. You can find plenty of relaxation areas, both in the sun and in the shade. MV Sea Gypsy has a dive platform at the stern of the boat with one water exit ladder to allow for easy access to and from the boat.





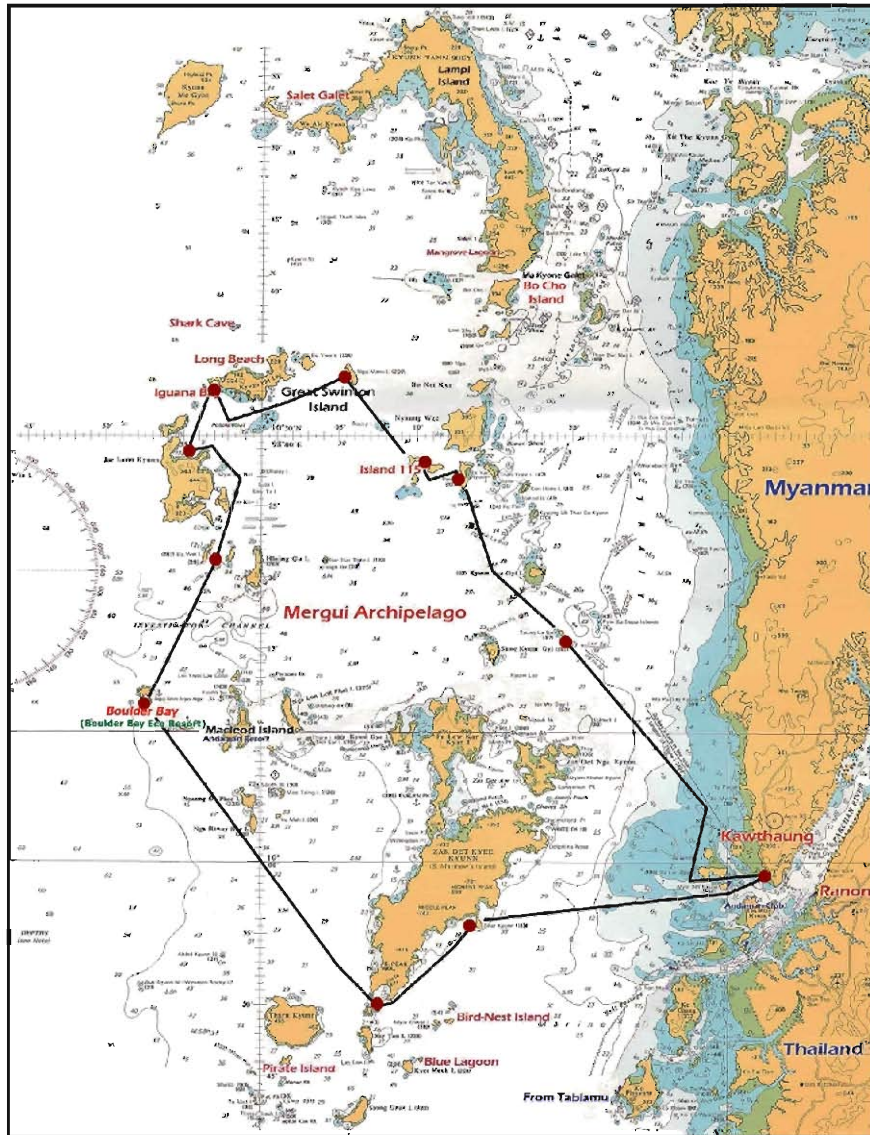
Experience a variety of Thai, Myanmar and European Cuisine served in buffet-style. With notice in advance also special meal requests and diets can be catered. There are also numerous snacks available here throughout the day which includes: fresh fruits and tasty cookies. Beer and a fine selection of wines are available for purchase at our Galley Bar.

Experience the breeze of adventure in the last paradise on the most unique vessel in the Mergui Archipelago.





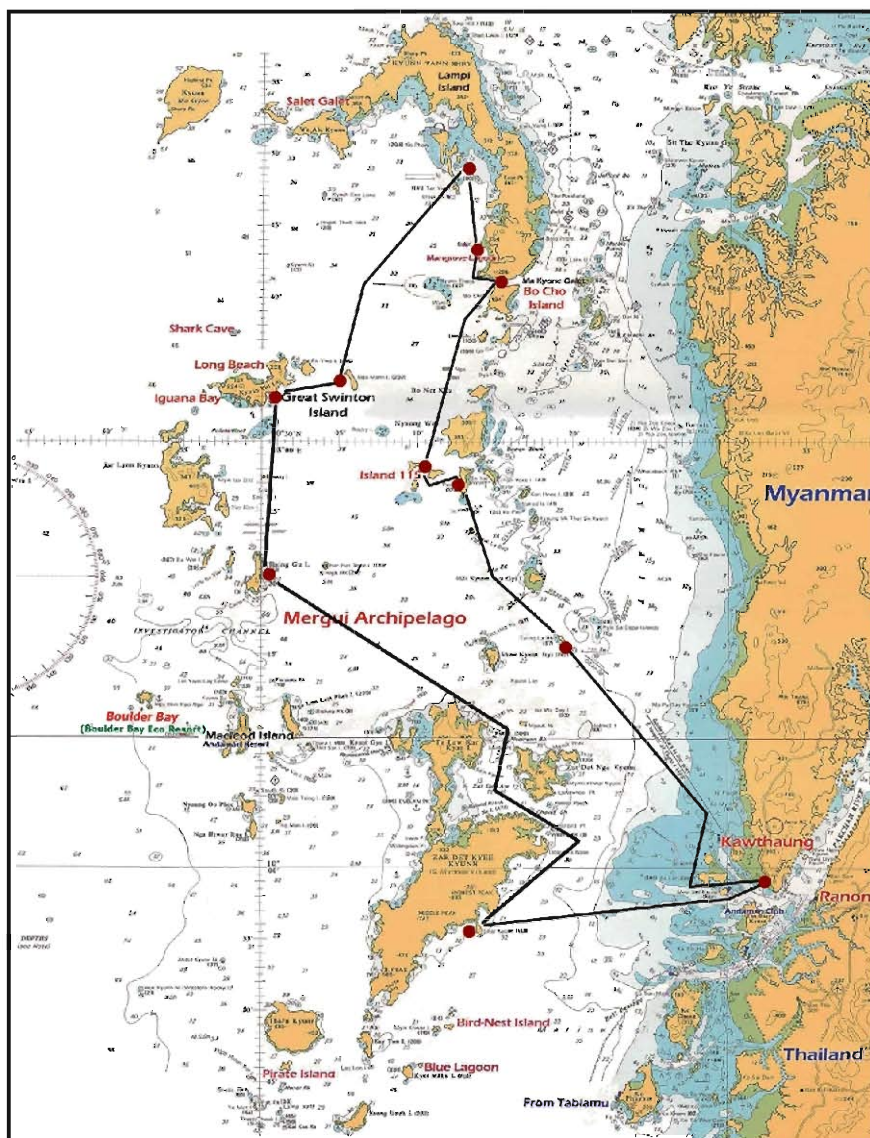
5 Days - 4 Nights Map (A)



5 Days / 4 Nights Activities (Map A)

- Day 1: Depart from Kawthaung 10:00 AM, stop at Taung La Bo (Swimming), Pho Ni Island (Snorkeling / Swimming), 115 Island (Kayaking / Overnight Stay).
- Day 2: Shark Island (Snorkeling / Swimming), Kyunn Pila Island Snorkeling / Swimming / Overnight Stay).
- Day 3: Stop at Jar Iann Kyunn (Visit Moken Village), Bawei Island Snorkeling / Swimming), Boulder Bay (Snorkeling / Swimming / Kayaking / Trekking / Overnight Stay).
- Day 4: Boulder to South Bay (Swimming), Shar Kyunn (Swimming / Kayaking / Overnight Stay).
- Day 5: Shar Kyunn to Kawthaung Arrival Time 12:00 Noon. (End of Service).

5 Days - 4 Nights Map (B)

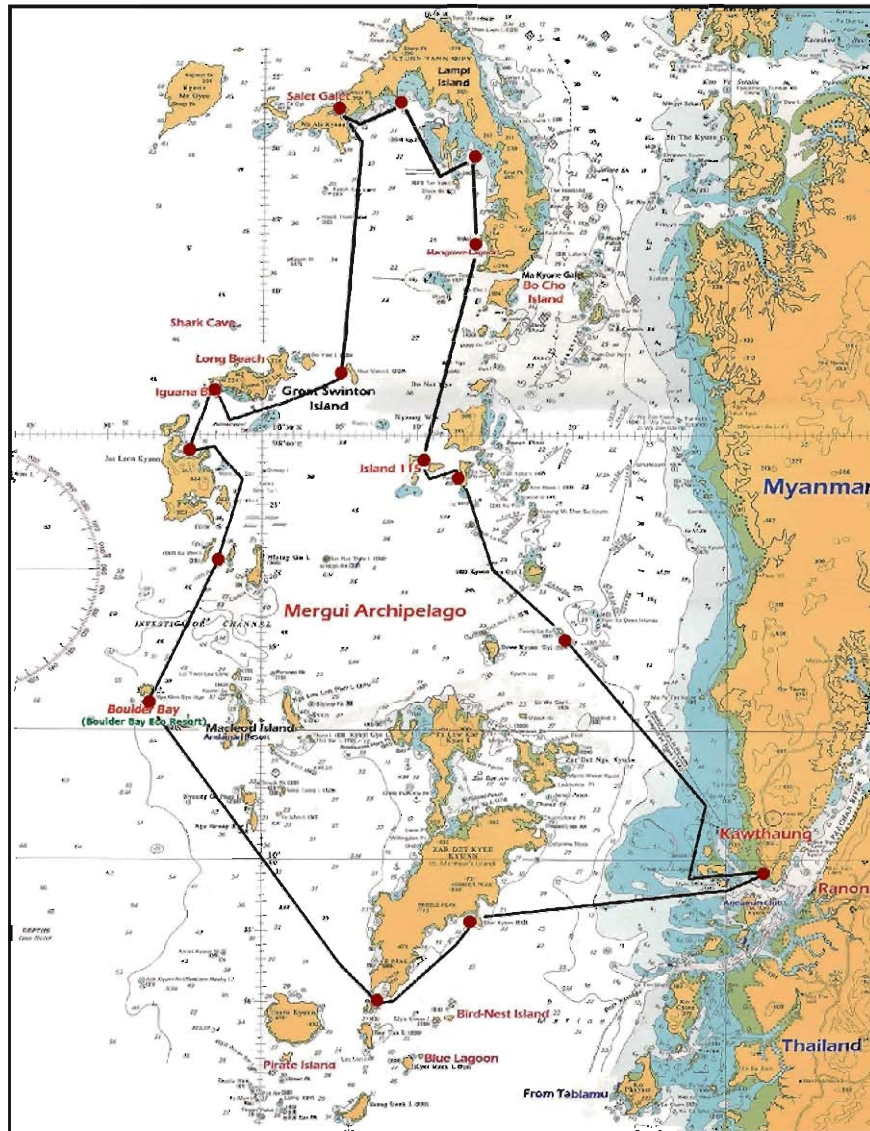


5 Days / 4 Nights Activities (Map B)

- Day 1: Depart from Kawthaung 10:00 AM, stop at Taung La Bo (Swimming), Pho Ni Island Snorkeling / Swimming), 115 Island (Kayaking / Overnight Stay).
- Day 2: 115 Island to Bo Cho Island (Visit Moken Village), Mangrove Lagoon (Kayaking), Island 60 / Tar Yar Kayaking / Swimming / Overnight Stay).
- Day 3: Tar Yar to Shark Island (Snorkeling / Swimming), Kyunn Pila Island (Snorkeling / Swimming), Hlaing Gu (Snorkeling / Overnight Stay).
- Day 4: Hlaing Gu to Shar Kyunn (Swimming / Kayaking / Overnight Stay).
- Day 5: Shar Kyunn to Kawthaung Arrival Time 12:00 Noon. (End of Service)

Alternative Itinerary if the weather is rough

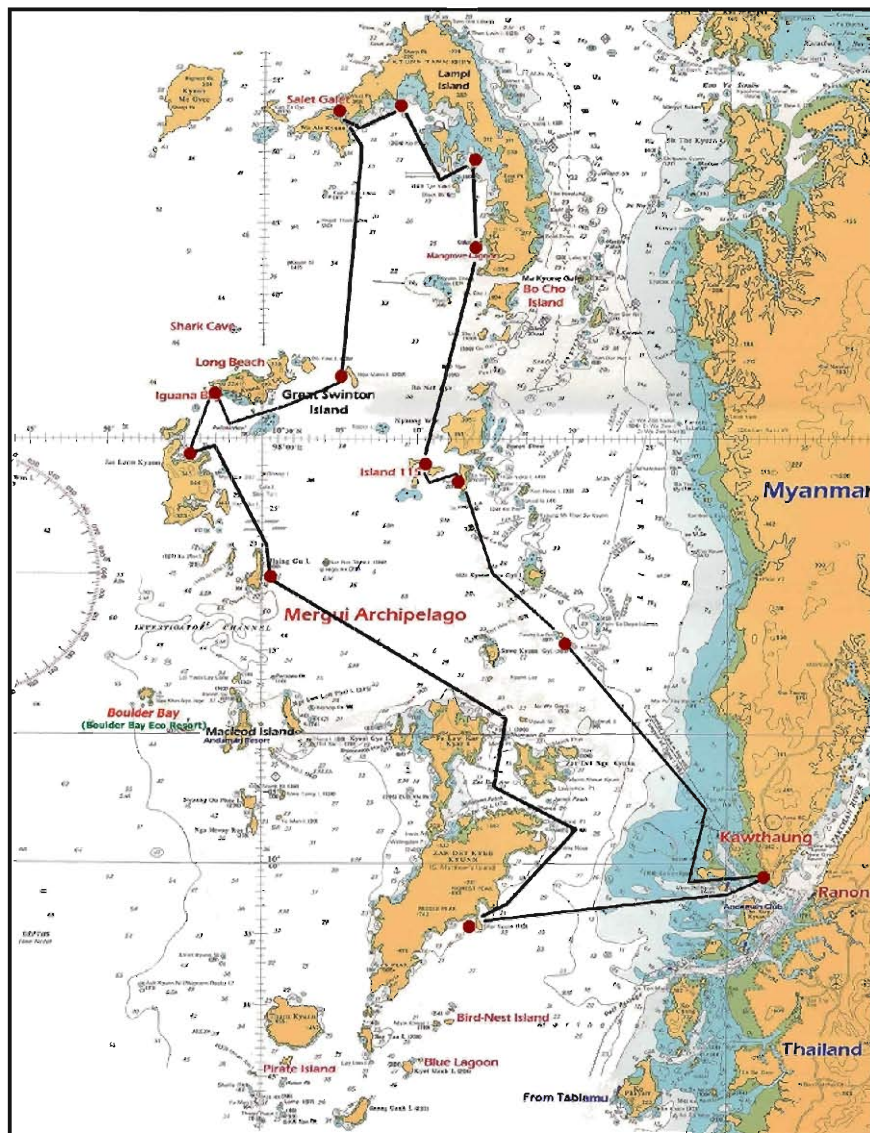
7 Days - 6 Nights Map (A)



7 Days / 6 Nights Activities (Map A)

- Day 1: Depart from Kawthaung 10:00 AM, stop at Taung La Bo (Swimming), Pho Ni Island (Snorkeling / Swimming), 115 Island (Kayaking / Overnight Stay).
- Day 2: 115 Island to Lampi Island (Mangrove Lagoon) (Kayaking), Island 60 / Tar Yar Kayaking / Swimming / Overnight Stay).
- Day 3: Ko Phaw (Swimming / Kayaking), Salet Galet (Swimming / Overnight Stay).
- Day 4: Salet Galet to Shark Island (Snorkeling / Swimming), Kynn Pila Island Snorkeling / Swimming / Overnight Stay).
- Day 5: Jar Iann Kynn (Visit Moken Village), Bawei Island (Snorkeling / Swimming), Boulder Bay (Snorkeling / Swimming / Kayaking / Trekking / Overnight Stay).
- Day 6: Boulder to South Bay (Swimming), Shar Kynn (Swimming / Kayaking / Overnight Stay).
- Day 7: Shar Kynn to Kawthaung Arrival Time 12:00 Noon. (End of Service).

7 Days - 6 Nights Map (B)



7 Days / 6 Nights Activities (Map B)

- Day 1: Depart from Kawthaung 10:00 AM, stop at Taung La Bo (Swimming), Pho Ni Island (Snorkeling / Swimming), 115 Island (Kayaking / Overnight Stay).
- Day 2: 115 Island to Lampi Island (Mangrove Lagoon) (Kayaking), Island 60 / Tar Yar (Kayaking / Swimming / Overnight Stay).
- Day 3: Ko Phaw (Swimming / Kayaking), Salet Galet (Swimming / Overnight Stay).
- Day 4: Salet Galet to Shark Island (Snorkeling / Swimming), Kyunn Pila Island (Snorkeling / Swimming / Overnight Stay).
- Day 5: Jar lann Kyunn (Visit Moken Village), Hlaing Gu (Snorkeling / Overnight Stay).
- Day 6: Hlaing Gu to Shar Kyunn (Swimming / Kayaking / Overnight Stay).
- Day 7: Shar Kyunn to Kawthaung Arrival Time 12:00 Noon. (End of Service).

Alternative Itinerary if the weather is rough

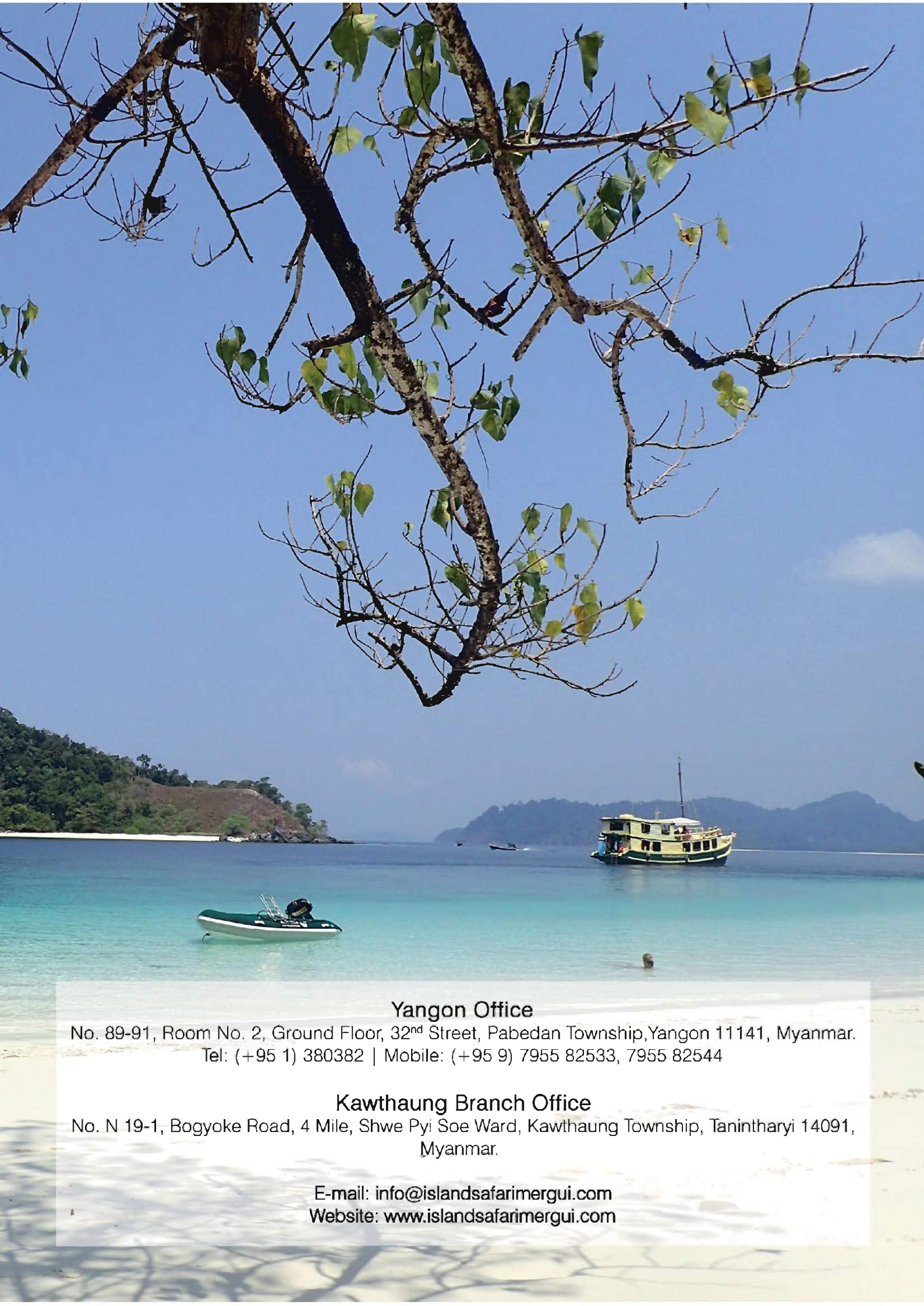


Local Moken People, Sea Gypsies of Myanmar

The blue waters off the Tanintharyi coast of Southern Myanmar are home to the Moken people. There are many theories as to their origin. One source says they are of Austronesian ethnic group. Another says they migrated from southern China some 4,000 years ago. It was speculated that in the late 17th century, while moving through what now is Malaysia, this group split off from others and made the sea their habitat. But one thing for sure is that they had been in the area for decades if not centuries. Many islands in the Myeik (Mergui) Archipelago have Moken indigenous names: Kyun Mei Gyi is Lui (its previous English name was Clara) in Moken spoken language. Lebi in Moken has evolved into Lampi, but during the colonial period it was called Sullivan Island. Bo Cho Island as we now call the island facing Lumpi Marine National Park was called Pu Nala or Luark in Moken language but in the British Admiralty Charts, the name is Eyles. So this shows that the Moken were in this region even before the British arrived. The Moken families hop from island to island, making their canoes their home, never touching land except when the seas get rough during monsoon time. All their worldly possessions are piled in their small boats, not excluding the household dogs even, as they wander from one deserted island to another as their forefathers had done thousands of times before. And this had earned them an epitaph as Sea Gypsies.







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