

# Bareboat Yacht Charter FAQ

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## Getting to Ko Chang

Ko Chang is located approximately 350kms south east of Bangkok in Trat province, which lies on the Thai Cambodian boarder. There is a car ferry service that operates between the island and the mainland from 7:00am to 7:00pm departing every 40 minutes or so on the 30 minute voyage.

### **BY AIR**

Bangkok Airways operates three flights per day to and from Bangkok International airport and Trat airport and all flights get you to the ferry terminal in time to catch the ferry. Flights cost from 80 USD per person.

### **BY ROAD**

The journey from Bangkok can be made by car, the roads are major highways and are in good condition, however you should allow 5 hours to reach the ferry terminal and make sure you have plenty of time to reach the ferry terminal before the last ferry. Uber/Grab app is easiest and most economical way to arrange your own transfer from Bangkok Airport, sedan will cost around 100 USD and larger vehicles around 180 USD.

### **STAYING IN TRAT**

The town of Trat is not really on the tourist trail and although there are several hotels and guest houses, staying in Trat is not really the best way to start your holiday... one night in Bangkok may be a better bet. If you're having difficulty with flights and transfers please do mention this to your Sailing Koh Chang Coordinator to get the most up to date info and options.

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## Provisioning

There are several ways to stock your yacht with all the things you might like to have on board However, for planning purposes keep in mind that most of the islands have resorts and restaurants serving up the very best that Thai cuisine has to offer. You can if you wish eat ashore each night and avoid cooking dinner aboard altogether. If you plan to do your provisioning yourself best to discuss it with your Charter Coordinator, to reach the shops from the Ko Chang base takes around half an hour and you will need to visit several shops so allow at least a half a day if you plan to do this after you have arrived at our base.

### **PRE PURCHASED PROVISIONING**

Sailing Koh Chang can do your provisioning for you, we'll have it all loaded on to your charter yacht, cold goods in the refrigerator and drinks on ice for you when you arrive. You can request the list of available goods from your Charter Coordinator or download it from our downloads page.

### **DOING YOUR PROVISIONING YOURSELF.**

If you plan to come to our base first then make a provisioning trip we can arrange a taxi for you however, the round trip allowing an hour for shopping will take you at least three hours.

### **EATING ASHORE**

If you stick to the major anchorages you could if you wish take every meal ashore, however, this would limit you somewhat to just those destinations. Similarly, if you prepare every meal on your charter yacht you would be missing out on some excellent Thai cuisine and fun and friendly restaurants.

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We recommend that you plan for at least one dinner aboard your yacht, this gives you the opportunity to drop anchor at one of the many deserted bays for the night, which you'll have all to your self.

Going ashore for breakfast is doable however, be aware that many of the island resorts consider an early morning to be 9:00am, so if you prefer to get off to an early start then **provision with the breakfast aboard most mornings in mind.**

Lunch very much depends on your planning, note that there are no docking in these cruising areas so each stop will include the need to set anchor and take your dinghy ashore, again we would normally provision with the intention of having most lunches aboard.

## BUYING FOOD DURING CRUISE

It is possible to purchase seafood from the local fisherman, however, this may not always be possible and it very much depends on the time of day, typically you need to catch them in the morning before they head to the market to sell the nights catch.

In the Koh Chang Archipelago Koh Chang is the only island with anything like a supermarket. In the Cruising area of Koh Samui you will find reasonable supplies beyond the island of Samui at both Koh Tao and Koh Phangan. Beyond these main islands you can pick up basics and most fresh items such as fruit, meat, and vegetables however, finding things like fresh bread, fresh coffee, cheese etc is unlikely.

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## Arriving

When you arrive at our base we will meet you at your taxi at the car park of Salakphet Seafood Restaurant and assist with your baggage and loading of your yacht. If you have purchased your provisions along the way allow approximately 1 hour to get everything stowed away and ship shape. The refrigerator will be chilled and there will be drinking ice aboard when you arrive

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## Briefings

The chart brief given on your arrival (or the next morning in the case of late arrivals) describes the cruising area and any potential hazards. The yacht briefing introduces you to your yacht and its systems and rigging. They are carried out individually for each yacht and each briefing takes about 1 to 2 hours so allow plenty of time. It is important that all systems and equipment are fully understood. Briefings are mandatory for all clients. The Pilot book for this area can be sent to you via email, please contact the base directly for the latest version.

You will be required to sign off your charter contract and to fill in the credit card release for the security deposit. If you have used the Sailing Koh Chang provisioning service then you'll need to pay for the provisions with cash before you depart, note that Sailing Koh Chang does not have a credit card facility at the base.

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## What is included in the charter?

All yachts are equipped with everything that you will need for a safe and enjoyable holiday. You will be given an inventory checklist to make sure you have all the items listed. Please inform the base manager before you leave the Base if anything is missing, as it is not always possible to replace or exchange items once you have departed on your cruise. Any problems with your yacht must be reported to the base manager immediately. Sheets, pillows, pillowcases and shower towels are all provided along with a basic starter pack of cleaning materials and toilet paper. Yachts are supplied with all cooking utensils etc. Snorkelling equipment is available for all members of crew. Navigation

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equipment includes all relevant available charts and a pilot book/cruising guide written by the base manager, contact the base directly for the latest version. A GPS/chartplotter is included free of charge on board all yachts.

Please download copy of Koh Chang Cruising guide here

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/uzdxfpaw103tn67/Anchorage%20guide.pdf?dl=0>

GPS chart plotter waypoint will also correspond to anchorage spots listed in this guide

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## What to bring?

Tickets, money, passports and a driving licence if you plan to hire a car. Thailand enjoys a pleasant temperature all year, but be prepared for all weather conditions. We advise you have a hat, sunglasses, sun cream, shorts, T-shirts beach towel and swimwear. A light waterproof is highly recommended particularly from February through to April. In December and January the weather is cooler especially in the evenings, it is much warmer to wear multiple thin layers than one thick layer. Cotton trousers, deck shoes, or white- soled trainers are also useful. For hygiene reasons, we do not hire out sailing footwear or waterproofs. Please bring your things in a soft holdall, as there is limited storage on board the yacht or at the base. Please note that all personal items are brought at your own risk.

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## Cost of living

Prices vary from restaurant to restaurant, however the following is a guide for your reference. A bottle of wine costs about 700 baht in a supermarket and at least twice that in a restaurant. A bottle of beer costs about 35 to 45 baht in a supermarket and from 70 baht up to 150 baht in a restaurant. Good quality Thai food can cost as little as 200 baht per person in a local restaurant where a meal in a resort can cost anything from 1000 baht per person and more.

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## Water and fuel

Water, fuel and 240 volt electricity are available in slip at the base only. There is a watering point at the far end of the cruising area on Koh Kut.

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## Sharks and other marine animals

There are sharks around the cruising area but most of them have no teeth. Leopard sharks feed on shellfish and whale sharks although very large eat only plankton. They are not a threat to sailors or swimmers. There are several species of jellyfish in these waters therefore any clients with strong allergies are advised to wear stinger suits or refrain from swimming.

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## Safety

All yachts are equipped with a life jacket and a harness for everyone on board. We leave it up to you to decide when personal safety equipment should be worn. We suggest that children who are not strong swimmers should not be allowed in a dinghy without a life jacket or buoyancy aid, and they should wear a buoyancy aid or harness when on deck. Children under the age of 16 years are not permitted to operate an outboard engine without a supervising adult in the dinghy. Children's

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lifejackets for 4 years and above are provided subject to availability but parents must supply their own life jackets for children under 4. All clients are encouraged to wear a life jacket in the dinghy at night.

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## Weather

Our base is operational during the drier NE monsoon season. There are three main weather patterns during this period:

- 1) Oct to beginning of December: wind from NE 12-18 knots, some short periods of rain, seas flat.
- 2) Dec to end of January: Strong, cooler winds 15-28 knots from the NE, no rain, maximum 1.5m waves from NE, bright sunny skies.
- 3) February to May: slight SW swell, winds tend to be light and mainly from SE, occasional thunderstorms and rain showers, 40% cloud cover usual.

The temperature, particularly in the evening is a cool 24°C around Dec/Jan. Warmest months are March/April when temperature hovers around 32°C.

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## Diving

The diving in Thailand is very good. Clients must carry a PADI or equivalent qualification to be able to dive on organised trips and unqualified divers can do courses or resort dives. Prices range from centre to centre but it usually costs between 1500 baht and 2500 baht per person for two dives and lunch. The main centre for diving is Bang Bao.

Diving gear can be rented from Scandinavian Chang diving center near Klong Prao Beach. Koh Rang pinnacles and Hin Rap are the best local spots. There is also a shipwreck.

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## Fishing

Fishing with rod and reel or hand lines is permitted in all of the cruising area and there have been no recorded instances of ciguatera poisoning.

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## Returning and departure

When you return to the base at the end of your charter your Charter Coordinator will meet you for the debriefing, this generally takes a half hour or so. The Sailing Koh Chang staff will refuel the yacht and you will be required to pay for the fuel you have used in cash, amounts generally run at between 2000 to 3000 baht depending on the yacht and duration of your charter, they will also assist you with your baggage and see you off to your taxi.

I hope that these notes will answer any questions you may have but if there is anything else you need to know before arriving at the base please email [denis@sailingkohchang.com](mailto:denis@sailingkohchang.com)

We look forward to seeing you soon and thank you for booking with Sailing Koh Chang.

**Denis Saltykov**  
**Base manager Sailing Koh Chang**

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