



### **THE BIG BLUES**

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### **THE BIG BLUES**

is the new premier bluewater fishing charter operation based in Phuket, Thailand.

Our aim is to provide first class fishing adventures at an affordable price in the best conditions of safety and comfort.

So have a try to the Big Game, bring your family and friends and make the best out of your holiday!

Join us for an amazing fishing experience and find out how paradise can be easily accessible once you have discovered the crystal clear blue waters, palm-fringed shores and exuberant night life of the “Pearl of the Andaman Sea”, Phuket.

Charterers seeking an escape from the traditional way of life also will be delighted by the wonderful range of activities and possibilities on offer from snorkelling to diving as they tour beautiful islands in the highest level of comfort and safety.

**In this regard The Big Blues offers as well exclusive and personalised diving and cruising tours on the Andaman Sea.**

So each of our charter trips is unique because we recognise that none of our guests are the same. We try to provide in fact an outstanding service at all times, a service that is tailor-made for all our guests.

You can therefore concentrate totally on enjoying yourself and leave the rest to us.

## **Your Big Game paradise**

The Big Blues has accessed undoubtedly one of the most beautiful areas in the world, which is located on the West Indian Ocean on the Andaman Sea.

Breathtaking beaches, Hollywood renewed islands, resorts and marine national parks are just part of the recipe.

Phuket is in a way a new spot on the world's sport fishing map, which manages to bring together an excellent Big Game fishing productivity with the typical Thai hospitality and an easy accessible, first class resort.

Compared to most of the spots in South East Asia here the number of Sailfish is unbeatable and nowhere else in the world can be seen tailing on the surface in such a number!!!

On the other hand Black Marlin can be caught around the island on the drop-off or more likely on our incredible safari trips to the Similan or Andaman islands.

So if you want a great holiday with some good fishing, a variety of species and some nice stuff to do on land at a reasonable price Thailand is a superb choice.

As it has been said before there might be places in the world where the fishing is better but there is no better place to go fishing.

Phuket today in fact is an ideal fishing holiday destination not only for would-be Hemingways but also for the all family or group of friends!

At the very end an ideal place to really get away from it all and recharge the batteries.

## **Seasons & Species**

Compared to most of the spots in SE Asia here the Sailfish is present in incredible number. No where else in fact you have the chance to see this beautiful animal tailing and jumping around you in such a number!

Pacific Sailfish are present during all the year with peaks occurring between June and October during the southwest monsoon season. During these peaks months, 10 to 15 Sails raised are more than the norm. Join us and discover why Phuket is renewed as the Sailfish capital of SE Asia!!!

On the other hand Black Marlin have a very excellent run from October to March just do not expect to find plenty of them. Phuket's Blacks are usually juveniles between 120 and 450 lbs although bigger fish have been hooked. The best fishing is usually around the full moon and the new moon and the drop-off west of Phuket and Similan islands are the hot spots.

Blue Marlin, Broadbill Swordfish, Sailfish averaging over 100lbs , monster Dogtooth Tuna, XXL size GT and of course Black and more are available instead around the new fishermen mecca of the Andaman Islands between December and April.

Anyway if you are serious about the “big nose” we suggest you to request a strictly marlin venture! In the same way in the Andamans we can also organize specific “Popping & Jigging Expeditions” to target GT, Yellowfin and Dogtooth Tuna.

Tuna are common during the all year in the waters surrounding Phuket and there are several varieties; Yellowfin Tuna, Dogtooth Tuna, Skipjack Tuna, Mackerel Tuna, Eastern little tuna and Longfin Tuna. Wahoo are plentiful during the SW monsoon season, King Mackerel (Tanguigue), Narrow Barred Mackerel (Tenggiri) and Barracuda are other members from the “razor gang” always present.

Giant Trevally are huge and plentiful and can always produce fantastic action on popper. Other inshore species available all year round include Dorado (Mahi Mahi), Rainbow Runner, Blue Finned Trevally, Golden Trevally, Queenfish, Cobia, Coral Trout, Mangrove Jack and a variety of bottom fish.

Finally the area is one of the best shark fishing ground in the region. Massive Tiger Sharks have been caught in the past, Hammerhead Sharks, Mako Sharks and a variety of reef sharks are considered normal but other species are also found.

In order to preserve the rich marine heritage of the Andaman sea The Big Blues is a strictly catch & release venue.

The information provided must be considered only a guideline anyway, in fact many factors have an influence on the migratory path of all the pelagic species. Water temperature, wind, current and bait can cause these normal patterns to fluctuate.

### **The vessel**

Launched in 2004 and completely refurbished on October 2005, Blind Strike is one of the finest examples of local built motor yacht. This fully equipped twin diesel converted sportfishing boat offers you and your family or friends the best comfort while catching you the most Big Game species!

Up to twelve anglers will enjoy an unforgettable day aboard this billfish catcher.

Reliable and comfortable, Blind Strike is an ideal charter boat not only for fishing but also for diving or islands cruising. Fully air-conditioned, she can accommodate during our live aboard safari 6 guests in our 3 below deck cabins with 3 double beds.

The open flybridge is always a very popular spot during the day; flooded with natural light and, of course, the elevated position offers sensational views.

The fully teak-laid cockpit is very spacious and designed to meet every angler expectation.

The large and elegant galley, fresh/hot water showers and two toilets, complement this spacious vessel.

The onboard facilities are an invitation to the happiest of times with family and friends. Powered by two 185 HP Heno engines, allowing an 11 knots max speed and a 7-8 knots cruising speed, Blind Strike probably is not the fastest boat around but is reliable and safe.

With all the latest safety and fishing equipment, Blind Strike allows guests to combine fishing, diving and cruising all in one day and most of all in complete comfort and relax.

### SPECIFICATIONS

Loa:	16.8m
Beam:	4.5m
Draft:	2.7m
Engine:	2 x 185 Heno
Dinghy:	Yes, with outboard
Toilet/Shower:	2 (1 with hot water)
Max No Guests:	Day trip 12, berths for 6
Aircon:	Yes, throughout
Swimming platf:	Yes
Electric power:	12V, 24V, 220V
Genset:	20 KW

Bed linen and bath towels available on liveaboard trips.

### SAFETY EQUIPMENT

First Aid Kit:	Yes
Life Jackets:	Yes
Life Buoy:	Yes
Fire Extinguishers:	Yes
Radio CB/SSB/VHF:	Yes
GPS Chartplotter x 2:	Yes
Satellite Phone:	Yes
Epirb:	Yes
8 man Life Raft:	Yes

The boat is fully insured and crew fully licensed (QBE policy number 43106098-05NPK)

## LEISURE EQUIPMENT

TV:	Yes
CD/DVD/VCD/MP3:	Yes
DVD library:	Yes
Microwave:	Yes
Cooler:	Yes
Freezer:	Yes

## FISHING GEAR:

Fish Finder/Depth Sounder x 2  
12lb, 20lb, 30lb, 50lb, 80lb Penn  
International and Wahoo rods;  
Shimano Tiagra A Series reels;  
Popper casting, jigging & bottom fishing gear;  
First class tackle, lures & teasers;  
Double spreader outriggers;  
Live bait well;  
Tuna tubes;  
Rigging station;  
Custom built fighting chair;  
Salt water wash down;  
Fresh water deck shower;  
Transom door.

Snorkelling gear:	Yes, lifejackets, masks&snorkels
Compressor:	Rented separately
Diving gear:	Rented separately
Kayak	Rented separately

### **Fishing tackle**

At The Big Blues we will provide our guests with first class quality tackle and custom service. Whether you prefer heavy, light or conventional gear, our crew and equipment will satisfy all your needs.

Techniques used are as wide ranging as trolling always according to IGFA rules with lures, dead and live baits, switch&bait, casting poppers, jigging, drifting and bottom fishing.

On board you will find Shimano, Wahoo and Penn Int'l rods, Shimano Tiagra A Series reels, Penn Igfa mono line, Momoi leader line, Capt. Harry's wind-ons, the best lures and teasers, Sampo swivels, Mustad circle and standard hook.

12#, 20# and 30# pound class gears general tackle is the standard for Sailfish, Wahoo and inshore species. The Blind Strike then has rigged a pair of 50# and #80 gears ready to catch “the big blue” or, if you prefer, to fish with live tuna or artificial lures. Obviously, our crew will be more than happy to rig your own tackle if you'd like to bring it with you.

Also due to a great number of Sailfish you'll see tailing in our waters, it is an excellent opportunity to have a try on fly rod. The technique used when targeting Sailfish on fly fishing equipment is usually to troll a spread of “Bird Teasers” and “Daisy Chains” until the Sailfish appears and then casting the fly to our friend. In this case we recommend you to bring your own fly fishing tackle which should include a good 12 or better 14ft quality rod (i.e. Sage, Orvis and T&T) with a good reel and a strong drag.

In the same way if you are going to fish with light tackle (anything under 16 pounds), you should carry with you your own gear.

Our professional captain and mate will be able to assist both the novice and the veteran angler as well as to introduce to the Big Game the youngest members of the family. As general rule of thumb anyway our crew can help you as much or as little as you require.

On board we currently speak English, Italian and Thai.

Finally on the Blind Strike you will find a fully-fitted and ample cockpit, with outriggers, fighting chair, livebait well, tuna tubes, transom door, rigging station and salt water wash down.

### **Conservation**

As a general rule we at The Big Blues strictly release all the billfish caught as well as the sharks.

The Big Blues strongly encourages in fact the practice of “Catch and Release” of Marlin, Sailfish and Sharks.

Plus, following the latest researches on the use of circle hooks we have decided to follow up this conservation trend adding the use of circle hooks and its operating procedures, which should insure a far healthier condition of our released fish.

In this view we work together with The Billfish Foundation (TBF) the only non-profit organization dedicated solely to conserving and enhancing billfish population around the world.

As an Official TBF Tagging Partner we also tag&release billfishes in the Andaman Sea region hoping to provide valuable information for creating solutions that are not only good for billfish but for anglers too.

Finally we try to encourage a fair catch & release practice also for all the GT, Dogtooth

Tuna and Grouper through an appropriate holding and managing of the fish and helping him to swim back once released.

In this view we strongly suggest then among our guests whenever is possible the use of barbless hooks and of the most appropriate line class in order not to stress the fish.

## **Fishing**

### Day trip

- *Racha Islands*

The Racha area consists of two main islands, Ko Racha Yai and Ko Racha Noi (14 miles and 23 miles from Ao Chalong respectively) separated by a narrow pass.

The north east corner of Racha Yai offers the best sailfish action around Phuket. Often sailfish here can be seen jumping, tailing on the surface or feeding on balls of baitfish.....a really incredible show! Usually the best fishing happens in the afternoon so in the morning you can target King Mackerel, Wahoo and Dorado.

The area is also quite scenic above the water, with several beautiful white-sandy beaches bordered by groves of coconut trees.

Before reaching Racha Noi we will meet the Tan Kram coral reef which, during the right lunar phase, can host spectacular GT action on popper fishing. On the east side of the island again you will have the best chance to get sailfish as well as Wahoo, Barracuda and GT. Finally the south end of the island with its underwater reef and up swellings can be the fishing ground of Black Marlin.

The Big Blues offers day trips to Racha Islands all year round. We also offer the possibility as well for memorable fishing weekends (see our latest offers section).

- *The Drop Off*

The Drop Off is the best place to get a Black Marlin off Phuket. It lays 25 NM west of Phuket and although only 200 m deep you have the chance to target also Wahoo, Dorado and different kinds of tuna (Yellowfin tuna although no big can be found as well). The most common technique here is definitely trolling with big lures and live bait.

The Big Blues offers day trips to the Drop Off all year round. We also offer the possibility as well for memorable fishing weekends (see our latest offers section).

- *Night fishing*

Racha Yai and Racha Noi offer also excellent action for night bottom fishing and if you cannot sleep this is for sure an excellent venue to keep you busy all night long!

The Big Blues offers night fishing session all year round.

### Multi-day trip

- *Ko Rok Islands*

Ko Rok Noi and Ko Rok Yai are two astonishing uninhabited islands located 60 miles south east of Phuket. Crystal clear blue waters, white beaches, a beautiful reef with excellent snorkelling and diving are just part of the recipe. The landscape is dominated on the west side by limestone cliffs and on the east side by a luxurious tropical forest ending on white sandy beaches.

This is a strictly sailfish playground with often non stop action starting in the afternoon and often resulting in multiple hook-ups. The most common technique used is trolling with tuna “belly strips” or live bait.

Fly fishermen will have some real fun here as well; in this case usually after having attracted the sailfish with a teaser the fly is cast and then is up to the angler!

In the morning anglers usually target Wahoo, King Mackerel and Rainbow Runners on the Hin Deang reef 12 miles west of Rok Noi Island while on the way to/back usually Dorado, Wahoo and Barracuda show off.

The Big Blues offers multi-day trips to Ko Rok islands from October-November through April. Trips are for a minimum of 3 days/2 nights and are recommended for max 6 persons. On the way to/back from Ko Rok on request we can make a stop to other famous tourist destinations such as Phi Phi Island, Ko Lanta and Ko Ha.

- *Similan Islands*

Located 60 miles north west of Phuket the Similan Islands National Marine Park is a chain of 9 relatively small uninhabited islands, surrounded by some of Thailand's healthiest and most diverse reefs.

Widely recognised as one of the world top scuba diving destination, fishing is banned within 3 NM of the shoreline, making it the perfect nursery for all the marine species.

Most of the islands have Thai names but fishermen refer to them by numbers starting with 1 in the south and ending up to 9 in the north. Stretching for 10 miles this lush, granite island chain provides a beautiful backdrop for a day of snorkelling, diving or just sunbathing on some of the wonderful beaches.

The waters surrounding these islands also offer some of the best saltwater fishing opportunities in the region.

All of the blue water game species of the Andaman can be found here with exceptional number of Sailfish, Wahoo, Giant Trevally, Dogtooth Tuna and Tenggiri.

All the fishing is done outside the national park borders. Approximately 12NM west of Number 1 Island lays the Ton Mai seamount where on a good tide you can have amazing trolling action with Yellowfin Tuna, Wahoo, Skipjack and Barracuda.

But most of all here and on the drop off 6 NM west of number 1 island is the most productive area for Black Marlin around Phuket. Rising from 250 meters to 75 meters Ton Mai area is rich in fish life and usually large shoals of tuna can be found here. Usually full moon or new moon is the best period.

Also popper casting and jig fishing for Giant Trevally and Dogtooth Tuna can be very productive as well as night bottom fishing for Grouper and Snapper; unless you want to spend the evening with a barbecue on many of the white powdery beaches. Finally the islands are also a good fishing spots for many species of shark including Tiger, Mako and Hammerhead.

The Big Blues offers multi-day trips to Similan Islands from October-November through April (weather permitting also from September). Trips are for a minimum of 3 days/2 nights and are recommended for max 6 persons.

### Special Live Aboard Safari

- *Andaman Islands*

This is really what Big Game fishing is all about and we suggest to every keen blue water angler to give it a try at least once to make a lifetime dreamt fishing adventure to become finally true.

Midway between Thailand and India, the peaks of a submerged mountain range rise up out of the Andaman Sea. The hundreds of resulting islands constitute the Andaman and Nicobar island chain, which consists of a 1,000km long arc (over 620 miles long) from Sumatra in the south extending northward to the Bay of Bengal.

The 572 islands are part of the Indian territory and are located approximately 450 NM west of Phuket. While only 36 of these islands are inhabited, most of the population reside in Port Blair, the capital as well as the main port. There are even pockets of extremely primitive tribes on some of the islands like in North Sentinel: in here visitors are forbidden to go ashore.

Also the Nicobar Islands in the south are mostly not accessible to tourists. They are separated from the Andaman Islands by the Ten Degree Channel.

Only since 1993 India has allowed limited tourism development in the Andaman, opening up to sportfishing and scuba diving on a restricted basis.

All the boats have to check in at Port Blair before going anywhere in the region and its small airport receives flights from Chennai and Kolkatta, India.

The long trip is worth it as the volcanic topography, sea mountains and canyons provide the best playground you can imagine for many billfish species. The Andaman Islands are nicely positioned to receive a continuous current to the south/south west which brings with it plenty of baitfish as well as Black Marlin, Blue Marlin, Sailfish, Yellowfin tuna, Dogtooth tuna, Dorado and all the Andaman game fish species.

But most of all the total absence of commercial trawlers and long liners, banned by the Indian Government and enforced by the presence of the naval force which continually patrols the area, guarantees an incredible experience to the adventurous angler.

The area is so vast (8,249 sq. Km) that most of it is still unexplored while the potential is enormous which makes it one of the world's new hot spot for the Big Game!

On board of the Blind Strike you will have the opportunity to explore the most remote islands of the archipelago where we'll be alone fishing most of the time!

Anglers can pursue virtually every method of blue water fishing with exceptional results: deep blue water trolling on the 1000-2000 m drop-offs on the east and west coast of the islands for Black and Blue Marlin and all the other pelagic species, inshore popper fishing to Giant/Bluefin Trevally and Coral Trout, jigging for huge Dogtooth tuna, flyfishing for Sailfish and Yellowfin tuna, bottom fishing in the night time for massive Groupers and Snappers as well as Shark fishing.

Immigration officials require that you have a tourist visa for India and an additional stamp in your passport, allowing you to enter the Andaman Islands. You can apply for the visa and additional stamp at your nearest Indian embassy or consulate.

The Big Blues requires a scanned copy, by e-mail, of your visa and passport one month prior to the charter.

You can either depart from Phuket with us and flying back Thailand or wherever you want (the crossing takes about 2 days and 2 nights and offers a chance for very big Black and Blue Marlin) or you can fly directly to Port Blair and join there the Blind Strike for this incredible experience.

But if you are really after the “big blues” and looking for non-stop fishing action in one of the last pristine environment on earth, this is the right trip for you!

At the same time on request we can organize specific **“Popping&Jigging Expeditions”** in this waters aimed exclusively at the famous GTs and Dogtooth tunas of the Andaman Islands.

The Big Blues offers live aboard safari to the Andaman Islands from February through April. Trips are for a minimum of 5 days/4 nights and are recommended for max 6 persons.

*\*For all the above trips should you wish to have more fishing days or make other changes please let us know, and we will do our best to arrange the perfect trip for you.*

**\*\* Finally we would like to remind you that the Blind Strike is also available for islands touring as well as diving and snorkelling cruises.**

### **Special Popping & Jigging Safari, Andaman Islands**

Nowadays everyone in touch with modern fishing is aware that popping and jigging are taking the world by storm, particularly in Australia, Asia and the Pacific. For sure today these segments of the bluewater fishing market are those with the highest growth rates. Techniques and equipment coming out of Japan over the last decade have accelerated this popularity and recently they have become more and more popular also in Europe.

The Big Blues offers “Special Popping & Jigging Safari” to the Andaman Islands in India: a worldwide paradise for popping and jigging enthusiasts. You will never see anywhere else such a variety of reefs and jigging areas so close to each other.

Light tackle lovers will find as well awesome fishing grounds where to cast bucktail jigs and medium stickbaits.

From February till middle of April we organize live aboard cruises starting from Port Blair for a minimum of 5 days/4 nights and a maximum of 6 guests.

In this case we recommend all our guests who would like to go light tackle or popping & jigging, to carry with them their own gear.

The itinerary is tailor made each time according to our guests’ requests and of course to the weather and sea conditions at that time.

On board of the Blind Strike you will have the opportunity to explore the most remote islands of the archipelago where we'll be alone most of the time in one of the last fishing frontiers on earth!

The area is huge and we just started to scratch the surface while the variety of the different environments and the potentialities are incredible.

GT, Doggie and Grouper are the main dish but also Green and Rusty Jobfish, Bluefin Trevally, Black Trevally, Snapper, Coral Trout, Barracuda, White and Black Tips will offer great entertainment.

### **Weather & sea conditions**

Thailand has year round tropical climate with an overall average humidity of 66% to 82%.

In Phuket there are only two seasons, a dry and a wet, with small temperature differences between the two. The NE monsoon season from November till the end of April and the SW monsoon season from May till the end of October.

The NE wind is the dry sunny offshore breeze weather, the SW wind is an onshore wind and brings the rains in from the Indian Ocean.

Sunny skies, nice breezes and moderate temperature characterize the cool season and this is the driest time of the year. During this period also the sea conditions are usually excellent.

Phuket is incredibly fortunate, as extreme weather and sea conditions are uncommon. Very few fishing days are lost in fact due to heavy seas or tropical storms.

In the wet season, particularly during September and October it might be raining for some time but prolonged periods of heavy rain only occur occasionally. Yet extended periods of sunshine and blue skies are more than common. As a matter of fact several anglers prefer to show up at this time, as crowds are thinner and the overall climate is pleasant.

However due to a combination of uncertain weather and sea conditions during the wet season we do not operate live-aboard safari to the Similan or Andaman islands.

On the other hand day trips are available year round and the SW monsoon season is excellent for Sailfish and Wahoo which can be caught in great number in the nearby Racha Yai e Racha Noi islands.

Also the Andaman Island's tropical climate is influenced by the southwest and northeast monsoons. Because of this there is a relatively short window to make the transfer trip and to operate liveaboard cruises which goes from February till the beginning of April each year.

Finally sea surface temperatures are generally warm year round ranging from 79 to 84 F (26 to 29 C).

### **The surrounding**

If you are looking for a vacation that offers first class Big Game fishing and allows you the opportunity to experience all other holiday's activities, then this fishing adventure is ideal.

Phuket is the country largest island and with an area of 540 sq km, it is about the size of Singapore. In spite of rapid development in recent years the island has all the attributes of a fascinating tropical destination: rocky mountains, limestone cliffs, white powdery beaches, tranquil broad bays and tropical in-land forest. But the island has a lot more to offer its visitors other than its natural beauty.

Accommodations ranging from world-class resorts to tropical style bungalows satisfy all the different needs of travellers while Phuket hospitality has never failed to impress its visitors.

Whether you are looking for a quiet corner to enjoy a romantic retreat or an action packed time with plenty of colourful night life, Phuket has it all.

So when you're not fishing, experience the many attractions on offer including hiking through the tropical jungle, ATV touring, sea canoeing, sailing and fabulous diving and championship golf.

Or you can sample the country's wilder side, from rafting to go-karting, from bungee jumping to para-gliding, from riding elephants to the legendary nightlife!

**Not only we can help to plan your day-to-day activity in Phuket but your entire holiday in Thailand. We can advise on destinations and itineraries, select the best places to visit, book flights, alert you to local events and generally provide all the hints and tips that ensure the perfect trip.**

#### GOLF

Phuket has six great golf courses: Blue Canyon Country Club (36 holes, designed by Yoshikazo Kato with Gary Player), the site of the 1998 Johnny Walker Classic -- won by Tiger Woods after a play-off with Ernie Els; Phuket Country Club and Loch Palm Golf Club (both designed by renowned Thai architect, Dr. Sukitti Klangvishai); Laguna Phuket (formerly Banyan Tree) Golf Club (Max Wexler), Thai Muang Beach Resort, Thailand's only links course (Pete Dye Designs), and the latest: Mission Hills Golf Resort by Nicklaus Design. **Contact us for your Phuket Golf&Fishing Tour.**

#### DIVING & SNORKELLING

The Phuket region has gained worldwide reputation as well for the wealth of fascinating and beautiful marine life residing amid some of the most attractive, colourful coral reefs found anywhere. Here it is the variety, both in terms of habitat and marine life, which is the main attraction. Shallow coral gardens, steep island shorelines, pinnacles and submerged rocks are just a few of the environments divers will encounter. Phuket has many good diving and snorkelling sites within reach of a day trip, but most of the best reefs are in remote areas (i.e. Similan, Surin and Hin Daeng e Hin Muang) that require live aboard to access. **The Big Blues can arrange day trip and multi-day trip diving cruises aboard the Blind Strike, tailor-made according to our clients request. Contact us for more information.**

#### CRUISING

To the SW of Phuket you will find the always beautiful islands of Racha Yai and Racha Noi which can offer great fun for a day out. To the South of Phuket there is a 100 nautical mile string of inshore islands, stretching from Koh Phi Phi to the Malaysian border. The fabulous Phang Nga Bay, Krabi and Phi Phi, together form an area of about 500 square miles and can offer tranquillity and many opportunities for exploring the East and South

East of Phuket Island. Here you will find sheltered cruising during all seasons. The entire area is dotted with impressive limestone formations, honeycombed with caves and fringed by mangroves. Three major rivers plus a couple of smaller ones flow in the Phang Nga Bay. This is very much kayak country, one could cruise here for many months exploring creeks, rivers and drying out in the mangroves. A typical feature are the honges, high limestone islands which have collapsed in the middle leaving a landlocked lagoon. Several of these lagoons are accessible at low tide through caves by kayak or dinghy. Further attractions are Railey Beach, one of the most beautiful beaches in the world and the well-known Phi Phi Islands offering impressive surroundings as well as great nightlife. North and North West of Phuket you will find the Similan and Surin Islands, the latter close to the Burmese border. They offer the best diving and snorkelling in Thailand as well amazing scenery. **The Big Blues can arrange day trip and multi-day trip cruise aboard the Blind Strike, tailor-made according to our clients request. Contact us for more information.**

### **Corporate**

Sales Incentives - Corporate Gifts - Year-end Bonuses - Reward Programs

- 🕒 Surprise those “special” clients with a unique gift.
- 🕒 Show your appreciation to Clients, Partners, Staff Members and Top Employees.
- 🕒 Do something different - hold your next meeting in the outdoors.

Corporate events or fishing clubs will find here the perfect venue as well. So get in touch and let us organise your personal mini-fishing tournament!

Our yacht provides a totally unique and exclusive platform on which entertain valued clients or reward outstanding individuals within your company. The Big Blues will tailor-make the ideal charter trip to suit your corporate needs.

Let us put together your ultimate corporate fishing trip. We'll handle all your booking needs, providing your perfect package. And we will be there to ensure everything runs smoothly. Letting you concentrate on the important things - building and growing relationships, and of course having fun, leaving a positive lasting impression.

### **Getting there**

Thailand lies within the tropical northern hemisphere, stretching more than 1,800km (1,100 miles) from north to south and covering an area of about 517,000 sq km (202,000 sq miles). Its size is more or less like the one of France or Texas.

It shares borders with Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Malaysia boasting 700km (1,700 miles) of coastline.

Phuket is the biggest island of Thailand; it is located on the southern part of the Thai-Malay peninsula on the Andaman Sea which includes that part of the Indian Ocean east of India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The majority of Phuket's tourists arrive by air via Bangkok's Don Muang International Airport which offers direct connections to many of the world's major cities through a variety of airlines. The new international airport, Suvarnabhumi, at Nong Ngu Hao (20 km east of Bangkok) will be fully operative by the end of 2006 and in the time it will get the most of the international flights.

Phuket has its own international airport located 30km north of Phuket city centre. There are tens of daily flights to Bangkok plus connections to other domestic destinations.

International direct destinations from Phuket include Penang, Langkawi, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taipei, Sydney and Tokyo and are increasing. Moreover there are several charter airlines flying directly from Europe, Russia, China, SE Asia in general and US to Phuket all around the year.

Entry Visas: are not required by tourists from most countries for a stay of up to 30 days in Thailand but passports should have a minimum of six months remaining, before the date of expiry.

On request we will attend you at the arrival in Phuket International Airport and our chauffeur will drive you to the accommodation of your choice in a comfortable air-con van. He will be easily recognisable as he will be wearing one of our The Big Blues t-shirts and holding a sign with your name.

For the "Andaman Islands Fishing Safari" you can either depart from Phuket with us and flying back to Thailand or wherever you want (the crossing takes more than 2 days and 2 nights and offers a chance for very big Black and Blue Marlin) or more easily you can fly directly to Port Blair and join the Blind Strike there for this incredible experience. In this case you can fly to Port Blair through Chennai and Kolkatta in India by air with Indian Airlines, Jet Airways, JetLite, Kingfisher and Air Deccan.

From Europe you can fly directly to Chennai via Paris or Frankfurt with Air France or Lufthansa respectively; from Singapore with Jet Airways, Indian Airlines and Singapore Airline and from Kuala Lumpur with again Jet Airways, Indian Airlines and Malaysia Airlines.

Other airlines serving Chennai from Europe and North-South America include also British Airways, Delta Airline, Emirates, Gulf Air, Kuwait Airways, Qatar Airways, Saudi Arabian Airlines and Srilankan Airline.

Finally there is also the possibility to fly from Bangkok to Port Blair via Calcutta with Jet Airways, Thai Airways or Indian Airlines.

Immigration officials require that you have a tourist visa for India and an additional stamp in your passport, allowing you to enter the Andaman Islands. You can apply for the visa and additional stamp at your nearest Indian embassy or consulate.

The Big Blues requires a scanned copy, by e-mail, of your visa and passport one month prior to the charter.

So contact us and will be more than happy to help you out with your booking.

### **Freshwater fishing**

On the way to Phuket The Big Blues can offer to its guests incredible action with some of the biggest and strongest freshwater fish in the world.

We have access in fact to various venues in the countryside around Bangkok which can be fished in full comfort even in a break while touring the city.

Bung Sam Lan Lake is a twenty acres converted swamp which today is one of the most extraordinary fisheries in the world.

Giant Mekong Catfish from 15 kg to 100 kg , Striped Catfish from 5 kg to 15 kg, Chaophraya Giant Catfish from 2 kg to 30 kg , Giant Siamese Carp from 20 kg to 100 kg, Amazonian Arapaima from 110 kg to 200 kg , Pacu from 2kg to 9 kg, Giant Snakehead from 4 kg to 15 kg, Rohu from 2kg to 10 kg, Small Scale Mud Carp 1kg to 10 kg, Hoeven's Slender Carp (1 kg to 8 kg), and many more Thai species can be found here.

Because of the very impressive size and power of many of the species found in this park, many IGFA records have been set here and on request we can arrange for you an attempt!

The other two venues instead will provide some action on light spinning or fly fishing gear targeting mainly Pacu, Barramundi and the elusive Giant Snakehead.

For the first two the action is fast and furious and can be literally non-stop. As far as the Giant Snakehead is concerned, for those who love sight fishing there is really nothing else to compare it with. In this regard The Big Blues can organize as well incredible fishing trips in the Kanchanaburi region, West part of the country, where you will fish in an extraordinary environment aboard of bamboo houseboats.

Also strictly on request we can organize fishing trips for some of the largest freshwater fishes in the world such as the Giant Freshwater Stingray, Arapaima and Alligator Gar.

The Big Blues can arrange fishing these waters and will give you also the opportunity to visit some unusual and out of the track spot.

Check out our rates and programmes and you will get a memorable fishing experience.

### 2007-08 The Big Blues Daily Charter Boat Rates (Thai Bath)

01/05 – 31/10	01/11 – 30/04		01/11 – 30/04 + than 6 guests
Day trip	22500	24610	26750
Night fishing	22500	24610	26750
Multi-day trip	-	26750	-
Special Safari Andaman Islands	-	*	-

All the above rates are quoted on a "Whole Boat, Private Charter" basis, not per person and include: local taxes, insurance, transport to/from the hotel, lunch (all meals on live aboard trips), tropical fruits, soft drinks, coffee&tea, snacks, baits&lures, the use of first class fishing gear and of course the assistance of our professional crew.

Gratuities are always at the discretion of the guests; however, we recommend tipping Captain and Mate with at least 10% of the charter boat rate per day. This amount is divided by the number of anglers fishing from the boat and can be given directly to the Captain who will split it 60/40 with the Mate.

Also diving equipment and/or kayaks for your trip can be rented separately if you request.

In addition, even if our vessel is fully insured, we strongly advise all or guests to purchase a travel insurance.

So contact us and our pleasant professional staff would be glad to work with you to customise your ultimate fishing adventure.

***\*Please contact us to get a quote for the Special Safari to the Andaman Islands.***

***Also for extended days or special destinations, prices on application.***

### 2007-08 The Big Blues charter 7D/6N special holiday packages (Thai Bath)

Number of guests	2	3	4	5	6
From 01/11/07 till 20/12/07 and from 01/03/08 till 30/04/08	61250	45750	34350	30400	25350
From 21/12/07 till 10/01/08	66750	53050	39800	37000	30800
From 11/01/08 till 29/02/08	62850	47850	35900	32300	26900

All the above rates are quoted per person and include: local taxes, insurance, transport to/from the hotel and Phuket International Airport, 3 nights at a 4 stars luxury hotel in Phuket (one before and 2 after the fishing), 4days/3nights live-aboard fishing cruise to the

Similan Islands or Ko Rok/Ko Ha Islands, all meals aboard, tropical fruits, soft drinks, coffee&tea, snacks, baits&lures, the use of first class fishing gear and of course the assistance of our professional crew.

**Alternative packages are also available on request so contact us for a quote.**

**2007-08 The Big Blues freshwater fishing rates (Thai Bath x angler)**

Number of anglers	1	2	3	4
A. Light spinning for Barramundi & Snakehead Ponds – Bangkok area	8500	7500	7000	6500
B. Light jigging for Pacu Lake – Bangkok area	7000	5000		

- ✓ The above prices are for 1 day and include the following: VAT tax, fishing licence for 1 rod per angler, catch guarantee, transport to/from the hotel or airport, full assistance of a The Big Blues English speaking guide, fishing boat (only for package B) with local guide and of course lures and the use of first class fishing gear.
- ✓ Please note that if you like fly fishing you should bring your own gear.

Number of anglers	1	2	3	4
C. Light spinning for Snakehead, Khao Lem Reservoir wild adventure – Kanchanaburi	28500	20100	18600	17100

- ✓ The above packages are for 3 days/2 nights and include the following: VAT tax, transport to/from the hotel or airport and daily use of a private luxury a/r minibus, 1 fishing boat with guide per angler, full assistance of a The Big Blues English speaking guide, accommodation in a comfortable bungalow resort and of course lures and the use of first class fishing gear.
- ✓ Alternative packages are available for a minimum of 2 days/1 night.
- ✓ On request accommodation can be arranged on bamboo floating house.
- ✓ On request bait fishing for Indian Carp or Rohu can be arranged as well.
- ✓ During the breaks of the fishing you can use the minibus to visit the exotic surrounding with its villages, waterfalls and breathtaking views.
- ✓ Non-fishing guests are welcome free - with the exception of extra accommodation if required.

Number of anglers	1	2	3	4
D. Giant Freshwater Stingray adventure Mekong River – Bangkok area	16000	13000	12000	10000

- ✓ The above packages are for 2days/1 night and include the following: VAT tax, transport to/from the hotel or airport, fishing boat for 2 days, full assistance of

- a The Big Blues English speaking local guide, accommodation in a 3\* hotel and of course baits and the use of first class fishing gear.
- ✓ Minimum 2 days/1 night.
- ✓ It is mandatory to be physically in good shape to fight these giants since usually fights last several hours.

Number of anglers	1	2	3	4
E. Arapaima up to 60 kg Lake – Bangkok area	16000	14000	13000	12000
F. Special Arapaima from 60 to 200 kg Bungsamran – Bangkok	25000			

- ✓ The above prices are for 1 day and include the following: VAT tax, fishing licence for 2 rod per angler, transport to/from the hotel or airport, full assistance of a The Big Blues English speaking local guide, pre-chumming of the fishing area and of course baits and the use of first class fishing gear.
- ✓ In case of package F please note that for every Arapaima actually caught and landed additional 10000 THB have to be paid.

Number of anglers	1	2	3	4
G. Giant Mekong and Stripped Catfish Daytime, Bungsamran - Bangkok	6000	5500	5000	5500
H. Giant Mekong and Stripped Catfish Nighttime, Bungsamran - Bangkok	7000	6500	6000	6500
I. Giant Mekong and Stripped Catfish 24 hours, Bungsamran - Bangkok	12500	9000	8500	8000
L. Giant Siamese Carp and Mekong Catfish “Special Big Specimen” 2 days/ 1 night, Bungsamran - Bangkok	16000	14000	14000	15000

- ✓ The above prices include the following: VAT tax, fishing licence for 1 rod per angler (2 rods for package L), transport to/from the hotel or airport, full assistance of a The Big Blues English speaking local guide, pre-chumming of the fishing area (only for packages L), catch guarantee, a Thai style bungalow with fan and running water and of course baits and the use of first class fishing gear.
- ✓ In case of package H and I a Thai style bungalow with a double room with air condition, toilet and cable TV is included.
- ✓ In case of package L one night accommodation in a 3\* hotel is included.
- ✓ Non-fishing guests welcome free of charge.
- ✓ Food and drinks are cheaply available at the local restaurant and coffee bar or alternatively delivered directly to your private bungalow.
- ✓ Alternative packages are available on request.

Number of anglers	1	2	3	4
M. Special 6 days/7 nights spinning adventure Kanchanaburi and Bangkok area	55000	37000	35000	30000

The above package put together packages A and C and includes 5 days/4 nights of Snakehead/Jungle Perch fishing on Khao Lem Reservoir in the Kanchanaburi region, 1 day of Barramundi/Snakehead fishing in the countryside surrounding Bangkok and 3 nights accommodation in a 3 star hotel in Bangkok (one of which at the arrival before the fishing and one at the end before the departure) with all the transfers to/from hotel and airport.

Number of anglers	1	2	3	4
N. Special 7 days/8 Carp and Catfish adventure Kanchanaburi and Bangkok area	60000	40000	36000	34000

The above package includes package L for 3 days/3 nights, 4 days/3 nights of fishing for Indian Carp or Rohu on Khao Lem Reservoir in the Kanchanaburi region (except for the fishing boat please refer to package C for what is included) and 2 nights accommodation in a 3 star hotel in Bangkok (at the arrival before the fishing and at the end before the departure) with all the transfers to/from hotel and airport.

Number of anglers	1	2	3	4
O. Special Freshwater Giants Adventure 6 days/7 nights , Bangkok area	68000	58000	55000	52000

The above package includes package D, E for 2 days/1 night and L. In addition 4 nights accommodation in a 3 star hotel in Bangkok are included (one of which at the arrival before the fishing and one at the end before the departure) with all the transfers to/from hotel and airport .

### **Our latest offers**

As it has been said Phuket is an ideal holiday place for the all family so we want to give you an incentive to bring your kids down with you and introduce them to the wonderful world of sportfishing. During the whole season in fact The Big Blues will apply a 10% discount on the standard tariffs if a kid (<16 years old) will be on board.

Moreover on a two consecutive weeks booking a 15% discount will apply on the 2nd week.

Finally we would like to remind to all of our customers that:

- o booking at the end of your fishing holiday for the following season will give you a 10% discount on the standard tariff;
- o for every new customer referred by you, you will get a 10% discount on your next holiday with us.

Also for the local angler community we have prepared a 10% discount **SPECIAL WEEKEND PACKAGE** available all year round with the following programme:

**Day One:**

Pick-up from your hotel 6:30 AM. Departure from Au Chalong pier 7:00 AM. Fish the continental shelf drop-off for Marlin, Yellowfin Tuna, Wahoo...etc... during the morning, then troll tuna "Belly Strip" for Sailfish at Racha Yai in the afternoon, and anchor between Racha Yai and Racha Noi for bottom fishing/jigging through the evening.

**Day Two:**

Troll around the islands for Dorado, Barracuda, King Mackerel (Tanguigue), Wahoo, Tuna, etc...in the morning. Popper cast for Giant Trevally and Blue Fin Trevally around midday. Troll with live bait for Sailfish in the afternoon and return to Phuket at 5:00 PM. Finally after your final day of fishing, our chauffeur will transport you back to your hotel or to the Phuket International Airport for your flight back home.

**Accommodation**

For this part please refer to <http://www.thebigblues.com/Accommodation.html>

**Terms & conditions**

*Deposits*

Deposits are due 14 days after booking in our reservation offices in Thailand. Deposits are 50% of the entire charter rate per every day of fishing booked. If no deposit is received 14 days after your booking, your reservation is subject to cancellation and the space can be sold to customers requesting space.

*Final Payment*

The final payment is due once in Phuket on the departure day of your trip. If payments are not received, The Big Blues reserves the right to sell the spaces in question with forfeiture of all money previously paid.

*Forms of payment (for reservations and balance)*

Acceptable forms of payment at our reservation office are: bank wire transfer (S.W.I.F.T.). In Phuket we accept only cash (Thai Bath).

*Cancellation Policy*

Should you wish to cancel your trip within 61 days of departure your deposit will be refunded, less a 10% cancellation fee. If you cancel your trip, for whatever reason, 60 days, or less, prior to your arrival date your entire deposit will be forfeited. In the event of a "NO SHOW" all monies are forfeited.

We will always do our best to get you out fishing but please remember that trips, and more particularly, live aboard charters, may be restricted or cancelled due to weather

conditions. But where we cannot meet your requirements due to other unforeseen circumstances beyond our control, you will be fully refunded.

#### *Responsibility*

The boat, its Captain, deckhands and passengers are fully insured however we strongly advise all of our guests to make their own insurance.

The Big Blues, its employees and agents, assume no liability in fact for the service of any transport conveyance which may be used in providing service to the guest. Neither will The Big Blues be responsible for any injury, loss or damage caused by accidents or other events, including acts of God or weather conditions, or by any action or negligence of attendants of third parties, or any act, error or omission, injury, loss or accident, delay or irregularity which may occur for any reason, including neglect or default of any individual or company engaged in providing service to guest.

Travel Insurance is strongly recommended to protect your investment. In the event of a family emergency, act of God, or other unforeseen situation that would require you to cancel your trip, you could be covered in fact with travel insurance.

### **WE STRONGLY URGE YOU TO PURCHASE A TRAVEL INSURANCE**

#### *Tips*

Gratuities are always at the discretion of the guest; however, **we recommend tipping Captain and Mate with at least 10% of the charter boat rate per day.** This amount is divided by the number of anglers fishing from the boat and can be given directly to the Captain who will split it 60/40 with the Mate.

### **Please contact us for the Special Safari to the Andaman Islands Terms & Conditions.**

#### *About your fishing day*

Each fishing day we will pick you up from your hotel at 8:00am. Our vessel will be ready to leave Chalong pier at 08:30 a.m. You'll enjoy the best "catching spot" our captain can find, plus delicious lunches prepared and served by our crew. Day and night fishing areas will be within 1-2 hours from Au Chalong, depending on what area is fishing the best at the time. Fishing ends at 06:30 p.m. At the end of the day then our chauffeur will bring you back to your hotel.

After fishing, relax with a typical Thai massage, in the pool or at the bar of your hotel or apartment and get ready for the amazing night life.

If you have joined us for a multi-day trip or fishing safari the evening can then be spent with a barbecue on one of the many white powdery beaches of the surrounding islands, rock fishing, bottom fishing until you are exhausted or just relaxing on the upper deck and finally retiring in your air conditioned cabin.