

# BOATING

ASIA  
PACIFIC

## FEATURES

THE FUTURE OF ZERO-EMISSIONS YACHTING | THE SUCCESS OF THE SEYCHELLES | PAUL WATSON AND THE SEA SHEPHERD SOCIETY

## YACHTS

OCEANEXPLORER | SANLORENZO SX112 | BALTIC YACHTS' CANOVA | FERRETTI YACHTS 500 | OCEAN ALEXANDER 45 DIVERGENCE | SILVER YACHTS' BOLD | ARCADIA YACHTS SHERPA XL

POLLUTION  
FREE AND  
SCIENCE  
FOCUSED:  
**THE FUTURE  
SHAPE OF  
YACHTING?**





DESTINATION

# THE EXTRAORDINARY

For those ready to return to Asia's unmatched beach retreats or even try yachting for the first time, a selection of luxury resorts offer charter on their own vessels. Here are eight of the best private yacht experiences currently available in Asia-Pacific, from the Maldives to Malaysia

STORY BY ANNA CUMMINS

The vaccines are coming quickly in developed countries, and luxury tourism is expected to be among the first sectors to rebound. Travellers are increasingly interested in holidays that offer the 'bubble' afforded by the private, controlled environment of a luxury resort and a yacht.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand has announced that as of July 1, Phuket is the first destination in Thailand to reopen to vaccinated international visitors without quarantine.

The Maldives kept its borders open to tourists of all nationalities for much of 2020 and has been one of the few travel success stories of the pandemic. The Seychelles is rapidly vaccinating its small population and is also opening for tourists.

Thanks to spacious suites and villas, private pools and easy access by personal yacht or seaplane, the more luxurious destinations are more likely to offer guests true door-to-door seclusion: a precious commodity in the wake of the pandemic.

While many high-end resorts in Asia can help arrange a third-party yacht charter, a select number offer a dedicated yacht for in-house charter, which is operated to the hotel's standards. It is a great way to try yachting for the first time.

Here are some of the newest, most luxurious, and most exciting resort-based yacht experiences currently on offer across the Asia-Pacific:



## 2 ANANTARA KIHAVAH VILLAS: *OCEAN WHISPERER*

With its spectacular underwater restaurant and wine cellar, Anantara Kihavah Villas resort in the Maldives already has a unique connection to the ocean. The resort also boasts 24-metre *Ocean Whisperer*, a two-masted gulet, or traditional wooden Turkish sailing vessel, which cruises the Indian Ocean and is available for private charter.

Perfect for intimate dinners and deserted island exploration, the yacht has two spacious ensuite cabins that can host four guests, each with lounge seats and king-sized beds.

There's adventure to be had with snorkelling and diving experiences at sites across the Maldivian archipelago, with suggestions and information on hand from the resident marine biologist. Multi-lingual diving instructors are on hand to present courses ranging from Dive Master and Adventure Diver to Digital Underwater Photography and Padi Enriched Air Diver.

Guests on half- or full-day charters can take in dolphin and turtle-watching, a photoshoot on a sandbank and visits to a local island, while overnight charters offer sunset champagne and dinner served under the stars by a private chef. And, if you want to push the boat out, the resort can arrange an exceptionally romantic package that allows you to say "I do" as the sun sets over the water.

[anantara.com](http://anantara.com)



## 5 ANANTARA LAYAN PHUKET RESORT: *MAJOR AFFAIR*

Guests at the Anantara Layan Resort can explore the deserted white beaches, craggy limestone karsts and tropical islands that dot Thailand's Andaman Coast aboard *Major Affair*, the resort's customised 27-metre Sunseeker 90.

The Sunseeker 90 is designed for maximum outdoor space. The flybridge has a wet bar and dining area with sunpads. The aft cockpit has a large dining area, while the swim platform accommodates a 4.6-metre jet tender, leaving space for toys including water skis, a wakeboard, kneeboard and two-seater jet ski.

*Major Affair* is available for charter by day, by night or for an entire week, and can sleep a total of eight guests in four plush, ensuite cabins (one master aft, one VIP forward, one starboard and double port cabin). An additional cabin can accommodate four crew.

Charter itineraries are customisable. Guests can sunbathe on the white-sand beaches at uninhabited Bamboo Island, take in the unreal spectacle of Pileh Lagoon, or cruise around Phang Nga Bay.

Keen divers should voyage out to the remote Similan Islands, a low-lying archipelago that has been ranked in the world's top 10 dive sites. In these clear and biodiverse waters, visitors can hope to spot manta rays, leopard sharks, Kuhl's maskrays and even whale sharks.

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