

Having only been in operation since October 2004, Tawan Cruises has quickly become known as the premier luxury yacht charter company in Thailand.

Below are a few recent articles about Tawan Cruises in the local Asian press. Please click on the links below to view the articles:

[Tawan Cruises brings Rivas to Phuket - Asia Pacific Boating Magazine](#)

[Around the island - Andy Johnstone, The Phuket Gazette](#)

[Luxury Cruising - Vivien Faye, Benjarong Magazine](#)

Tawan Cruises brings Rivas to Phuket

Asia Pacific Boating Magazine

Jan/Feb 05

Tawan cruises recently began charter operations in Phuket, where it's offering two brand new Riviera yachts for trips to the area's renowned cruising destinations. Tawan, which has its office in Boat Lagoon but keep the yachts at yacht Heaven, offers day, overnight and extended trips to the likes of Phang Nga bay , Krabi, Phi Phi and, the Similan and Andaman islands.

The company was established after discussions between Tawan Properties founders Tony Henthorne and Andy Street, and Lee marine, Riviera Thailand dealers. Identifying a need for a high-end charter company to service visitor and Phuket residents looking to enjoy the area aboard a luxury yacht, Henthorne and Street ordered two brand-new Riviera yacht from Australia.

The Riviera 40 flybridge, Chom Tawan, was delivered in mid-2004, sleeps five-seven people and is fully equipped with professional fishing gear and scuba diving facilities. The sleek Riviera M430 sports cruiser, Tarn Tawan, arrived in November, sleeps five-six and can reach 30 knots.

"Each yacht is provided with a fully qualified captain, one or two hostesses, and a superior level of catering and wines," said general manager Gus Overman, who previously spent three years working as Sunsail's Phuket base manager. Rates include return transfers, professional crew, use of kayaks and snorkeling equipment, food and drinks, and national and marine park fees.

Since opening for business at the end of 2004, Tawan has enjoyed a high level of interest, particularly from hotels and their guests, and is already looking to expand the operation. "The company foresees a sustained growth during this high season and 2005 will see the fleet increase with more boats from Riviera," Overman said.

In December, lucky Jackie Brain of Singapore won a free full-day charter on the Riviera M 430 after his business card was picked out of a lucky draw for visitors to Lee Marine's booth and Watermark restaurant at PIMAX.

Around the Island

Finding the Time

By Andy Johnstone

The Phuket Gazette

Jan 05

It isn't all news gathering, deadlines and green editors' visitors working for a new paper. Just occasionally, we are freed from bondage and get to enjoy ourselves.

The Gazette staff needed a jolly before Christmas, and our fun and games came in the shapely package of Chom Tawan, a gleaming-white, 40-foot Riviera cruiser.

And how timely. Little did we know that a week later the island's population - us included - would be stretched to breaking point, either through work or worry, or both.

After the deluge, it was with some trepidation that I phoned Gus Overman, General manager of Tawan Cruises. Were he and his staff okay? The boats? Yacht Heaven Marina, where the boats are moored? The answers were all in the affirmative.

Of all the myriad ways to indulge oneself in and around Phuket, boats are among the most enjoyable. For those of us with-out our own floating gin palace, the choices are simple; stand on the wharf and sight as the beauties go past, or charter a vessel.

Chartering conjures up images of adventure and there was more than a frisson of excitement as we approached Chom Tawan and boarded her. Before we were underway, Gus gave a safety briefing as we enjoyed refreshments in Chom Tawan's roomy, air-conditioned cabin. We concluded that all was shipshape and Bristol fashion.

Chom Tawan's twin engines push out a "modest" 550hp apiece, rapidly accelerating the boat to its cruising speed of more than 30 knots. But it isn't just about speed. Touring the islands aboard Chom Tawan is to be in the lap of luxury. Begin on deck, with the wind and sun on our faces, caused inane grinning all round. The first of a few bottles of wine was opened. This was the life.

One can simply indulge in sybaritic idleness aboard Chom tawan And get a great suntan. The Hemingways out there can strap themselves into the fishing chair and take advantage of the frankly priapic trolling poles to try their hand at game fishing. That, however, seemed too much like hard work, so we work on our tans.

A few of us boarded the boat's dinghy and ventured off to Koh Hong to explore a hong, one of the many limestone caves for which Phang Nga Bay is famous. Those who remained on board relaxed and sipped our wine, waving regally at the crammed cattle boats that occasionally ploughed past, their skippers on tight deadlines. Not us; we had all time in the world.

Chom Tawan can accommodate 12 passengers for day trips or five to seven for overnight excursions; she has two double cabins as well as the main cabin. Her skipper knows all the best (read "unknown") spots, and the hostess can provide anything from a light sandwich lunch including smoked salmon bagels and foccacia caprese - to antipasti mezze or a barbecue.

We eventually headed back to Yacht Heaven, basking in the late afternoon sun, making idle chit-chat and well, just being there and enjoying the moment.

Phuket is rapidly picking up the pieces and rebuilding. Paradise was not lost on December 26, 2004; indeed, we may have just found it again.

LUXURY CRUISING



Stylish meandering around the bay

by Vivien Faye



Prue Murphy

The word luxury usually conveys images of opulence. The definition of luxury is great comfort, and extravagant living. This is precisely what came to mind when I visited Tawan cruises and got to spend some time on their 2 Riviera yachts.

Glistening in the sun at the Yacht Haven were Tawan Cruises' Riviera motor yachts, Chom Tawan and Tarn Tawan. Tawan cruises provide luxury motor yacht charters around Phuket and the Andaman region. Cruising comfortably at about 25 knots, trips can include some of the farther islands such as the Phi Phi or Similans Islands. Other popular destinations include Krabi, Phang Nga Bay and Koh Racha.

General Manager Prue Murphy greeted me at the pier and led us to the vessels. The yachts were like diamonds in the marina, as we approached the yacht I could see my reflection bouncing off the chrome accessories in one immaculately kept power boat. The yachts looked like they had just left the showroom, and showed no signs wear and tear, whilst stepping on the boat I could still smell the leather interior, similar to a new car.

Prue said the yachts; at less than two years old are the newest in Phuket available for luxury cruise charters. Chom Tawan and Tarn Tawan are both Riviera Motor Yachts, built on Australia's Gold Coast of the highest standards.



Tarn Tawan

Interestingly, Phuket based yacht brokerage Lee Marine are the only distributor in Thailand for Riviera Motor Yachts; in fact Riviera yachts in Thailand are becoming increasingly popular, Prue pointed out 2 more private Riviera yachts docked next to the Tawan yachts.

From the outside it is hard to imagine just how much room is actually inside the boat. Our first tour was of Tarn Tawan, a Riviera sports cruiser, measuring 43 feet with a day trip capacity of 10 people and an overnight capacity for 5 berths. Below decks there's a double cabin and another cabin featuring a single bed and a three quarter bed with high quality linens, a hot shower, air conditioning and in the galley, modern kitchen amenities. The saloon has leather covered interior

and a flat screen TV and DVD player. Everything about this yacht is designed to emulate a 5 star hotel room. Prue stated, "We have a lot of customers coming from 5 star hotels and we want to continue the 5 star experience." Chom Tawan is a 40-foot fly bridge cruiser also designed in the spirit of a 5 star hotel room.

The flybridge with its 360-degree view adds an extra level, with more seating outdoors. She can accommodate 12 guest for a day trip or 5 adults and 2 children for an overnight trip. One cabin has a double bed while another has 3 twins. Upstairs the couches in the saloon can fold out to accommodate 2 children and there is even more seating that converts to accommodate crew for overnight trips.

LUXURY CRUISING



Captain Wat

As we boarded Tarn Tawan, Captain Wat and the Hostess greeted us with the friendly smiles and warm hospitality that Thailand is famous for. The crew work all year round and Captain Wat has been with Tawan Cruises since their inception. Each yacht has a captain and a hostess but for larger groups additional crew will be provided. Many returning customers grow fond of a particular captain or hostess and because they have loyal staff it makes it possible for the returning customer's request of a particular staff member to be fulfilled. Multi-lingual tour guides are also available at the guests' request.

Besides pottering around tropical islands dotted in national marine parks, surrounded by white sand beaches and turquoise waters matching those seen in travel magazines, there are many activities for enjoyment. Snorkeling equipment is provided on all trips and there is just as much to see in the Andaman Sea's marine environment as on the surface; including tropical fish and some of the world's most diverse coral reefs. Once anchored up, guests can take the tender ashore for tropical beach activities such as volleyball, badminton or Frisbee; but perhaps the best way to enjoy the stunning flora and fauna of the islands including the diverse wildlife, is by following one of the nature trails.

For guests who opt for Phang Nga bay or Phi Phi they can explore some of the limestone caves and rock formations by dinghy and kayaks. Phanga





Chom Tawan



Chom Tawan

Nga and Phi Phi are not only famous for their spectacular scenery but also because they have been used as the location for many famous movies.

Deep Sea fishing trips are also available on Chom Tawan. There are 8 sets of fishing rods and 2 outriggers for trawling and when the guests make a catch, the captain will also moonlight as a sashimi chef. For the more adventurous, diving trips and diving courses can be arranged ahead of time, including equipment and a dive instructor in almost any language. Diving can be done off of Koh Racha, Koh Similan and Phi Phi Islands.

The best way to compliment a day in paradise is with some fresh gourmet food. For breakfast there are freshly made croissants straight from the bakery, for lunch there's a Thai or European option - be it yam talay , a seafood medley of shrimp and squid mixed with Thai spices, or for the European option, steamed snapper with lemongrass & galangal, complimented with mixed green salad and balsamic shallot dressing. Lunches also include a generous alcohol allowance of a bottle of wine and six beers per person.

For those who want to have a romantic dinner on the beach, the crew will gladly arrange a 5 star barbequed dining option. Imagine your own

beach restaurant serving skewered shrimp with garlic and basil butter. Prue strives to give all customers the VIP treatment. "We try to spoil our guests as much as possible. If a customer wants Moet then we can arrange this, we can provide a masseuse on the boat, and we can cater to any need with in reason. Our itineraries, menus and activities are just guidelines that can be modified to suit the guest's individual desires."

The boats can be chartered for a full eight-hour day or half a day, a half-day being any 5 hours of the day. Overnight cruises are also available. Just being on the boat for a short time, I could imagine an overnight trip to Similan Islands in style, sleeping on the boat with all the luxuries at my disposal and having a gourmet dinner on the white sand beaches of Similans Island number 4.

Holidaymakers are not Tawan cruises only clients. "It's an option for expatriates in Asia who don't want to own a boat but would like to have one available. They are familiar with the boat and crew. Also its excellent tool to show people the property they are about to buy, by sea," Prue comments.

Tawan Cruises operate year round. The low season price for the half day is 52,500 baht and for a full day 75,600 baht. A 2 day, 1 night trip is 136,080, not including VAT. For further information visit their website at www.tawancruises.com email sales@tawancruises.com or call 076-239-710.