

THE APS TIMES

Asia Pacific Superyachts

SEAMLESS SUPPORT – BEST LOCAL KNOWLEDGE – INDEPENDENTLY OWNED OFFICES

APS WELCOMES VISITORS TO MONACO YACHT SHOW AT STAND DS73



The 2026 Monaco Yacht Show attracts the worldwide community of owners, captains, crew and all involved in the superyacht industry.

The Asia Pacific Superyachts (APS) network of agencies welcomes all to the APS Stand – DS73 (in the Darse Sud Air conditioned tent) – where Monaco Yacht Show visitors can learn of fascinating superyacht destinations, attractions & culture, marina and government regulation updates of Asia Pacific superyacht destinations.

Superyacht experts will unveil newly developed itineraries of their regions, offering extensive opportunities for visiting superyacht owners, captains and chartered vessels

along with streamlined arrival and departure modes - representing an extension of the close cooperation between APS and local government and marine authorities in Asia and Pacific countries.

"We're delighted to share news and welcome all interested in visiting the Asia Pacific area to stop by to learn more about the exotic Asia Pacific superyacht destinations, view thrilling videos, enjoy a cold drink, and meet our team!"



Meet the experts - APS bringing its best to Monaco

APS directors and teams look forward to discussing important changes and news and welcome all to stop by to learn more about the exotic Asia Pacific area, view thrilling Asia Pacific videos, enjoy a cold drink and meet the experts.

Owner-agents will share information from dream destinations Seychelles, Phuket & Gulf of Thailand, Myanmar, Singapore, Maldives, Langkawi & Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Andaman Islands, Bali & Raja Ampat in Indonesia and more. Come meet the experts. APS has built a dedicated workforce led by experienced yachting experts, providing exemplary services and a superior level of service due to port knowledge and personal relationships with port authorities and the APS network of superyacht services & care experts.

APS Captain Scott Walker comments, "Having sailed the waters of South East Asia for the past 20 years and with the continuous updating by my colleagues throughout the APS network, we are fully aware of the spectacular cruising grounds available to visiting superyachts and excited to share new information. And, of keen importance, the changing regulations in Asia Pacific regions can be discussed with our experts at the APS DS73 (Dar Sur) Stand." Visitors to the APS Stand will find superyacht experts sharing news of the many benefits and natural beauty of Asia Pacific cruising regions with owners, captains, yacht management companies and charter operators. "Stop by with your questions for a chat over a cold beer", enthuses Gordon Fernandes.

For a private meeting with APS owner-agent experts, visitors are welcome to email gordon@asia-pacific-superyachts.com. Media are invited to contact pr-comm@asia-pacific-superyachts.com in advance to schedule a private meeting.

Thai
SUPERYACHT
CHARTER
LICENSE & VISA
Update



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"The APS Times Newspaper 2026 .pdf is available at www.asia-pacific-superyachts.com or stop by the APS Stand DS73 at the Monaco Yacht Show for APS Times .pdf and a chat with APS directors & superyacht experts."

Superyachts shifting attention to Asia Pacific destinations



The mood throughout Asia Pacific and the superyacht industry has recently become very upbeat, with news of changing regulations favoring visiting yachts and new marinas on the way. APS directors and teams are excited to share significant changes.

Asia Pacific Superyachts (APS) co-founder Captain Scott Walker enthuses, "As the summer Mediterranean cruising season ends, increasingly some yachts that traditionally travel to the Caribbean for the winter are coming eastward to elongate the charter season and enjoy Asia Pacific's warmth and beautiful islands. Many Owners and Captains are recognising the cruising season here is year round and South East Asian countries like Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Malaysia, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Andaman Islands are particularly popular."

This year is especially exciting reports APS co-founder and Asia-Pacific Superyachts Association Board Committee Member Gordon Fernandes, "We're excited to attend the Monaco Yacht Show and thrilled to be part of such a wonderful event again. We look forward to sharing news on the growth of the regions and developments of specific areas."

"We will discuss how Asia Pacific regions will enhance the worldwide marine tourism industry with revised charter license laws, streamlined arrival s& departures, Visa application and changing regulations in many of our agencies. These changes will make it so much easier and less costly for more superyachts to visit islands, now more accessible than ever in the past", Fernandes said, adding, "Governments in many of the island countries are looking to support the yachting community and industry by also allowing more marinas to be constructed and expanded and easing regulations."

"We are passionate about promoting Asia Pacific regions to charterers and yacht owners and captains. The APS and APSA Stands offer a great opportunity to connect with others in the worldwide superyacht industry and we're keen to share our goal of bringing more and more superyachts to these remote and beautiful islands. We are proud to support and lead efforts in easing government regulations and expanding high-end marinas and services, working together in streamlining maritime legislation, building a large-berth marina infrastructure and expanding luxury concierge networks."

Magnificent Maldives



The Maldives, often dubbed the 'pearls of the Indian Ocean,' is famous for the gorgeous atolls and rich marine life. With only 200 inhabited islands, the Maldives offer the ultimate luxury escape in complete privacy. Lured to the exotic atolls stretching across the equator, her shores are dotted with exclusive and elegant resorts and services. Made up of 26 atolls, the Maldives lies in a north/south chain in the Arabian Sea in the Indian Ocean.

Set amongst the exotic Kaafu Atoll and Emboodhoo Lagoon, the Yacht Marina @ CROSSROADS offers an impressive 30-berth quay, complete with world-class facilities and exclusive concierge services, catering to vessels from 10 to 60 metres.

Exploring the Maldives by superyacht means you can easily flit from one resort to the other en-route your journey exploring the islands and remote dive sites and game fishing grounds. The Maldives lends itself to a variety of activities, from relaxing and sunbathing on the beach to diving, surfing, and fishing. The archipelago is home to rare underwater beauty, making this one of the most popular dive destinations in the world.

Along with the ocean's bounty, you can also anchor in lagoons or alongside uninhabited islands to snorkel and dive. Fishing has been the lifeblood of the Maldivians since time immemorial. From the decks of your yacht, you can fish at sunrise when sailfish, dogtooth tuna, wahoo and red snapper are milling beneath the surface. The Maldivian waters are also among the top five places in the world for spotting whales and dolphins. With over 20 different species, ranging from the mighty blue whale to the diminutive Spinner Dolphin, you can watch on deck as they go about their regular routine, feeding offshore at night and coming into the atolls in the early morning before leaving late afternoon for the open ocean.

The North Malé Atoll is often the first port of call and the gateway to the entire archipelago. For picture-perfect idylls, follow the chain north to the UNESCO-protected Baa Atoll to seek out once in a lifetime underwater experience where the Hulhangu monsoon brings an abundance of plankton to the Atolls between June and November, creating a feeding frenzy of underwater life. Characterized by its splendidly unique underwater life and ecology, the warm waters are home to a diverse array of exotic marine life in their underwater world and visit Hanhushi's coral reef, showcasing 1000 species of fish and 20 species of whales and dolphins.

Contact: mohamed@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

Amazing Andaman Islands

Discovering the clear waters of the Andaman Seas is an amazing experience where visiting yachts will discover enchanting islands and miles of seclusion and drift diving over coral gardens.

The Andaman Islands are the jewels in the crown of the Bay of Bengal, an archipelago in the northeastern Indian Ocean about 130 km southwest off the coasts of Myanmar's Ayeyarwady Region.

Major changes in regulations to visit the Andaman Islands have now made it much friendlier and a significantly easier yachting destination to visit. In the past a foreigner would need a Restricted Area Permit good for a maximum of 30 days. Now with the new regulations foreigners can visit for tourism purposes without the requirement of RAP Permit and may stay as per the validity of the visa.

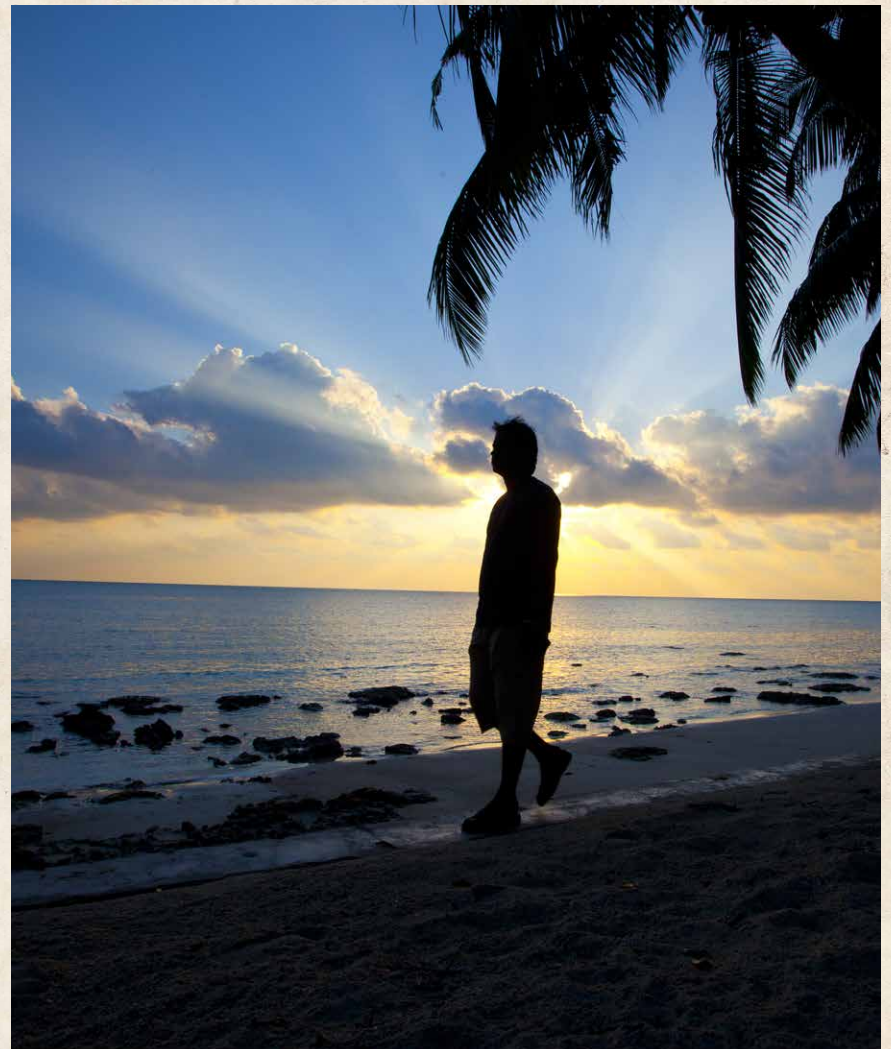
The new regulations make entry smoother and allows yachts to stay for a longer duration. As well, the entire visa process is now online and rather than 30 days, you can apply for a Visa for a month, a year and five years and approval emailed to the applicant in 3-5 days.

Once in the Andaman Islands, together with the Nicobar Islands to their south, the Andamans serve as a maritime boundary between the Bay of Bengal to the west and the Andaman Sea to the east. Offering unique and irresistible underwater attractions, virgin beaches, an active volcano and uninhabited Islands along with activities like water sports, island hopping, snorkeling, sports fishing, scuba diving and surfing – this is truly a unique voyage for yachting/sailing enthusiasts.

In the well-charted sea the islands hold a promise of an enthralling holiday and adventure voyage opening onto a secret world of tropical jungles and rare lush rainforests with serene pristine beaches scattered throughout much of the archipelago and an active volcano.

Contact:

rathnam@asia-pacific-superyachts.com



Indonesia Cruising Adventures

The remote nature of Indonesia is vastly different and most yachting visitors are seeking new experiences or returning for more adventure and exploring.

As Indonesia spans the equator, she is unique in her diversity. Whether it is Borobudur in Java, Uluwatu in Bali or the dragons of Komodo and Rinja, the possibilities are endless.

Bali continues to attract superyachts from all over the world due in thanks to its rather eclectic mix of beautiful beaches, stunning forests and active volcanoes, all existing alongside the vibrant traditional culture, charming hospitality and delicious cuisine for which the island is famous.

There's a beautiful sail across to the little anchorage bay of Nusa Lembongan, the closest island destination to Bali, notes Asia Pacific Superyacht Captain Thomas Taatjes, and after an idyllic anchorage on Lombok Island for the first of the land excursions, the next stop will take you to the Island of Moyo. Then it's on to the Komodo National Park to marvel at the

renowned Komodo Dragons, Manta Rays and a whole plethora of fish and marine life.

Moving East is the untouched Halmahera to explore and then on to the 'Mecca of Diving' that is the Raja Ampat.

The Anambas Islands, an archipelago in Indonesia, are slowly gaining recognition as a new and highly attractive cruising destination, the appeal driven by its remote and unspoiled attractions, a huge improvement in facilities, efficient clearing of yachts in and out, and glowing reports from visiting yachts.

The amazing Anambas Islands is a cruising paradise for those with a penchant for exploring new seas and lands.

Contact:

thomas@asia-pacific-superyachts.com





Seychelles picture-perfect islands

The Seychelles welcomes superyachts with its awe-inspiring beauty. Home to a collection of picture-perfect islands, irresistible mainland attractions and the Eden Island Marina, Seychelles offers a range of unique experiences to those visiting this prized superyacht destination.

The Eden Island Marina is a deepwater marina on the eastern side of Eden Island with state-of-the-art facilities, capable of handling superyachts up to 120 metres. The largest of the marinas, Eden Island, links to the main island of Mahe by a short bridge, a luxury destination off the coast of Mahé in the heart of the Seychelles archipelago.

A premier Indian Ocean destination for superyachts, Seychelles offers year-round cruising outside the hurricane belt and provides secluded white-sand beaches, exceptional diving, and exclusive rainforest excursions. Cruising the exceptional waters which surround the 115 islands, yachting guests can enjoy heavenly anchorages at every turn with new experiences to be had on the water as well as on land.

Motor and sailing guests can choose to enjoy tranquil cruising grounds or immerse themselves in the thriving island life found

on Mahe and La Digue. Renowned for colorful and vibrant culture and festivals, the Seychelles are the place to be when it comes to music, dance, and food. With a range of events taking place across the year, visitors are likely to encounter some kind of celebration taking place in the course of their exploring.

Located in the Outer Islands, the Farquhar Atoll is perhaps the most colourful dive location, with a vast array of marine life found at a relatively shallow depth. Similarly, Francois Island enjoys environmental protection to allow visitors to get up close and personal to a vibrant range of underwater species. With angelfish, butterflyfish, and octopus all native to the waters of the Seychelles, it's well worth diving in and exploring.

Contact:
vincent@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

New Era for Thailand

It's a new era for Thailand's Phuket, known as the 'Superyacht Hub of Asia Pacific'. The luxury yachting destination is attracting more superyachts with its landmark update to the country's charter licensing and streamlining of visa application and regulations reports APS co-founder & director Gordon Fernandes.

"Thailand's yachting industry has undergone significant expansion and the Thai government is working with the country's yacht/ superyacht services providers in easing restrictions to welcome more visiting superyachts to Thailand."

The infrastructure for superyachts is in place with 4 modern and well-equipped marinas and a new Private Jet Terminal along with international airports. A stay at any one of the high-end Phuket beach resorts is an experience that awards the ultimate in Thai luxury.

From the diverse range of 5-Star accommodations to the beauty of white sand beaches, vibrant nightlife and wide choice of fine dining, the island offers an unparalleled paradise for international superyachts along with fantastic cruising and sailing adventures to nearby islands.

Along with the main island, Phuket is comprised of 32 smaller islands such as Phang Nga Bay, home to the movie, 'The Man with the Golden Gun', and filled with limestone karsts containing mysterious sea caves and hidden lagoons. Phi Phi Islands is home to 'The Beach' movie and the Similan Islands offers adventure and whale sharks, manta rays and leopard sharks. When seeking culture there's Old Town, with colonial-era buildings housing chic coffee houses and boutique hotels.

Continuing on to the Gulf of Thailand, Koh Samui has been named the 'Best island in the Asia-Pacific region' at the Travel + Leisure Luxury Awards 2026, highlighting Thailand's global tourism strength and adding to the region's luxury hospitality appeal to superyacht visitors.

Cruising from Samui to the west is Ang Thong National Marine Park with 42 deserted islands to explore and to the north the diving mecca of Koh Tao, among the world's top dive sites where you can swim with whale sharks. On the edge of the gateway to the Gulf of Thailand is Ocean Marina, an award-winning modern 455-yacht- capacity state-of-the-art floating marina.

Contact: jojo@asia-pacific-superyachts.com



Myanmar's Mergui Archipelago

A voyage to Myanmar's Mergui Archipelago is where the only humans you are likely to encounter are the friendly 'Moken' Sea Gypsies, roaming the area in their small boats, like their ancestors have done for centuries.

Their nomadic way of life takes them to the various islands in changing seasons, allowing some lucky visitors to join the community and experience unique and friendly encounters while viewing daily sea life at work and at play.

Just across from the Thai border, the archipelago opened to foreigners in the late 1990s. With only a few of the islands sparsely populated and a couple dozen visitors to the entire area each month, the Mergui Archipelago remains one of the planet's most unspoiled destinations.

Part of the Tanintharyi Region the Mergui

Archipelago consists of more than 800 islands varying in size from very small to hundreds of square kilometers, lying in the Andaman Sea off the western shore of the Malay Peninsula near its landward (northern) end where it joins the rest of Indochina.

Due to its virtual isolation the islands and surrounding seas the Archipelago is alive with an amazing diversity of flora & fauna and stunning underwater scenes and marine life.

Contact:
gordon@asia-pacific-superyachts.com



Langkawi... one of Malaysia's best kept secrets

Many Superyacht Charters start their cruising journey in Asia in Langkawi, Malaysia, with its unrivaled yachting facilities and natural beauty. Langkawi is a serene archipelago of 140 islands – only a few of which are inhabited.

The duty free port includes a shipyard and duty free spare parts and provisions. This is the perfect starting point to process paperwork (and avoid bureaucracy delays in other countries), pick up fuel and load up on fresh provisions.

The premier yachting destination for the region, Langkawi offers plenty of land options before starting a journey, with its 5-Star hotels, high-end spas, cultural attractions, internationally renowned golf courses and a town center with all the modern facilities of a small city to enjoy before boarding your yacht.

Known as the Jewel of Kedah, Langkawi is a treasure trove of natural wonders. Escape the city life and cruise along the waters of the Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, or discover the diverse wildlife in the park and even visit bats at their

humble abode. You can even take a trip to the Crocodile Adventureland to see these ferocious beasts up close!

A typical journey will start from Langkawi to cruise north towards Thailand, to Koh Lipe and the Butang Group of Islands in the Tarutao National Park. Thailand's first Marine National Park consists of 51 islands, close to the Malaysian border, and of the 51 islands all save Koh Lipe are uninhabited.

Departing the Butan Archipelago the islands of the Andaman Sea beckon with Phuket, Phang Nga Bay, Tarutao, Similan and Surin islands all offering fantastic options or cruising farther on to mysterious Myanmar and the Mergui Archipelago.

Contact:
scott@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

Best Super/Luxury Yacht Services & Management Business 2026 – APAC

Asia Pacific Superyachts is LUXlife Winner of 2026 Travel & Tourism Awards

Asia Pacific Superyachts is honoured to be awarded LUXlife Winner of the 2026 Travel & Tourism Awards "Best Super/Luxury Yacht Services & Management Business 2026 – APAC" as the magazine celebrates a decade of 'Luxury, Innovation, and Unforgettable Journeys'.

The tenth anniversary, marking ten years of honouring the very best in global travel and tourism isn't just an awards programme – it's a celebration of vision, creativity, and the extraordinary experiences that make the world feel smaller, brighter, and more luxurious.

Recognising the professional and highly experienced network of APS owner-agents in winning this reward is highly valued by all APS offices spread throughout the superyacht & luxury yacht destinations in the Asia Pacific Area. It is truly an honour as the highly regarded Travel & Tourism Awards are designed to showcase the very best this industry has to offer, covering the full spectrum of travel experiences to ensure truly unforgettable travel and holidays with family or friends.

Recognising the success of the winners on this anniversary occasion, Awards Coordinator Kaven Cooper commented: "It is always a pleasure to recognise businesses committed to elevating the travel experiences of their guests, and this year's awardees are no different. This hard-earned recognition is a testament to their willingness to go above and beyond."

See Asia Pacific Superyachts and other winners featured in the award official winners list here - <https://lux-life.digital/hall-of-fame/tourism-awards-2026/>



Travel
& Tourism
Awards



'Pearl of the Indian Ocean' ... Sri Lanka

An island nation located south of the Indian sub-continent, Sri Lanka has a culture and heritage integrally associated with boating and sailing with origins going back many centuries to the country's fishing community.

Despite the influence from invaders Sri Lanka has managed to retain her unique culture, language (Sinhala), proud history and her gracious hospitality. Wherever you may go, you will always be greeted by smiles and the greeting 'Ayubowan', which translates as 'May you live longer!' An island of magical proportions, it has been known as the 'Pearl of the Indian Ocean'.

Sri Lanka government and the yachting community & industry all agree Sri Lanka has tremendous potential to realise its vision of becoming a maritime hub in the region. There is a focus on opening up to cruising tourism. The many regulations concerning tender boat operations and the lack of anchorages suitable for superyachts has held back significant superyacht cruising, which now actually adds to Sri Lanka's attraction as a stunning adventure cruising destination.

Contact: priyantha@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

Singapore's appeal

Global charterers and superyacht owners and captains are shifting their focus from traditional cruising grounds in search of the more exotic cruising destinations in Asia, which includes a stay in Singapore. It's constantly evolving and reimagining itself with people who are passionate about creating new possibilities and attractions, along with new services to visiting superyachts.

Centrally located in South East Asia, Singapore is a perfect location for superyachts, smack in the middle of really excellent cruising grounds", enthuses Clarence Chong of APS Singapore: "More and more superyachts see Singapore as a great destination and once here, they love it!" Singapore is only one degree north of the equator and yacht owners rave about the location, as it doesn't get severe weather. This, of course, means Singapore is a convenient and safe base for year-round regional cruises while providing boundless activities for the owner and guests and captain and crew, with numerous superyacht berths in several world-class marinas island-wide.

Virtually every aspect of servicing a yacht from



inbound/outbound clearance procedures to provisioning, engineering repairs and surveys and all requirements while in Singapore and further afield are here.

Singapore has all the facilities a superyacht could possibly require and for those requiring repair or a re-fit, there's haul-out facilities for superyachts.

With many marine suppliers on the island, sourcing of parts and marine items is very convenient. This location has the shipyards, class societies and registry and a high level of engineering prowess to call on along with a tax exemption service. It's a duty free port, easy to ship into and change of crew, holidays etc., along with first world healthcare.

Contact:
clarence@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

Indonesia's remote Anambas Islands

The Anambas Islands archipelago of Indonesia is slowly gaining recognition as a new and exceedingly attractive cruising destination, driven by its remote and unspoiled attractions, a huge improvement in facilities, new marina and efficient clearing of yachts in and out.

A collection of over 200 small Indonesian islands in the South China Sea, the Anambas Islands is moving from being considered as just a remote off-the-beaten-track place; to a cruising paradise for those with a penchant for exploring new seas and lands. Facing the wide-open ocean, the Archipelago provides a panoramic view of blue seas and green islands dotted with azure lagoons with sheer endless reefs filled with a kaleidoscope of colorful coral species, as well as magnificent sea creatures, big and small.

Verdant jungles of exotic plant species and countless cultural and culinary unique experiences await travelers on land. Despite the relative proximity to Singapore at a mere 150 miles, this island group has remained under the radar, its silent existence never really reaching outside its own boundaries for centuries.

Explaining what makes the Anambas Islands so special, and how it's much easier than you might think to clear immigration, despite the archipelago's remoteness, is Captain Thomas Taatjes, director & GM of Asia Pacific Superyachts Indonesia. "Those with a penchant for exploring new seas and lands will find a cruising paradise. Changing regulations are paving the way to welcoming more yachts and formalities-wise you can internationally clear into Indonesia by vessel and permits, visas, etc., the same as elsewhere in Indonesia."

"The biggest island (and a very pleasant town) where all formalities take place on arrival is Terempa on Sintan Island. It is a deep anchorage near a long road built on piles. It is the best place to resupply and also serves as the spot to welcome guests flying in to join the yacht at the airport on Pulau Matak Island, less than 10 miles away; or anchor close by if more convenient. The East side of both Pulau Sintan and Pulau Matak offer an incredible choice of anchorages. Many reefs border the Anambas Islands

and provide well-protected anchorages but because of narrow passages to enter these lagoons, navigation can be tricky".



"The main Anambas islands are Sintan, Jemaja, Matak, Mubur and Kiabu. The two most populous are Letung on Jemaja and Anambas' capital Tarempa, located on Sintan. Setting foot on an intriguing world of bountiful islands also awards visitors the opportunity to meet the locals, descendants of the once mighty 'Orang Bugis'.

These proud seafaring people of yesteryear with their colorful past retain their strong bond with the sea today. A nice surprise is the friendliness of the locals in the small villages scattered among the bays, which adds

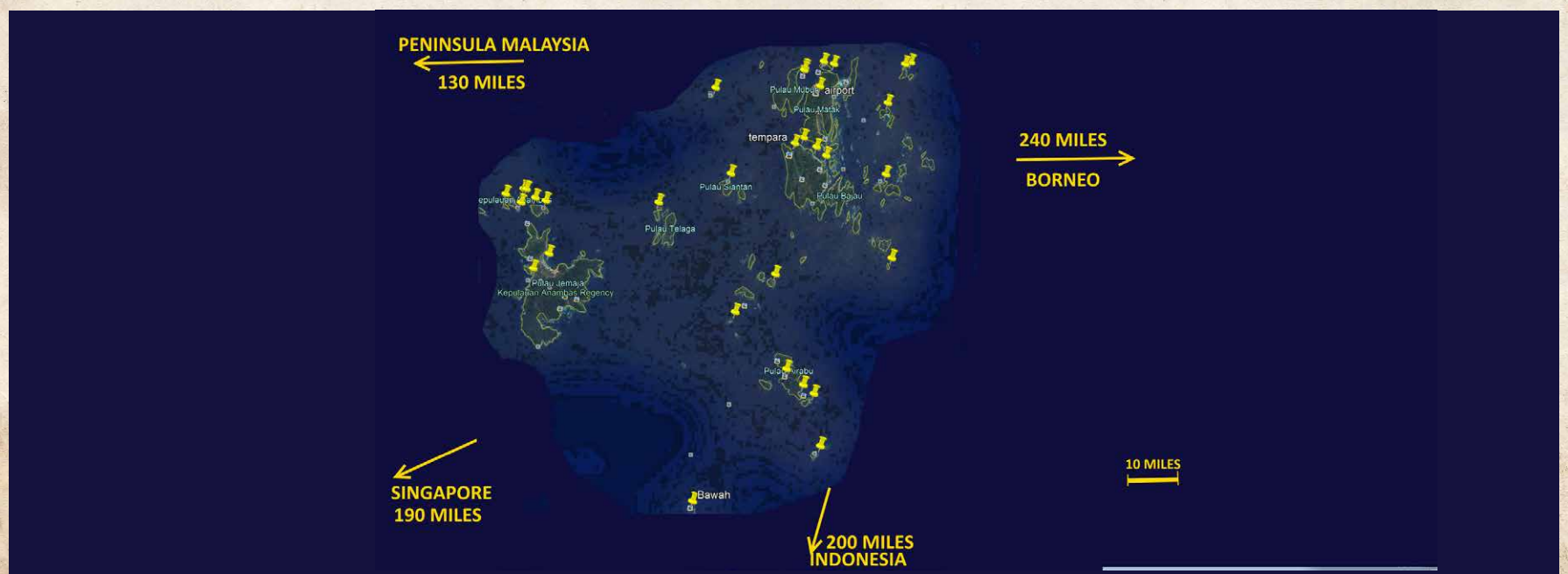
an enriching experience to your visit. Here you will find isolated anchorages with clear water and fishing villages along the way, ensuring a fresh supply of seafood. Now gaining recognition worldwide for its potential as a paradise island holiday and marine eco-tourism destination, the main attractions of the Anambas Archipelago is its ruggedly beautiful environment, the exceptional clarity of its seawater and significant coral reef coverage along with the many as yet untouched 'Survivor-type' islands and their lush often still-unexplored jungles.

Part of the Indonesian Riau Islands Province, the relatively rarely visited Anambas Islands group lay between Singapore and Borneo and are among Indonesia's northern-most border archipelagos. The fishing is fantastic as the waters are quite fertile with tuna, mackerel, giant trevally, grouper and even billfish and these are just a few of the likely catches.

"It's possible to cruise among the Anambas Islands any time of the year, however, the season of SW monsoon (April to September) offers drier conditions and a calmer sea", explains Captain Thomas. "The islands are stunning with crystal-clear waters and abundant coral reefs, however poor and inaccurate charts make navigating these waters a challenge and can be hazardous. It is best to consult satellite imagery and experienced experts that have cruised the region."

These days it is rare to cruise to a new destination that appears remote but is closer than you think, the amazing Anambas Archipelago is now easier to access than ever before.

Contact: thomas@asia-pacific-superyachts.com



Thai Superyacht Charter License & Visa Update

Thailand is world renowned for its clear waters, beautiful tropical islands and gracious hospitality. And now, much needed changes in regulations for visiting yachts, critical to bringing more superyacht owners and chartered yachts to enjoy this paradise, are coming about.



The Thai Yachting Business Association (TYBA) shared important updates to the Thai Charter License and Visa Application made by the Ministry of Transport in meeting this need. The TYBA was instrumental in the inception of the Thai Charter License for yachts of a minimum length of 30 meters in 2015 and since then, TYBA has successfully lobbied to reduce the minimum required length of yacht eligible to apply for the license from 30 to 24 meters.

The Ministry of Transport in its announcement concerning Superyacht Commercial Operation in Thai Water (B.E.2568/2025), finally granted permission for yachts of 24 meter and larger carrying no more than 12 passengers, to apply for the Thai Charter License to conduct commercial charter in Thailand.

The Association believes this reduction may easily double the number of foreign-flagged yachts coming to Thailand to engage in superyacht charter and attract high-value tourists, while benefiting local marinas and yacht industry companies providing services. In the past superyacht charters on vessels over 24 metres have been a small part of that market as few boats of that size are registered in Thailand, due to the high cost of paying the VAT on a yacht worth many millions of dollars. Now thanks to extensive efforts by TYBA the Thailand Superyacht Charter License has received a Royal Decree, allowing foreign-flagged superyachts to apply for a license to operate commercially in Thai waters without paying the 7% VAT on the value of the yacht.

Key changes to yacht charter regulations in Thailand for 2026 focus on lowering the threshold for superyacht status, which is expected to significantly increase the number of foreign-flagged vessels available for hire. These updates will make it significantly easier and less expensive for luxury vessels to operate in the region reports the Asia-Pacific Superyacht Association.

Key Changes for 2026 as reported by Yacht

Charter

- **Lowered Superyacht Threshold:** The Thai Ministry of Transport and the Thai Yachting Business Association (TYBA) reduced the minimum length for foreign-flagged vessels to apply for a Thai Charter License from 30 meters (98 ft) down to 24 meters (78 ft).
- **Increased Eligibility:** This 24m threshold allows a wider range of yachts to legally operate commercial charters (up to 12 passengers) in Thai waters, a move expected to potentially double the number of foreign-flagged superyachts in the area.
- **Simplified Procedures:** The process for obtaining licenses and documentation for visitors on crewed charters has been streamlined, facilitating easier access to the country.
- **Revised Insurance Requirements:** New, stricter minimum insurance coverage requirements for yachts applying for these licenses are being implemented to ensure safety and compliance with international standards.
- **Visa and Crew Policy Updates:** The TYBA is working to align crew visa durations (currently 30 days) with the vessel's permitted stay (up to 30 months under a temporary import permit) to further support foreign operators.

Impact on Tourism and Economy

- **Economic Boost:** The influx of smaller superyachts is expected to benefit local marinas, repair, and maintenance services, as well as increase spending on food and beverage provisioning.
- **Targeting High-Value Visitors:** These changes align with a broader 2026 strategy by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) to prioritize high-value, quality tourism.
- **Phuket as Hub:** The Thailand International Boat Show held in Phuket helps solidify the region as a premier yachting destination, with increased engagement from international, particularly European, superyacht brokers.

"The reduction in the minimum size threshold is expected to increase the number of yachts available for charter in Thailand", explains Asia Pacific Superyachts Gordon Fernandes. "The pool of commercially registered foreign-flagged vessels active in the Thai charter market will significantly expand. Under the former limitation there were very few yachts chartering here because the legalities meant that you had to have a Thai flag and this wasn't really viable for most international superyacht owners. Now more and more locally owned yachts are obtaining a charter license and this will fuel the growth in the charter market."

Fernandes says the country's extended seasonal window will support recurring annual basing, strengthening marina occupancy and associated services. "Owners want to be legal and chartering is a great form of revenue that can help cover the expenses of running the yacht and this change will fuel a big growth in the number of superyacht visitors."

Tanyuta 'Jojo' Singhmanee, co-founder of Asia Pacific Superyachts Phuket and a board member of the Thai Yachting Business Association (TYBA), reports the regulatory changes are laying the groundwork for long-



term expansion. "Thailand isn't trying to copy the Med or Caribbean – our cruising season is opposite to the Med, and it also stands out because it delivers a completely different charter experience profile, especially for clients who've 'done' the traditional circuits," she says.

Pointing out some of the country's unique highlights, she explains: "Around Phang Nga Bay and the Similan Islands, you get limestone karsts rising vertically out of the sea, hidden lagoons only accessible by tender, anchorages with no visible development... and Thailand's hospitality culture is also a major, often underestimated edge." On this note, Fernandes adds that he has observed that charter clients mainly want to cruise in established areas like Phi Phi, Krabi the Surin and Similan Islands, but there's also been growth in clients wanting to visit the popular beach clubs on the West Coast of Phuket.

It appears Thailand is on track to solidify Phuket as "Superyacht Hub of Asia" in the global superyacht charter circuit.

Contact:
gordon@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

Andaman Islands 2026 cruising update



Major changes in visiting regulations to the Andaman Islands have now made it a much friendlier and significantly easier yachting destination. Remote destinations of untouched natural beauty is of high interest and the Andaman Islands is offering a new era for superyachts with big changes in regulations.



Restricted Area Permit

Andaman Islands superyacht cruising permits previously allowed for a maximum visit of 30 days, as this came under a Restricted Area Permit since the region is ecologically sensitive. Fifteen-day extensions were possible but only for emergencies. Now foreign visitors no longer need the permit, instead, they can remain as long as their visas are valid. In another major change owners and guests enjoying Andaman Islands superyacht cruising now may scuba dive and fish from their yacht.

Visa

In earlier days, one had to apply in person for a visa by visiting the India Embassy and in most cases, apply in their home country. This regulation made getting a visa a time-consuming and challenging process. Now the entire visa process is online and you can apply for a visa for a month, a year or five years with approval emailed in 3-5 days. For eligibility and further information, please visit indianvisaonline.gov.in

Inward Clearances & Fuel

"The region has been challenging to access due to tight visa and cruising permit restrictions. Now yachts visiting the Andaman Islands will find a visit much simpler with big changes in permits, visas and what you can and can't do in the local waters", reports R. Rathnam of Asia Pacific Superyachts (APS) Andaman Islands & India. He reported there has been highly significant changes in regulations and notes the Andaman Islands is transforming to a high-end tourism and superyacht destination.

Before the new changes in regulations, there was no timeline available for completion of the inward clearances. Rathnam, reports that now and in the future yachts arriving in the morning will receive clearance that evening. He also notes the quality of the fuel and access to marine fuel is much better now. New fuel stations provide high-quality supplies at fair prices and captains can refuel with confidence, knowing that the quality meets international standards.

Exploring the Andamans

This tropical paradise is a top destination offering a unique experience for those seeking sailing adventures far away from the ordinary. With lush, rain-fed evergreen forests and an abundance of exotic flora and fauna, the 836 islands of this archipelago stand as a testament to untouched beauty. For those seeking adventure the islands offer a variety of yachting routes, from island hopping to secluded anchorages and the opportunity to discover hidden coves, private beaches with crystal-clear waters far from crowds.

Through the Diligent Strait, Peel Island and Henry Lawrence Island offer secluded anchorages for snorkeling and interesting coastal outcrops to explore. Adventuresome island cruising accessible only by boat includes the islands of Inglis, Sister, Passage, Brother, Barren, Narcondum, Little Andaman, Interview, Neil, Cinque, Henry, Lawrence and Button.

Yachting visitors who enjoy combining cruising and shoreside stays will find a handful of high-end eco-oriented resorts over the next several years on Long Island, Aves Island, and Shaheed Dweep (Neil Island). As well, the existing Megapode Resort in Sri Vijaya Puram will undergo redevelopment and Rathnam reports the Taj Exotica Resort & Spa is welcoming visitors along the renowned Radhanagar Beach at Havelock Island.

Contact: rathnam@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

APSA Launches Its AI-Forward Website

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The Asia-Pacific Superyacht Association (APSA) marks its 15th anniversary in 2026, and to celebrate, APSA has unveiled its new website, completely rebuilt from the ground up. It is faster, properly connected, and engineered for a world in which people increasingly find answers through AI. For APSA members this last point is not a technical footnote, it is a year-round marketing advantage, and it already shows in the monthly statistics.

The rebuild was a major undertaking, far more than a coat of paint. The new website was designed and built by Southern Sky AI, with the project led by Kristina Agustin, an AI expert with extensive experience in the superyacht industry.

Fifteen years, preserved

APSA was founded on 20 April 2011 with 45 founder members from 14 countries. Fifteen years on, it is a respected industry body and an authoritative voice for the region, and the content published along the way tells that story: event reports, destination guides, regulatory updates, member news and thousands of images from across the Asia-Pacific. That body of work has firmly put the Asia-Pacific on the superyacht map.

During the rebuild none of this important information was lost. Every part of the archive was carried across to the new platform:

- **More than 1,600 articles and posts**
- **Over 3,200 images**
- **A 147-strong member directory, rebuilt listing by listing**

The previous site had become difficult to maintain: hand-coded HTML that broke in places, stray and rogue characters scattered through the text, and functions that no longer worked reliably.

The new website replaced all of that with a modern, stable platform, while keeping fifteen years of work intact and readable. It was a meticulous migration, not a fresh start that quietly left the past behind.

Built to be found, by people and by AI

The single biggest change is not something you see. It is how the site is structured underneath.

Every page, and crucially every member listing, is now built with clean, machine-readable code and structured schema.org data. In plain terms: the site tells search engines and AI assistants exactly what each business is, where it is, and what it does.

Rather than blocking automated visitors, the new APSA

website deliberately welcomes them, because those "visitors" are now how a growing share of the world discovers information.

This is the shift from traditional search-engine optimisation (SEO), being found on Google, to answer-engine optimisation (AEO): being the source that tools like ChatGPT and Claude draw on and cite when someone asks about superyachting in the Asia-Pacific.

APSA is built to lead on both, and every member listed in the directory benefits from it.

The early numbers

The website had its soft launch in April, and formal tracking and analytics began in May. The figures will keep settling over the coming months, but the early picture is striking, and it tells two stories: what happened when the AI engines discovered the site, and what a normal week now looks like.

Upon launch

- **Between a quarter and nearly half of all traffic** came from AI assistants and crawlers as the major engines indexed the new site
- In a single day in July, ChatGPT's crawler read **9,403 pages** of the site: fifteen years of APSA content, read end to end
- That same day, Anthropic's Claude read **1,083 pages**
- The first visitors began arriving on the site **directly from AI answers**

Stabilising data

- **Over a million requests a month**, most of it machines reading APSA content - exactly what the site was built to attract
- ChatGPT fetches APSA pages live, **100 to 200 times a day, every day**, each fetch a real person asking a question that APSA content answers
- In four days in late July: **more than 600 live fetches, one in ten of them a member's directory listing**, and AI systems read more than **100 of the 147 member**

listings in the same window

- Claude returns to read **hundreds of pages most days**
- **Human visitors**, people arriving through search engines, direct visits and non-AI referrals, have come from **more than 100 countries** since launch, with the **member directory among the most-visited pages** on the site
- The human readers closest to the industry stay longest: visits from **Hong Kong** average around a minute and a half on site, and visits from **Australia** over three minutes (per Google Analytics)

What it means for your business

APSA has always promised to "promote your business to captains, owners and the international superyacht community all year round." The new website makes that promise measurably stronger.

Your directory listing now works two audiences at once. For people, the directory is among the most-visited pages on the site.

For machines, your listing is a structured, machine-readable profile sitting on one of the region's strongest databases of yacht businesses and professionals, and the AI tools consult it in real time: one in ten of ChatGPT's live fetches of the site is a member's individual listing. When a captain, owner, broker or journalist asks an AI assistant to recommend a shipyard, an agent, a lawyer or a marina in the Asia-Pacific, the goal is simple: APSA members are the answer.

The monthly member news carries the same benefit. The pages AI engines fetch most are exactly the articles APSA publishes from member submissions: new-member announcements, event reports, sailing schedules and regulatory updates.

Your news reaches the membership and then keeps working, as part of the body of knowledge the world's AI tools draw on and quote.

Every AI answer built on APSA content reaches people who never open the site at all, so the association's reach is now larger than any visitor count can show.

www.apsuperyacht.org

That is a genuine, ongoing marketing benefit that comes with membership, working quietly in the background twelve months a year, on top of the events, the printed APSA Guide, and the collective advocacy on regulation and infrastructure that our members already value.

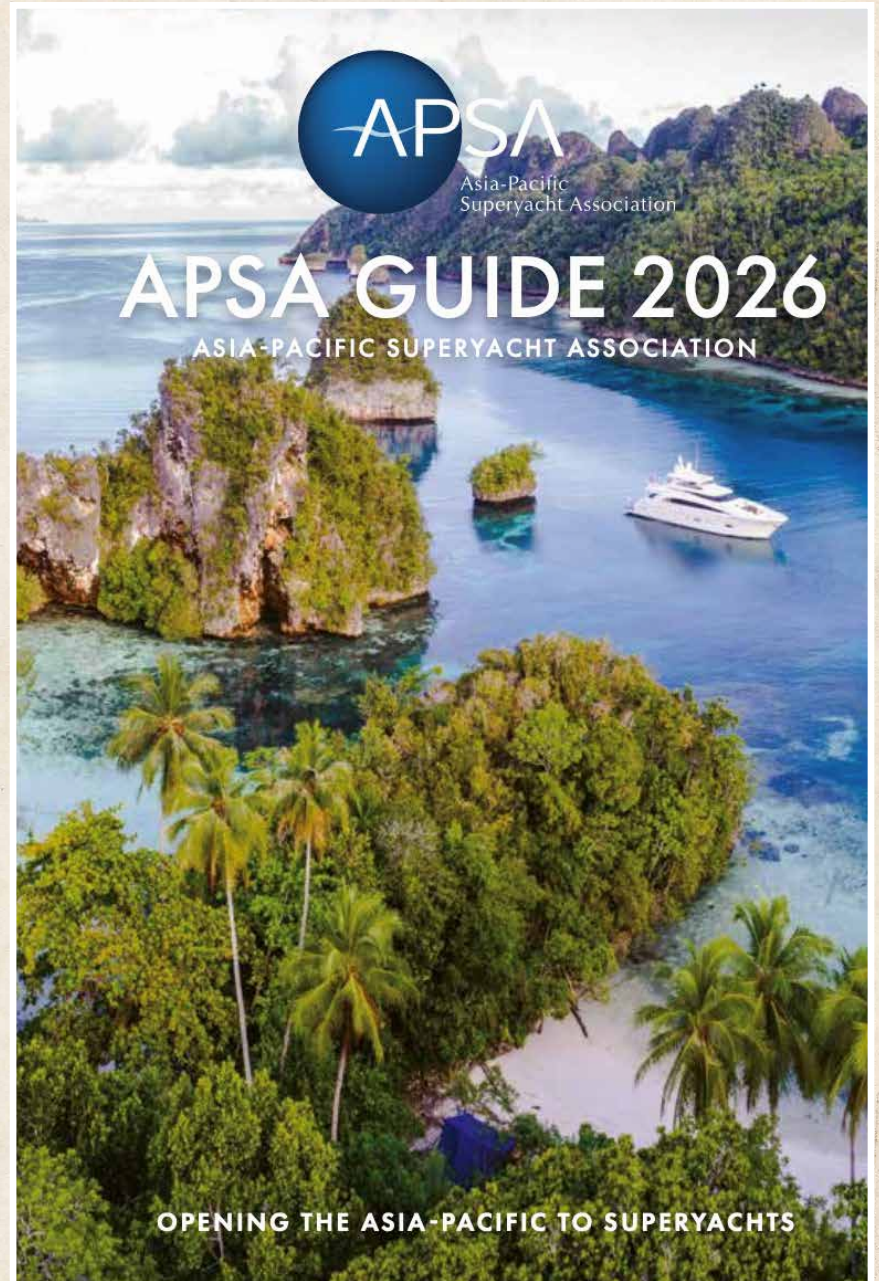
Looking ahead

Fifteen years in, the Asia-Pacific is firmly on the global superyacht map. Now the map is built to be read by everyone, and everything, looking for it, and the new website has been set up not just for today, but for the way the industry, and the internet, is heading.

Explore the new site and the member directory at apsuperyacht.org. Not yet a member? Join APSA and put your business in front of the people, and the AI, shaping the region's superyacht future.



APS Gordon Fernandes & Jojo Singhmanee with APSA executive director Suzy Rayment at Thailand Yachting Conference 2026



About APSA

The Asia-Pacific Superyacht Association (APSA) is the leading professional and regional yacht industry association for Asia; and the first ever cross-country association, established in Asia in 2011.

APSA Objectives:

- APSA actively promotes its members who are Asian yacht businesses to the global superyacht community and works with international businesses who want to connect to businesses in the Asia-Pacific region.
- APSA's direct promotional activities year-round connect the members to superyacht owners and captains.
- APSA promotes the Asia-Pacific cruising grounds to the global superyacht community as one of the world's three main cruising regions, with special focus on Southeast Asia, South Pacific and Oceania cruising grounds.

APSA works with its Affiliate Partners on collaborative promotional activities that includes sponsored social events, summits, conferences, and international yacht shows such as Monaco, Fort Lauderdale, Singapore Yachting Festival and Thailand International Yacht Show.

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Asia Pacific Superyachts

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www.asia-pacific-superyachts.com

OFFICES INDIVIDUALLY OWNED AND OPERATED:

ANDAMAN ISLANDS (INDIA)

rathnam@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

BORNEO

borneo@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

CAMBODIA

kevint@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

FIJI

david@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

HONG KONG

bryan@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

INDONESIA – BALI

thomas@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

INDONESIA – RAJA AMPAT

thomas@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

MALAYSIA – LANGKAWI

scott@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

MALDIVES

mohamed@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

MYANMAR

jojo@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

NEW ZEALAND

duthie@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

PHILIPPINES

philippines@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

SEYCHELLES

seychelles@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

SINGAPORE

clarence@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

SRI LANKA

priyantha@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

THAILAND – PHUKET

gordon@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

THAILAND – SAMUI

charlie@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

TAHITI

tahiti@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

"All the people at the Asia Pacific Superyachts agencies are real pros, and have incredible experience and local knowledge"

Captain Chris Walsh,
M.Y. Archimedes