

SAIL THAILAND 2019

“Nice Variety of Events”

14 Cruising yachts participated last month in the Sail Thailand Rally, a three week yachting event between Langkawi, Phuket and Krabi. The 3rd edition of the rally featured succesful new stops and activities and is supported by new Rally Partners.

by Bert van Muywijk

“Great way to meet fellow cruisers and experience more of Thailand than we would on our own”

It feels like yesterday, the inaugural Sail Thailand Rally of 2017. And now we already finished the third edition. It’s true: time flies when you’re having fun. Last years’ rally saw a whopping 22 yachts participate. Due to personal circumstances, preparations for this year’s rally started only in December with 14 yachts joining as a result. Still a nice group, with sy Nyami having even 9 people on board.

Like previous years it all started in Langkawi at the Rebak Marina but with a big change to other years. Sy Nyami, the 55’ catamaran of Diane Edwards was taking part in the Rally as ‘mothership’ for the organisers and some additional enthusiasts. More importantly though there was Nui ... our fabulous chef cooking up a storm every day. Thank you, Nui, we all gained weight (she usually quipped: “you lose weight, I lose my job...”, fat chance!!!).

INFORMAL GET-TOGETHERS

All yachts came together in Rebak Marina for the official start of the Rally on 15 January with a briefing, snacks and drinks. A perfect opportunity also to get acquainted, compare notes and prepare for next morning’s departure up North. During the briefing it was announced that the ‘mothership’ would anchor at a few extra places. A potluck at Koh Tarutao, a BBQ at Koh Rok Nok, an Emerald Cave swim at Koh Muk and a nice stop at Koh Lanta.. Anybody that wanted to join was welcome and half of the fleet took part in these informal stops. Almost all boats came to Koh Lanta for a “creative

morning” at the Eco-friendly Costa Lanta Resort at the most Northern beach of the island, followed by an optional cooking class at Khun Akkapaks’ Sukho Thai Cuisine Cooking School. I finally mastered to cook an (almost) perfect Tom Kha Gai !!

GOOD OLD RALLY STOPS

Next to these new informal stops there were the usual ‘official’ stops in Chalong, Phuket for clearing in and a great Welcome Lunch at the Phuket Yacht Club. In Port Takola Marina, Krabi, guests were welcomed to a great dinner & party at the nicely located and newly opened The Calm Bar & Restaurant at the marina, And lastly, for the big closing party participants joined other cruisers and superyacht captains & crew for the Sevenstar - Phuket Yacht Haven Dinner & Party at the Deck, hosted by Sevenstar Yacht Transport and Phuket Yacht Haven for the 7th year in a row.

SUCCESSFUL NEW RALLY EVENTS

This year’s rally saw new official rally stops hosted by new rally partners. The early morning Yoga Session and Great Breakfast hosted by new rally partner and five star hotel The Nai Harn in Southern Phuket. The Beach Clean-up in Koh Yao Yai with fabulous support from Khun Pim and her team of Six Senses Yao Noi, local fishermen and Bantakhao Primary School of Koh Yao Noi. And the Dinghy Parade and Activity Market at the most hospitable Premier/PSY Boatyard in Phuket.



Some optional tours were also on offer for the Rally participants: a Phuket Welcome Tour with educational visits to a family-run Pearl Farm in Ao Yon, to the Chalong Rum Distillery (not only educational...) and to a “grande finale” at Siam Niramit with their great show after an excellent buffet dinner. In Krabi a “Krabi Jungle Tour” was available with among others a visit to the Elephant Sanctuary where you can bath an elephant (and prepare and feed him part of his daily 300 kilos of food). Several participants visited Koh Klang in Krabi for a wonderful day of Community Based Tourism.

2019 SURVEY RESULTS

The annual Survey to all participants showed that without exception all parts of the Rally were highly rated with an average of 4.7 points out of 5. The new activities were appreciated and it looks like we shouldn’t change too much in 2020.



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Photo Captions from top to bottom, left to right:

- Beach Clean-up at Koh Yao Noi with the staff of Six Senses Yao Noi and children of the BanTakhao School.
- Dinner party at the new Calm Bar & Restaurant at Port Takola, Krabi,
- Dinghy Parate at Premier/PSY
- Early morning yoga class at the roof top Reflections deck of The Nai Harn
- Photo fun at the Sevenstar-Phuket Yacht Haven Dinner & Party