# CORAL REEF AWARENESS AND RESTORATION WORKSHOP PHUKET, THAILAND MAY 6-11, 2007



If you are into coral reefs then you cannot miss this unique opportunity. The Racha (www.theracha.com) together with Racha Seamaster Divers (www.rachaseamaster.com) and the Reefball Foundation are proud to offer an exciting Coral Reef Awareness and Restoration Workshop.

Spend five days on the reefs in paradise while you learn how to protect, preserve, restore and enhance these gifts of nature with expert guides.

#### Included:

- All land and water transfers.
- Meet and greet cocktail party, welcome dinner and farewell dinner.
- Five nights accommodation at The Racha with all meals
- Attendance to the marine biology lectures, reef restoration workshops and guided adventures
- Four guided dives including all dive gear.

The Racha is a luxurious island hideaway resort located on the idyllic Racha Yai Island, famous for its clear waters with excellent visibility, secluded bays, white sandy beaches, and fringing coral reefs. The island is located only 12 nautical miles (22 km) off the south coast of Phuket, Thailand.

Your expedition leaders will guide you over, around and through both natural and designer coral reefs in search of clownfish snuggling in their host anemones, schools of iridescent Chromis, red tailed butterfly fish, playful Blennies, multi colored Wrasses and a rainbow of corals.

The coral restoration and propagation demonstrations throughout the week will prepare you for the rewarding opportunity to help enhance the recently established designer reefs while at the same time helping to preserve the natural reefs.

Non-divers will enjoy the natural beauty of the island, guided snorkeling tours and the outstanding facilities of The Racha.





### TRIP ITINERARY:

## Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup>

Arrival and check-in at The Racha independently and meet and greet your fellow travelers at the welcome cocktail and dinner. This is followed by a photo illustrated presentation of the myriad of marine life you will encounter on the reefs around Racha Island.

Please note that your should arrive at Phuket International Airport before 16.00h on arrival day in order to allow enough time for the car and boat transfer to Racha Island.

The Racha will assist in making accommodation arrangements for a first overnight stay in Phuket in case of later



flight arrivals but will not be financially responsible. Also, please remember that the sea conditions during the boat transfer can be unpredictable and guests are encouraged to wear appropriate light attire.

#### Speed Boat Schedule:

From Phuket's Chalong Bay to Racha: 11:30, 14:00 and 17:00h.

From Racha back to Chalong: 9:00, 12:00 and 16:00

The transfer from the airport to Chalong by car takes around 45 minutes and The Racha will pick up all guests at the airport and organize for transfer.

## Monday May 7<sup>th</sup>

The day will begin with breakfast followed by a briefing of the day's activities. The divers will regroup at the dive shop to obtain their diver equipment and prepare for the introduction to the designer reefs located at different depths within Batok Bay and the unique diversity of life that already call them home.

Non-divers can enjoy the day at leisure or with snorkeling excursions, mountain bike adventures, tide-pool expeditions and much more. We will all return to the resort for lunch and a video presentation on the impact the

tsunami had on the area and the effort by The Racha, the Thai people and the many volunteers made to restore and preserve this Island paradise.

There is also time for you to enjoy the beach and pool or experience some of the famous Thai spa treatments at the luxurious Anumba Spa.







# Tuesday, May 8th

Everyone will be welcome to watch or participate in a Reef Ball building demonstration during the morning, followed by a dive taking us to an area where the natural reef meets the designer reefs. We will see first hand how the two form one ecosystem. How the adult and juvenile fish co-habitat within the new zone and how the recently propagated corals are maturing. Those not diving will explore the low-tide rocky eco-system in Batok bay, identify the fish and invertebrates that inhabit these tide pools and the important role this estuary plays in the marine environment.

After lunch, there will be an organized snorkel "Marine Life Treasure Hunt" and divers are open to book a pleasure dive to Staghorn Reef, a playground for nurse sharks and Dolphins.

Dinner is followed by a presentation on coral reef restoration methodology and the role designed reefs can play in preservation.

## Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>

A coral rescue dive in Batok bay will mark the real beginning of your "Vacation with a Purpose". Under guided supervision imperiled corals will be rescued and placed in a staging area for transplanting and propagation. Samples of each coral collected will be the subject of the evening Coral I.D. presentation. A night snorkel will follow for those wanting to know what nocturnal marine life looks like.

## Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>

Everyone is invited to attend the hands-on coral propagation workshop on the beach following the breakfast briefing. During the "Restoration Dive' the divers will have the opportunity to plant the propagated corals on the shallow water designer reef and the snorkels can watch from above. All you have learned during the workshops will come together on this exciting dive. All the corals will be rescued and a new reef will be born.

The evening will be equally festive with a farewell cocktail and dinner party. This will be the perfect opportunity for everyone to reflect back and share their experiences with each other. A final presentation and thank you will be given to close out the trip.

## Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup>

Exchange photos, email addresses and say our final farewells. Those leaving The Racha will need to be ready for either the 9:00h, 12.00h or 16.00h speed boat. Taking you back to Phuket for your departure flights and any last minute shopping.

#### **Meet Your Expert Guides**



John C. Walch

A diver since 1966 and frequent traveler to Thailand, John is very familiar with the natural and designer reefs around Koh Racha Yai. He led the post-tsunami volunteer group that built the designer reefs you will be diving on. John has demonstrated coral propagation around the world.



Heather Andrus

An avid diver and part of the reef restoration volunteer group Heather has built designer reefs and supervised coral transplant project throughout the Caribbean and the Andaman Sea. With skill and enthusiasm Heather will introduce to the reefs around Koh Racha Yai.

#### The Racha





A more perfect location and more supportive host could not be found for this unique opportunity to participate in your "Vacation with a Purpose" Coral Reef Awareness and Restoration Workshop.

The Racha is Thailand's premier deluxe island hideaway and designed so one can discover the inner balance between body, mind, and spirit. The resort features 70 luxurious villas and is a leader in responsible and environmentally sustainable tourism. In keeping with their land based environmentally responsible approach The Racha and Racha Seamaster Dive center have taken the initiative to protect, preserve, restore and enhance the coral reefs at Koh Racha Yai

Phuket is Thailand's largest island and lies off the west coast of Southern Thailand in the pristine waters of the Andaman Sea, approximately 900km south of Bangkok.

### What to Expect:

To fully enjoy all the opportunities this adventure has to offer, participants should be in good general heath and divers must bring their certifications along. All dive equipment is included, but if you are more comfortable with your own gear, please feel free to bring it along. For non-divers The Racha's Thai cooking lesson, snorkeling, island trekking, tide pool exploration and the luxurious Anumba Spa will keep you busy.

#### **Cost of the Adventure:**

Five nights in a double superior villa: US\$ 895.- per person Five nights in a single superior villa: US\$ 1,175.- per person

Additional nights: US\$ 120.- per night including breakfast US\$ 25.- only for workshop participants

For reservations and information regarding deposit and conditions please contact The Racha's website at <a href="https://www.theracha.com">www.theracha.com</a> or email to <a href="mailto:reservation@theracha.com">reservation@theracha.com</a>

Schedules and programs details are given in good faith but are subject to change depending on weather conditions and time restraints. Flights are not included in the price of the adventure.

Reservation form for those booking with the reefball foundation directly and not through
The Racha
Coral Reef Awareness and Restoration Workshop
May 6<sup>th</sup> - May 11<sup>th</sup> 2007

I/we wish to reserve	_ villas
Name 1:	Passport #:
Name 2:	Passport #:
(Names as they appear on the passport).	
Address:	<del>-</del>
City/State/Zip:	
Home Phone:	_ E-Mail:
Accommodation:	
□ Single	
□ Double	