



## Mergui Archipelago Southeast Asia

Near the border of Burma (Myanmar) and Thailand, more than 800 islands rise amid extensive coral reefs in the Andaman Sea. This is the Mergui Archipelago.

Captain Thomas Forrest of the East India Company first reported on the region to Europeans after a 1782 expedition, describing islands inhabited by a nomadic fishing culture. These people, known as the Moken, still call the archipelago home and mostly live a hunter-gatherer lifestyle. The small population of the archipelago has helped preserve its high diversity of plants and animals, making it a compelling travel spot for ecotourism—both above and below the water line.

In this view of Auckland Bay and Whale Bay, white swirling patterns in the near-shore waters are sediments that are carried out by rivers and deposited on the seafloor.