



**Pandaw Cruises**

**EXPEDITION No 21**

# **THE IRRAWADDY DELTA**

**4 OR 2 NIGHTS**

The Irrawaddy Delta covers an area of over 1000 square miles with Rangoon, its most famous port and capital of all Burma from 1886 to 2005.

Originally a vast inhabited wetland and jungle, much of it was cleared and cultivated by the British who annexed Lower Burma in 1855. It subsequently became the rice basket of Asia, effectively feeding much of the Indian Raj. During this period of prosperity a number of rice towns developed in the colonial style. The most famous of which was Bassein.

The Irrawaddy Flotilla Company by the 1920s operated over 100 creek steamers across the Delta connecting these towns and villages at a time when there were neither roads nor bridges.

There are seven main channels and myriad lesser ones forming a complex labyrinth of waterways understood only by the most experienced pilots. In the backwaters there is the feel of Kerala, on the larger channels it could be New Orleans and the Deep South.

Contrary to expectation these great wetlands are not monotonous at all and there is considerable human interest in the form of pretty towns, markets, temples, churches and mosques. There is also profuse bird life in the less populated areas.

We have designed this routing so that departing from Rangoon passengers can elect to do a four night expedition that will link to the Ngwe Saung Beach situated on a stunning Bay of Bengal beach only a couple of hours from

Bassein where we have selected a choice of two deluxe resort partners.

Or the more serious river adventurer can stay on board for a return two-night journey from Bassein to Rangoon returning by a different route through the upper delta. An additional night may be booked on board the Katha Pandaw the night before sailing or on your return to Rangoon in the bustling city port situated in the heart of the colonial downtown area which will include a delightful dinner cruise.

**Cruise Price Includes:** Transfers by car from Rangoon to Bassein or vv. entrance fees, guide services (English language), gratuities to crew, main meals, local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes.

**Cruise Price Excludes:** International flights, port dues (if levied), laundry, all visa costs, fuel surcharges (see terms and conditions), all beverages except local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes and tips to tour guides, local guides, bus drivers, boat operators and cyclo drivers.

# UPSTREAM ITINERARY

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## DAY 1

### BASSEIN TO WAKEMA

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Travel by car from Rangoon (4 hours) and embark the Katha Pandaw for a noon departure with lunch to follow, taking the more usual upper delta route of the old IFC 'launch service' between Rangoon and Bassein. Evening exploration of this attractive river port.

[MORE ABOUT WAKEMA](#)

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## DAY 2

### WAKEMA TO MAUBIN

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On these busier channels there will be a variety of shipping whilst the riverbanks team with life and activity. Maubin is a very pleasant place to enjoy a sunset walk along its colourful strand.

[MORE ABOUT MAUBIN](#)

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## DAY 3

### MAUBIN TO RANGOON

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Morning run crossing the Twante Canal and home to the Rangoon River and our berth in colonial downtown and disembarkation noon (lunch excluded).

[MORE ABOUT MAUBIN](#)

# STATEROOM

## The Pandaw stateroom is the most celebrated feature of our ships.

Finished in brass and teak, the main and upper deck rooms are very spacious at 168 square feet (15.6 sqm). Much loved by all our passengers we have ensured that with each ship we build the stateroom remains the same. Our cabins do not have mini-bars, satellite TV's, internet or phones. Pandaw passengers usually want to escape from the tiresome features found in international business hotels.

Many passengers describe life on board a Pandaw more like being a guest on a private motor yacht than a cruise ship. Where we go and what we see is intrepid in extreme. What you come back to is a floating base of discreet comfort, caring service and all the good things one looks for in life. All our cabins have the same size and Pandaw signature amenities. Choose from Main Deck, Upper Deck or Premium Upper Deck (Mekong only).

### Special to Your Stateroom

- Fruit and flowers on arrival
- Kimonos and slippers
- Spa-branded amenities
- Unlimited mineral water

# PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

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## DAY 1

### RANGOON – NGWE SAUNG BEACH

After breakfast drive from Rangoon to Ngwe Saung Beach. It's a 5-6h scenic journey through the Irrawaddy Delta.

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## DAY 2

### NGWE SAUNG BEACH

Day at leisure.

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## DAY 3

### NGWE SAUNG BEACH

Day at leisure.

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## DAY 4

### NGWE SAUNG BEACH - BASSEIN

After breakfast drive from Ngwe Saung Beach to Bassein (2h) to embark the ship.

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DISCOVER

## Eskala Resort 3 Nights Inwards

**Ngwe Saung is a very popular beach resort for foreign travellers with a beautiful, unspoiled 15 km stretch of silvery sand and several deluxe hotels and resorts. Explore delightful fishing villages and relax in a peaceful, authentic hideaway. Despite of its relative popularity it's still a very quiet and relaxed beach. Daytime activities include swimming, snorkeling, long walks along the beach, boat trips and cycling among others.**

### **Rates include:**

Three nights at specified hotel (Golden Sea View Room) or similar, including breakfast, service and taxes; transfer from Yangon to the hotel on Ngwe Saung Beach and from Ngwe Saung Beach to the ship.

### **Rates exclude:**

Lunch and dinner which are at your own arrangement in the hotel or in one of the many nearby restaurants. Compulsory gala dinners at hotel 24DEC and 31DEC if any.

### **Public facilities include:**

Private beach, garden, outdoor pool, pool for kids, hot tub, restaurant, bar, poolside bar, coffee shop, BBQ facilities, laundry & dry cleaning service, newspapers, room service, Wi-fi tours, bicycle rental, concierge, facilities for

disabled guests, luggage storage, safety deposit boxes, car hire & car park, currency exchange, family room, meeting facilities, smoking area, fishing, karaoke, water sports.

Note:

- Check in time to hotel at 1400hrs
- Check out time from hotel at 1200hrs
- Early check in and late check out are subject to hotel room availability

\* Please note that your hotel will be confirmed after we have received your deposit payment. Prices are subject to change. Hotel subject to availability. We will try to offer you an alternate accommodation if the requested hotel would not be available.

ESKALA HOTEL & RESORT

Eskala Hotel & Resort

Ngwe Saung Beach

Ayeyarwaddy Region

Myanmar

Tel: +95 1 230 00 79

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

## PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

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### DAY 1

## RANGOON - NGWE SAUNG BEACH

After breakfast drive from Rangoon to Ngwe Saung Beach. It's a 5-6h scenic journey through the Irrawaddy Delta. Check-in to your hotel and spend the rest of the day at leisure.

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**DAY 2**

## NGWE SAUNG BEACH

Day at leisure.

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**DAY 3**

## NGWE SAUNG BEACH

Day at leisure.

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**DAY 4**

## NGWE SAUNG BEACH - PATHEIN

Drive to Bassein (2h) to embark the ship.

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**DISCOVER**

## Ngwe Saung Yacht Club & Resort 3 Nights Inwards



**Ngwe Saung is a very popular beach resort for foreign travellers with a beautiful, unspoiled 15 km stretch of silvery sand and several deluxe hotels and resorts. Explore delightful fishing villages and relax in a peaceful, authentic hideaway. Despite of its relative popularity it's still a very quiet and relaxed beach. Daytime activities include swimming, snorkeling, long walks along the beach, boat trips and cycling among others.**

**Rates include:**

Three nights at specified hotel or similar (Deluxe Sea View Room), including breakfast, service and taxes; transfer from Yangon to the hotel on Ngwe Saung Beach and from Ngwe Saung Beach to the ship.

**Rates exclude:**

Lunch and dinner which are at your own arrangement in the hotel or in one of the many nearby restaurants. Compulsory gala dinners at hotel 24DEC and 31DEC if any.

**Public facilities include:**

Private beach, spa, outdoor pool & pool for kids, garden, fitness center, water sports centre, karaoke, nightclub, fishing, bar, car hire, currency exchange, ATM, laundry service, BBQ facilities, coffee shop, dry cleaning, bicycle rental, shops, restaurant, Wi-fi.

**Note:**

- Check in time to hotel at 1400hrs
- Check out time from hotel at 1200hrs
- Early check in and late check out are subject to hotel room availability

\* Please note that your hotel will be confirmed after we have received your deposit payment. Prices are subject to change. Hotel subject to availability. We will try to offer you an alternate accommodation if the requested hotel would not be available.

**NGWE SAUNG YACHT CLUB & RESORT**

Ngwe Saung Yacht Club & Resort

No. 59/63/64 Ngwe Saung Beach

Ayeyarwaddy Region

Myanmar

Tel: +95 42 40100-119

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

## PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

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### DAY 1

## HEHO - INLE LAKE

Fly from Rangoon, Mandalay or Pagan to Heho - the gateway to Inle Lake. Drive to Nyaung Shwe to board a local motorboat and enjoy the sights & sounds of the lake such as leg-rowing fishermen and plenty of artisan workshops (blacksmiths, goldsmiths silversmiths, cigarette makers etc.). Overnight at Sanctum Inle Resort.

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### DAY 2

## INLE LAKE - INDEIN

Enjoy half a day trip to Indein - a hidden village located in the middle of the Burmese jungle and easiest accessible by boat through narrow channels. Indein is famous for its collection of hundreds years old stupas. Return to the hotel after lunch and relax.

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## DAY 3

# INLE LAKE - HEHO

After breakfast or lunch transfer back to Heho airport for your onward flight and transfer to the ship.

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## DISCOVER

## 2 Nights Mystical Inle Lake Pre Tour

**Inle is one of the biggest lakes in Burma. It's famous for its stunning location between the hills of Shan State, easy access by air (domestic flights only), relatively easy access by road and an out-standing amount of attractions, which could fill a medium-long holiday. From leg-rowing fishermen through artisans (blacksmiths, goldsmiths, silversmiths etc.) to mysterious pagodas submerged in the water in Sagar/Sankar on the quiet and wild southern part of the lake. No trip to Myanmar would be complete without visiting Inle Lake.**

**This programme connects well with our Southern Shan State Adventure programme (additional 2 nights) and Ngapali Beach extension as there are direct flights between Heho and Thandwe in high season.**

**Rates include:**

All sightseeing as per itinerary, two nights at Sanctum Inle Resort (Deluxe Room or Hermitage Deluxe) with breakfast or similar, private vehicle with air condition, all sightseeing with English guide by car and boat as per itinerary, entrance fees as per programme, daily complimentary drinking water, return domestic flight to/from Heho.

**Rates exclude:**

International flights to/from Burma, porter fees for all transfers (airports & jetties), personal travel insurance, visa to Burma, meals (lunch/dinner), any expense of a personal nature including but not limited to drinks, laundry, camera fees, phone calls, gratuities, souvenirs, etc. Others not mentioned in the itinerary.

**Public Facilities**

The Sanctuary Spa, Workshop Boutique, The Refectory Restaurant, The Cloister Bar.

**Note**

- Please advise arrival flight details in order to arrange the transfer accordingly
- Check in time to hotel at 1400hrs
- Check out time from hotel at 1200hrs
- Early check in and late check out are subject to hotel room availability

\* Please note that your hotel will be confirmed after we have received your deposit payment. Prices are subject to change. Hotel subject to availability. We will try to offer you an alternate accommodation if the requested hotel would not be available.

SANCTUM INLE RESORT

Maing Thauk Village

Inle Lake

Nyaung Shwe Township

Shan State

Burma

Tel: +95 (0) 1 860 4945 or +95 (0) 1 860 4946

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

## PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

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### DAY 1

## HEHO - PINDAYA - KALAW

Fly from Rangoon, Mandalay or Pagan to Heho - the gateway to Inle Lake. Drive through rolling farmlands among the Shan Hills to Pindaya for lunch served in a traditional village house. Explore village life and visit the Pindaya Caves famous for its thousands of Buddha statues. Then proceeding to Kalaw - old British colonial hill station to see the market and old railway.

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### DAY 2

## KALAW - GREEN HILL VALLEY ELEPHANT CAMP - KALAW

After breakfast drive to Green Hill Valley Elephant Camp with Re-Plantation to learn more about how one family created a natural retirement place for the elephants who spend all their life working in teak forests of Burma. The re-plantation part of the projects aims to plant trees in the areas previously destroyed by teakwood logging. After lunch come back to Kalaw and spend the rest of the day at leisure and self exploration of this nice little town. Overnight at Kalaw Hill Lodge.

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### **DAY 3**

## **KALAW - NYAUNG SHWE - INLE LAKE**

After breakfast drive to Nyaung Shwe to board a local motorboat and enjoy the sights & sounds of the lake such as leg-rowing fishermen and plenty of artisan workshops (blacksmiths, goldsmiths silversmiths, cigarette makers etc.). Overnight at Sanctum Inle Resort.

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### **DAY 4**

## **INLE LAKE - INDEIN**

Enjoy half a day trip to Indein - a hidden village located in the middle of the Burmese jungle and easiest accessible by boat through narrow channels. Indein is famous for its collection of hundreds years old stupas. Return to the hotel after lunch and relax. Overnight at Sanctum Inle Resort.

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### **DAY 5**

## **INLE LAKE - HEHO**

After breakfast or lunch transfer back to Heho airport for your domestic flight to Yangon, Mandalay or Bagan (included), followed by transfer to hotel or ship.

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DISCOVER

## Mystical Inle Lake & Southern Shan State Adventure (4 nights) - Kalaw Hill Lodge

**Shan State is one of the most famous regions in Burma. On this trip you will visit mesmerising Inle Lake, old British colonial hill station (Kalaw), rural Pindaya with its famous caves filled with close to 10,000 Buddha statues and Green Hill Valley Elephant Camp with Re-Plantation - one of a very few responsible and sustainable tourism projects in Burma. This programme connects well with our Ngapali Beach extension as there are direct flights from Heho to Thandwe in high season.**

### **Rates include:**

Domestic flights to/from Heho, all sightseeing as per itinerary, two nights at Kalaw Hill Lodge with breakfast or similar, two nights at Sanctum Inle Resort with breakfast or similar, private vehicle with air condition, all sightseeing with English guide by car and boat as per itinerary, entrance fees as per programme, daily complimentary drinking water.

### **Rates exclude:**

International flights to/from Burma, porter fees for all transfers (airports & jetties), personal travel insurance, visa to Burma, meals (lunch/dinner), any expense of a personal nature including but not limited to drinks, laundry, camera fees, phone calls, gratuities, souvenirs, etc. Others not mentioned in the itinerary.

## **Note**

- Check in time to hotel at 1400hrs
- Check out time from hotel at 1200hrs
- Early check in and late check out are subject to hotel room availability

\* Please note that your hotel will be confirmed after we have received your deposit payment. Prices are subject to change. Hotel subject to availability. We will try to offer you an alternate accommodation if the requested hotel would not be available.

## **PRE-TOUR EXTENSION**

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### **DAY 1**

## **HEHO - PINDAYA - KALAW**

Fly from Rangoon, Mandalay or Pagan to Heho - the gateway to Inle Lake. Drive through rolling farmlands among the Shan Hills to Pindaya for lunch served in a traditional village house. Explore village life and visit the Pindaya Caves famous for its thousands of Buddha statues. Then proceeding to Kalaw - old British colonial hill station to see the market and old railway.

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## DAY 2

# KALAW - GREEN HILL VALLEY ELEPHANT CAMP - KALAW

After breakfast drive to Green Hill Valley Elephant Camp with Re-Plantation to learn more about how one family created a natural retirement place for the elephants who spend all their life working in teak forests of Burma. The re-plantation part of the project aims to plant trees in the areas previously destroyed by teakwood logging. After lunch come back to Kalaw and spend the rest of the day at leisure and self exploration of this nice little town. Overnight at the Kalaw Hill Lodge.

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## DAY 3

# KALAW - HEHO

After breakfast or lunch transfer back to Heho airport for your domestic flight to Yangon, Mandalay or Bagan (included), followed by transfer to hotel or ship.

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**DISCOVER**

# 2 Nights Southern Shan State Adventure - Kalaw Hill Lodge

**Shan State is one of the most famous regions in Burma. While it's southern part is most famous for amazing Inle Lake, relatively easy access by road and an outstanding amount of attractions could fill a medium-long holiday. Southern Shan State Adventure will take you to Kalaw, Pindaya and Green Hill Valley Elephant Camp with Re-Plantation. This trip goes very well with our Mystical Inle Lake programme (additional 2 nights) and Ngapali Beach extension as there are direct flights between Heho and Thandwe in high season.**

## **Rates include:**

Accommodation including breakfast at the hotel as specified, Green Hill Valley Elephant Camp (Program A) including a lunch, domestic flight tickets to/from Heho including airport tax, sightseeing tour and transfer service with private air conditioned car, english speaking stationed guides service, entrance fees for Pindaya sightseeing, service charges and room tax.

## **Rates exclude:**

Meals not mentioned above, compulsory Gala dinners (X'mas Eve Dinner on 24th Dec & New Year's Eve Dinner on 31st Dec) \*To be added separately when the booking is confirmed\*, services not mentioned in our itinerary, visa fees, international flight tickets to/from Myanmar, expenditure of personal nature such as drinks, tips, souvenirs, laundry, etc, travel insurance (cover against all cancellation costs, medical expenses, including repatriation, in the event of accident or illness)

## **Note**

- Check in time to hotel at 1400hrs
- Check out time from hotel at 1200hrs
- Early check in and late check out are subject to hotel room availability

\* Please note that your hotel will be confirmed after we have received your deposit payment. Prices are subject to change. Hotel subject to availability.

We will try to offer you an alternate accommodation if the requested hotel would not be available.

KALAW HILL LODGE

11 Quarter

Nanthe' Village

Kalaw.

Tel: +81 50865/50866/50867/50868

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

## River Conditions Warning!

The rivers you will sail on are subject to seasonal rises and falls of water level, in some places as much as 30 metres. Water levels can change dramatically overnight and a sudden rise can impede our progress upstream considerably and even prevent us from passing under certain bridges. A sudden fall can result in our being unable to get into certain places or go as far upstream as we would hope. Groundings on sandbars are not infrequent and are part of the excitement of any Pandaw expedition. Published itineraries are indicational only and subject to sudden change. In such events alternative itineraries will be provided and we do our best to ensure that if a stop is missed we make up for it with another stop. Passengers are thus forewarned and expected to be flexible and patient. River cruising in Asia can be a dramatic and adventurous experience - not like cruising the controlled waterways of Europe or America. Note also that we operate in areas with little or no developed infrastructure and subject to the strictures of local officialdom. Be prepared for this and it is all more the fun!

## Useful Links

[\*\*Terms & Conditions\*\*](#)

[\*\*General Information & Life on Board\*\*](#)

[\*\*Visa Information\*\*](#)

