



**Pandaw Cruises**

**EXPEDITION No 20**

# **THE GREAT IRRAWADDY DELTA**

**7 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.

Our 7-night programme enables relaxed exploration of this fascinating region, starting and returning to Rangoon.

**Cruise Price Includes:** 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

### RANGOON TO PYAPON

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Early morning departure from Rangoon via the Twante Canal stopping at Twante to view the potteries and on to Pyapon (64miles) a delightful delta town and seaport with lively docks and markets.

**Extend your stay and board one day earlier** bed & breakfast on board your Pandaw for an extra night. Enjoy the experience and perspective of staying in central Rangoon from your luxurious river ship.

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## DAY 2

### PYAPON TO BOGALE

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Bogale is at the heart of the delta and once a Mon capital and trading port connected to international trading routes between the 15th and 18th centuries. It features the only mangrove ecosystem reserve in the Delta. A visit to the monastery of the town will be organized.

[MORE ABOUT PYAPON](#)

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**DAY 3**

## **BOGALE TO MYAUNGMYA**

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This will be the most fascinating day's sailing as we weave through creeks and channels cross-country across the heart of the delta. We will stop for a walk about in a suitable village.

[MORE ABOUT BOGALE](#)

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**DAY 4**

## **MYAUNGMYA TO BASSEIN**

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Morning cruise across the final section of delta to join the great Bassein River that takes us up to Bassein, the capital of the delta and an important seaport too. Of interest here are the traditional umbrella manufacturies, where the typical monk's waxed cloth umbrellas are made. On foot we will explore the town, its shrines and vibrant markets.

[MORE ABOUT MYAUNGMYA](#)

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**DAY 5**

## **BASSEIN**

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A day at leisure in this charming port town and optional day trip by car to Ngwesaung Beach with lunch there.

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**DAY 6**

## **BASSEIN TO WAKEMA**

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Morning 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 7**

## **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 8**

## **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 between 12 and 12.30 pm (lunch excluded).

# 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

### ARRIVAL IN YANGON

Transfer to hotel in Rangoon. Afternoon excursion to Shwedagon Pagoda.

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## DAY 2

### DEPARTURE

Breakfast. Transfer to the jetty or airport.

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**5 STAR**

## IRRA Pre cruise Rangoon

**Well located in the center of Yangon and yet only 10 minutes drive from Shwedagon Pagoda, the elegant Sule Shangri-La Hotel is the perfect base for your pre or post stay in Yangon.**

**Rates include:**

One night at specified hotel or similar, including breakfast, service and taxes; transfers to / from airport and a guide-led excursion to Shwedagon Pagoda.

**Rates exclude:**

Domestic Flight, Lunch and dinner which are at your own arrangement in the hotel or in one of the many nearby restaurants.

**Public facilities include**

2 restaurants, a lounge, bar, pool, free and fast WI-FI and gift shop. The spacious, air-conditioned and comfortable deluxe rooms include private bathroom with bathtub, satellite TV, mini-bar, hair dryer, iron, safe, writing desk and tea/coffee making facilities.

**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.

SULE SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, YANGON

223 Sule Pagoda Road

GPO Box 888

Yangon

Myanmar

Tel: +95 1 242 828

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



# PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

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## DAY 1

### RANGOON

Check-in at the ship from 17:00 for your pre-night stay onboard, bed & breakfast basis only. Luggage drop-off is available at the ship from 14:00 and you are free to explore the city in the evening at your leisure.

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## DAY 2

### RANGOON

Enjoy breakfast on-board followed by the start of your Irrawaddy Delta cruise.

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## DISCOVER

### Pre Night stay on board

**Extend your stay and board one day earlier bed & breakfast on board**

**your Pandaw vessel for an extra night. Enjoy the experience and perspective of staying in central Rangoon from your luxurious river ship.**

**Rates include:**

1 night Bed & Breakfast in the cabin you selected for your cruise and local drinks.

**Rates exclude:**

All meals (except breakfast), transfers, excursions.

## POST-TOUR EXTENSION

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### DAY 1

## ARRIVAL IN YANGON

Transfer to hotel in Rangoon. Afternoon excursion to Downtown.

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### DAY 2

## DEPARTURE

Breakfast. Free at leisure. Transfer to airport for onwards flights.

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**5 STAR**

## **NGL Post cruise Rangoon**

**Well located in the center of Yangon and yet only 10 minutes drive from Shwedagon Pagoda, the elegant Sule Shangri-La Hotel is the perfect base for your pre or post stay in Yangon.**

### **Rates include:**

One night at specified hotel or similar, including breakfast, service and taxes; transfer to airport and a guide-led excursion to Downtown.

### **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 24 DEC and 31 DEC if any.

### **Public facilities include**

2 restaurants, a lounge, bar, pool, free and fast WI-FI and gift shop. The spacious, air-conditioned and comfortable deluxe rooms include private bathroom with bathtub, satellite TV, mini-bar, hair dryer, iron, safe, writing desk and tea/coffee making facilities.

### **Note**

- Please advice arrival flight details in order to arrange the transfer accordingly

- Check in time to hotel at 1400hrs
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# 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\*\*](#)