



Pandaw Cruises

EXPEDITION No 9

THE UPPER IRRAWADDY

7 NIGHTS

Sail from Mandalay to Katha nearly 1000 miles from Rangoon and once home to George Orwell and the setting for his novel Burmese days. Highlights will be passage through the 3rd and 2nd defiles, not to mention visits to enchanting local towns and delightful villages.

To further enhance your experience, we now have a number of quality mountain bikes for your use.

Cruise Price Includes: Entrance fees, guide services (English language), gratuities to crew, main meals, local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes. Quality mountain bikes available for independent exploration on Zawgyi and Kindat Pandaws.

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

DAY 1

MANDALAY

Visit Mandalay. The excursion starts with a visit to Mahamuni Buddha Image, one of the most important pilgrimage sites in Myanmar. The statue was brought here in 1785 by King Bodawapaya after the invasion of the Arakan Kingdom in 1784. To pay respect to the Buddha image, male devotees apply gold leaf to the image. As a result, the Mahamuni Buddha Image has been covered with a thick layer of gold leaf (about 15 cm). The walk continues along the street renowned for its marble carvers.

Continue to Shwe Kyaung (Golden Palace Monastery) which was built in 1857 and was originally part of the royal palace before it was moved to the present site in 1879.

Explore UNESCO listed Kuthodaw Pagoda, with the world's biggest book. It accommodates 729 marble slabs engraved with the Buddha's Parli Scriptures housed in shrines.

After the gold leaf hammering workshop, stop by the moat surrounding the Royal Palace for a great photo opportunity with a backdrop of Mandalay Hill.

[MORE ABOUT RANGOON \(YANGON\)](#)

DAY 2

KYAUK MYOUNG

Visit the spectacular potteries near Kyauk-myoungh where the famous 50-gallon water pots are handmade. We see all stages of manufacture from the throwing of the pots to the weeklong firing in huge kilns. We return to the ship and enter the third defile of Irrawaddy.

[MORE ABOUT KYAUK-MYOUNG](#)

DAY 3

KHANYAT

Stop at Khan-nyat village with its many Buddhist monasteries and visit the former head teacher's house, which also includes his small museum collections. We go ashore and climb the Pagoda Hill at Tigyang with its stunning views of the Upper Irrawaddy River.

DAY 4

KATHA

We reach the enchanting colonial town of Katha, setting for George Orwell's *Burmese Days*. Little has changed since then. Of interest are the fire station's collections of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company's ship's bells taken from sunken ships in the Second War. Katha was the final resting place of the old flotilla and here over a hundred ships were scuppered in 1942 in an Act of Denial before the advancing Japanese. We also visit an elephant logging camp at Katha in the hardwood forests of the hills that surround the town and further upstream.

DAY 5

SAIL UPSTREAM KYUNT DAW ISLAND

Transfer by Local boat and visit Kyun Daw village where we will visit countless small Pagodas.

DAY 6

2ND DEFILE OF IRRAWADDY & BHAMO

Cruise through the 2nd Defile, the most dramatic of the three gorges with cliffs towering over the narrow channel. We are approaching Bhamo.

DAY 7**BHAMO**

Bhamo the most northerly navigable point of the Irrawaddy, 1000 miles from Rangoon and gateway to China, set in the Kachin hills and guarding the forbidding First Defile. Beyond the modern-day city with its bazaars and ethnic hotch potch lies delightful countryside and we take a boat trip to the confluence of the Taping River that flows down from China.

DAY 8**TAGAUNG**

Walking tour of the ancient city of Tagaung viewing the fortifications, a famous nat or spirit shrine and the archaeological area.

DAY 9**MINGUN**

Slip our moorings early in the morning and stop at Mingun to see the largest working bell in the world and the unfinished pagoda that is the largest single mass of brick building in the world. We also visit the Mingun Old People's Home originally established with the assistance of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company in the 1930s.

DAY 10

MANDLAY

Disembark after breakfast at the Jetty.

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

DAY 1

MANDALAY

Pick up from airport or jetty and transfer your hotel. Late afternoon short visit to Shwe Inn Bin monastery to see beautiful wood carving monastery and one of the main market places in Mandalay

DAY 2

MANDALAY

Sightseeing in central Mandalay with visits to the Royal palace and Mahamuni Pagoda, craft workshops and shopping. Afternoon hill areas and enjoy the view from pagoda platform.

DAY 3

MANDALAY

Explore the lost capitals of Ava and Amarapura, visiting the teak Bagaya Kyaung, Menu Ok-kyau and after lunch, continue visit to a silk and cotton weaving work shop, then cross the U Bein Bridge and enjoy the sunset on the lake with small boat.

DAY 4

DEPARTURE

Transfer to airport or jetty.



4 STAR

Pre Royal Mandalay 3 nights

Mercure Mandalay Hill Resort Hotel lies at the foot of Mandalay Hill with a panoramic view of a myriad of pagodas and faces the distinctive architecture of the Royal Palace and its beautiful moat. Your visit enhanced by the fun-loving hospitable people of Myanmar whose lives remain simple and relaxed will become treasured and timeless memories.

Rates include:

Three nights at the Mercure Mandalay Hill Resort Hotel including breakfast, service and taxes; transfers to / from airport and a guide-led excursion; transfer from ship.

Rates exclude:

Lunch and dinner which are at your own arrangement in the hotel.

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.

MERCURE MANDALAY HILL RESORT HOTEL

No. (9)

Kwin (416B)

10th Street At the foot of Mandalay Hill

Mandalay

Myanmar

Tel: +95 2 35638

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

ARRIVAL IN YANGON

Domestic flight to Yangon and transfer to your hotel. Afternoon excursion to Shwedagon Pagoda.

DAY 2

DEPARTURE

After breakfast transfer to airport.



5 STAR

U.I. 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; transfer from shipa and one domestic flight.

Rates exclude:

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.

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SULE SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, YANGON

223 Sule Pagoda Road

GPO Box 888

Yangon

Myanmar

Tel: +95 1 242 828

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

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.

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.

DAY 3

INLE LAKE - HEHO

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



DISCOVER

2 Nights Mystical Inle Lake Post 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.

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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](#)

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.



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

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POST-TOUR EXTENSION

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.

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.

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.



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

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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**](#)