



**Pandaw Cruises**

EXPEDITION No 0

# **CHINDWIN & MERGUI ARCHIPELAGO**

**15 NIGHTS**

Chindwin, the loveliest of rivers. In the past we only offered this during the monsoon due to water levels, but now our ultra-low draught Pandaws can sail through to February. The river carves its way through mountains and forests and we stop at delightful unspoiled little towns.

Combining this with the Mergui Archipelago with its 800 islands, one of those areas that remain almost totally unvisited by foreigners.

This trip includes flight to Yangon and Kaw Thauung and hotel stay in Yangon.

**Please note:** This expedition requires a sufficient level of fitness and agility to climb in and out of tenders from the ship and at shore. Launching and boarding inflatable and rigid tenders can be challenging. Please be aware that the Andaman Explorer has a steep gangway and a good level of fitness is essential to ensure guest safety. There may be rough water which can challenge those with limited mobility. Launching and excursions are dependent on safe weather conditions as deemed by the Master of the Andaman Explorer and sea conditions.

**Cruise Price Includes:** Domestic flight Homalin to Rangoon and domestic flight from Rangoon to Kawthaung, one night at Sule Shangri La Yangon (or similar), all excursions as stated, entrance fees, guide services (English

language), main meals, local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes, crew gratuities, kayaks & snorkeling equipment.

**Cruise Price Excludes:** International flights, port dues usd 195 per person, 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.

**Please note:** There is no credit card machine available on the Andaman Explorer due to connectivity issues. Please bring USD cash to settle your on board bill at the end of the cruise.

**Please note:** Thai citizens enter Burma visa-free but need a pre-arranged visa when visiting Mergui.

**Please note:** This expedition requires a sufficient level of fitness and agility to climb in and out of tenders from the ship and at shore. There may be rough water which can challenge those with limited mobility.

# UPSTREAM ITINERARY

## 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**

# **KAWTHAUNG - YANGON**

This morning transfer to the Kawthaung airport for your flight to Yangon (transfer to be arranged by Pandaw River Expeditions).

Upon arrival, you will be greeted by your guide who will accompany you as you transfer to your hotel. Yangon, formerly known as Rangoon, is a relatively quiet and charming city. Its impressive colonial and spiritual heritage makes it one of the most fascinating cities in Southeast Asia.

Overnight in Yangon, no meals included.

Distances and journey time: Yangon Airport to Yangon city centre (20 km): 30 – 60 mins

---

## DAY 2

# YANGON - HPA AN

After breakfast at the hotel, depart Yangon at 7am this morning for a journey by road to Hpa An, the capital of Kayin state.

Along the way, we'll visit Bayin Nyi cave. There is a beautiful monastery here set in front of a sheer rock wall and surrounded by a large natural spring. It's not uncommon to see young monks going for a swim, still clothed in full monk attire.

We will arrive in Hpa An in the late afternoon. As we approach the city, the mountains surrounding Hpa An will slowly set off from view. There should be time to drop off your bags and take a break for lunch at the hotel before heading into town to visit Shwe Yin Myaw pagoda. This pagoda is the perfect spot to watch the sun set across the Thanlwin River.

Overnight in Hpa An. Breakfast and lunch included.

---



### DAY 3

## HPA AN

Our guide will meet you at our hotel after breakfast. Today's first stop will be Sadan Cave. This cave will bring out your inner Indiana Jones. Sadan starts off as a typical Myanmar cave, full of Buddah images and even a reclining Buddah. As we make our way to the back of the cave, a natural tunnel comes into view. Follow the row of lights through the tunnel for about 15 minutes to get to the other side. As we reach the end, a magnificent view of a hidden lake and meadow come into sight.

As an optional activity, we can stop and have tea or coffee at the tea shop at the edge of the lake. From here, you'll hire one of the local boat men to take us on a tour around the lake (client's sit on the bamboo floor of the boat as there are no seats) and through another cave accessible only by boat. (the boat is valid from Oct to Apr)

After returning to our car, you'll head toward Lumbini Gardens, where you'll see thousands (1150 to be exact) of identical Buddha statues before going to Kyauk Ka Lat. This natural rock sculpture, surrounded by a manmade lake, offers spectacular views of Mt Zwegabin and the surrounding area.

The next stop on our tour will be Kawgun cave. Every conceivable inch of this cave is covered in Buddah images, many dating back to the 7th century. There is also an option to climb to the top of a large rock formation for great views.

The last stop will be a sunset visit to Bat Cave. Living up to its name, Bat Cave is home to tens of thousands of bats and located along the bank of the Thanlwin River. As the sun dips in the background, the bats come out in droves and is quite a sight.

Just before dark, head back to our hotel.

Overnight in Hpa An. Breakfast included.

---

#### **DAY 4**

## **HPA AN - GOLDEN ROCK**

Early this morning, depart Hpa An and drive to Kyaikhtiyo, the Golden Rock. In late morning, arrive at Kyaikhtiyo base camp (approximately 4 hrs) and enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Travel by local, open-air truck along a winding road (45 minutes) where you will be dropped off a short 5 minutes walk from Golden Rock.

A huge boulder covered by gold leaf and delicately balanced on the edge of a cliff, Golden Rock is one of Myanmar's main pilgrimage sites. The pagoda here is said to hold a hair of the Buddha and Buddhists from across the country come here to pay homage.

Overnight in Kyaikhtiyoe. Breakfast and lunch included.

---

#### **DAY 5**

## **GOLDEN ROCK - YANGON**

Today the journey continues at 08:00. After breakfast, return to base camp by open-air truck and begin the return journey to Yangon.

Breakfast included.

---



DISCOVER

## Burma's Undiscovered South Post Tour - The Strand

**The mighty Salween River and Burma's Southern Land is a region of stunning natural beauty, but decades of restrictions on travel have meant few foreigners have had a chance to see its charms with their own eyes.**

**We are pleased to present this opportunity to explore the many areas of interest around of Hpa An, the Salween River and Pegu after flying from Kawthaung following your voyage on the Andaman Explorer to the beautiful undiscovered Mergui Archipelago.**

### **Rates include:**

Accommodation in a shared twin or shared double room with daily breakfast, meals as mentioned in itinerary, English-speaking throughout guide (no guide for cruising extension to Kawthaung), porter fees at Yangon airport, all transfers and excursions with private air-conditioned vehicles with drivers except Kyaikhtiyo (transfers by open non-air conditioned vehicles), boat in Hpa An, entrance fees for the visits as mentioned in the program, water and refreshing towels.

### **Rates exclude:**

International ticket to/from Yangon, domestic flights, meals other than

mentioned, Visa arrangements for Myanmar, visits not mentioned in the program, drinks and personal expenses, tips and porters at the hotels, credit card fees (2-3%) or bank transfer fees for non-cash payments, any other items not mentioned.

## **Note**

- Surcharges or compulsory meals may apply for holiday periods like Christmas, New Year, Water Festival, etc.
- All itineraries are subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control including, weather, road or trail conditions, tour attractions, tours and flight schedules.

# 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\*\*](#)