CHINDWIN & THE UPPER IRRAWADDY

17 NIGHTS

Chindwin, the loveliest of rivers. Our objective, Homalin is the capital of Nagaland and close to the India border. The river carves its way through mountains and forests and we stop at delightful unspoiled little towns.

Combine this with the scenic and remote Upper Irrawaddy. We journey off the beaten track for 10-nights all the way to Katha once home to George Orwell and the setting for Burmese days. Other highlights will be passage through the 3rd and 2nd defiles.

YOUR SHIP - RV KALAY PANDAW / RV ZAWGYI PANDAW

Cruise Price Includes: One way domestic flight Kalewa-Mandalay, 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

DAY 1

MONYWA

Lunch on board. Afternoon excursion to see Thandboodi Temple, Bawdhi Tahaung statue and the night market in the evening.

PLEASE NOTE: The itinerary for this expedition is indicative only. As we travel to remote areas, changes to the itinerary will inevitably occur. A flexible approach is required if you book this cruise.

MORE ABOUT MONYWA

DAY 2

PHOWIN TAUNG & KYAUK KA VILLAGE

Morning Excursion by coach to Phowin Taung Hill where we visit the Phowin Taung Caves with beautiful mural paintings and Buddha statues dating back to the 14th and 18th centuries. In the afternoon, we visit the Kyauk Ka Village famous for the making of black Lacquer.

MORE ABOUT PHOWIN TAUNG
DAY 3

KANEE

The river narrows and the forested hills fall away to farmland. Enjoy a morning culinary demonstration by our head chef on how to prepare a traditional Burmese Ginger Salad. Arrive in Kanee and take an afternoon walking tour of the village.

DAY 4

MINGKIN

Morning cruise up river. After lunch, we explore Mingkin, rediscovered by Paul Strachan in 1987 and described in some detail in his book Mandalay: Travels from the Golden City. It remains for Paul the most art historically interesting site in Myanmar (more so than the now spoilt Pagan) with its Konbaung court style teak monasteries sumptuously decorated. Mingkin may be described as the Luang Prabang of the Chindwin.

MORE ABOUT MINGKIN

DAY 5

KALEWA

Morning walking tour of Minkin followed by cruise to Kalewa located at the confluence of the Chindwin and the Myittha Rivers, where we enjoy a walking tour.

MORE ABOUT KALEWA
DAY 6

MAWLAIK

Morning visit to Masein Village and then sail to Mawlaik, the town that replaced Kindat as the administrative capital but ironically the Myanmar refused to move there from upstream Kindat. It was mainly settled with the company houses of the by the Scottish owned and run Bombay Myanmar Trading Corporation in the 1920s and 1930s. There are many splendid ‘Dak Bungalows’ set around a verdant golf course. Mawlaik and the other towns of the Upper Chindwin can only be reached by boat so cars are few. There is a dreamy otherworldly quality to such places and truly one feels that one has travelled there in the Pandaw time machine!

MORE ABOUT MAWLAIK

DAY 7

MAWLAIK ELEPHANT CAMP

Morning excursion by Tuk Tuk or coach to Bus to view the Teak wood Forest outside Mawlaik. Continue to the Pyar Swe Elephant Camp, a working camp where the elephants are protected in natural surroundings. We then sail to Kalewa where we overnight.
DAY 8

**KALEWA – MANDALAY**

Disembark at Kalewa IWT Jetty and explore Kalewa with its markets and quaint wooden architecture. Continue to Kalay Airport for your onward flight Mandalay and transfer to your second Pandaw vessel.

MORE ABOUT KALEWA

DAY 9

**KYAUK-MYOUNG**

Morning cruising. Afternoon visit the spectacular potteries near Kyauk-myoung 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 then third defile of the Irrawaddy.

MORE ABOUT KYAUK-MYOUNG

DAY 10

**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. Later we go ashore and climb the Pagoda Hill at Tigyang with its stunning views of the Irrawaddy.

MORE ABOUT KHANYAT
DAY 11

KATHA

Arrive at the enchanting colonial town of Katha, setting for George Orwell’s Burmese Days. Little has changed since then. Of interested are the fire station’s collections of Irrawaddy Flotilla Company 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 continue to an elephant logging camp at Katha in the hardwood forests of the hills that surround the town and further upstream.

MORE ABOUT KATHA

DAY 12

SAIL UPSTREAM KYUNT DAW ISLAND

Transfer by local boat to visit Kyun Daw village where we visit countless small Pagodas.

DAY 13

2ND DEFILE OF IRRAWADDY

Cruise through the 2nd Defile, the most dramatic of the three gorges with cliffs towering over the narrow channel. Sail downstream.
DAY 14

TAGAUNG

We explore by foot the ancient city of Tagaung viewing the fortifications, a famous nat or spirit shrine and the archaeological area.

MORE ABOUT TAGAUNG

DAY 15

MINGUN

We cast off 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. Drive through the beautiful Sagaing Hill to the hilltop to enjoy an amazing view over the region and Irrawaddy.

MORE ABOUT MINGUN

DAY 16

AVA

Morning visit to Ava and explore the ruins, visiting Bagaya Kyaung, a 200-year-old royal monastery made of teak with elaborate woodcarvings. In the afternoon arrive at Yandabo village, famous for its production of terracotta pottery from the riverbank clay.

MORE ABOUT AVA
DAY 17

PAGAN

Full day’s exploration of the 3000 plus Pagan monuments by coach.

MORE ABOUT PAGAN

DAY 18

PAGAN

Disembark after breakfast.
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-kyuang 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.
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 advice 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

Transfer from the jetty to the airport. Flight to Rangoon. Welcome by our representative and transfer to the hotel followed by excursion to explore the colonial 'Downtown' area.
DAY 2

DEPARTURE

After breakfast, Transfer to airport for onward flights.

5 STAR
IRRA 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; transfers to / from airport and a guide-led excursion to Downtown; one domestic flight to Yangon and transfers from 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

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

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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.
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 outstanding 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**


**Note**

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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](#)
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