



**Pandaw Cruises**

**EXPEDITION No 0**

# **PASSAGE ACROSS THE ANDAMAN SEA**

**10 NIGHTS**

The Andaman Sea, glimpsed at from the sandy shores of Phuket and southern Thailand is traversed only by the most intrepid of yachtsman. The sea is perhaps the most exquisite corner of the Indian Ocean, stretching five hundred miles from South East Asia to the Andaman chain.

From Burma's Mergui Archipelago to India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands there is a most extraordinary ethnographic mix not to mention bio diversity and marine life. It is also very beautiful with many an uninhabited island ringed by dazzling white sands.

For the first time ever, Pandaw will be offering an expedition across this sea exploring both the Mergui and Andaman archipelagos. Both areas have until recently been closed by their respective governments and such an expedition would have been unimaginable.

Currently only the East coast of the Andaman Islands are open to us, but these are rich in scenic, ethnographic and marine interest. There will be expeditions into the interior of the larger islands to view rain forest rich in orchids, opportunities to swim off white sandy beaches and snorkel in coral reefs. There are good walks too on long sandy beaches and on jungle trails.

No vessel could be more suitable for this than the historic Andaman Explorer, built in 1963 as a Norwegian coast guard vessel and later converted into the plaything of an Italian plutocrat. Lovingly refitted by Pandaw, with her twelve

sumptuous staterooms, the Explorer is ready for longer expedition cruises, going deeper into these remote regions than any vessel before.

This sea expedition represents a very unique opportunity and we anticipate considerable interest so early booking essential.

**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:** Transfer between Port Blair & Kawthaung airport to ship and v.v, all excursions as stated, entrance fees, guide services (English language), main meals, local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes, crew gratuities, kayaks & snorkelling 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.

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# 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

# POST-TOUR EXTENSION

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## DAY 1

### PORT BLAIR - DELHI

After your river cruise program ends which will include transfer to Port Blair Airport. You will be met at Meeting Point inside Port Blair Airport for domestic flight to Delhi. Upon arrival at Delhi Airport you will be met and transferred to Hotel for check-in, followed by tour briefing. Rest day is at leisure.

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## DAY 2

### OLD & NEW DELHI

Breakfast at the hotel. Journey to India's capital, influenced by 1850's British Raj and 1630's Mughal Empire. Today's tour includes heritage rich Old and New Delhi city including Heritage Walk inside India's largest Mosque 'Jama Masjid' built in 1644 AD showcasing finest Islamic style of architecture. Exploring real life of Old Delhi thru mazelike streets of the iconic Ancient Bazaar 'Chandni Chowk' and Asia's largest Spice Markets, here we also take a photostop outside Delhi's Red Fort. Experience colonial-era at 'Lutyens Delhi' including Mahatma Gandhi Museum 'Birla House', Temple 'Bangla Sahib Gurudwara' and volunteer inside its holy Community Kitchen that daily feeds over 10,000 devotees, pilgrims and homeless. Visit Ceremonial Boulevard 'Raj Path' to witness 'Sir Edwin Lutyens' finest works from 1920's British Raj Era including Colonial Government Buildings, India Gate, President and Parliament House from outside. Journey to the City Centre Market 'Connaught Place' named after the 'Duke of Connaught' and surrounds the central park of Delhi. After tour you will be transferred back to your Hotel.

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### DAY 3

## TAJ MAHAL

Breakfast at the hotel. Today's expedition takes you to Agra, the Mughal Era city that is home to wonder of the world 'Taj Mahal' – the must see of India! Upon arrival you will be met and checked-in to your Agra Hotel. Next our tour continues with a Heritage Walk inside India's finest Mughal fortress The Red Fort of Agra, an acclaimed UNESCO heritage site and the imperial residence of 16th century rulers of 'Mughal Dynasty'. If time permits we also visit a marble inlay workshops renowned for finest Mughal artwork. Enjoy traditional Indian Chai Tea prepared and served on-spot along with Indian delights. After tour you will be transferred back to your Hotel.

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### DAY 4

## DELHI AIRPORT

Breakfast at the hotel. We begin with a Sunrise Grand Tour of Taj Mahal, that was built in 1630 by Mughal Emperor 'Shah Jahan' in memory of his beloved wife 'Mumtaz Mahal' who died giving birth to their 14th child. After Taj Mahal Tour, you will be transferred to Delhi airport to depart with your international flight.

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**DISCOVER**

## Delhi City & Taj Mahal 3 Night Post Tour

**Visit historic Delhi influenced by 1850's British Raj and 1630's Mughal Empire. Continue to Agra to marvel at one of the World's greatest monuments: the Taj Mahal.**

**This is a private tour.**

### **Rates include:**

3 nights accommodation Double/Single inclusive of breakfast & taxes. (Check in time is 14.00 and checkout time is 11.00), transfers, tours, excursion with air-conditioned vehicle, service of local English speaking Guide during all sightseeing tours as per itinerary, all Entrance fees at monuments as per itinerary, domestic flight Port Blair to Delhi with 20Kg check in baggage allowance, government of India GST tax.

## Note

- Please advise arrival/departure flight details in order to arrange the transfer accordingly
- Apply for Indian visa before departure
- Check in time 14.00 / Check out time 11.00
- Radisson Blue Compulsory meals: Christmas Eve Gala Dinner (24DEC) USD 68 per person and New Year's Eve Dinner (31DEC) USD 156 per

person

- Radisson Blue, peak surcharge 20DEC-05JAN per room per night USD 99
- Oberoi Amarvilas Agra, peak surcharge 20DEC-05JAN per room per night USD 332

\* 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.

## POST-TOUR EXTENSION

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## DAY 4

# JAIPUR

Breakfast at the hotel. We begin with a Sunrise Grand Tour of Taj Mahal, that was built in 1630 by Mughal Emperor 'Shah Jahan' in memory of his beloved wife 'Mumtaz Mahal' who died giving birth to their 14th child. After Taj Mahal Tour, we continue expedition to the jewel of India's crown, the royal heritage state of Rajasthan, and arrive in its pink coloured capital city 'Jaipur'. Enroute visit spectacular Underground Step-wells 'Chand Baori' that lie hidden deep in the village of 'Abhaneri'. This 10th century built zigzagged stepwells is a geometric wonder where Royals used to picnic, and today a popular spot for films 'Best Exotic Marigold Hotel'. Upon arrival you will be met and checked-in to your Jaipur Hotel.

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## DAY 5

# JAIPUR HERITAGE TOUR

Breakfast at the hotel. Our tour begins with a morning ceremony of Indian Turbans and Stolls. Explore the uphill located Amber Fortress, a must see of Jaipur! Built in 16th century by Rajput commander 'Raja Man Singh I', the fortress offers magnificent hilltop views with an intricate Mirror Palace and fine blends of Hindu-Rajasthani architecture. Next, we photo-stop outside Water Palace 'Jal Mahal' located in the center of 'Man Sagar Lake' housing various migratory birds and surrounded by 'Aravalli Ranges'. We arrive in the heart of Old City to visit Astronomical Observatory 'Jantar Mantar' where our guide will teach you how its bizarre giant instruments work to measure celestial objects. Visit residence of the Royal Family locally called Jaipur City Palace and Museum. Built in 1700 AD by 'Raja Jai Singh II', this Palace is a paradise of royal heritage history as it houses rare galleries from British Raj and Rajput Era. Later, we capture real life of Jaipur and enjoy novelty of street shopping as we take you for a Bazaar Walk Tour through Jaipur's most colourful bazaars. Put your negotiating skills to the test here, as this market is a trading hub of basically everything from blue pottery, Indian saris to rare spices. During bazaar walk we also witness Jaipur's most distinctive landmark The Palace of Winds 'Hawa Mahal' built in a unique pink-colored beehive design that is certainly hard to miss. You will be stunned to witness its 958 intricately designed windows that were built for Royal Women to explore city life from a high-rise. After tour you will be transferred back to your Hotel.

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## DAY 6

# DELHI

Breakfast at the hotel. We journey back to Delhi. Upon arrival you will be met and checked-in at your Delhi Hotel near airport. Enjoy rest day at leisure.

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**DAY 7**

## **DELHI AIRPORT**

Breakfast at the hotel. You will be transferred to Delhi Airport for your flight.

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**DISCOVER**

## **The Golden Triangle 6 Night Post Tour**

**We are pleased to present this unique opportunity to combine a fabulous 7-night cruise and a 6-night tour of the Golden Triangle visiting most popular cultural gems in historic Delhi, Agra, the Taj Mahal and the imposing capital of Rajasthan, Jaipur.**

**This is a private tour.**

### **Rates include:**

6 nights accommodation Double/Single inclusive of breakfast & taxes. (Check in time is 14.00 and checkout time is 11.00), transfers, tours, excursion with air-conditioned vehicle, service of local English speaking Guide during all sightseeing tours as per itinerary, all Entrance fees at monuments as per itinerary, domestic flight Port Blair to Delhi with 20Kg check in baggage allowance, government of India GST tax.

# Note

- Please advice arrival/departure flight details in order to arrange the transfer accordingly
- Apply for Indian visa before departure
- Check in time 14.00 / Check out time 11.00
- Radisson Blue Agra Compulsory meals: Christmas Eve Gala Dinner (24DEC) USD 68 per person and New Year's Eve Dinner (31DEC) USD 156 per person
- Radisson Blue Agra, peak surcharge 20DEC-05JAN per room per night USD 99
- Taj Jai Mahal Palace, Jaipur Compulsory meals: Christmas Eve Gala Dinner (24DEC) USD 212 per person and New Year's Eve Dinner (31DEC) USD 283 per person
- Taj Jai Mahal Palace Jaipur, peak surcharge 20DEC-05JAN per room per night USD 216
- Oberoi Amarvilas Agra, peak surcharge 20DEC-05JAN per room per night USD 332
- Oberoi Rajvilas Jaipur, peak surcharge 20DEC-05JAN per room per night USD 903

\* 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.

# 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](#)