



# Pandaw Cruises

EXPEDITION No 11

## FROM RANGOON TO KALAY

18 NIGHTS

This river expedition goes from Rangoon, Pyay (Prome) to Kalay. Pyay (Prome) is the first major Irrawaddy port to the north of Rangoon on the Irrawaddy River and Kalay-wa, the main port on the Upper Chindwin River. This monsoon cruise will cover the middle part of Burma including Pagan with its 3000 monuments and the culturally rich Lower Chindwin with its little known art treasures and early wood carved monasteries. At this time of year when the Chindwin is in full flood the river is at its most dramatic but be prepared for heavy rain with sunny interludes between downpours. The skys and colours will be amazing. Walks ashore may be muddy and river banks slippery. This is a cruise strictly for Pandaw aficionados and not for first timers in Burma!

**Cruise Price Includes:** Entrance fees, guide services (English language), gratuities to crew, main meals, local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes, one way flight Kalay/Kalemyo-Yangon after the cruise.

**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 (YANGON)

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International arrivals in Rangoon. Transfer to ship moored in the heart of colonial 'Downtown' Yangon. Afternoon sightseeing and visit to the spectacular Shwedagon Pagoda for sunset.

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

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## DAY 2

### TWANTE

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Sail with the first tide up the Rangoon River and enter the Twante Canal, which connects the Yangon River with the Irrawaddy Delta. We stop on route at the Twante village to visit the potteries there, famed for their enormous water pots. Arrive Yandoon for evening walk in this delightful Delta town.

[MORE ABOUT TWANTE](#)

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### DAY 3

## DANUPYU

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Continue our exploration of Delta creeks and stop at Donabyu, another little known town with a busy port and bustling markets. In the First Anglo Burmese War of 1825 the Burmese general Maha-Bandoola was defeated here following a long and near disastrous campaign by the British. Moor overnight off Henzada.

[MORE ABOUT DANUPYU](#)

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### DAY 4

## CRUISING

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Sailing all day we stop to visit the markets and see old colonial buildings in the sleepy Delta town of Manaung and now enter the Irrawaddy River itself. We continue to moor for the night at Tonbo.

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### DAY 5

## PROME (PYAY)

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Stop at the famous A Kauk Taung to explore the spectacular stone carving on the cliff. We reach Prome by early afternoon and travel by coach to the 5th-8th century archaeological site of Thiri-ya-kittiya, former centre of the Pyu civilization with a fascinating museum of early Buddhist artifacts and sculpture.

[MORE ABOUT PROME \(PYAY\)](#)

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## DAY 6

# THAYETMYO

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This pleasant colonial town once guarded the border between Royal Burmah and British Burmah following the 2nd Anglo Burmese War of 1855 and many of the buildings including the covered market date from this period. We visit the market, see the colonial houses and ride out by horse and cart to see the countryside and golf links.

[MORE ABOUT THAYETMYO](#)

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## DAY 7

# MAGWE

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In Minhla and Gwechaung we visit the two Italian built forts constructed to keep the British at bay from Royal Burmah. We climb the Gwechaung hill for the view. In the afternoon we cruise on to Magwe where we climb the river bank and wend our way through a labyrinth of passages and paths to reach the magnificent Myat-thalon Pagoda.

[MORE ABOUT MAGWE](#)

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## DAY 8

# CRUISING

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We visit a number of teak monasteries including the Yout-saun-kyaung with its spectacular wood carvings. We also explore an area of splendid colonial houses.

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**DAY 9**

## PAGAN

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We tour a selection of the 3,000 listed monuments at this World Heritage Site, Pagan.

[MORE ABOUT PAGAN](#)

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**DAY 10**

## CRUISING

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Cruise all day through the great Lower Chindwin plain.

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**DAY 11**

## MONYWA

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Arriving in the busy port town of Monywa will be a bit of a shock after the peace and remoteness of the Chindwin. We will explore the town and time permitting make a quick trip to the Thanbodi Temple with its million Buddha images - a sort of Buddhist Disneyland! Beyond Monywa we enter the Upper Chindwin. The river narrows and the forested hills fall away to farmland we pass a number of attractive villages like Kin or Kanee where we can stretch our legs.

[MORE ABOUT MONYWA](#)

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**DAY 12**

## MINGKIN

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Mingkin was 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](#)

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**DAY 13**

## MAWLAIK

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Mawlaik replaced Kindat as the administrative capital but ironically the Myanma refused to move there from upstream Kindat. It was mainly settled with the company houses of the by the Scottish owned and run Bombay Myanmarh 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](#)

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## DAY 14

# SITTHAUNG

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Pantha was an important oil refinery belonging to the Indo-Myanmar Petroleum Co (Steel Brothers). We pass the mouth of the Yu River which drains the Kubu valley that provided the route for a Lieutenant Grant to march to the relief of the Manipur garrison when the chief commissioner of Assam was massacred in a local rebellion. Sitthaung was the final resting place of a number of IFC steamers scuppered there in 1942 in an 'act of denial' from the advancing Japanese who were a matter of hours behind. We hope to find remains of these ships as we have in the past at Katha on the Irrawaddy. It was from here that the survivors of the Japanese invasion marched out to Tamu on the India border.

[MORE ABOUT SITTHAUNG](#)

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## DAY 15

# TOUNGDOOT

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Toungdoot or Hsawng-hsup in Tai, is an ancient Shan enclave which in British times still had a ruling sawbwa complete with palace and court. It will be interesting to see what has become of the royal family and their home and to see these Shan people so far from their Tai-Shan homelands.

[MORE ABOUT TOUNGDOOT](#)

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**DAY 16**

## HOMALIN

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We pass the Uyu River worked by gold washers on the way to Homalin, the furthest navigable point on the Chindwin for vessels of our size. Alister McCrae wrote of his visit there 1935 'I loved the atmosphere of quiet and peaceful living there. At night I could hear greylag geese as they came in to the flooded land around us from far away north'. Bird in 1897 says little other than that Homalin is the headquarters of a township, but has very little trade'. Until we get there and explore the place there is not much we can say!

[MORE ABOUT HOMALIN](#)

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**DAY 17**

## HOMALIN

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All day cruising downstream.

[MORE ABOUT HOMALIN](#)

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**DAY 18**

## KALEWA

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All day cruising downstream.

[MORE ABOUT KALEWA](#)



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**DAY 19**

## **RANGOON (YANGON)**

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Travel 20 miles from Kalewa to Kalemmyo the gateway to the Chin State for your domestic flight to Yangon.

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

# 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

### 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.

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## 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.

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## DAY 3

### INLE LAKE - HEHO

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

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DISCOVER

## 2 Nights Mystical Inle Lake Pre 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.

## **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.

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](#)

## **PRE-TOUR EXTENSION**

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## **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.

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## **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.

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## **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.

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#### 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.

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#### 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.

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#### 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**

- 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.

## **PRE-TOUR EXTENSION**

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## **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.

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## **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.

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## **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.

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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**

- 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.

KALAW HILL LODGE

11 Quarter

Nanthe' Village

Kalaw.

Tel: +81 50865/50866/50867/50868

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

## **POST-TOUR EXTENSION**

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### **DAY 1**

## **ARRIVAL IN YANGON**

Transfer to hotel in Rangoon. Free Evening.

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## DAY 2

# DEPARTURE

Breakfast. Morning excursion to Downtown. Transfer to airport for onwards flights.

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5 STAR

## PK Post cruise Rangoon : Pyay - Kalay

**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 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.

SULE SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, YANGON

223 Sule Pagoda Road

GPO Box 888

Yangon

Myanmar

Tel: +95 1 242 828

[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\*\*](#)