



Pandaw Cruises

EXPEDITION No 38

CHINDWIN & NAGALAND 14 NIGHTS

14 NIGHTS

For the first time, sail the entire Chindwin river from Monywa to Nagaland on this limited 14-night combo expedition aboard the 10-cabin Zawgyi Pandaw. Take your time to explore one of the most remote and beautiful regions of Asia as we sail slowly along the Irrawaddy's main tributary, only accessible with ultra-low-draft vessels such as ours. We will visit remote villages, pass through dramatic gorges and breath-taking scenery as well as explore the ancient Nagaland region, famous for its fierce and distinctive Naga Warriors.

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

Chindwin expeditions need special permits which can take up to 3 weeks. We kindly ask you to contact us via EMAIL or PHONE for short notice bookings.

Cruise Price Includes: Domestic flights to/from Homalin to Mandalay, 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 the Kalay and Zawgyi 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, 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.

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[MORE ABOUT MONYWA](#)

DAY 2

PHOWIN TAUNG

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, cruise upstream.

[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 - KHONE GYI VILLAGE**

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. In the evening, we visit to Khone Gyi village near Mingkin.

[MORE ABOUT MINGKIN](#)

DAY 5**MA SEIN**

Morning visit to Masein Village and then sail to Mawlaik , the former seat of the Bombay Burma Corporation's timber extraction operations for the Chindwin Area. The old Headquarters building still stands here.

DAY 6

MAWLAIK- ELEPHANT CAMP

The town that 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 Burmah 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!. In the afternoon, Continue to the Pyar Swe Elephant Camp, a working camp where the elephants are protected in natural surroundings.

[MORE ABOUT MAWLAIK](#)

DAY 7

MAWLAIK - SHWE TAUNG

Morning excursion by Tuk Tuk or coach to view the teak forests outside Mawlaik. In the evening, visit to Shwe Taung village. We then sail to Kalewa where we overnight.

[MORE ABOUT MAWLAIK](#)

DAY 8

KALEWA

Explore ashore visiting the local market and enjoying panoramic views over the Chindwin from top of a hill.

[MORE ABOUT KALEWA](#)

DAY 9

MAWLAIK - YUWA

Morning visit to Masein Village and then sail to Mawlaik , the former seat of the Bombay Burma Corporation's timber extraction operations for the Chindwin Area. The old Headquarters building still stands here.

Also visit the tiny village of Yuwa, where previous Pandaw travellers report a delightful atmosphere from friendly locals.

[MORE ABOUT MAWLAIK](#)

DAY 10

SITTHAUNG - PAUNGPYIN

Continuing upstream we sail to Sitthaung, the final resting place of a number of Irrawaddy Flotilla Company steamers scuppered there in 1942 in an 'act of denial' from the advancing Japanese who were a matter of hours behind. Remains of these ships can be found here. It was from here that the survivors of the Japanese invasion marched out to Tamu on the India border. Pantha was an important oil refinery belonging to the Indo-Burma Petroleum Co (Steel Brothers). We also explore Paungpyin village and take a walking tour including a visit to the market and the attractive wooden houses.

[MORE ABOUT SITTHAUNG](#)

DAY 11

TOUNGDOOT

Morning visit to Toungdoot or Hsawng-hsup in Tai, is an ancient Shan enclave who 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. Alistair 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'.

[MORE ABOUT TOUNGDOOT](#)

DAY 12

NAGALAND

Scenic explorations upstream into the remote Nagaland.

[MORE ABOUT NAGALAND](#)

DAY 13

KHAMTI

Afternoon arrive at Khamti, known as 'the land full of gold' due to the prevalence of gold panning in the nearby tributary of the Chindwin. We visit the town, the monastery meet local Tai speaking peoples.

[MORE ABOUT KHAMTI](#)

DAY 14

CRUISING - HOMALIN

Evening visit Homalin, an interesting town close to the Indian border with attractive forested mountains on either side – some rising to over 9,000 feet. Irrawaddy Flotilla Company used to visit here and during World War II, Homalin was occupied by the Japanese.

[MORE ABOUT HOMALIN](#)

DAY 15

HOMALIN

Disembark and transfer to the air field for onward flights.

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](#)

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**](#)