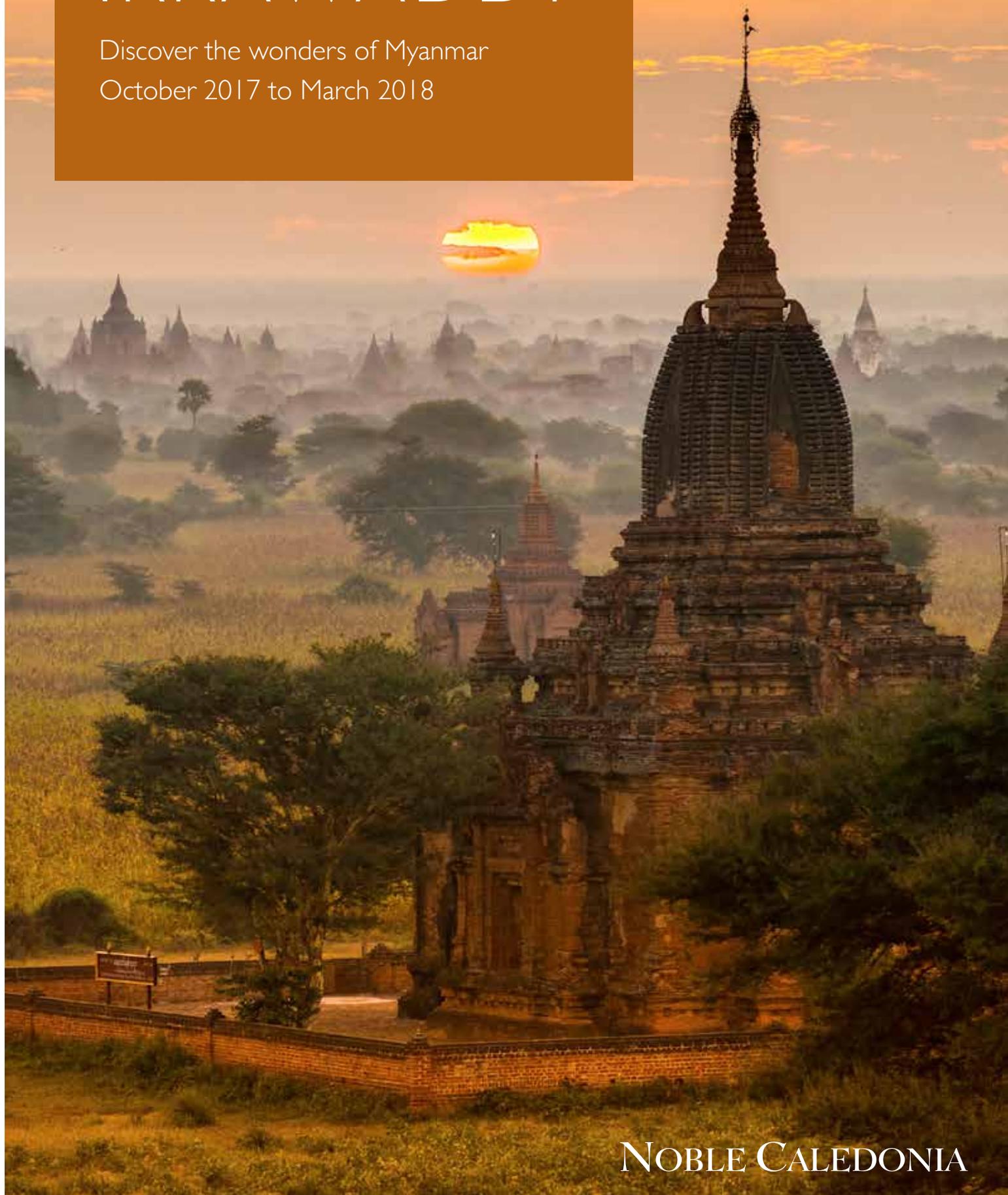


# JOURNEYS ALONG THE IRRAWADDY

Discover the wonders of Myanmar  
October 2017 to March 2018



NOBLE CALEDONIA

# IMAGES OF MYANMAR

Here are some images captured by one of our product managers who recently sailed along the Irrawaddy aboard the RV Irrawaddy Explorer





## ALONG THE IRRAWADDY WITH NOBLE CALEDONIA

Myanmar is without doubt one of the most endlessly fascinating and most beautiful lands on the planet. The mighty Irrawaddy River which flows from the head to the toe of the country offers the seasoned traveller one of the greatest travel experiences possible. Immortalised by Kipling's poem 'On the Road to Mandalay', the vast river rises in lost Himalayan valleys and flows over a thousand miles to filter through the web of a great tropical delta into the Bay of Bengal.

Visually Myanmar is unique: in no other land is the eye so constantly delighted by scenes of casual, almost unintended beauty. There is no better way to enjoy this picture than to travel by river vessel up or down the Irrawaddy River. Myanmar is an agrarian society, and from the anonymous vantage point of the deck or your cabin, you can absorb the essence of the country: a background of soft browns, wooden ploughs following patient oxen across broad fields, the dazzling green paddies, noble tamarind trees and above all white and golden pagodas strewn across the hills and fields like a cascade of jewels. Myanmar's chief beauty, however, lies in her people, who exude warmth and charm.

We have been operating cruises and tours to Myanmar for almost twenty years and whilst the country has seen many changes in that time, it remains a visually unique and welcoming country with a wealth of historical treasures. For 2017/2018 we are offering three river cruises along the Irrawaddy, all aboard truly wonderful vessels, the largest of which accommodates just 56 guests. All three itineraries vary slightly but each one offers a relaxing experience and the opportunity to see the

main centres of Burmese art and culture, Buddhist life, river activities and regional arts and crafts.

It is true to say that Myanmar is still a country of a different age. Here, time moves at a different speed. It is a country of quiet eccentricity and gentle charm, but a country on the threshold of great change so now is the time to see the many wonders of this Golden Land.

### DISCOVER THE BEAUTY OF INLE LAKE

South-east from Mandalay, high on a plateau in the Shan Hills, sparkles the Inle Lake, a place of dazzling beauty and possessed of its own separate, magical quality. It is inhabited (literally, since their homes float upon the lake itself) by the Intha people renowned for their delightfully eccentric leg-rowing. Here there are no great ruins or former capitals, just breathtaking scenery. After each of our river cruises along the Irrawaddy, you can choose to join an optional extension exploring the area around the iconic Inle Lake.



Shwedagon Pagoda



Female Monks



Kaungmudaw Pagoda, Sagaing



Irrawaddy

# WONDERS OF MYANMAR & THE UPPER IRRAWADDY

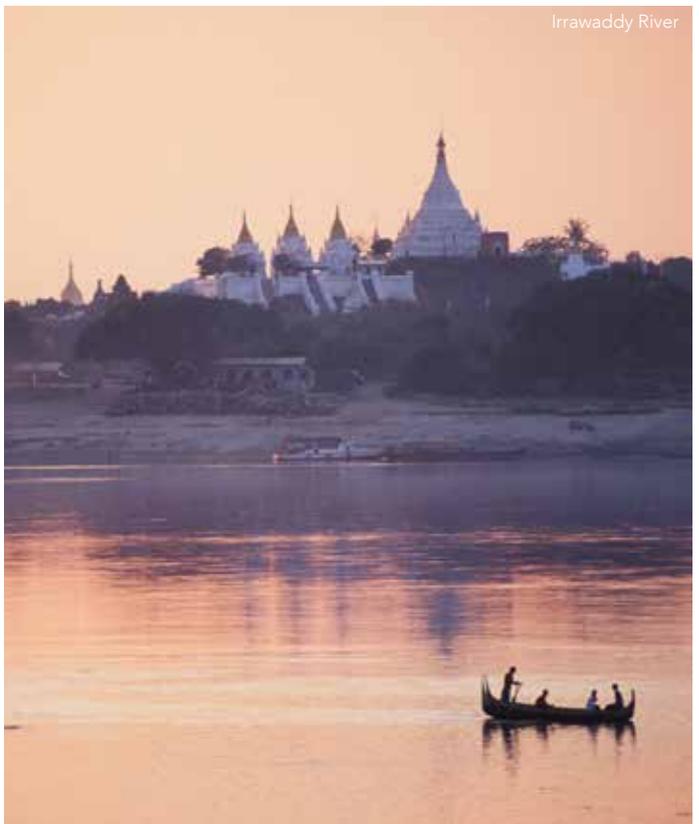
A river cruise along the Irrawaddy aboard the **RV Paukan**  
 15<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October 2017 & 25<sup>th</sup> October to 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017\*

Burma is a land of incredible landscapes, breathtaking temples, stupas and monasteries as well as colourful, vibrant markets and there is no better way to experience the wonder and mystery than whilst cruising along its peaceful Irrawaddy River. We have chartered the RV Paukan, an ideal vessel for this exploration as she is able to navigate the bends and shallows with ease allowing us to journey all the way to Bhamo in the country's wild north. The Upper Irrawaddy is the most scenic part of the river and, whilst few tourists venture further north than Mandalay, we will be rewarded as we pass lavish shrines, teak forests and remote riverside villages.



U-Bein Bridge, Amarapura





Irrawaddy River

## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London Heathrow to Yangon, Myanmar.** Fly by scheduled flight via Bangkok to Yangon.

**Day 2 Yangon.** Arrive and transfer to the Sule Shangri-La Hotel for a two night stay. Enjoy the remainder of the day and evening at leisure. There are multiple dining options at the hotel.

**Day 3 Yangon.** Today, enjoy a full day tour which includes a visit to the city centre and Sule Pagoda, the landmark of downtown Yangon, followed by a short walk to the Strand hotel, a relic of the colonial-era legacy which was opened in 1901 by the famed Sakies brothers. We will visit Chaukhtatgyi, the colossal reclining Buddha, and Kandawgyi (Royal) Lake before we stop for lunch at a local restaurant for an introduction to Myanmar cuisine. Our tour continues to the Bogyoke Market (formerly called Scott Market), where we can shop for a variety of goods ranging from handicrafts to clothing and local products. Enjoy a sightseeing and sunset viewing at Shwedagon Pagoda, an inspiring golden stupa which is one of the most impressive landmarks in Myanmar.

**Day 4 Yangon to Bagan.** After check out transfer to Yangon airport and fly to Bagan. Upon arrival transfer to the RV Paukan for a welcome cocktail and briefing. After lunch we visit a selection of the 2,000

listed pagodas and temples. This evening enjoy dinner followed by a traditional puppet show.

**Day 5 Bagan.** Today, we explore Bagan, capital of Myanmar from the 9th to the 13th centuries. It is estimated that during this time over 13,000 temples, monasteries and pagodas were built in the plains surrounding the city - an area of about 40 square miles. Many of these structures have been lost over time but around 2,300 still stand today, making this one of the world's greatest archaeological sites. After breakfast our morning excursion includes a visit to a local market selling handicrafts, fabrics, and longyis. Return to the ship for lunch and explore Bagan further this afternoon.

**Day 6 Hnaw Gone.** After breakfast enjoy a walking tour through Hnaw Gone, a typical village along the banks of the Irrawaddy. Here you will see the home business of bamboo big basket weaving by hand. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon sailing.

**Day 7 Sagaing.** Enjoy a relaxing morning sailing. This afternoon we visit Sagaing, an important religious site with countless pagodas dotting the surrounding hillsides. We stop here to see the Kaungmudaw Pagoda with its golden egg-shaped dome - unique among more traditional pagodas in Myanmar. We continue to the

Soon U Ponya Shin Pagoda at the top of Sagaing Hill for stunning views of the Irrawaddy and across to Mandalay. This evening enjoy a traditional dance performance on the Sun Deck.

### Day 8 Mandalay & Amarapura.

After breakfast we visit a tapestry and woodcarving workshop to learn more about these cottage industries and see the skilled artisans at work. We stop at the Mahamuni Pagoda, the most revered shrine in Mandalay, to see its impressive gold-leaf Buddha. Due to the continual application of gold leaves, officials estimate the gold is approximately six inches thick. This afternoon we visit the Kuthodaw Pagoda and Shwenandaw monastery, the only remnant of former King

Mindon's "Golden City" to survive the bombing of World War II. Originally the King's living quarters, the building was moved after his death to its current location and converted in to a monastery. Today, the original gilding has faded, but the intricate wood carvings endure, giving you a sense of how extravagant the original teak palace complex was. We continue to the gold leaf workshop to see how it is made. After lunch on board we visit Amarapura, the former capital of Myanmar, where we witness the U Bein Bridge, a three-quarter-mile-long bridge built in 1783 from reclaimed teakwood from the old royal palace in Inwa. The bridge is still a cornerstone of the community as locals and monks use it daily to cross Taungthaman



Local Burmese transport

Lake while fishermen and farmers go about their daily work below. Enjoy a sampan ride on the lake for memorable views of the sunset behind the iconic bridge.



**Day 9 Kyauk Myaung.** Enjoy a morning at leisure and in the afternoon take a walking tour through the captivating pottery-making village of Kyauk Myaung. Here you will learn more about the pot-making process and see how they are formed, fired, and glazed. Most interesting is the eye-catching 50-gallon variety, often referred to as Martaban or Ali Baba jars in colonial times. These pots could transport large quantities of liquor, fish sauce, peanut oil, and more, and have played an important part of maritime trade throughout Asia for centuries.

**Day 10 Kya Hnyat.** This morning we visit the village of Kya Hnyat with its many Buddhist monasteries and where you can interact with the monks at a local monastery. Each morning they wear their distinctive saffron-colored robes and walk through the streets to collect alms, such as cooked rice and curry. This is a truly memorable experience as you present alms to the monks and witness their lunch ritual. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon sailing.

**Day 11 Tigyang.** Today we visit the small village of Tigyang for a walking tour through its narrow lanes and a visit to the pagoda and reclining Buddha on a hilltop with stunning views.

**Day 12 Katha.** This morning visit a local market in Katha where you will see the locals buying and selling fish, meat and other produce. We continue a short distance outside the city to an elephant camp in the teak forest where skilled mahouts will show you how they have worked with elephants for centuries. Enjoy the rest of the day cruising.

**Day 13 Kyun Daw.** This morning visit the fascinating island village of Kyun Daw, where over 7,000 stupas surround the monastery. You may wish to take a walking tour to get a glimpse of village life or visit a school to interact with the children. We also visit a nunnery to present the nuns with food purchased the day before at the market in Bhamo. Unlike monks, they have to collect and cook their own food. As we sail south this afternoon, you may catch a glimpse of the rare Irrawaddy dolphin with its distinctive round forehead. Around early evening, cross the spectacular second defile, the largest of the Irrawaddy gorges, with its magnificent cliffs reaching down the narrow channel. Tonight, join your fellow travellers for a farewell dinner.

**Day 14 Bhamo.** Disembark after breakfast and explore Bhamo by tuk tuk and foot. We then transfer to Bhamo airport for the flight to Yangon. Upon arrival into Yangon, depending on flight schedules, enjoy a light lunch or afternoon tea in a local restaurant before transferring to the airport for your scheduled indirect flight to London.

**Day 15 London Heathrow.** Arrive this morning.

*\*Please note the 25th October departure operates in the reverse direction from Bhamo to Yangon. Full itinerary can be viewed at [www.noble-caledonia.co.uk](http://www.noble-caledonia.co.uk)*

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY			
Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
3	Main Deck cabin	£5095	£4595
2	Upper Deck cabin	£5495	£4995
1	Upper Deck suite	£5995	£5495
3	Main Deck cabin for sole use	£5995	£5495

**FOR DECK PLAN & SHIP INFORMATION PLEASE REFER TO PAGES 14 & 15**  
**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, two nights hotel accommodation at the Sule Shangri-La hotel in Yangon with breakfast, lunch ashore on day 3, 10 nights aboard RV Paukan on a full board basis, soft drinks, beer, tea and coffee included with meals (wine is only included with dinner), services of a Cruise Director and Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, shore excursions with local English speaking guides, gratuities, entrance fees, transfers, port taxes.  
**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visa, lunches on days 1 and 2, dinners on days 2 and 3.



## POST-CRUISE INLE LAKE EXTENSION

28th October to 1st November & 7th to 11th November 2017

Enhance your journey with our optional extension which features the iconic Inle Lake, a wonderful body of water surrounded by mountains and populated by stilted villages, floating gardens, traditional fishing boats and rich fauna and flora. Upon arrival, enjoy a lunch in a local restaurant and travel by local long-tail boat to the Villa Inle Resort & Spa, a deluxe hotel spread over more than 20 acres on the eastern fringe of Inle Lake. The hotel features 27 secluded lakeside villas which are designed to harmoniously blend in with the natural environment of the Lake. From your villa, you can watch as fishermen glide by on the lake, and flocks of migratory and native birds take off from the surrounding treetops. Villa Inle resort & Spa, which feature thousands of native trees and plants of Inle Lake, is framed by both the lake and the mountains of Shan State. During the extension, enjoy a full day tour by boat including a close-up look at the bustling life on the lake and visit villages and workshops to learn of the local handicrafts such as silk and lotus weaving.

## POST-CRUISE ITINERARY

**Day 1 Bhamo / Bagan to Inle Lake.** After disembarkation transfer to Bhamo airport (15th October departure) or Bagan airport (25th October departure) and fly to Heho. Upon arrival at Heho, drive to Nyaung Shwe for lunch in a local restaurant. After lunch we continue to the Red Mountain Winery for wine tasting from where we will drive or take a boat ride to reach the Villa Inle Resort & Spa Hotel for a two night stay. Enjoy dinner this evening at the hotel.

**Day 2 Inle Lake.** After breakfast this morning enjoy a full-day tour by boat including a close-up look at the bustling life on the lake. Stopping at Indein Village to view its old and very picturesque pagodas. After lunch at a local restaurant, you will also have a chance to see the ingenious one-legged rowing technique used by local fishermen, and visit Phaungdawoo Pagoda and the famous NgaPheKyaung monastery. Enjoy dinner this evening at the hotel.

**Day 3 Yangon.** After breakfast fly to Yangon by scheduled flight and stay overnight at the Sule Shangri-La hotel.

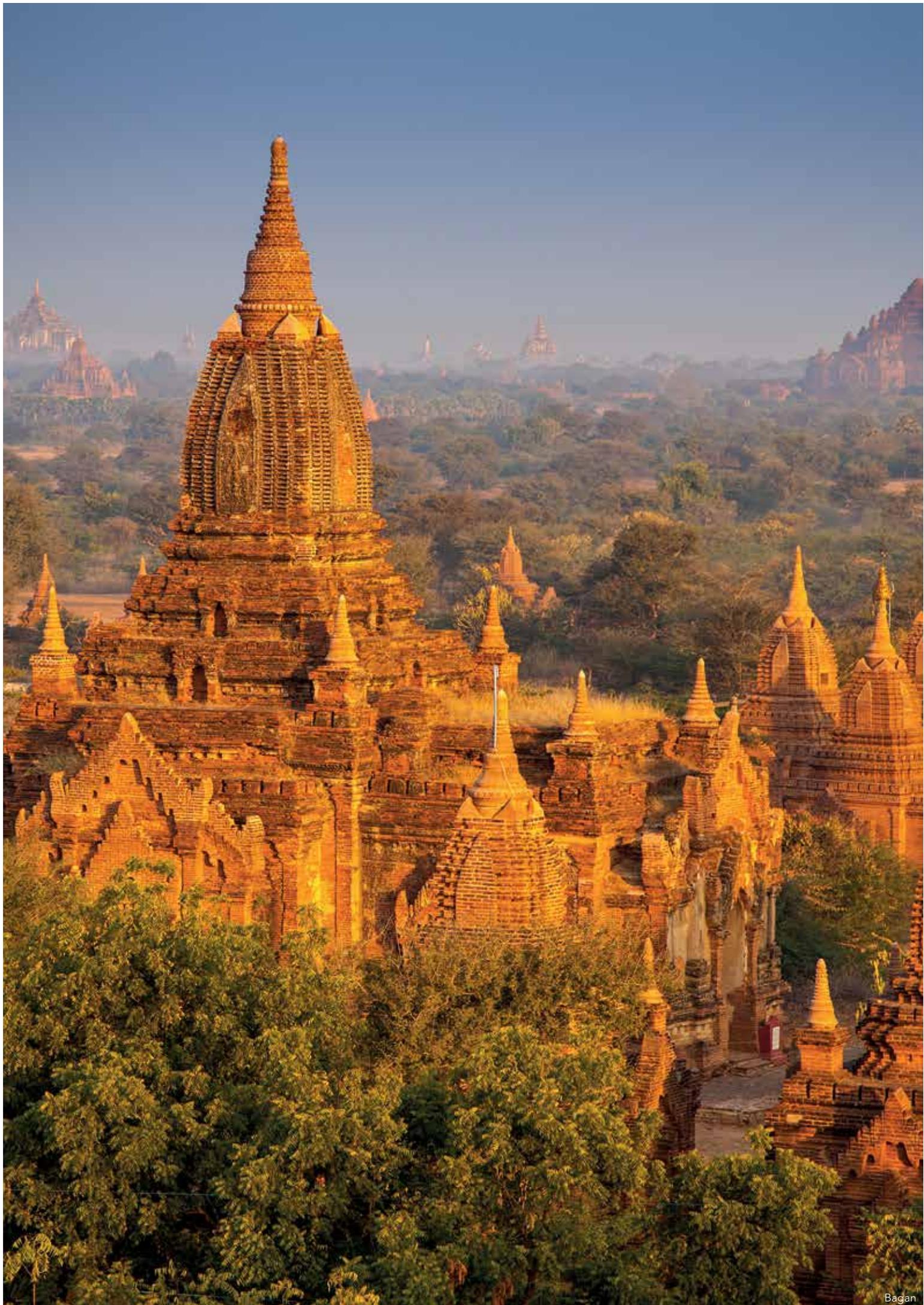
**Day 4 Yangon to London Heathrow.** Check out this morning and enjoy a tour in Yangon followed by lunch in a local restaurant. After lunch transfer to the airport for the scheduled indirect flight to London Heathrow.

**Day 5 London Heathrow.** Morning arrival.

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy  
Twin: £1495 Single: £2095

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, transfers, two nights hotel accommodation in the Garden or Lake Villa, overnight hotel accommodation at the Sule Shangri-La hotel, all applicable taxes, breakfast daily, two lunches, two dinners, excursions with local English speaking guides, entrance fees.  
**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visa, gratuities, dinner in Yangon on day 3.





# PASSAGE ALONG THE IRRAWADDY

A river journey through Myanmar aboard the **RV Thurgau Exotic II**  
October 2017 to March 2018

In 1885 the British annexed the ancient kingdom of Burma and so began a love affair which lasted until the Second World War. Today on arriving in Myanmar (renamed since 1989), you are still as likely to be as entranced as our Victorian forefathers, finding an extraordinarily picturesque land. With its ancient civilisation, its Buddhist culture, its traditional lifestyle, golden pagodas and sublime hospitality, it offers a stark contrast to major cities, to Western expectations and to mass tourism. There is no other Asian country with such a vast and varied range of cultural sites, including of course the 3000 standing monuments at Bagan which will explore during our 14 night river cruise aboard the RV Thurgau Exotic II. Amongst the many wonderful experiences of our journey will be simply witnessing the everyday life, rituals and routines of the people and encountering their natural warmth.



## MANDALAY TO YANGON ITINERARY

**Day 1 London Heathrow to Mandalay, Myanmar.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight to Mandalay.

**Day 2 Mandalay.** Arrive into Mandalay today and transfer to the RV Thurgau Exotic II (there may be some time at leisure before your transfer depending on flight schedules). This evening enjoy a Welcome Cocktail and Dinner on board with your fellow travellers.

**Day 3 Mandalay & Amarapura.** This morning there will be a city tour of Mandalay, the former Royal capital of Burma. We will visit the much admired Mahamuni Pagoda, with its famous Buddha image, covered with a thick layer of gold leaf. Continue to the Shwenandaw Kyaung Monastery, a silent reminder of the ancient Royal Palace. Also visit some art workshops, including a gold leaf workshop and a silk and cotton

weaving factory. At sunset we continue to Amarapura to admire and walk across the world's longest teak bridge which was built in 1784.

**Day 4 Mandalay & Mingun.** This morning we continue our tour of Mandalay with a visit to a stone carver workshop. We will return to the vessel for lunch and sail upstream. This afternoon we visit the famous Mingun Paya, believed to be the largest pagoda in the

world. However after the death of King Bodawphaya in 1819 the construction was halted. Admire the huge hanging bell which weighs over 100 tonnes. This evening we will enjoy a traditional Burmese dance performance on board.

**Day 5 Sagaing.** Early this morning we sail downstream past Mandalay before our excursion to the beautiful Sagaing Hills. With its many hermitages and monasteries,



Rice Paddy



Buddhas



Gold Panning on the Irrawaddy



Golden Buddha, Mahamuni Pagoda, Mandalay

Sagaing is an important religious and meditation centre. We will visit the 14th century Sun-U-Ponnya-Shin pagoda on the hilltop and stop at a nunnery. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon on board as we sail downstream and perhaps attend the lecture about Burmese traditions and customs.

**Day 6 Yandabo.** Enjoy a morning walk through the picturesque village of Yandabo with its many family-run potteries. Yandabo is best known as the location of the signing of the peace agreement after the second Anglo – Burmese war. This afternoon we will visit a small riverside village. After dinner this evening there will be a traditional Burmese puppet show on the Sun Deck.

**Day 7 Bagan.** Bagan is the former Royal historical capital and with more than 3000 Buddhist shrines, it is a major archaeological centre in South East Asia. We will spend the morning visiting some of the most important temples and pagodas. We will return to the vessel for lunch and continue our exploration this afternoon.

**Day 8 Bagan & Sale.** This morning we will explore Bagan further before enjoying lunch on board. This afternoon we will explore the little town of Sale with its impressive colonial villas and the 150 year old teak monastery with magnificent wood carvings.

**Day 9 Magwe.** Relax this morning as we sail downstream and enjoy a lecture on board. This afternoon join the excursion to

the surrounding area of Magwe including a visit to the holy “Dragon Volcano” at Minbu. We will continue to the famous Myat Thalon pagoda in Magwe to enjoy the sunset over the Irrawaddy River.

**Day 10 Magwe & Minhla.** This morning there will be a city tour by local trishaw including a visit to a large local market and a blacksmith. Continue on foot to the fortress of Minhla which was built by Italian architects to assist the Burmese King in keeping the British at bay from advancing their troops towards the north.

**Day 11 Thayet Myo.** Thayet Myo was once the border town between the Royal Burmese North and the British Colonial South. We will enjoy a guided walking tour around the town and market before returning to the vessel for a relaxing afternoon sailing. Perhaps attend the onboard presentation about exotic fruits and vegetables and traditional Burmese medicine.

**Day 12 Pyay & Shwe Daung.** Enjoy a morning excursion to Pyay, once an important trade town on the Irrawaddy River. Visit the local ancient library which features an amazing collection of ancient art. Continue to the famous Shwesan-Daw and Phaya Gyi pagodas followed by the village of Shwe Daung, with its famous Buddha statue wearing glasses. Later today we will sail past the famous cliffs of A Kauk Taung with amazing stone carvings.

**Day 13 Myan Aung.** Enjoy a morning walk in the small town of Myan Aung with its many well

preserved colonial houses followed by a visit to the local market. Relax on board this afternoon and admire the passing scenery as we continue sailing.

**Day 14 Danupyu.** This morning there will be an excursion to Danupyu by local trishaw with a visit to a century-old monastery with a beautiful botanical garden and a traditional cigar factory.

**Day 15 Irrawaddy Delta & Yangon.** Early this morning we will sail to the confluence of the Irrawaddy and Yangon Rivers and continue through the Twante Canal to

Yangon. After lunch on board we take a city tour of Yangon, the former capital including a visit to the splendid Shwedagon Pagoda, the city’s famous landmark. Enjoy a Farwell Dinner this evening.

**Day 16 Yangon to London.** Disembark after breakfast and continue our exploration of Yangon with a stop at the Royal Lake and a visit to an ancient church. After lunch transfer to the airport for the return scheduled indirect flight to London.

**Day 17 London Heathrow.** Morning arrival.



Shwedagon Paya Pagoda, Yangon



Buddha statue, Bagan



Buddhist monks

## YANGON TO MANDALAY ITINERARY

**Day 1 London Heathrow to Yangon, Myanmar.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight to Yangon.

visit to a century-old monastery with a beautiful botanical garden and a traditional cigar factory.

**Day 2 Yangon.** Arrive into Yangon and depending on flight schedules, enjoy a city tour of the former capital including a stop at the Royal Lake and a visit to an ancient church. After lunch in a local restaurant we will transfer to the RV Thurgau Exotic II and embark. Enjoy a Welcome Cocktail and Dinner on board with your fellow travellers this evening.

**Day 5 Myan Aung.** Enjoy a morning walk in the small town of Myan Aung with its many well-preserved colonial houses followed by a visit to the local market. Relax on board this afternoon as we sail upstream.

**Day 3 Yangon & Irrawaddy Delta.** Today we continue our exploration of Yangon with a visit to the Scott Market and the splendid Shwedagon Pagoda, the city's famous landmark. Return to the vessel for lunch and this afternoon relax on board as we sail along the Yangon River through the Twante Canal to the confluence of the Irrawaddy River.

**Day 6 Pyay & Shwe Daung.** This morning admire the passing scenery as we sail past the famous cliffs of A Kauk Taung with amazing stone carvings. Enjoy an afternoon excursion to Pyay, once an important trade town on the Irrawaddy River. We will visit the local ancient library which features an amazing collection of ancient art. Continue to the famous Shwesandaw pagoda and the village of Shwe Daung, with its famous Buddha statue wearing glasses.

**Day 4 Danupyu.** This morning there will be an excursion to Danupyu by local trishaw with a

**Day 7 Thayet Myo.** Thayet Myo was once the border town between the Royal Burmese North and the British Colonial South. We will explore the town and market on a

guided walking tour. There will be a lecture on board this afternoon as we sail upstream.

**Day 8 Minhla & Magwe.** This morning visit the fortress of Minhla which was built by Italian architects to assist the Burmese King in keeping the British at bay from advancing their troops towards the north. This afternoon there will be an excursion to the surrounding area of Magwe including a visit to the holy "Dragon Volcano" at Minbu. We will continue to the famous Myat Thalon pagoda in Magwe to enjoy the sunset over the Irrawaddy River.

**Day 9 Magwe.** This morning we will explore the city by local trishaw and visit a large local market and a blacksmith. Spend a relaxing afternoon on board sailing and perhaps attend the presentation about exotic fruits and vegetables and traditional Burmese medicine.

**Day 10 Sale & Bagan.** Today we explore the little town of Sale with its impressive colonial villas and the

150-year old teak monastery with magnificent wood carvings. This afternoon enjoy a tour of Bagan, the former Royal historical capital by horse-drawn carriage. After dinner this evening there will be a traditional Burmese puppet show on the Sun Deck.

**Day 11 Bagan.** With more than 3000 Buddhist shrines, Bagan is a major archaeological centre in South East Asia and we will spend this morning visiting some of the most important temples and pagodas. Return to the ship for lunch before exploring the area further this afternoon.

**Day 12 Yandabo.** This morning we will visit a small riverside village before sailing upstream and passing the confluence of the Chindwin and Irrawaddy Rivers. Enjoy an afternoon walk through the picturesque village of Yandabo with its many family-run potteries. Yandabo is best known as the location of the signing of the peace agreement after the second Anglo – Burmese war.

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

2017/2018 DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES PER PERSON			
Cat	Cabin Description	31st October to 16th November 2017; 30th January to 15th February 2018	14th to 30th November 2017*; 19th December 2017 to 4th January 2018*; 2nd to 18th January 2018; 27th February to 15th March 2018
1	Twin/Double Cabin on Main Deck	£5395	£5195
2	Mid-Ship Double Cabin on Upper Deck	£5895	£5695
3	Forward Twin/Double Cabin on Upper Deck	£6395	£6195
4	Grand Suite on Upper Deck	£7395	£7195
5	Single Cabin on Main Deck	£6595	£6395

FOR DECK PLAN & SHIP INFORMATION PLEASE REFER TO PAGES 16 & 17 \*These two departures operate from Yangon to Mandalay.

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, 14 nights aboard RV Thurgau Exotic II on full board basis, house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board, Noble Caledonia Cruise Director and Tour Manager, shore excursions with local English speaking guides, gratuities, entrance fees, transfers.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visa.



Local fishing

**Day 13 Amarapura.** After a morning spent cruising and admiring the passing scenery we will visit a silk and cotton weaving factory and at sunset, continue to Amarapura to visit and walk across the world's longest teak bridge which was built in 1784.

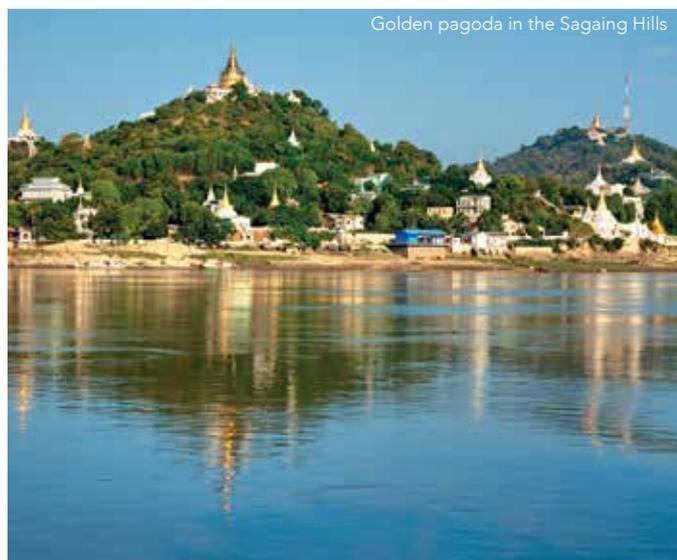
**Day 14 Sagaing & Mingun.** This morning there will be an excursion to the beautiful Sagaing Hills. With its many hermitages and monasteries, Sagaing is an important religious and meditation centre. We will visit the 14th century Sun-U-Ponnya-Shin pagoda on the hilltop and stop at a nunnery. This afternoon enjoy a visit to the famous Mingun Paya, believed to be the biggest pagoda in the world. However after the death of King Bodawphaya in 1819 the construction was halted. Admire the huge hanging bell which weighs over 100

tonnes. This evening there will be a traditional Burmese dance performance on board.

**Day 15 Mandalay.** Today we will explore Mandalay, the former Royal capital of Burma. Visit the much admired Mahamuni Pagoda, with its famous Buddha image, covered with a thick layer of gold leaf. Continue to the Shwenandaw Kyaung Monastery, a silent reminder of the ancient Royal Palace. Also visit some art workshops, including a gold leaf workshop. Enjoy a Farwell Dinner this evening.

**Day 16 Mandalay to London.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for the return scheduled indirect flight to London Heathrow.

**Day 17 London Heathrow.** Morning arrival.



Golden pagoda in the Sagaing Hills



Lakeside villa

## POST-CRUISE INLE LAKE EXTENSION

**Extension dates for Mandalay to Yangon cruise:**

15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November 2017, 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018,  
14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> February 2018, 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018

**Extension dates for Yangon to Mandalay cruise:**

29<sup>th</sup> November to 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017 & 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Complete your journey with our optional post-cruise extension to the iconic Inle Lake, a wonderful body of water surrounded by mountains and populated by stilted villages, floating gardens, traditional fishing boats and rich fauna and flora. Upon arrival into Heho, we drive to Nyaung Shwe the gateway to Inle Lake and enjoy a morning boat tour before checking into the Myanmar Treasure Resort Hotel which is in a beautiful setting and features dark wooden bungalows hosting wonderful rooms, with the choice of either mountain or lake view rooms. The resort offers choices of entertainment programmes showcasing the local culture and tradition and unique dining experiences overlooking the lake and mountains. The floating spa is available to reinvigorate you after a full day sightseeing. During your extension, enjoy a visit to the five day market, a close up look at the bustling life on the lake and visit villages and workshops to learn of the local handicrafts such as silk and lotus weaving.

## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 Yangon or Mandalay to Heho.** Disembark the Thurgau Exotic II and transfer to the airport for the flight to Heho. On arrival we will be met by our local English speaking guide and driven to Nyaung Shwe, the gateway to Inle Lake, one of the most beautiful places in the country which is surrounded by the mountains on the high land of Shan State. We will enjoy a private boat tour and lunch before we make a visit to the villages to witness the traditional silk and lotus-weaving. We will end the day with the spectacular views of the venerable Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda before we transfer to the Myanmar Treasure Resort Hotel for check in and dinner at the hotel.

**Day 2 Inle Lake.** After breakfast, we visit the 'five day market' of the Inle area, so called because the hill people rotate between five different locations over a five day period and this is a good opportunity to meet many different local tribes. Enjoy lunch before an afternoon visit to the Indein Village with its hundreds of old stupas on the hillock. Return to the hotel and enjoy dinner this evening.

**Day 3 Heho to Yangon to London.** After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to Heho airport and the flight back to Yangon. On arrival, depending on flight schedules we have reserved day rooms in Yangon including lunch, before transferring back to the airport for the return scheduled indirect flight to London.

**Day 4 London Heathrow.** Morning arrival.

### PRICES PER PERSON Based on double occupancy

Deluxe Twin Room with Mountain View	<b>£795</b>
Deluxe Twin Room with Lake View	<b>£825</b>
Deluxe Single Room with Mountain View	<b>£1045</b>
Deluxe Single Room with Lake View	<b>£1095</b>

**Price includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, two nights accommodation at the Myanmar Treasure Resort Hotel, portorage, all applicable taxes, breakfast daily, lunches on day 1, 2 and 3, dinner on day 1 and 2, shore excursions with local English speaking guides, transfers, entrance fees.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, gratuities, visa, dinner on day 3.



# TREASURES OF GOLDEN MYANMAR

A river cruise along the Irrawaddy aboard the luxurious **RV Irrawaddy Explorer**  
 24<sup>th</sup> January to 7<sup>th</sup> February & 11<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> February 2018

River life dominates the country of Myanmar and still to this day forms the main system of transportation, irrigation and food source. It is then fitting that we should explore this beautiful country by river. Our cruise aboard the luxurious Irrawaddy Explorer combines scenic interest with a study of local life and culture. During our exploration of the Irrawaddy, we will visit bustling Yangon, witness daily life of the riverbanks and discover the sheer beauty of Bagan, surrounded by the most significant pagodas and temples. We will also explore local markets and picturesque villages and travel to Amarapura to visit the iconic U-Bein Bridge.

## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London Heathrow to Yangon.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight to Yangon.

**Day 2 Yangon.** Arrive and transfer to the Sule Shangri-La Hotel (or similar) for a two night stay. Enjoy the remainder of the day and evening at leisure with lunch and dinner under your own arrangements.

**Day 3 Yangon.** After breakfast, enjoy a full day tour which includes a visit to the city centre and Sule Pagoda, the landmark of downtown Yangon, followed by a short walk to the Strand hotel, a relic of the colonial-era legacy which was opened in 1901 by the famed Sakies brothers. We then continue our tour by visiting Chaukhtatgyi, the colossal reclining Buddha. Our last stop of the day will be to enjoy the beautiful sunset at Shwedagon Pagoda, an inspiring golden stupa which is one of the best landmarks in Myanmar. Dinner will be under your own arrangements this evening.

**Day 4 Yangon to Prome.** After check out enjoy a scenic drive from Yangon to Prome (approximately

6-hour drive). Once controlled by the Mon tribe during the Bagan Era and then conquered by the Burmese King Alaungpaya in the 1754, Prome boomed, along with The Irrawaddy Flotilla Company in the 1890's, and it is now an important trading post. It is here we embark our ship the RV Irrawaddy Explorer. Enjoy lunch on board and this afternoon we drive to Thayekhittaya (also known as Sri Ksetra, the "Fabulous City" in the Pali language), an ancient Pyu city that ruled in this area between the 5th and 9th century. Now inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. In central Prome we visit the impressive Shwesandaw Pagoda complex, one of the most important Buddhist pilgrimage sites of Myanmar. This afternoon we set sail.

**Day 5 Thayet Myo.** This morning we explore the town of Thayet Myo which was once the border town between the Royal Burmese North and the British Colonial South. Visit the local market as well as several colonial homes constructed during the British colonisation of Burma.

**Day 6 Magwe.** We arrive at Magwe this morning. Visit Myat than Lun

Paya, a 1929 built pagoda of gold solid bricks set on a hilltop with a beautiful panoramic vantage point. After lunch on board, relax with an afternoon at leisure.

**Day 7 Sale & Tan Kyi Mountain.** We visit Sale this morning, a village founded in the 13th century with Bagan-era shrines, beautiful 19th century teak monasteries and well-preserved British colonial buildings. After lunch, we continue upstream to the village of Tan Kyi. Depart up to the nearby mountaintop where we see one of the four stupas that marked the original edges of the city and enjoy a marvellous sunset over the Bagan plains.

**Day 8 Bagan.** Bagan is the former Royal historical capital and, with more than 3000 Buddhist shrines, it is a major archaeological centre in South East Asia. We will spend the morning visiting some of the most important temples and pagodas by local oxcart. Following lunch on board we will set out to view the sunset atop the most beautiful temple in the area. This evening enjoy dinner followed by a Puppet Show performance.



**Day 9 Bagan River Village.** Explore some of Bagan's largest local markets, selling wood carvings, fabrics, longyis and rattan products. We will visit a workshop to see the ancient technique of Burmese lacquer ware making. Alternatively hire a horse cart or a bicycle and explore Bagan at leisure or enjoy a splendid optional early morning hot air balloon flight. This afternoon we sail to Hnaw Gone village for



Boats on the Irrawaddy



Yangon

a leisurely walk through a typical village along the Irrawaddy River.

**Day 10 Yandabo.** This morning we arrive at Yandabo, a picturesque village famous for its pottery and also for being the place where the peace treaty of the First Anglo-Burmese War was signed on 24 February, 1826. We will go ashore for a walking tour stopping at workshops to witness their craft and also hope to visit the local school and the monastery.

**Day 11 Monywa (Hpowindaung Caves).** This morning we will depart early for Monywa to visit the Hpowindaung Caves where hundreds of Buddha Statues are placed inside niches decorated with wonderful mural paintings. After lunch, we visit the splendid Sambuddhai Kat Kyaw pagoda with its more than 500,000 Buddha images.

**Day 12 Mingun-Ava-Amarapura.** After an early breakfast we visit Mingun to see the famous 'unfinished pagoda' and the largest working bell in the world which weighs over 100 tonnes. After lunch,

explore Ava by horse-cart visiting the beautiful 200 year old teak Bagaya Kyaung Monastery, Nanmyin watchtower at 27-metres high and the Me Nu Ok Kyaung monastery. We continue to Amarapura, the penultimate Burmese Royal Capital (1783) to visit U Bein Bridge at sunset where we'll enjoy a sampan cruise and champagne toast before returning to the ship for our farewell dinner this evening which will be followed by a dance and theatre performance.

**Day 13 Mandalay.** We disembark after breakfast and enjoy a guided tour of Mandalay, the former Royal capital of Burma. After lunch in a local restaurant, transfer to the Mandalay Hill Resort (or similar) for an overnight stay. The rest of the day and evening is at leisure with dinner under your own arrangements.

**Day 14 Mandalay to London Heathrow.** Check out of our hotel and transfer to the airport for the scheduled indirect flight to London.

**Day 15 London Heathrow.** Morning arrival.

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER - SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY			
Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price	Special Offer
4	Maugham Suite twin with French Balcony	£5495	£4995
3	Orwell Suite twin with Balcony	£5695	£5195
2	Kipling Suite with King sized bed with Balcony	£5995	£5495
1	Mandalay Suite with King sized bed with Balcony	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
4	Maugham Suite twin with French Balcony for sole use	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
3	Orwell Suite twin with Balcony for sole use	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT

FOR DECK PLAN & SHIP INFORMATION PLEASE REFER TO PAGES 18 & 19

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, two nights hotel accommodation in Yangon with breakfast, lunch ashore on day 3, nine nights aboard the RV Irrawaddy Explorer on full board basis including drinks with meals (wine is only included with dinner), overnight hotel accommodation in Mandalay with breakfast, services of a Cruise Director and Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, shore excursions with local English speaking guides, gratuities, entrance fees, transfers, port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visa, optional hot air balloon ride.



Inle Lake

## POST-CRUISE INLE LAKE EXTENSION

6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> February & 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Enhance your journey with our optional extension which features the iconic Inle Lake, a wonderful body of water surrounded by mountains and populated by stilted villages, floating gardens, traditional fishing boats and rich fauna and flora. Our beautiful hotel features lakeside villas which are designed to harmoniously blend in with the inspiring views of the valley and the tropical landscape. The villas and facilities are elegantly laid out. During the extension, enjoy a full day tour by boat including a close up look at the bustling life on the lake and visit villages and workshops to learn of the local handicrafts such as silk and lotus weaving.

## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 Mandalay to Inle Lake.** After breakfast take a short flight to Heho. Upon arrival at Heho, we drive to Nyaung Shwe where we stop for lunch at a local restaurant. We travel by local long tail boat to the Villa Inle Resort & Spa Hotel (or similar), for a two night stay. Enjoy dinner this evening at the hotel.

**Day 2 Inle Lake.** After breakfast, explore the south part of the lake by boat, stopping at Indein Village to view its old and very picturesque pagodas. You will also have a chance to see the ingenious one-legged rowing technique used by local fishermen. We will stop for lunch this afternoon to taste some traditional local produce. We continue to visit Phaungdawoo Pagoda and the famous NgaPheKyaung monastery. We then return back to the hotel where you can relax and enjoy dinner.

**Day 3 Yangon.** This morning after breakfast, we fly to Yangon by scheduled flight and for our overnight stay at the Sule Shangri-La hotel.

**Day 4 Yangon to London Heathrow.** Check out this morning and transfer to the airport for your return scheduled indirect flight to London Heathrow.

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£1295** Single: **£1895**

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, transfers, two nights accommodation in the Garden or Lake Villa, overnight at the Sule Shangri-La hotel, portage, all applicable taxes, breakfast daily, two lunches and two dinners, shore excursions with local English speaking guides, entrance fees.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, gratuities, visa, dinner in Yangon on day 3.



## RV PAUKAN

We are delighted to have chartered the charming RV Paukan for this exploration of Myanmar. Built in 2007, the RV Paukan is designed to resemble an old fashioned wooden river cruiser but has all the modern amenities and safety features. The vessel is one of the smallest on the river and is beautifully furnished with a unique combination of modern and traditional motifs. She accommodates a maximum of just 55 passengers with a crew of 30 providing a warm and friendly atmosphere and excellent service. Whilst on board you can dine in the elegant restaurant, enjoy a drink in the vessel's outside bar or simply relax and watch the world go by from the Sun Deck. For those in need of a little pampering, enjoy a visit to the ship's massage room for a relaxing Burmese-style massage.



Bar

### Your Cabin/Suite

All cabins feature an en-suite bathroom, ample closet space, individual climate control, safe, hairdryer, blankets, slippers and a choice of either a double or twin bed. Stateroom cabins on the Main and Upper Deck all measure between 15 and 21 square metres and many feature a private balcony overlooking the river. Suites measure 40 square metres and include extra space and prime views over the upper Irrawaddy.

### Your Space

Spread over four decks, the vessel's public spaces include an elegant dining room which accommodates all guests in one sitting, an indoor lounge and an outside bar. There are plenty of areas for relaxation and socialising with your fellow travellers. The vessel also has its own gift shop and massage room and the spacious Sun Deck, offering magnificent panoramic views, includes awnings, tables and comfortable deck chairs.



Upper Deck suite



Upper Deck cabin



Main Deck cabin



Sun Deck



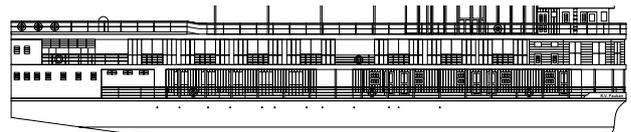
Dining Room

### Your Dining

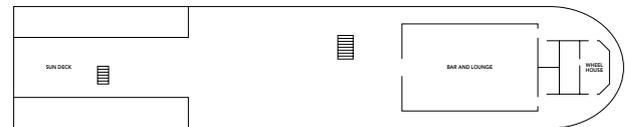
All meals are taken in the vessel's single-sitting restaurant located on the Main Deck and there is also a lounge where you can dine al fresco. The experienced chefs will prepare fresh, local ingredients of both Eastern and Western cuisine. Mornings feature a full buffet breakfast, lunches are a selection

of buffet and served items and dinners are a waiter service affair including a choice of fresh fish and meats. Complimentary beer and soft drinks are included with lunch and dinner (with wine also at dinner) and tea, coffee and mineral water are available at all times in the dining room and Sun Deck.

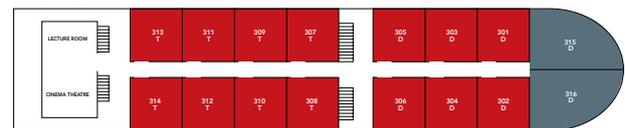
### DECK PLAN



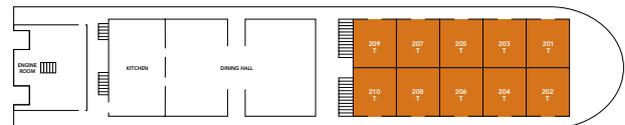
#### SUN DECK



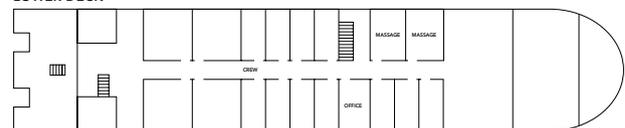
#### UPPER DECK



#### MAIN DECK



#### LOWER DECK



■ CATEGORY 1 ■ CATEGORY 2 ■ CATEGORY 3



## THURGAU EXOTIC II

Built in 2011, this colonial-style vessel has been elegantly designed with the ambience of a bygone era. The charming RV Thurgau Exotic II accommodates just 28 passengers in 15 well appointed cabins, and with a delightful crew of 22 you are guaranteed quality service coupled with an informal and friendly atmosphere. Furnished with local hardwoods, quality furniture and typical artwork, this is a stylish vessel from which to explore the fascinating Irrawaddy river:

### Your Cabin/Suite

With only 15 outside facing cabins, the accommodation aboard the RV Thurgau Exotic II offers spacious and luxuriously appointed cabins more akin to a colonial boutique hotel than

a river vessel. Spread over two decks, the Main Deck offers single cabins measuring 12 square metres in size, and twin and double cabins measuring 22 square metres. The cabins on the Upper Deck all measure 22

square metres and are available as twins and doubles. The Grand Suites, also measuring 24 square metres (including balcony), feature an open plan area which extends the whole width of the ship and private balconies for undisturbed privacy. All cabins feature individual air-conditioning and have en-suite facilities. Cabins throughout feature a mini-safe, wardrobe, writing desk, hairdryer, bathrobe and slippers. Windows can be opened and are covered with mosquito nets, and all cabins open out on to the promenade providing fantastic views of the passing landscapes.

open seating and the cuisine is both Asian and European. Breakfast is served buffet-style, whilst lunch and dinner are seated waiter service. Tea and coffee are available all day on a complimentary basis. House wine, beer and soft drinks are included with lunch and dinner on board and spirits are available at an additional cost. Drinking water is provided at all meal times and complimentary bottles of water are provided in your cabin for drinking.

### Life On Board

It is the personal touches that make a cruise aboard RV Thurgau Exotic II so memorable, such as staff waiting with a welcome drink and cold towel after every excursion, water always being available no matter what time of day and there are often extra 'surprises' on excursions – perhaps

### Your Space

The restaurant, located on the Upper Deck, offers panoramic views of your surroundings and is fashioned in tasteful wooden furnishings. Meals are single and



Twin Cabin



Dining Room



Sun Deck



Grand Suite



Single Cabin



Sun Deck



Library/Shop

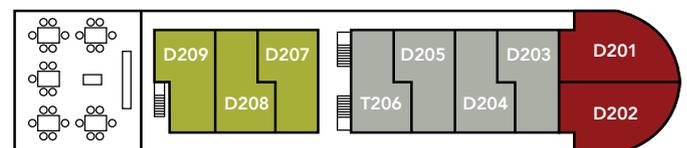
a special cocktail is served on a boat trip, a barbecue is served ashore or a local dance group entertain you. Throughout your cruise, staff are friendly and willing to help with any request and during your cruise will put on cooking demonstrations or other cultural presentations to add to your understanding of this fascinating country.



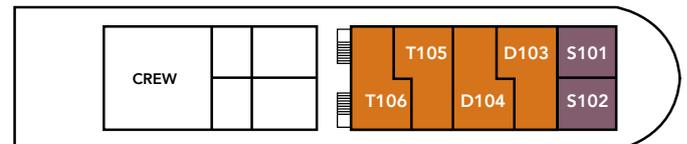
For your comfort, safety and security  
 The crew of 22 are on board to ensure you have an enjoyable, comfortable and safe exploration of the Irrawaddy River and are on hand to offer assistance throughout your journey. Due to the varying nature of the riverbank, the method of getting ashore may differ from time to time and on occasions access may be difficult. We will ensure the gangways are safe and that the crew and team are on hand to assist you. Bottled water is used for cooking, food preparation and ice on board. First aid equipment and basic medications are carried on board and all senior staff have attended First Aid courses. On the river we are never far from a local medical station and local doctors usually speak English and practice a good standard of field medicine.

## DECK PLAN

### UPPER DECK



### MAIN DECK



- CATEGORY 1
- CATEGORY 3
- CATEGORY 5
- CATEGORY 2
- CATEGORY 4

D = Double Bed    T = Twin Bed    S = Single



# RV IRRAWADDY EXPLORER

For our explorations of Myanmar we have chartered the new, all-suite, luxurious river vessel the RV Irrawaddy Explorer. Launched in September 2014, the vessel features 28 spacious suites and is the perfect vessel for our exploration. The friendly onboard staff of 30 will provide you with excellent service and do much to contribute to your enjoyment throughout your journey and the atmosphere on board will be relaxed and informal.

## Your Suite

The 28 suites range in size from 273 to 409 square feet and are attractively furnished and embody the grace and style of the British colonial era, incorporating modern conveniences and luxuries that rival the finest hotels of Asia. All suites feature panoramic floor to ceiling glass doors and beds can

be configured as twin or double (not applicable to Mandalay Suite & Kipling Staterooms), a flat screen television with on-demand movie system, hairdryer, generous closet space and under-bed storage, individually controlled air-conditioning, in-room electronic safe and a private shower and toilet (the Kipling Suite has a spacious

bath with rain style shower, the Mandalay Suite has Spacious Spa-style bath with soaking tub and separate shower). Bottled water is replenished daily in the suites and there is a welcome flower arrangement and fresh fruit upon arrival. The Irrawaddy Explorer subscribes to an international news service that provides summaries of the day's news. These are complimentary, and will be delivered to suites each morning. In addition, guests in the Mandalay Suites will have the added advantage of a complimentary, one-hour spa treatment and complimentary laundry.

## Your Space

The RV Irrawaddy Explorer is both elegantly furnished and spacious throughout the public areas. The Writers Lounge on the Sun Deck is a relaxing environment to watch the passing scenery, browse the library or enjoy a drink from the bar. Enjoy handcrafted cocktails, fine wines, and on-board entertainment in a relaxing environment – a fitting end to a perfect day on board your home

on the Irrawaddy. The spacious observation and sun deck area features chaise lounges and comfortable, shaded, seating areas. The onboard attentive staff are always available to offer a cool beverage, whether you prefer fresh-squeezed juice as you enjoy the warm breeze watching an incredible sunrise, or a favorite cocktail while photographing a dramatic sunset. The Explorer Spa is an oasis to relax, rejuvenate and truly pamper yourself. Guests may enjoy the traditional massage of Myanmar along with oils and creams made with the ground bark of the Thanaka tree. Western spa treatments utilizing all-natural products are also available while enjoying the serenity of the passing landscape. The fitness centre features state-of-the-art equipment and a panoramic view of the landscape. E-mail/internet is available in all public areas of the vessel, free-of-charge for passengers that bring their own Wi-Fi capable devices (please note that Wi-Fi will only be available in certain areas and can be very weak in remote areas.





Writer's Lounge



Spa



Orwell Stateroom



Sun Deck

### Your Dining

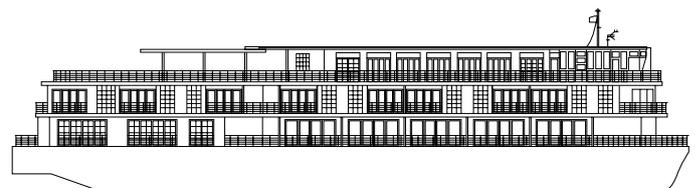
The Restaurant seats all passengers in one sitting located on the Colonial Deck. With a cuisine as diverse as the region, the Culinary Director, Chef Dirk Schroeter is honored to bring his wealth of expertise to the RV Irrawaddy Explorer. He has innovatively created a menu which highlights the diverse cuisine of Myanmar, as well as Western favorites that

will be reflected in sumptuous buffets and artfully prepared, multi-course dinners. The culinary team will offer an occasional shopping excursion to local markets taking every opportunity to utilize the fresh, local fruits and vegetables throughout the voyage. Complimentary coffee, water, tea, soft drinks, local beer and free flow house wine (wine with dinner only).

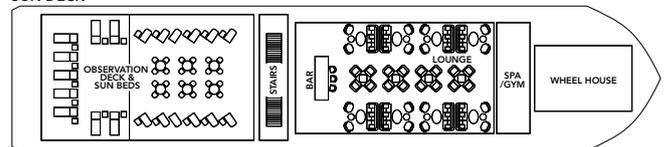


Dining room

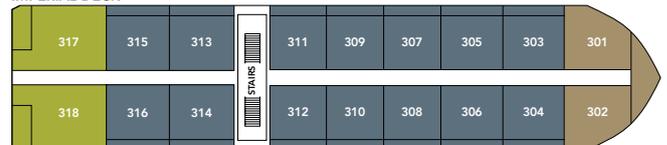
### DECK PLAN



#### SUN DECK



#### IMPERIAL DECK



#### COLONIAL DECK



■ CATEGORY 1   
 ■ CATEGORY 2   
 ■ CATEGORY 3   
 ■ CATEGORY 4



# NOBLE CALEDONIA

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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request. Ports subject to change.  
Cover image: Bagan

