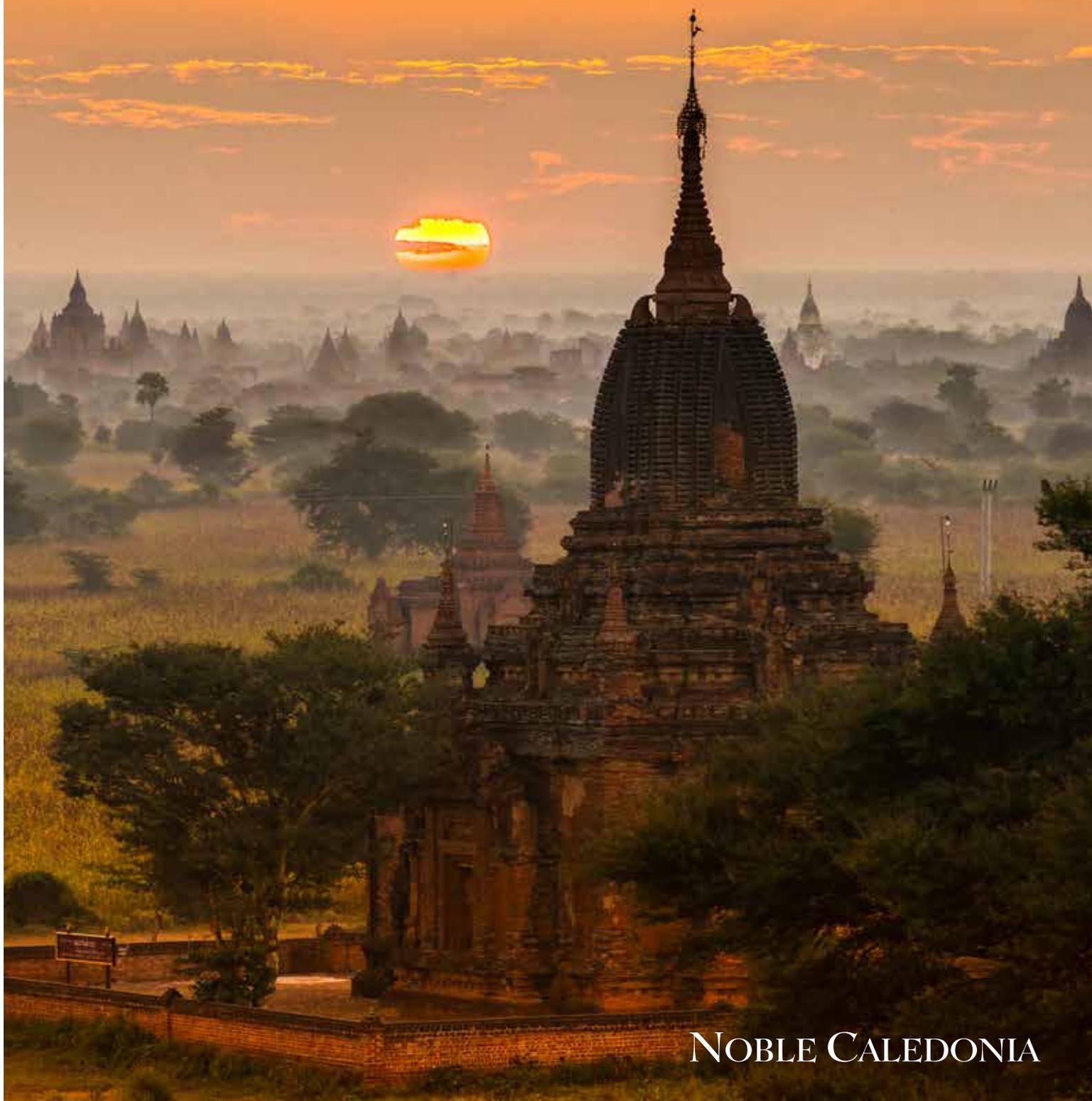


PASSAGE ALONG THE IRRAWADDY

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



NOBLE CALEDONIA

U-Bein Bridge, Amarapura



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), the visitor is still likely to be as entranced as our Victorian forefathers, finding an extraordinarily picturesque land populated by people of great charm and natural warmth. 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.

Most of the population of Myanmar lives in three great river valleys encircled by impenetrable horseshoes of mountains. River life dominates the country 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 combines scenic interest with a study of local life and culture. Whilst cruising along the Irrawaddy, we witness daily life of the riverbanks offering endless fascination, pass villages of teak and bamboo dwellings with the sounds of children playing and see elegant monasteries rising above the trees and ancient temples revealing a wealth of historic treasures. From the legendary city of Mandalay with its royal palace, we will cruise to places well off the tourist trail and well removed from modern life. The historic city of Bagan with breathtaking monuments will contribute to memories that will stay with you forever.



Shwedagon Pagoda, Yangon

Our View

We are delighted that Rainer Sudholter, one of our most popular Cruise Directors with a wealth of experience of this magnificent land is once again joining us on board the RV Thurgau Exotic II for our charters. Here are some of his thoughts on Myanmar:

"Until recently a trip to Myanmar was a journey through a time tunnel; Singapore or Malaysia must have looked like this 100 years ago. Now the country is in a transition and it is undergoing major changes, emerging from isolation. It is now the right time to visit 'The Golden Land' as it is not yet spoiled by tourism. Visually Myanmar is unique, countless golden pagodas and temples, welcoming people. The main artery of the country is the Irrawaddy river, the moulder of Burma's history, a river full of contrasts and for tourists the ideal way to explore Myanmar. Memories that stand out for me include visiting busy cities like Mandalay, also known as the "Gem City" or Yangon, literally meaning "City of Peace", where modern, glittering glass facades stand next to fading colonial mansions. Strolling through rural villages which can only be described as biblical, whose residents are potters. Glazed pots are piled on the riverbanks, destined to be fitted with rattan ropes to make rafts and floated down to the Irrawaddy delta. Far from the banks, farmers are working at peanut and lentil plantations. Life along the river is a study of beauty and contrasts, with ferries, fishing boats, farmland, sandbanks and large cities. After a long day full of new impressions as the sunlight fades in the early evening and disappears behind a golden pagoda one can understand why the country is often called "Mystical Myanmar", a land of beauty and promise"



Rice Paddy



Nuns Collecting their Morning Meal



Gold Panning on the Irrawaddy



Golden Buddha, Mahamuni Pagoda, Mandalay

MANDALAY TO YANGON ITINERARY

Day 1 London Heathrow to Mandalay, Myanmar. Fly by scheduled indirect flight via Bangkok 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, 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 Shwesun-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 factor.

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.



Boats on the Irrawaddy



Buddhist monks

YANGON TO MANDALAY ITINERARY

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

Day 2 Yangon. Arrive into Yangon and 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 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 4 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 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 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 Shwesan-Daw pagoda and the village of Shwe Daung, with its famous Buddha statue wearing glasses.

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

*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, entrance fees, transfers, port taxes, gratuities, UK departure tax.

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 weights 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. Depending on the flight schedule we may enjoy lunch in a local restaurant in Mandalay before transferring to the airport.

Day 17 London Heathrow. Morning arrival.



Golden pagoda in the Sagaing Hills

INLE LAKE POST-CRUISE EXTENSION

Extension dates for Mandalay to Yangon cruise:

15th to 18th November 2017, 17th to 20th January 2018, 14th to 17th February 2018, 14th to 17th March 2018

Extension dates for Yangon to Mandalay cruise:

29th November to 2nd December 2017 & 3rd to 6th January 2018



Lakeside villa

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 your flight to Heho. On arrival you 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 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 your 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 your 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	£795
Deluxe Twin Room with Lake View	£825
Deluxe Single Room with Mountain View	£1045
Deluxe Single Room with Lake View	£1095

Price includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, two nights accommodation at the Myanmar Treasure Resort Hotel, portage, 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, visa, dinner on day 3, gratuities.



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, hair dryer, 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.

is fashioned in tasteful wooden furnishings. Meals are single and 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

Your Space

The restaurant, located on the Upper Deck, offers panoramic views of your surroundings and



Twin Cabin



Dining Room



Sun Deck



Grand Suite



Single Cabin



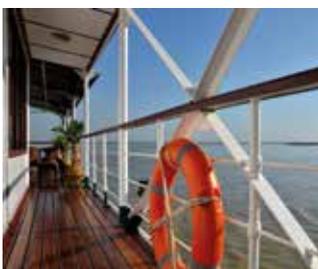
Sun Deck



Library/Shop

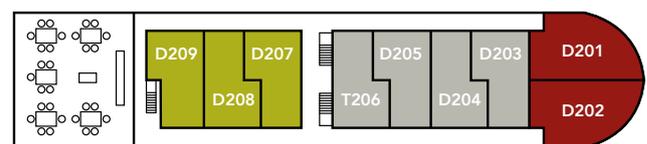
available no matter what time of day and there are often extra 'surprises' on excursions – perhaps a special cocktail is served on a boat trip, a barbecue is served ashore or a local dance group entertain you. Throughout your cruise, staff are friendly and willing to help with any request and during your cruise will put on cooking demonstrations or other cultural presentations to add to your understanding of this

fascinating country.

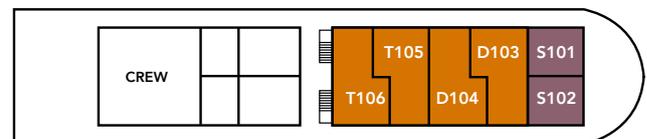


DECK PLAN

UPPER DECK



MAIN DECK



- CATEGORY 1
 - CATEGORY 3
 - CATEGORY 5
 - CATEGORY 2
 - CATEGORY 4
- D = Double Bed T = Twin Bed S = Single



NOBLE CALEDONIA

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NB. Please note that ports and itinerary are subject to change, water levels and local conditions.
All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.

Cover image: Sunset over the temples and pagodas of Bagan