

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£500
PER PERSON

TREASURES OF GOLDEN MYANMAR

A river cruise along the Irrawaddy aboard
the luxurious RV Irrawaddy Explorer

16th to 30th January &
21st February to 7th March 2021

Shwedagon Pagoda, Yangon



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. Visually the country is unique: in no other land is the eye so constantly delighted by scenes of casual, almost unintended beauty and there is no better way to enjoy this picture than to travel by river along the Irrawaddy River. 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.

Our cruise aboard the luxurious Irrawaddy Explorer which features just 28 suites, combines scenic interest with a study of local life and culture. Simply witnessing the everyday life, rituals and routines of the people and encountering their great charm and natural warmth adds a special touch to this wonderful trip. During our exploration we will visit bustling Yangon, observe daily life of the riverbanks and discover the sheer beauty of the 2000 standing monuments at Bagan. We will also explore local markets and picturesque villages and travel to Amarapura to visit the iconic U-Bein Bridge. 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.



THE ITINERARY

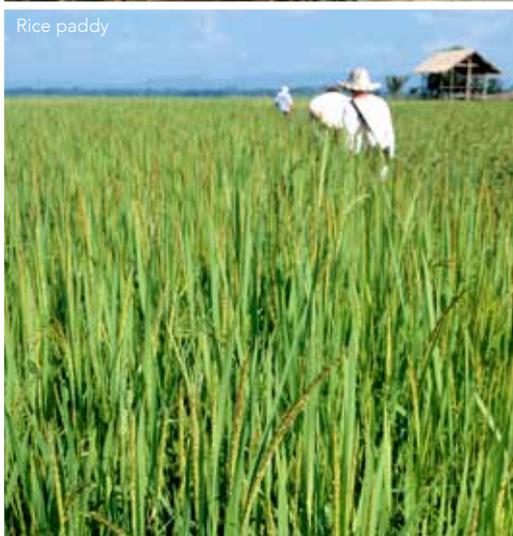
Day 1 London Heathrow to Yangon, Myanmar. Fly by scheduled indirect flight to Yangon.

Day 2 Yangon. Arrive and transfer to the Sule Shangri-La Hotel for a two night stay. Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure. This evening join your fellow travellers for dinner at the hotel. (D)

Day 3 Yangon. After breakfast, enjoy a morning walking tour of Yangon. We explore the architectural heritage and view buildings dating back to the 19th century including the Strand Road, post office and Gandhi Hall. Our tour continues with a visit to the impressive 65 metre long reclining Buddha at Chaukhtatgyi Pagoda.

Afterwards, we enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before returning back to the hotel for some time to rest. In the late afternoon we will enjoy a sunset viewing of the Shwedagon Pagoda, an inspiring golden stupa, one of the most important Buddhist pilgrimage sites of Myanmar. Dinner will be under your own arrangements this evening. (B, L)

Day 4 Yangon to Prome. Check out early this morning and enjoy the scenic drive from Yangon to Prome (approximately 6-hours drive). Once controlled by the Mon tribe during the Bagan Era, and then conquered by the Burmese King Alaungpaya in 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. We visit the well-documented Sri Ksetra Museum which exhibits maps and artefacts including Hindu deities and Buddha images from the 6th century. Enjoy a welcome cocktail and dinner on board with your fellow travellers this evening. (B, L, D)

Day 5 Thayet Myo. Enjoy a relaxing morning sailing upstream. After lunch on board we will ride on tuk tuks to explore the town of Thayet Myo which was once the border town between the Royal Burmese North and the British Colonial South. We stop at the oldest golf course of Myanmar and then continue on to visit the local market passing colonial homes constructed during the British colonisation of Burma. Return to the ship and enjoy an afternoon of scenic cruising. (B, L, D)

Day 6 Magwe. Spend a leisurely morning on board as we sail towards Magwe. This afternoon we venture out into the district capital city of Magwe aboard Trishaws (three wheeled bicycles where one person sits alongside the driver). A short walk takes us

to the local market and after some time to explore we will re-board the trishaws for a ride through the city to visit Mya Tha Lun pagoda. Mya Tha Lun is a beautifully gilded stupa set atop Naguttama Hill which offers a wonderful view of the river and surrounding area. (B, L, D)

Day 7 Salay. This morning we will sail towards Salay. After lunch we take a walk through Salay, a small town founded in the 13th century with Bagan-era shrines, beautiful 19th century teak monasteries and preserved British colonial buildings. We explore the Salay House, a restored 1906 colonial trading company warehouse on the bank of the Irrawaddy. Our walk takes us along the town's main Strand Street towards the local market before turning away from the river to visit the beautiful Yoke Soun Kyaung Taw Gyi wooden monastery. This ornately carved teak monastery was designed as a copy of the Crown Prince House of Mandalay and is now a museum boasting remarkable wood carvings and artefacts. We pass some interesting Bagan-era monuments on our way to visit Mann Paya, a pagoda with a beautiful lacquerware Buddha, before returning to our ship with a stroll past some of Salay's many beautiful colonial buildings. (B, L, D)

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. This morning we visit some of the most important temples and pagodas listed around Bagan. Afterwards, we take a short ride through the temples on ceremonial ox carts. Following lunch on board, we visit a workshop to see the ancient technique of Burmese lacquerware making. We continue on to visit the Gubyaukgyi Temple and the gilded Myazedi Stupa. Our day will end at the Bagan Viewing Hill where we have the opportunity to view the beautiful sunset over the pagodas and stupas of Bagan. (B, L, D)

Day 9 Bagan & Hnaw Gone River Village. Today we explore one of Bagan's largest markets, selling fresh produce, spices, wood carvings, longyis and rattan products. After our walk through the market we continue on to the gilded Shwezigon Pagoda. This important religious site dates to the reign of King Anawrahta, founder of the Bagan Empire. Alternatively, explore Bagan at your own leisure or enjoy a splendid optional excursion – an early morning hot air balloon flight. This afternoon we sail to Hnaw Gone village for a leisurely walk through a typical river village. (B, L, D)

Day 10 Yandabo. This morning we arrive at Yandabo, a picturesque village famous for its pottery and for being the place where the peace

treaty of the First Anglo-Burmese war was signed on 24 February 1826. As we take a leisurely walk through the village, we can witness the making and firing of the Yandabo pottery in family homes and workshops. (B, L, D)

Day 11 Ava & Amarapura. This morning we explore Ava by horse-cart visiting the beautiful 200 year old teak Bagaya Kyaung Monastery, Nanmyin watchtower at 27-metres high and the Yadana Hsemee pagoda complex. After lunch, we drive to the penultimate Burmese royal capital (1783) of Amarapura to visit a silk workshop. Next we continue on to visit the U-Bein Bridge, believed to be the world's longest and oldest teak wood bridge. Local sampans will take us on a leisurely cruise of the lake while admiring the sunset over the bridge. (B, L, D)

Day 12 Mingun & Mandalay. After breakfast we visit the small town of Mingun to see the famous King Bodawpaya's monument, an uncompleted stupa. We continue our walk to the Mingun Bell, which was the heaviest working bell in the world until 2000. There will be some time at leisure to explore the small local market on the way back to the ship. After lunch, we visit Shwe Nan Daw Kyaung Monastery, the only original monastery left from the royal era. We then proceed to a workshop that



The Irrawaddy

produces the gold leaf commonly used to adorn Buddha images at temples throughout Myanmar, and the Mahamuni Pagoda, to see how the gold leaf is used. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner with your fellow travellers. (B, L, D)

Day 13 Mandalay. Disembark after breakfast and enjoy a guided tour of Mandalay, the former Royal capital of Burma. Our tour will include Mandalay Hill where spiraling staircases lead to sweeping views of the city and its temples. Nearby, we will visit

Kuthodaw Paya, which contains the world's biggest book. After lunch in a local restaurant we transfer to the Mercure Mandalay Hill hotel for an overnight stay. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure with dinner under your own arrangements. (B, L)

Day 14 Mandalay to London Heathrow. After breakfast, check out and transfer to the airport for the scheduled indirect flight to London. (B)

Day 15 London Heathrow. Arrive this morning.

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
4	Maugham Suite twin with French Balcony	£5595	£5095
3	Orwell Suite twin with Balcony	£5795	£5295
2	Kipling Suite with King sized bed with Balcony	£6095	£5595
1	Mandalay Suite with King sized bed with Balcony	£6395	£5895
4	Maugham Suite twin with French Balcony for sole use	£7795	£7295
3	Orwell Suite twin with Balcony for sole use	£8095	£7595

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Two nights hotel accommodation in Yangon • Nine nights aboard the RV Irrawaddy Explorer • Meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D- Dinner) • Drinks with meals (wine is only included with dinner) • Overnight hotel accommodation in Mandalay • Cruise Director & Noble Caledonia Tour Manager • Excursions with local English speaking guides • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

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

POST-CRUISE INLE LAKE EXTENSION

29th January to 2nd February & 6th to 10th March 2021

Inle Lake



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. Travel by local long-tail boat to the Villa Inle Resort & Spa, a 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.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 Mandalay to Inle Lake. After breakfast take a short flight to Heho. Upon arrival, we drive to Nyaung Shwe, the gateway to Inle Lake, a tranquil lake surrounded by mountains. We make a brief stop at Shwe Yan Pyay Monastery, a charming red painted teak monastery which was built in 19th century. We continue with a visit to Red Mountain winery, to explore the vineyard and enjoy wine tasting and lunch. We travel by local long-tail boat to the Villa Inle Resort & Spa, for a three night stay. Enjoy dinner at the hotel this evening. (B, L, D)

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. We also have the chance to see the ingenious one-legged rowing technique used by local fishermen. We will stop for lunch this afternoon to taste traditional local produce. After lunch, we continue to visit Phaungdawoo Pagoda and the famous NgaPheKyaung Monastery. Enjoy dinner at the hotel this evening. (B, L, D)

Day 3 Inle Lake. Spend the day at leisure to explore independently or relax at your lakeside resort. (B)

Day 4 Inle Lake to Yangon to London Heathrow. After breakfast, we fly from Heho to Yangon and continue with the international indirect scheduled flight to London Heathrow. (B)

Day 5 London Heathrow. Morning arrival.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£1095** Single: **£1395**

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel from Heho to Yangon, three nights accommodation at the Villa Inle Resort & Spa, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D- Dinner), excursions with local English speaking guides, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visa.



RV IRRAWADDY EXPLORER

For this exploration of Myanmar we have chartered the 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 33 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 (all cabins feature showers except

for the Mandalay Suite which features a shower and bathtub). Bottled water is replenished daily in the suites and there is a welcome flower arrangement and fresh fruit upon arrival. In addition, guests in the Mandalay Suites will have the added advantage of a complimentary, one-hour spa treatment and complimentary laundry.

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 utilising all-natural products are also available while enjoying the serenity of the passing landscape. There is a small fitness centre with panoramic views 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.

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 onboard 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

Your Dining

The Restaurant seats all passengers in one sitting and is located on the Colonial Deck. With a cuisine as diverse as the



Mandalay Suite



Writer's Lounge



Sun deck



Dining room

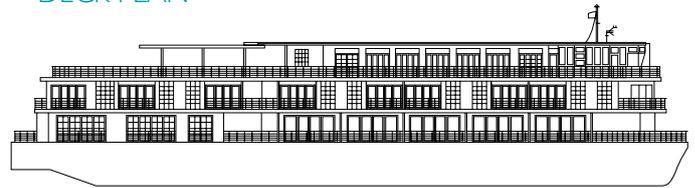


Spa

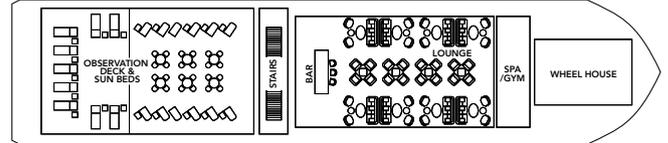
region, the Culinary Director has innovatively created a menu which highlights the diverse cuisine of Myanmar, as well as Western favourites that will be reflected in sumptuous buffets and artfully prepared, multi-course dinners. Complimentary coffee, water, tea,

soft drinks, local beer and free flow house wine (wine with dinner only) are also offered. 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.

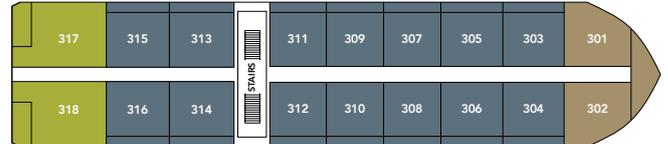
DECK PLAN



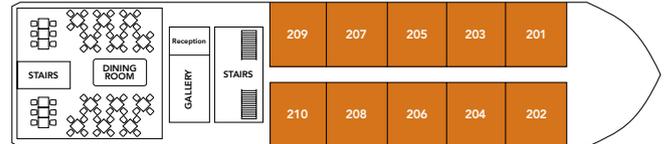
SUN DECK



IMPERIAL DECK



COLONIAL DECK



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



Maugham Suite



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