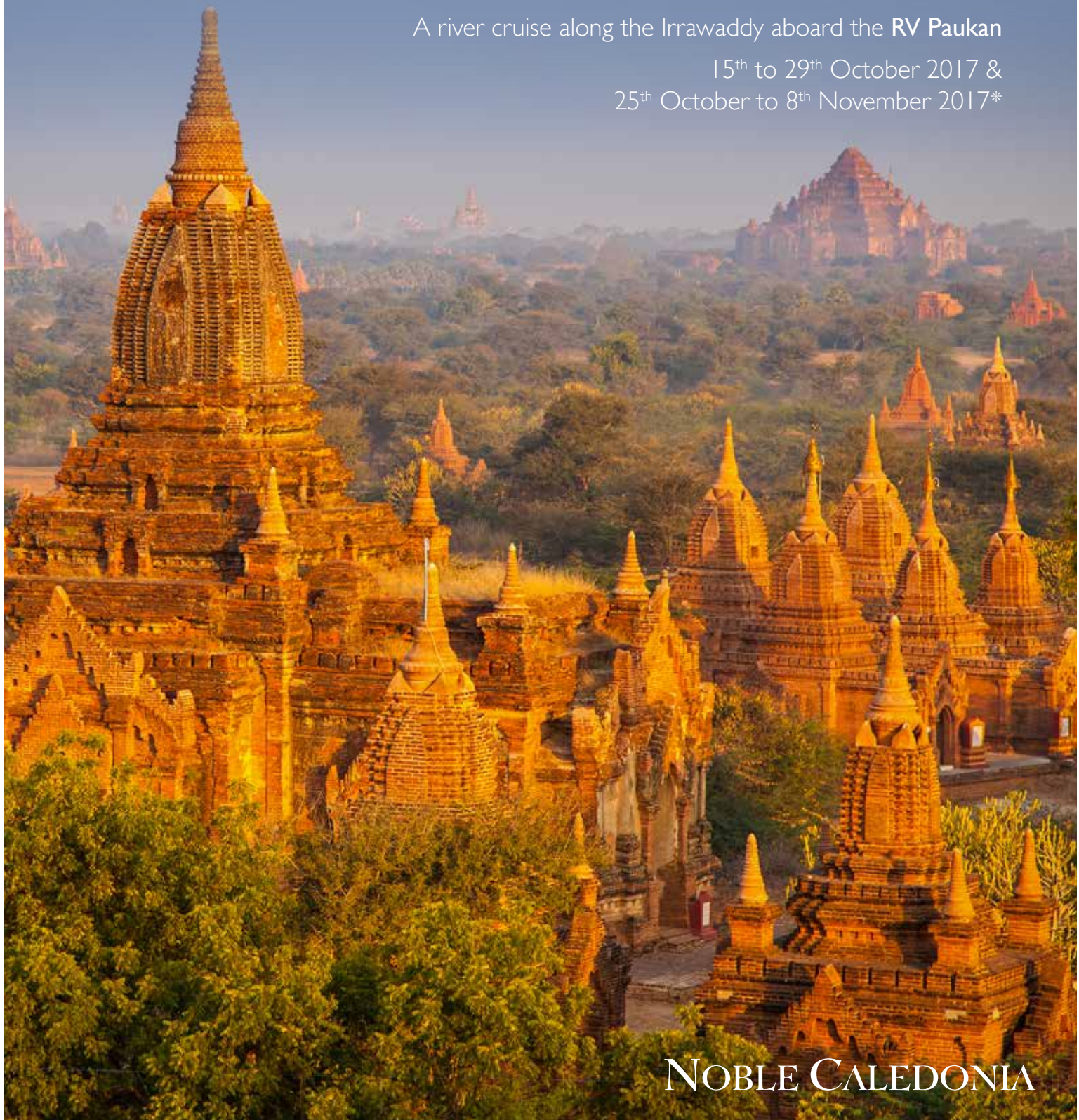


SPECIAL  
OFFER - SAVE  
**£500**  
PER PERSON

# WONDERS OF MYANMAR & THE UPPER IRRAWADDY

A river cruise along the Irrawaddy aboard the **RV Paukan**

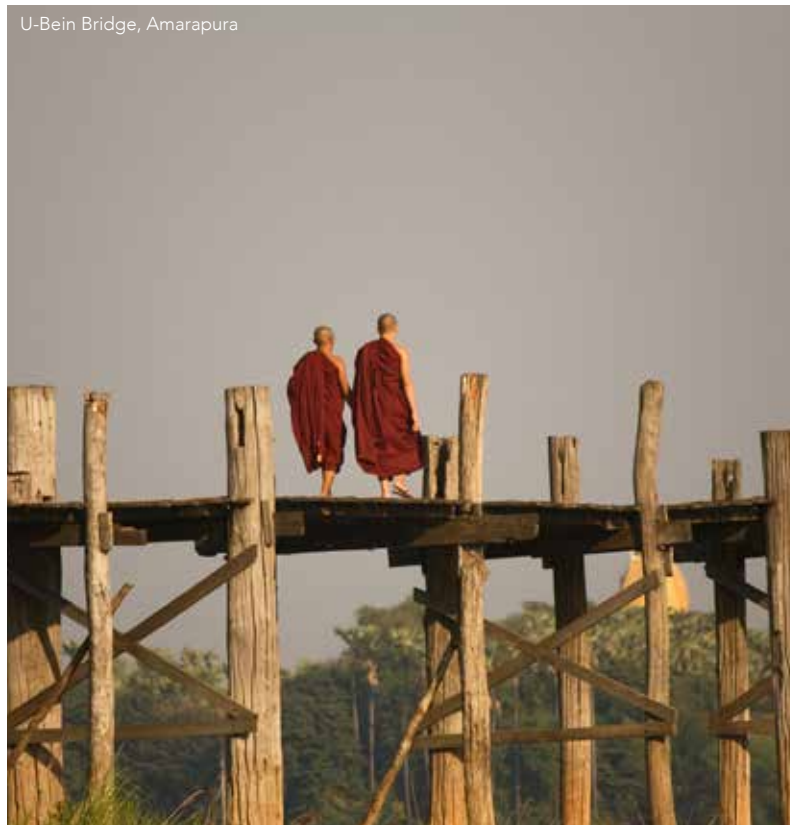
15<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October 2017 &  
25<sup>th</sup> October to 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017\*



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Shwedagon Pagoda



U-Bein Bridge, Amarapura

“This is Burma, and it will be quite unlike any land you know about,” wrote Rudyard Kipling in 1889 and his observation still holds true today. It 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.

Some of the greatest experiences of our journey will be simply witnessing everyday life, rituals and routines of the people and encountering their great charm and natural warmth but there is also a varied range of cultural sites to be discovered. In bustling Yangon, known as the ‘City of Peace’, we will visit the impressive reclining Buddha and the sacred Golden Pagoda which overlooks the city. We will also visit Mandalay, known as the ‘Gem City’, and Amarapura, the penultimate Burmese Royal capital (1783), to visit the U-Bein Bridge where we will enjoy a sampan cruise. At the monastery in Kya Hnyat we will present alms to the monks and in Katha we visit a local market selling fresh fruits, nuts, fish, flowers, wood carvings, and fabrics. Sail through the spectacular second defile with its magnificent cliffs as the river narrows before reaching Bhamo, the northernmost point that ships can navigate the river, and the end to our cruise. For those wishing to explore this captivating country further we are offering an extension to the wonderful Inle Lake region.



## 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 Shwe Pyi Thar.** After breakfast enjoy a walking tour through Shwe Pyi Thar, a typical village along the banks of the Irrawaddy. Here you will see the locals making palm candy, a sweet and smoky candy, from the sap of the toddy palm. To harvest the sap, a climber scales the toddy palm and hangs an earthen pot under a slit he cuts in the tree. The sap is then cooked in an iron pan over an open wood fire until it thickens and can be formed into small pieces 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 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

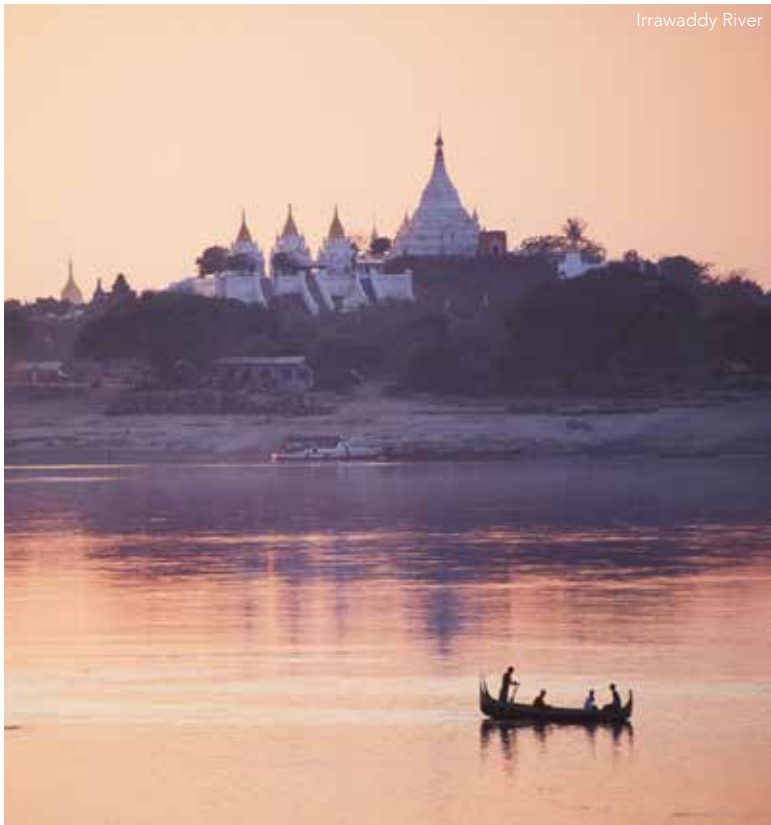
how they are formed, fired, and glazed. Most interesting is the eye-catching 50-gallon variety, often referred to as Martaban or Ali Baba jars in colonial times. These pots could transport large quantities of liquor, fish sauce, peanut oil, and more, and have played an important part of maritime trade 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 don 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.

Irrawaddy River



**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 local trishaw and foot. We then transfer to Bhamo airport for your flight to Yangon. Upon arrival into Yangon, depending on flight schedules, enjoy lunch 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

**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.

**NB.** Ports and itinerary subject to change.

Padogas of Buddhist monastery, Inle lake



## 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 your 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.



## 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.

### 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.

### 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.



Fresh Coconut.



Upper Deck suite



Upper Deck cabin



Main Deck cabin



Sun Deck

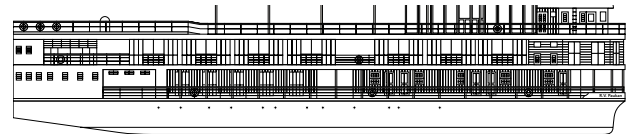


Bar



Dining Room

## DECK PLAN



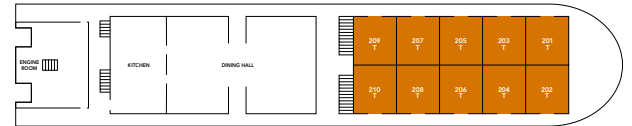
### SUN DECK



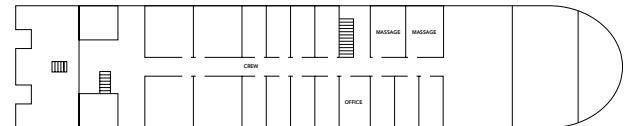
### UPPER DECK



### MAIN DECK



### LOWER DECK



■ CATEGORY 1 ■ CATEGORY 2 ■ CATEGORY 3

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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: Ancient temples and pagodas of Bagan.