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RV Orient Pandaw

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Pandaw River Cruises

Mandalay Pagan Packet - BURMA

8 days / 7 nights departing 07 March – 15 March, 2020

Twin Share from \$2733.00 per person

SOLO TRAVELLER from \$2733 per person **NO SOLO SUPPLEMENT**

Overview

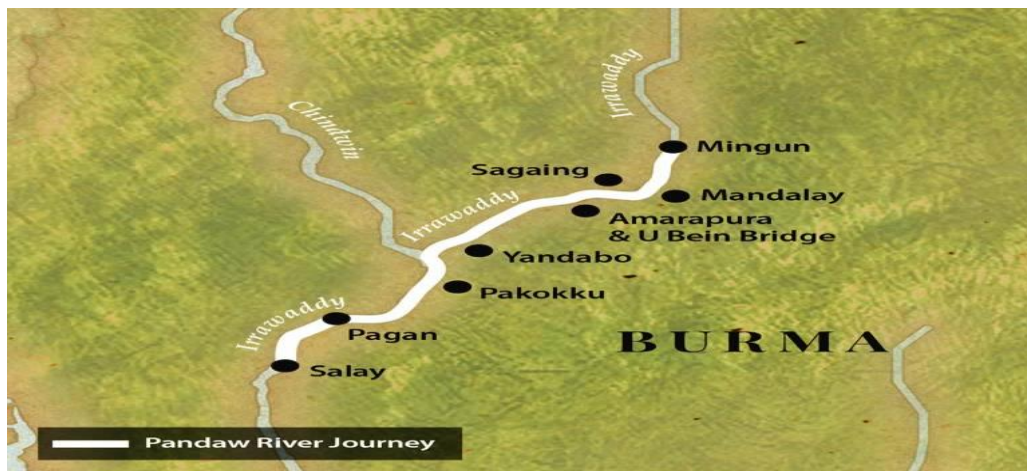
Burma (Myanmar) is a land of rivers. Not just the **Irrawaddy river**, navigable for 1000 miles, or its main tributary the **Chindwin river**, navigable for 600 miles, but other rivers too.

The Salween river is actually the longest river in Burma. The Kaladan system in the Arakan contains a thousand hundred miles of navigable waterway. The Great **Irrawaddy Delta**, with its seven main channels and several hundred lesser ones, is a vast water-world covering over 10,000 square miles.

In Burma for over one thousand years nearly all movement of people and goods, not to mention invaders, have travelled by river. In British colonial times the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company launched 1,200 vessels and became the largest fleet of privately owned ships in the world, ever.

Still to this day, despite the construction of railways in colonial times or roads in more recent times, the rivers remain key to transportation and for the traveller the only way to see the country. Like the Nile in Egypt, nearly all the vestiges of past Burmese dynasties are sited along the banks as are the great Buddhist sanctuaries, the most famous of which is **Pagan** (Bagan).

Cruise by floating markets and get to know the Delta inhabitants water-based lives. See children riding on the backs of water buffalo, verdant rice paddies filled with workers in conical hats and a range of water going vessels plying the narrow waterways. Shop for anything from clothes to fruit and souvenirs to spring rolls all from the side of your luxurious river cruise ship.



DAY 1 MANDALAY Transfer from the airport to the ship for lunch followed by excursion to Mandalay which is not only the country's second largest city but also the religious centre of Burmese culture.

The excursion starts with a visit to Mahamuni Buddha Image, one of the most important pilgrimage sites in Myanmar. The statue was brought here in 1785 by King Bodawpaya after the invasion of the Arakan Kingdom in 1784. To pay respect to the Buddha image, male devotees apply gold leaf to the image. As a result, the Mahamuni Buddha Image has been covered with a thick layer of gold leaf (about 15 cm). The walk continues along the street renowned for its marble carvers.

Continue to Shwe Kyaung (Golden Palace Monastery) which was built in 1857 and was originally part of the royal palace before it was moved to the present site in 1879. Explore UNESCO listed Kuthodaw Pagoda, with the world's biggest book. It accommodates 729 marble slabs engraved with the Buddha's Parli Scriptures housed in shrines. After the gold leaf hammering workshop, stop by the moat surrounding the Royal Palace for a great photo opportunity with a backdrop of Mandalay Hill. Moor overnight at Sagaing.

DAY 2 MINGUN - SAGAING - AMARAPURA Set sail to Mingun for a morning walking tour around the unfinished stupa built by Amarapura's King Bodawpaya in 1790 which was intended to be the world's largest stupa but remained unfinished since 1808 and also visit the world's largest ringing bell. In the afternoon, drive up to the top of Sagaing Hill and admire the bird's eye view over the Irrawaddy river curving around Sagaing city from SoonU Ponnya Shin hill top-pagoda. Later an introduction to the Buddhist nuns' way of life at a nunnery.

Drive to Amarapura, a former capital (initially from 1783 to 1819 and subsequently from 1839 to 1852). Visit a silk and cotton weaving workshop, Amarapura's major business. At sunset take a local boat on Taungthaman lake at U Bein Bridge, the world's longest teak bridge. Moor overnight at Sagaing.

DAY 3 YANDABO Explore Yandabo village, famous for its production of terracotta pottery from the river bank clay. This village is well-known as the place where the first Anglo-Burmese war ended by the peace treaty signed in 1826. Morning walking tour and a visit to a pottery workshop to see first-hand the production process. This is a hands-on experience which you are welcome to try. Visit the Pandaw supported Yandabo School (if no school holidays). Moor overnight at Shwe Tan Tit village.

DAY 4 PAKOKKU - AYARDAW Explore Pakokku, experiencing the local market and town centre by Tuk Tuk. Sail to the Ayardaw charity clinic supported by Pandaw. Afternoon walk around the village. Pakokku is a city of about 100,000 inhabitants located 30 km from Pagan. Main produce are tobacco, cotton, peanuts, Thanatkha (traditional make-up and sun lotion) and textiles. Visit Pakokku's main market by Tuk Tuk. Stop at a cheroot workshop and discover how traditional cheroot cigars are made. Moor overnight at Tant Chi village.

DAY 5 TANT-CHI-TAUNG - SALAY

Drive up the winding road of the Tant-Chi-Taung mountain to visit the hill top stupa. On the way back, watch a traditional paper-mache elephant dance performed by the villagers from Tant-Chi. Sail to Salay, a small town which was once a bustling trading port, now a sleepy village filled with colonial architectural treasures and timeless teak monasteries. Walk from the ship to Yoke-Sone Kyaung, the best-known teak carved monastery in Burma, stopping at Salay House on return. Moor overnight at Salay.

DAY 6 SALAY - PAGAN

Morning cruise upstream from Salay to Pagan to explore its many temples. The first temple visited is Ananda, known as the finest temple in Pagan in terms of ancient architecture, built in AD 1105 by King Kyansit Thar, the third king of Pagan dynasty. Explore the high standard of Pagan craftsmanship including niches with statues, glazed plaques, the standing Buddha statues and murals. Next stop is Myingabar Gubyaukgyi temple built in AD 1113 by Prince Rajakumar, son of King Kyansit Thar. Discover the well-preserved murals which also depict typical day-to-day life in Pagan.

End the day with a walk through Phwar Saw Village; a small village with just over 500 inhabitants situated between New Pagan and Nyaung U airport. It was named after the very famous and influential queen for three consecutive Kings in Pagan's late 13th century. The villagers rely on bean and pea farming, breeding cattle and producing small lacquerware handicrafts. A short stroll in the village under the shimmering sunshine in the late afternoon is the perfect way to capture the villagers' way of life including fetching water, herding cattle back home and preparing for dinner. Moor overnight Pagan.

DAY 7 PAGAN

Further exploration of Pagan and visit a lacquerware workshop. Visit to Shwe San Daw stupa, one of only a few monuments allowing travellers to climb it, gaining a 360-degree view over the pagoda-studded plain. The next visit is to Shwe Zi Gone Pagoda, built in AD 1086 and believed to enshrine a hair relic of the Buddha. Before returning to the ship for lunch, take a stroll around the Khay Min Ga pagoda complex to learn about the different architectural styles: Indian, Sri Lankan, Myanmar-Mon hybrid and Myanmar. In the afternoon, visit a Lacquerware workshop to explore the process of making lacquer handicrafts which is the specialty craft of Pagan. Continue to the unique Payathonezu, three inter-connected temples with a narrow passage built in the late 13th century.

End the day with a visit to Dhamayangyi from AD 1170, the widest and largest temple in Pagan. Watch the sunset from the top of Taung Guni temple before returning to the ship. Moor overnight Pagan.

DAY 8 PAGAN By 0900am disembark in Pagan and transfer to either hotel or airport.

Included in your cruise

- Welcome cocktail party
- All meals on board
- Signature hors d'oeuvres at cocktails each evening
- Afternoon tea with cakes or cookies when cruising
- Celebration cake and champagne on birthdays and anniversaries
- Cookery demonstrations and classes using local produce
- All scheduled excursions
- At least two cultural performances per cruise
- Tour of the engine rooms, galley and working parts of the ship
- Film presentations on local culture and history
- Local mineral water on board
- Cold towels on deck all day
- Jugged coffee, tea and tisanes on deck from sunrise till sunset
- Airport or hotel transfers to/from ship on Day 1 and Day 8.
- Entrance fees, guide services (English language),
- Gratuities to crew, main meals, local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes.

Cruise Price Excludes:

- International flights
- Port dues (if levied)
- Laundry
- Travel insurance – Ask for quote.
- All visa costs,
- Fuel surcharges (see terms and conditions)
- All beverages except local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes and
- Gratuities to tour guides, local guides, bus drivers, boat operators and cyclo drivers.

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