



**KIPLING & CLARK**  
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*family* LUXURY EXPEDITIONS

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KIPLING & CLARK *family* LUXURY EXPEDITION ITINERARY  
BURMA EXTENSION -9 DAYS



100 years ago Rudyard Kipling visited Burma and “thought it quite unlike any land you know about.”

Notwithstanding its politics, we still feel Burma to be among our favorite places in all of Asia. Bev, Zen and I all agree that the Burmese people are among the most handsome and kind-hearted people in all of Asia.

Burma is described as a product of times past – an endearing, leisurely charm and innocence that was perhaps pervasive throughout S.E. Asia fifty years ago. Unlike the rest of Asia, however, Burma has remained reclusive, especially since the military junta imposed its rule over the country in 1988.

Due in part to Burma’s self-imposed isolation, Western influence, particularly the grittier commercial aspects, are not to be found here. You will see few Burmese dressed in Western garb and you will see no Starbucks or McDonalds here.

Similar to other Southeast Asian countries, Burma is a land of little smiling faces. We are particularly drawn to the young Burmese women displaying their *thanaka* applied faces. *Thanaka*, a type of sandalwood paste, is used as a beauty mark as well as a sun protector for many Burmese children and young women.(RL)

Please be respectfully reminded that Burma is quite underdeveloped compared to other parts of Asia. Even at the very best hotels, the plumbing and general upkeep is challenging. However, the warm smiles and kindness extended to you be these very generous and peaceful people more than compensate.

Among our favorite sites and activities are the amazing **Shwedagon Pagoda** in Yangon, hot air ballooning over the many stupas of historical Bagan and cruising the Irrawaddy River, historic Mandalay and the lush, green Inle Lake. (RL)





## DAY 1: ARRIVE YANGON – HEHO (INLE LAKE)

Arrive in Yangon, the capital of Myanmar (Burma). You will be privately transferred into town for lunch at an interesting local restaurant.

After lunch you will transfer back to the airport for your flight to Heho.

Upon arrival at Heho, you will be met and transferred to **Nyaung Shwe Village** where you take a thirty minute long boat ride (this is most fun!) to Inle Princess Resort, situated on Inle Lake and surrounded by the Shan Hills. The entire airport / village / hotel transportation process take about 1 ½ hours.

Although somewhat dated, Bev, Zen and I feel the **Inle Princess Resort** is the best hotel in the area. Made up of 46 Shan-style wooden chalets, the staff and service here is most heart warming. The resort's gardens and surrounding islands are lush, green and most welcoming. The sunsets here are beyond beautiful!

Inle Lake on the Shan Plateau is an oasis where you will see the unique methods of farming and fishing which sustain the local residents. Fishing is done by means of a conical trap containing a net that the fisherman thrusts to the bottom of the lake when they see movement. All this is done while the fisherman perches tenuously on the boat stern with one foot and twists his other leg

around a long oar that he uses to propel the boat!

Later in the day you will enjoy the **Ngapechaung Monastery** (Jumping Cat Monastery). This wooden monastery, built on stilts over the lake, got its name from the monks who used to train their cats to jump through small hoops. You may still see this performed during your visit!

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch  
Overnight: Inle Princess Resort*

## DAY 2: INLE LAKE

Full-day private touring, including the following options:

Begin your day with a visit to the **Five-Day Market** – a rotating market that changes locations every five days and is where the local hill tribes come to buy and sell their goods. Items range from hand-made crafts to produce grown on the floating gardens.

We feel the ikat-style silk weaving industry at **Inn Paw Khone Village** is most interesting!

Lunch will be served at a local restaurant.

Although somewhat touristy, **Nampan Village** best exemplifies traditional village life on the lake and is a good chance for you to experience local Burmese life.

In the afternoon, you will cruise through a lushly forested river

to visit the old **Shwe Indein**, an impressive and thankfully unrestored collection of ancient Shan style stupas. At the top there is a stunning view out across the lake and beyond, to the hills in the east and of the rolling countryside to the west.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch  
Overnight: Inle Princess Resort*

## DAY 3: HEHO (INLE LAKE) - MANDALAY

After breakfast, you will be privately transferred to the airport for your flight to Mandalay.

Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to the Sedona Hotel Mandalay.

Mandalay is perhaps the most Burmese of all Myanmar's large cities. It stands as the one of the country's major cultural centers – nearly 60% of all monks in Myanmar reside in Mandalay.

In the afternoon, you will visit **Shwenandaw Monastery**. This monastery is significant not only as a fine example of traditional Burmese carpentry but as a fragile reminder of the old Mandalay fort. The building is covered inside and out with carved panels.

You may also visit **Mandalay Hill**. Rising over 700 feet above its surroundings, Mandalay Hill is the site where British and Indian troops suffered heavy casualties fighting the Japanese stronghold in March of 1945. Today, there remains only the



regimental insignia near the hill's summit. Two main stairways ascend from the south, under the glare of the ever-present, white chintzes which demand the removal of shoes before entering ground.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch*  
*Overnight: Sedona Mandalay Hotel*

#### DAY 4: MANDALAY

After breakfast at the hotel, you will be privately transferred to board **RV Paukan 1947 Cruise**.

The Irrawaddy River flows 2000 km. down through the center of Burma and is considered the lifeline of the country, nourishing the farmlands and allowing the easy transportation of goods.

We have cruised on both the *Road to Mandalay* and the *RV Paukan 1947* vessels. Although the Road to Mandalay offers 5-star luxury unmatched by any hotel in Burma, it seems incongruous and pretentious relative to the pristine and underdeveloped waters it navigates. We feel the *RV Paukan 1947* to be an overall more enjoyable cruise experience without sacrificing a great deal on the luxury side.

Also, the *RV Paukan 1947* has a more shallow draft; therefore you are able to visit less accessible village areas that cannot be accessed through the larger, more ponderous *Road to Mandalay* vessel. During our

last cruise on the Pandaw, the two village stopovers were among the most interesting highlights of our entire Burma trip (RL)

*Meals: Breakfast*  
*Overnight: Aboard the RV Paukan 1947*

#### DAY 5: RV PAUKAN CRUISE 1947 - MANDALAY/SAGAING

Early in the morning cruise downstream. During the 2 hours journey the passengers can admire the natural beauty of the river and the life of its banks while relaxing on the sundeck or just sitting outside their own cabin. Enjoy the sunrise over Sagaing Hill.

After breakfast passengers can go ashore to visit Sagaing with the assistance of their own guide.

#### DAY 6: RV PAUKAN CRUISE 1947 - SAGAING/BAGAN

Early in the morning you will precede downstream to Bagan. After breakfast (if time permits) we will visit another river village.

Bagan is to Burma what Angkor Wat is to Cambodia. It is one of the richest archeological sites in Asia—over 2,000 pagodas, stupas, temples, and monasteries were built during the Bagan Dynasty in 1044 AD.

Temples of special note are **Shwesan-daw, Loka-hteik-pan, Suni-mani, Dhammayam-gyi, and Shwe-zigon**. Similar to our advice when touring Angkor, we recommend visiting these sites during specific times of the day based on the sunlight and avoidance of peak-crowd times.

Consistent with other areas in Southeast Asia, we try to plan our client's trips during Full Moon dates. If traveling to Bagan in January during a Full Moon weekend, you would catch the local and lively **Anadan festival**.

The **Thiripyitsaya Sanctuary Resort** is located on the banks of the mighty Irrawaddy River overlooking 800 years of history. Once a Government VIP guest hotel, the Thiripyitsaya is now a collection of 70 bungalow rooms amid a beautiful setting of tropical gourds. Although we feel this is the very best non-government hotel in Bagan, the rooms are dated and not really deserving of a 5 star status. Nevertheless, as with other hotels in Burma, the service here is heartfelt and sincere.

In the afternoon you have the option of taking a horse cart ride to the **Anada Temple**. Built in 1090 AD it is the best-preserved temple in Bagan. It has four great golden Buddha statues, and within the temple grounds is the Anada Oakaung. The well preserved remains of the Anada Oakaung are a monastery complex with mural



decorated walls depicting Burmese life from the 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries.

End your day at the cylindrical stupa of **Shwesandaw Pagoda**, looking out from the upper terrace to see the sun set over the plain. The temple has five square terraces topped with a pagoda bell rising from two octagonal bases. As one of the tallest monuments in Bagan, Shwesandaw Pagoda offers some of the best views at sunset.

#### OPTIONAL HOT AIR BALLOON RIDE OVER BAGAN

The sunrise hot air balloon ride is an experience that is NOT TO BE MISSED! This flight is ranked among the best in the world! Due to its big popularity, this must be booked many months in advance.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*  
*Overnight: Thiripyitsaya Sanctuary Resort*

#### DAY 7: BAGAN

There is an optional excursion to **Mount Popa**. In 442 BC an earthquake rocked through central Myanmar, and from out of the barren Myingyan plains rose Mount Popa. Volcanic ash on the mountain slopes gradually became fertile soil and the peak blossomed with flowers of many colors (Popa is the Sanskrit word for “flower”)

For the inhabitants of the surrounding regions, the “sugar-

loaf” peak became regarded as the home of the gods—the Mount Olympus of Myanmar. Alchemists and occultists made their home on the mountain slopes and others were convinced mythical beings lived in the woods among the flowers, so it was a matter of course when Mount Popa became the focus of the national nat worship and the official home of the Mahagirl Nats during the reign of King Thinlikyang in Bagan.

In the afternoon you will visit **Myinkaba village** and later proceed to **Nanpaya Temple**.

Nanpaya’s masonry, as well as its interior design, is outstanding. It reflects the strong Brahman influence that affected the Theravada Mon kings. Do take note of the relief of the god Brahma. There are three faces that can be discerned, all of which have the typical facial features of Mon. These are said to be representations of King Manuha.

In the evening, enjoy a sunset cruise on the Irrawaddy River.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*  
*Overnight: Thiripyitsaya Sanctuary Resort*

#### DAY 8: BAGAN-YANGON

Following breakfast you will be transferred to Bagan Airport for your flight to Yangon. Upon arrival in Yangon, you will be

privately transferred to the **Governor’s Residence**. The Governor’s Residence is located on the Royal Lake in the center of Yangon. Standing on the private grounds of the Embassy Quarter of Yangon, it is a renovated teak mansion in the colonial style. Teak and cotton, blending with local artifacts underline the hotel’s dedication to authenticity and local style. It is built and lawn-lined with trees and accentuated by a traditional lotus garden. The mansion is completed by detailed architecture along with wooden furniture. Based on the many years of international sanctions and Burma’s undeveloped economy, the facilities here are dated, although clean.

That being said, we consider the Governor’s Residence, along with the **Strand** as the two finest hotels in Yangon.

Yangon private touring options include: **National Museum, Scott Market, the Reclining Buddha Pagoda** and, of course, the **Shwedagon Pagoda**.

The Shwedagon Pagoda is an architectural masterpiece. This golden fantasy of gilded stupas, serene Buddhas and mythical beasts is said to be 2500 years old. According to legend, eight hairs of the last Buddha are enshrined within. On the outside, the stupa is plated with 8,688 solid gold slabs. The tip of the stupa is set with 5,448 diamonds and 2,317 rubies, along with sapphires and topaz. A huge emerald sits in the



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middle to catch the first and last rays of the sun.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch,  
Dinner  
Overnight: Governor's  
Residence Hotel*

#### DAY 9: DEPART YANGON FOR U.S. VIA BANGKOK

Breakfast at the hotel followed by private transfer to Yangon Airport for your departure flight to Bangkok.

— END OF SERVICES —



*For more information or to  
book your customized journey,  
please contact:*

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