

# CRUISE THE IRRAWADDY MANDALAY PASSAGE

MANDALAY, A NINE-NIGHT IRRAWADDY RIVER CRUISE & YANGON

**March 15-30, 2017**

**From \$4,695**

VAT is an additional \$199 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include the AHI FlexAir (unless otherwise stated). Single accommodations are an additional cost (limited availability).

Myanmar, formally Burma, humbly parades a wealth of fascinating traditions, enlightening cultural gems and warm, generous locals. As you journey into the heart of the Golden Land, delight in a landscape where gilded pagodas and crumbling stupas pepper rice fields and majestic monasteries claim mountaintop perches. Wander through craft markets; sightsee while riding in whimsical horse carts, oxcarts and trishaws; and immerse yourself in a country where everyday life is influenced by its mystical Buddhist faith. Journey along the Irrawaddy River, a significant passageway that provided transportation during the country's tea and teakwood trade. Along the way, discover Myanmar's fascinating past and learn how the country is tiptoeing toward an optimistic future.



## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **A uniquely designed itinerary** provides exceptional opportunities to experience the history, culture and traditions of **Myanmar**.
- Explore the cultural heart of Myanmar in **Yangon**.
- **Cruise the Irrawaddy River** aboard the deluxe, exclusively chartered **Irrawaddy Explorer**.
- Discover the secrets of Thayekhittaya, one of the **Pyu Ancient Cities**, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- Learn about religion in Myanmar during visits to **ancient temples, pagodas and stupas**.
- Visit **artisans' workshops** to see weavers, lacquerware makers and furniture makers practice their craft.
- Delight in **brehtaking hilltop vistas** and ruby-tinged sunsets.
- Watch a lively **dance and theatre performance** aboard the ship.

## INCLUDED FEATURES

### Accommodations

- **One night** in Mandalay at the first-class **Mandalay Hill Resort Hotel**.
- **Nine nights** aboard the all-suite, deluxe **Irrawaddy Explorer**.
- **Two nights** in Yangon, Myanmar, at the deluxe **Sule Shangri-La**.

### Transportation

- All deluxe motor coach transfers in the Land/Cruise Program itinerary and baggage handling on these transfers are included.

### Activities and Events

- **Informative educational programs** presented by **local experts** will enhance your insight into the region.
- **All excursions** as outlined in your program itinerary.
- **Personal VOX listening device** to hear every word from your expert English-speaking guides.
- Attend two **Welcome Receptions** and **Dinners**.
- Gather for two **Farewell Dinners**.

### Extensive Meal Program

- Enjoy 12 breakfasts, 10 lunches and 11 dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Sample **authentic regional specialties** during select meals at featured local restaurants.
- Take advantage of leisure time to try the local cuisine independently.

## MANY INCLUDED EXTRAS

- Consultation services of a dedicated **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of an experienced **Travel Director** throughout your stay.
- **Tipping** of excursion guides and drivers.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in planning.
- Complimentary travel wallet.

## DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

### DAYS 1 & 2~ IN TRANSIT

Depart for Yangon, Myanmar.† Cross the international date line.

† Provided for AHI FlexAir participants.

### DAY 3 ~ MANDALAY, MYANMAR

Upon arrival, transfer† to the Mandalay Hill Resort and Spa.

Tonight, attend a Welcome Reception and Dinner at the hotel.

### DAY 4 ~ MANDALAY/ AMARAPURA

**Excursion: Mandalay.** Visit Kuthodaw Paya, which contains the world's biggest book, see Mahamuni Pagoda and workshops of gold leaf. Embark the Irrawaddy Explorer.

**Excursion: Amarapura.** Visit the 16th-century Burmese royal capital, Amarapura, and delight in a sampan cruise and champagne toast.

Enjoy a Welcome Reception and Dinner followed by a traditional dance performance.

### DAY 5 ~ MINGUN/AVA

**Unfinished Pagoda and Ava.** Visit Mingun, the "Unfinished Pagoda." Continue to Ava to see the Bagaya Monastery, the Nanmyin watchtower and the Mei Nu Ok Kyaung Monastery.

### DAY 6 ~ MONYWA

**Excursion: Buddha Caves.** Visit the Hpowindaung and Shwebadaung Caves. Marvel at hundreds of Buddha statues and murals decorating the caverns. At Thanboddhay Pagoda, see more than 500,000 Buddha images.

### DAY 7 ~ YANDABO/SHWE PYI THAR

**Excursion: Yandabo.** Walk through this idyllic village famous for its pottery production. Visit a monastery and wander through Shwe Pyi Thar, a typical Irrawaddy village.

**Cultural Experience: Longyi and Thanaka.**

**Cultural Performance: Traditional Myanmar Puppet Show.**

### DAY 8 ~ BAGAN

**Excursion: Bagan.** Explore one of the world's richest archaeological sites where more than 2,000 pagodas spread across the plains. Ananda, built in 1105 CE, is one of Bagan's most famous temples.

### DAY 9 ~ BAGAN/TAN KYI MOUNTAIN

**Excursion: Village Life.** Explore Bagan's markets and visit wood carvers, furniture makers and other artisans in their workshops. Finish with a vista of Bagan from atop Tan Kyi Mountain.

### DAY 10 ~ SALAY

**Excursion: Salay.** Visit a 13th-century village to see teak monasteries and British colonial buildings.

**Educational Focus: From Early Innovators to Closed Society.**

**Cultural Event: Tea Leaf & Ginger.**

### DAY 11 ~ MAGWE

**Excursion: Magwe.** Visit Myat Than Lun Paya, a shining pagoda.

**Educational Focus: Myanmar - Past and Today.**

### DAY 12 ~ THAYETMYO/ THAYEKHITTAYA

**Excursion: Thayetmyo and Sri Ksetra.** Cruise along in a horse cart to explore Thayetmyo. Visit Myanmar's oldest golf course, a local market and the Sri Ksetra Museum. See artifacts and enjoy a tour of the excavation sites. Tonight, enjoy a Farewell Dinner.

### DAY 13 ~ PROME/YANGON

Disembark the Irrawaddy Explorer. Drive from Prome to Yangon and check in to the Sule Shangri-La.

### DAY 14 ~ YANGON

**Excursion: Shwedagon Pagoda and Monastery.** Visit Kalaywa Monastery and Shwedagon Pagoda, Myanmar's most sacred temple.

Enjoy a Farewell Dinner at a restaurant in a British colonial building.

### DAY 15 ~ IN TRANSIT

Transfer to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city.†

*NOTE: The information presented in this itinerary is preliminary. Itineraries, included features and schedules are subject to change. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking.*

### ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Available at an additional cost

**Bird's-Eye View of Bagan.** On Days 8 and 9, ride in a hot air balloon over Bagan. Gorgeous views await!

**Extend your trip: Inle Lake.** Get an intimate look at Inle Lake on this two-night extension. Explore the lake and its local villages and workshops. Visit a winery for a tasting and lunch.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

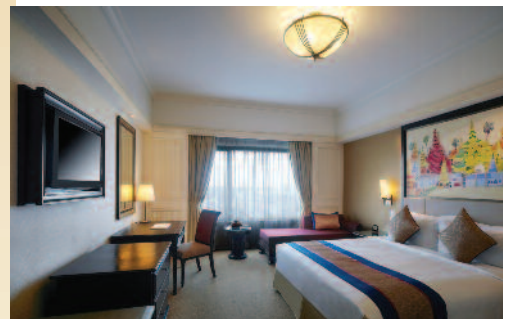
### MANDALAY HILL RESORT HOTEL

Take in a view of Mandalay Palace from this unique hotel located at the foot of Mandalay Hill. The hotel has beautiful grounds and gardens to explore. There is a spa, fitness center and swimming pool. Wi-Fi is complimentary.



### IRRAWADDY EXPLORER

The deluxe Irrawaddy Explorer is decorated in a style reminiscent of an elegant British colonial estate. With just 28 cabins, it offers a true small-ship experience. Enjoy gracious, impeccable service. The talented culinary team prepares world-class local and international cuisine featuring the best local ingredients. Wi-Fi is complimentary in public areas.



### SULE SHANGRI-LA

Located in the heart of Yangon, the Sule Shangri-La is near China Town and the Sule Pagoda. Enjoy exceptional service and a wide range of amenities, including a fitness center and an outdoor swimming pool. There also are two restaurants, a Peacock Lounge and Gallery Bar and a gourmet shop. Wi-Fi is complimentary.



Our mission is to provide you with the most up-to-date information at all times. While the information in this flier is correct at the time of creation, we encourage you to visit our website to ensure that you receive the most current information.