MYANMAR BY RIVER – MANDALAY TO RANGOON

Thursday 13 October - Thursday 27 October 2016

THE TOUR
What could be more enthralling than sailing down the Irrawaddy (now Ayeyarwady) River from Mandalay to Rangoon (now Yangon). A stop at Bagan where its 3000 gold-leaved pagoda is stunning in its majestic architecture. Connecting the entire country, the river is the backbone and is a vital means of trade, transport and income for the Burmese. It is also a biodiversity hotspot. You will observe the rhythms of life along this vital lifeline and find that people watching is as interesting as the landscape. Shore excursions will give you the chance to observe a variety of cottage industries, from the production of glazed earthenware pots to exquisitely woven textiles. Stopping at villages, markets, schools and monasteries offers a chance to interact with the local people and learn more about the country’s transition from Burma to Myanmar. Your Pandaw river ship exudes old world colonial charm while being comfortable and relaxed. A tour for pioneering travellers looking for new ground to explore.

PRE-TOUR MATERIAL
Newsletters will be sent out, describing in greater detail, expected weather conditions, clothing hints, health considerations, flight times, hotel information and a short list of recommended pre-tour readings.

VARIATIONS IN TRAVEL
You may wish to add pre- or post-travel arrangements, or perhaps upgrade to Business Class. Please contact Calder and Lawson Tours. Our contact details are listed at the end of this itinerary.

INCLUSIONS
- Economy class airfares (excluding taxes and fuel surcharges)
- 1 night in Singapore with breakfast northbound
- 1 night’s accommodation in Yangon pre-cruise, including breakfast
- Welcome dinner and farewell dinner
- 10 nights’ Pandaw Cruise in Main Deck Cabin including all meals and drinks
- 1 night’s accommodation in Yangon post-cruise, including breakfast
- All sightseeing as specified in the itinerary
- All tips for crew and local guides

PRICE
Ex Auckland
Twin Share per person
Main Deck NZ$12,200
Early bird price NZ$11,900

A NZ$300 early bird discount applies if you book and deposit for the tour by 30 March 2016

Single cabins are limited. Please contact us if you are interested in one of them)

GROUP SIZE
Minimum 10, Maximum 20
Thursday 13 October - New Zealand – Singapore. Depart today on a direct Singapore Airlines flight to Singapore. On arrival, we will be met and transferred to our Singapore hotel for an overnight stay. (Meals in flight)

Friday 14 - Singapore - Yangon. An early morning departure today for our flight to Yangon the capital city of Myanmar. On arrival we will be met and transferred to our overnight hotel, followed by a short excursion to downtown Yangon. This evening enjoy a welcome dinner. (B.D)

Saturday 15 - Cruising on the Pandaw - Upper Mandalay. After breakfast we will be transferred to the airport for the flight to Mandalay. Upon arrival we will be taken to the ship. After lunch on board, we will tour central Mandalay visiting the Mahamuni Pagoda the most revered in Myanmar to which pilgrims fix large quantities of gold leaf onto the golden-seated Buddha image. There has been so much gold leaf laid over the years that it is now difficult to make out the facial features. At Amarapura you will visit the Bagaya Kyaung Monastery which is built entirely from teak. Later cross the teakwood U Bein Bridge the longest teak bridge in the world (B.L.D)

Sunday 16 - Cruising on the Pandaw - Ava and Yandabo. This morning explore the ancient capitals of Ava and then cast off and cruise downstream to visit Yandabo. It is here in 1826 that the Yandabo peace treaty was signed, ending the Anglo-Burmese war which lasted almost two years. Here you will see the production of terracotta pottery made from river bank clay. Visit the Pandaw School and the new dispensary both built with past donations from Pandaw passengers. (B.L.D)

Monday 17 - Cruising on the Pandaw – Bagan. Bagan previously known as Pagan, capital of Burma from 1044 until 1287, is a World Heritage site of 42 square kilometres east of the Ayeyarwady River, and one of the most wondrous sights in Myanmar. During the kingdom’s height over 10,000 Buddhist temples, pagodas and monasteries were constructed in the Pagan plains alone. Still scattered across the plain, are almost 3,000 surviving monuments to proclaim the power of Burma’s first empire. After breakfast on board, we will depart for a visit to a selection of the finest and best preserved of the Bagan temples. Return to the ship for lunch and then mid-afternoon tour by coach to further explore the temples and enjoy the amazing views. On board tonight there will be a traditional puppet show. (B.L.D)

Tuesday 18 - Cruising on the Pandaw - Bagan - Tan chi Taung Mountain and Salé. First stop this morning is at Tan chi Taung to go ashore and ascend the mountain by foot or by WWII jeep, to enjoy the spectacular sunrise over Bagan. Continue cruising downstream to the small town of Salé. Visit a beautiful Teak Monastery with its extraordinary wood carvings and walk around the town to see some of the splendid colonial-style houses. (B.L.D)

Wednesday 19 - Cruising on the Pandaw – Magwe. Today visit the magnificent Mya-thalon Pagoda. Built with gold bricks, the Pagoda is linked to the river by winding covered stairways ascending the steep wooded river banks. The temple includes many interesting shrines within its precincts and is perched overlooking the river, commanding spectacular views of the Ayeyarwady. (B.L.D)

Thursday 20 - Cruising on the Pandaw - Minhla Forts. Today we will visit the two Italian built forts, Minhla and Gwechaung, constructed to keep the British at bay from Royal Myanmar. Both forts were captured by the British in the 3rd Anglo Burmese War of 1885. Gwechaung, the more impressive of the forts was captured from the rear before the Burmese could turn the guns around. Many of the buildings including the covered market date from this time. Enjoy a ride out to the countryside by a horse and cart. (B.L.D)

Friday 21 - Cruising on the Pandaw - Prome (Pyay) and the Ancient Pyu. Today visit the 5th - 8th century archaeological site of Thiri-ya-kittiya, the former ancient capital of the Pyu civilization and the earliest and most important archaeological site in Muangmar. Here we will visit the fascinating museum of early Buddhist artefacts and sculpture. End the day with dinner on board. (B.L.D)

Saturday 22 - Cruising on the Pandaw - A KaukTaung. Today stop at the famous A KaukTaung to explore the spectacular stone carvings on the cliff. (B.L.D)

Sunday 23 - Cruising on the Pandaw - Danupyu. We continue our exploration of Delta creeks and stop at Donabyu, another little known town with a busy port and bustling markets. Overnight onboard. (B.L.D)
Monday 24 - Cruising on the Pandaw - Twante  Sail along the Rangoon River and enter the Twante Canal, which connects the Yangon River with the Irrawaddy Delta. We stop on route at the Twante in the afternoon. Enter the Yangon river port. Overnight onboard (B.L.D)

Tuesday 25 – Yangon  This morning brings us to the end of our Pandaw Cruise. Transfers will be provided to our overnight Yangon hotel. The remainder of the day is free for you to explore, or perhaps visit Bogoyoke Aung San Market (formerly named Scotts Market) for some last minute shopping. Tonight, to end our Tour, we will enjoy a farewell dinner. (B.D)

Wednesday 26 - Yangon - Singapore - Auckland. This morning you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Singapore and on to Auckland. (B, meals in flight)

Thursday 27 - Arrive Auckland.

Calder & Lawson Tours reserves the right to change the tour price due to exchange rate fluctuations.

PLEASE SEE OUR REGISTRATION FORM AND READ OUR TERMS & CONDITIONS

This itinerary is dated 21 August 2015 and is subject to change. Contact Calder & Lawson Tours for updates.