

Gane & Marshall

TAILOR-MADE DESTINATIONS

Bagan and the Upper Irrawaddy

Upper Irrawaddy River Cruise visiting Bagan, Amarapura, Tagaung, Katha and Bhamo



This unique 11-day river cruise gives you the chance to explore the Upper Irrawaddy River between Mandalay and Katha. Departing from the ancient city of Bagan, near Mandalay, your cruise will take you along the Irrawaddy River and into remote Kachin state. Your cruise ends close to the Chinese border at Katha, a quiet colonial-era town and the former home of George Orwell. En-route, you'll find time to stop and explore remote riverside villages and little-visited religious sites. You will sail on the RV Kha Byoo, a new, shallow-draught ship built in 2014 with the express purpose of sailing on the upstream sections of the Irrawaddy River that are inaccessible to larger ships. Small and intimate, it has just ten cabins.

This cruise is operated by Pandaw River Expeditions, one of the only companies currently offering luxury cruises on the Upper Irrawaddy. Gane and Marshall can help you secure the best rates on this and other Pandaw cruises.

Your Financial Protection

All monies paid by you for the air holiday package shown [or flights if appropriate] are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 3145.

For more information see our booking terms and conditions.



Day 1 – Bagan

Your tour begins in the ancient city of Bagan, renowned for its stunning 1,000-year old pagodas. You will need to be at the dock by midday to board the RV Kha Byoo. Once on board and checked into your cabin, have lunch with the crew, followed by a short briefing about the journey ahead and a chance to meet the other passengers who will be sharing the journey with you.

This afternoon you'll explore Bagan on a guided tour, visiting its most prominent temples (there are some 3,000 in total!), such as the 11th-century Ananda, 12th-century Dhamayangyi, and the very early Nanpaya.

Return to the RV Kha Byoo for cast off at 5:30 this evening, shortly followed by dinner on board.

Day 2 – Yandabo

Continue along a busy stretch of the Upper Irrawaddy this morning, cruising along the Chindwin River confluence en route to the town of Yandabo.



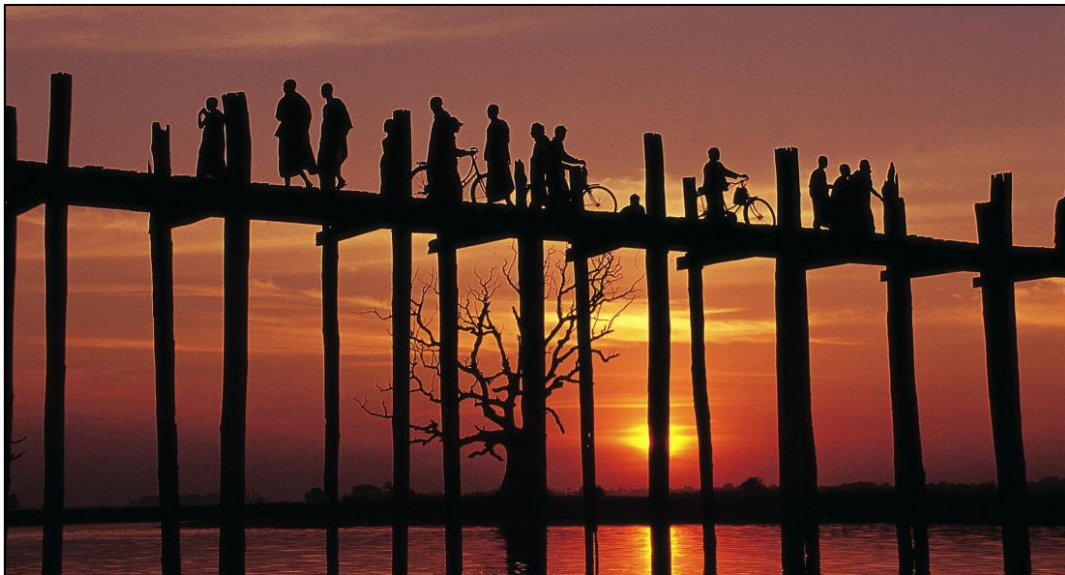
Historically, Yandabo is famous as the site where the Yandabo treaty was signed, following the first Anglo-Burmese war.

Yandabo is also well-known for its terracotta production, which you can watch in all its stages, from the gathering of the clay from the riverbank to the firing of the kilns.

Time allowing, the boat might also make a brief stop at the small market town of Pakkoku this afternoon.

Day 3 – Amarapura

Continue along the Irrawaddy River to the old city Amarapura, once the royal capital of Burma, now a township of Mandalay. Take a tour of the famous U-Bein Bridge, the longest wooden footbridge in the world, and Mahagandayon Monastery.



In the afternoon explore another of Burma's medieval capitals, Ava (or Inwa), on foot and by pony cart.

Day 4 – Kyauk Myaung

Start the day with a visit to the small settlement of Nwe-Nyein, near Kyauk Myaung.

Famous for its crafts, in Nwe-Nyein you can explore fascinating potteries where 50-gallon water pots are made by hand. You'll see all stages of the manufacture, from the throwing of the pots to the firing in cavernous kilns—a process which takes a week.

Return to the RV Kha Byoo in the afternoon and continue to sail northwards into the third defile of the Irrawaddy.



Day 5 – Nwe Nyein

Continue along the Upper Irrawaddy, sailing through the third defile – a thirty mile long narrow pass.

This afternoon, make a stop at Kyar Nyat village, where you can explore a Buddhist monastery and visit the home of a former monastic teacher. Then, continue to Pagoda Hill, outside the ancient capital of Tagaung, for a scenic view of the surrounding countryside.

Return to the RV Kha Byoo after sunset.



Day 6 – Katha

Most of this morning will be spent on board the RV Kha Byoo, as you cruise through the Mandalay region and to the village of Katha, the northernmost stop on the cruise.

An old colonial-era town, Katha is today famous as the former home of George Orwell and the setting of his famous novel, *Burmese Days*. Take the time to explore the town, which seems to have barely changed since Orwell's day, and learn more about its history through the early 20th century and WWII.



Day 7 – Kyun Daw Village

Travel upstream in a local boat to Kyun Daw Village, a peaceful settlement known for its innumerable 13th-century pagodas. While here, you can also visit a fishermen's home and old nunnery before returning to Katha and the RV Kha Byoo.

Day 8 – Second Defile

Depart Katha village this morning and sail into the Second Defile, the most dramatic of the three Irrawaddy gorges.

Though it's possible to continue to Bhamo on the Chinese border, the Second Defile marks the furthest section of your cruise, after which we turn back for the return journey to Mandalay.

Day 9 - Tagaung

Make a stop at Tagaung, one of Myanmar's ancient capitals, for a walking tour.

Tagaung is said to have been founded in 850BC, and retained its prominence throughout the first millennium CE, though few travellers visit the city today.

Take the time to explore the centre of Tagaung, including its old Buddhist and Nat spirit shrines, and its dilapidated city walls and old fortifications.

Day 10 – Bhamo

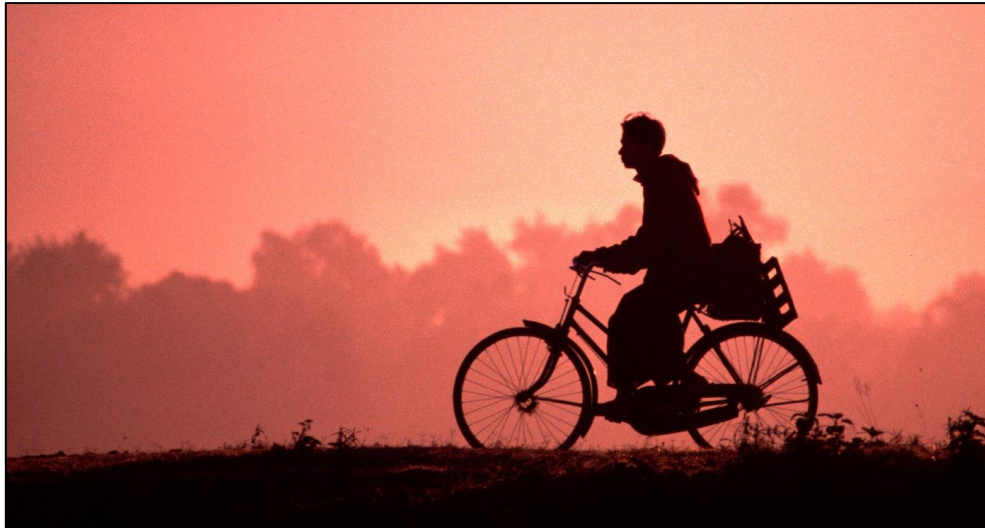
Slip moorings early this morning and disembark at Mingun, a former royal residence located upstream from Nabdakat. Mingun is famous for its giant bell (the largest of its kind in the world), and for its great unfinished pagoda.

After exploring Mingun, drive to the top of Sagaing Hill, the heart of Burmese monasticism. There are wonderful views of the town and the Irrawaddy River from the top of the hill.

Return to the RV Kha Byoo for dinner.

Day 11 – Mandalay

Disembark at Gawein Jetty, on the outskirts of Mandalay, after breakfast. You will be transferred to your hotel (if staying in Mandalay) or the airport for your onward travel connections.



Price Guide:

*The cost of this cruise is from **£2,770 per person (US\$3,600)** based on a shared twin/double cabin and subject to availability at the time of booking. For more information, or if you would like to enquire about a tailor-made holiday combining part or all of the above itinerary, please [contact us](#).*

Includes:

- Twin/double cabin
- Transfers at start and end of cruise
- All meals and local beverages (imported beverages at additional cost)
- All entrance fees

Excludes:

- International flights – please ask us for a quote
- Visas
- Personal travel insurance
- Personal expenses, tips and laundry

Special offer: on select departures, book a single cabin and pay no single supplement. Contact us for further details.