

Myanmar & the Irrawaddy

11 days from \$4,995 | Limited to 18 guests

Bangkok

3-day Pre-Tour Extension from \$1,395

Journey to spiritually rich Myanmar to experience the serenity of Inle Lake, observe life along the banks of the Irrawaddy River from aboard 'Sanctuary Ananda' and watch the rising sun illuminate thousands of temples in timeless Bagan.

& A&K ADVANTAGES

- ▶ Cruise in luxury for three nights on the legendary Irrawaddy River aboard all-balcony 'Sanctuary Ananda'
- ▶ Experience floating gardens and a private viewing of a traditional Intha boat race on tranquil Inle Lake
- ▶ Soar above thousands of pagodas and capture the photographs of a lifetime on a magical hot air balloon ride
- ▶ Experience the ceremonial lighting of a thousand oil lamps at the gilded Shwedagon Pagoda
- ▶ Enjoy privileged access to a local celebration of a young monk's first entry to the monastery

DAY 1: Arrive Yangon, Myanmar

Arrive in Yangon, where you are met and transferred to your hotel. **Belmond Governor's Residence**

DAY 2: Yangon | Queen of the East

Today, enjoy your first taste of Myanmar, a profoundly Buddhist country, where many ancient traditions still flourish. Visit Bogyoke Aung San Market (Scott Market) to see where locals gather, socialize and shop. After lunch, see the Reclining Buddha at Chauk Htat Gyi Pagoda, a 213-foot-long statue with an expressive enamel face. This evening, transfer to Shwedagon Pagoda, the most sacred Buddhist site in Myanmar, for a sunset oil-lamp lighting ceremony. Standing nearly 330 feet tall, the venerated *stupa* is covered in gold leaf and topped by a finial encrusted with thousands of precious gems. View this mesmerizing wonder firsthand, as your local guide explains the history behind the holy relics it enshrines, which include strands of hair from the head of Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha. Tonight, gather for a



special welcome dinner.

Belmond Governor's Residence | Meals: B L D

DAY 3: Bagan | Temples & Pagodas

Fly to Bagan, a city with more than 2,000 Buddhist pagodas and temples, the first of which was built by King Anawrahta in 1044. Upon arrival, you are taken to a local restaurant for lunch before continuing to your hotel. After a short rest, visit a local lacquerware workshop. This evening, enjoy a Scenic Sundowner from a special viewing platform overlooking Bagan's temple-dotted landscape.

Aureum Palace Hotel & Resort, Bagan | Meals: B L D

DAY 4: Bagan | Young Novitiates & Timeless Temples

This morning, witness a *shinbyu* (novitiation ceremony), a coming-of-age ritual celebrating an aspiring young monk's first entry to the monastery. Enjoy privileged access to this time-honored tradition and the village festivities. Visit the well-preserved Ananda Temple, built in 1090. Next, travel to the village of Wetkyi-In to see the wonderful Kubyaukgyi Temple, renowned for its ancient murals. Board luxurious all-balcony 'Sanctuary Ananda,' your home for a three-night cruise on the timeless Irrawaddy River.

'Sanctuary Ananda' | Meals: B L D

DAY 5: Cruising the Irrawaddy | A Hot Air Balloon Ride

Rise early for an exhilarating hot air balloon ride (weather permitting) over Bagan, as dawn illuminates the gold- and sand-colored *stupas*. After breakfast on board, explore Nyaung Oo Market and observe locals selling and bartering for goods. Return to the ship for lunch, and listen to a special onboard talk about Myanmar's history and vision for the future, followed by demonstrations of the *longyi* (traditional



Lift off at sunrise for an unforgettable balloon ride over the temples of Bagan

Burmese cloth worn by men and women) and *thanakha* (a white cosmetic paste made from ground bark).

'Sanctuary Ananda' | Meals: B L D

DAY 6: Cruising the Irrawaddy | U Bein Bridge

Today, learn the secrets of Burmese cuisine during a cooking demonstration at a delightful Chef's Table experience. After lunch, disembark to visit Sagaing, a former royal city renowned for its monasteries, pagodas and *stupas*. Proceed to Amarapura, where you embark by boat to view the picturesque U Bein Bridge — the oldest and longest teakwood

bridge in the world. Watch locals riding bikes, carrying crops and commuting from work cross this tall, iconic landmark for an insight into everyday life here as well as an ideal sunset photo opportunity. 'Sanctuary Ananda' | Meals: B L D

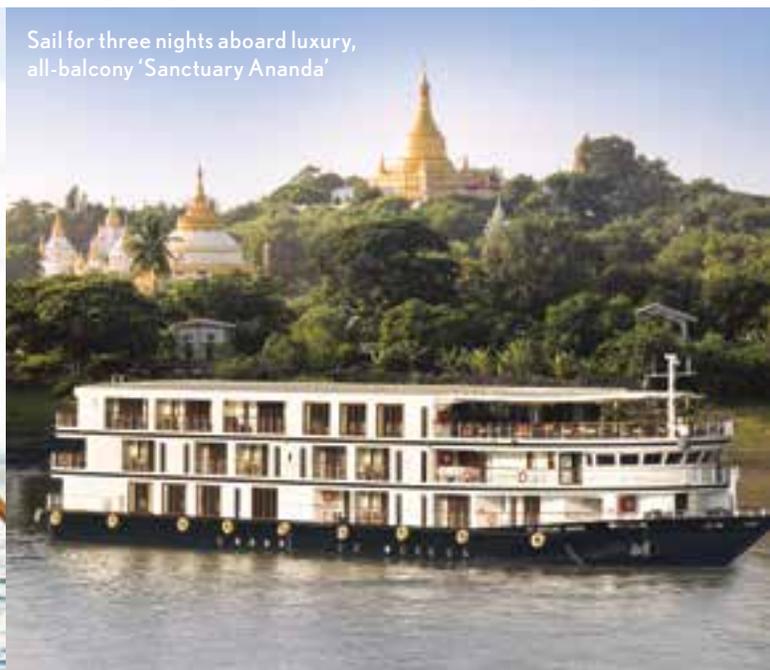
DAY 7: Mandalay | Icons & Evening Prayers

After breakfast on board, explore a gold-leaf workshop, where the metal is hammered paper-thin and prepared for use in some of Myanmar's holiest sites. This afternoon, visit the Shwenandaw Monastery and view the more than 700 marble slabs inscribed with Buddhist religious texts

See the innovative methods of farming and fishing locals use on Inle Lake



Sail for three nights aboard luxury, all-balcony 'Sanctuary Ananda'





Watch daily life unfold in Amarapura, as locals cross the wooden U Bein Bridge

at Kuthodaw Pagoda, referred to as the biggest book in the world. Later, witness evening prayers at Shwe Kyin Monastery. **Rupar Mandalay Resort | Meals: B L**

DAY 8: **Inle Lake** | Floating Gardens

Fly to Heho and drive to Nyaung Shwe to visit a Shan paper workshop. Enjoy a firsthand look at the artisans who produce this distinctive paper, using fibers from the mulberry tree, and craft a wide range of items from it, most notably Burmese parasols. This afternoon, board a boat and explore the ingenious floating gardens of Inle Lake. To create these gardens, used for growing fruit and vegetables, fishermen gather together lake plants such as water hyacinths and seagrass and anchor them with bamboo poles embedded in the lake bottom. Layers of mud, ash and more vegetation are then applied to form a farmable surface strong enough to stand upon. Transfer to your lakeside boutique hotel for the evening. **Aureum Palace Hotel & Resort, Inle | Meals: B D**

DAY 9: **Inle Lake** | Design Your Day

This morning, enjoy one of these **Design Your Day** activities.

- ▶ **Enjoy an Artisan Visit**, to see cigar-like cheroots hand made at a local workshop, and tour a weaving factory.
- ▶ **Bicycle Through the Countryside** in the company of a local guide, taking in the lush surroundings and local life.
- ▶ **Attend a Cooking Class** led by a local chef, for the hands-on opportunity to prepare traditional Burmese dishes.

After lunch, privately witness an Intha boat race with afternoon tea. Marvel at the coordinated effort required by the 20 participants per boat, each using the traditional

single-leg rowing technique that local fishermen still employ. **Aureum Palace Hotel & Resort, Inle | Meals: B L**

“I’m not sure I’ve ever taken an A&K journey I enjoyed so much. It much exceeded my expectations and our Tour Director made the whole trip a breeze.”

– Helen; Wynantskill, NY, March 2018

DAY 10: **Yangon** | Farewell Dinner

Fly to Yangon and transfer to your hotel. Later, savor afternoon tea with a local writer, artist and intellectual who shares her insight into contemporary Burmese culture and politics. Tonight, toast your time in Myanmar at a special farewell dinner. **Belmond Governor’s Residence | Meals: B L D**

DAY 11: **Depart Yangon**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport and depart. **Meals: B**

TRAVEL PRIVATELY WITH A&K

This itinerary is available as a private journey, **Signature Myanmar & the Irrawaddy**. Priced from \$6,395.

EXTEND YOUR JOURNEY



Bangkok Pre-Tour Extension

3 days from \$1,395 | Internal air from \$525

Available on all departures.

Explore the Grand Palace, behold the spectacular Reclining Buddha at Wat Pho and glide on the *klongs* (canals) by boat.

INSPIRING ACCOMMODATIONS



'Sanctuary Ananda'

Small, all-private-balcony river cruiser — the most luxurious on the Irrawaddy — with accommodations for just 44 guests and an ideal 1:1 staff-to-guest ratio.



Belmond Governor's Residence

Travel + Leisure World's Best hotel in a 1920s colonial-style mansion.



Aureum Palace Hotel & Resort,

Bagan — Luxury resort amid tropical gardens with views of Bagan temples.



Rupar Mandalay Resort

Boutique resort featuring spacious teak rooms, set amid tranquil gardens.



Aureum Palace Hotel & Resort,

Inle — Villas with private outdoor terraces for sunset views.

DATES & PRICING

Guaranteed Departure Dates	Classic Cabin Bagan Deck	Deluxe Cabin Bagan Deck	Deluxe Cabin Mandalay Deck	Luxury Suite Bhamo Deck	Aloungpayah Owner's Suite
Jan 16-26, Jan 23-Feb 2, Jan 30-Feb 9, Feb 6-16, Feb 13-23	\$5,495	\$5,995	\$6,695	\$7,995	\$9,995
Single Supplement	\$2,195	\$2,595	\$2,995	\$4,395	\$6,695
Feb 27-Mar 8, Mar 12-22	\$4,995	\$5,495	\$6,195	\$7,495	\$9,495
Single Supplement	\$1,995	\$2,395	\$2,795	\$4,195	\$6,495
Oct 8-18, Oct 15-25, Oct 22-Nov 1, Oct 29-Nov 8, Nov 5-15, Nov 19-29, Dec 3-13, Dec 10-20, Dec 17-27	\$5,495	\$5,995	\$6,695	\$7,995	\$9,995
Single Supplement	\$2,195	\$2,595	\$2,995	\$4,395	\$6,695

Internal Air: Economy class from \$475

Yangon/Bagan; Mandalay/Heho/Yangon

Journey Details

This journey contains some active elements.

Minimum age is 10 years.

First group event: welcome briefing at 9:00 a.m. on Day 2.

Last group event: farewell dinner at 7:30 p.m. on Day 10.

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

AVAILABLE STOPOVER PACKAGES



Spend three days exploring Dubai (from \$1,795) or Hong Kong (from \$2,395) before or after your journey.