

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'
- ▶ Participate in 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
- ▶ Soar above thousands of pagodas and capture the photographs of a lifetime on a magical hot air balloon ride in Bagan
- ▶ Experience floating gardens and a private viewing of a traditional Intha boat race on tranquil Inle Lake

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, sip in a Scenic Sundowner from a special viewing platform overlooking Bagan's temple-dotted landscape.

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

DAY 4: Bagan | Young Novitiates & Timeless Temples

This morning, explore Nyaung Oo Market and observe locals selling and bartering for goods. Then, 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, Ride Like a Local by a horse-drawn cart to see the wonderful Kubyaukgyi Temple, renowned for its 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, listen to a special onboard talk about Myanmar's history and vision



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

for the future, followed by demonstrations of the *longyi* (traditional 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



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



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



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

700 marble slabs inscribed with Buddhist religious texts 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. Enjoy a special lunch on board a floating restaurant set on Inle Lake. This afternoon, board a boat and explore the lake's ingenious floating gardens. 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 L 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**

"An amazing, magical journey in a lovely country. It exceeded my expectations. Our guide was wonderful and we loved our driver."

– Susan; Bethesda, MD, October 2019

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 \$6,295. Contact Wyllys Professional Travel for more details.

EXTEND YOUR JOURNEY

**Bangkok Pre-Tour Extension**

3 days from \$1,395 | Internal air from \$535

Available on select departures.

Explore the Grand Palace, behold the spectacular Reclining Buddha at Wat Pho and boat on the Chao Phraya River.

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



Aureum Palace Hotel & Resort, Inle — Villas with private outdoor terraces for sunset views.



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

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 21-31, Feb 11-21 Single Supplement	\$5,495 \$2,195	\$5,995 \$2,595	\$6,695 \$2,995	\$7,995 \$4,395	\$9,995 \$6,695
Mar 11-21 Single Supplement	\$4,995 \$1,995	\$5,495 \$2,395	\$6,195 \$2,795	\$7,495 \$4,195	\$9,495 \$6,495
Oct 21-31, Dec 16-26 Single Supplement	\$5,495 \$2,195	\$5,995 \$2,595	\$6,695 \$2,995	\$7,995 \$4,395	\$9,995 \$6,695

Internal Air: Economy class from \$475

Yangon/Bagan; Mandalay/Heho/Yangon

Journey Details

This journey contains some active elements.

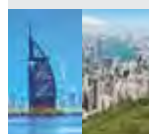
Minimum age is 10 years.

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 \$1,995) or Hong Kong (from \$2,495) before or after your journey.

Contact Wylls Professional Travel for up-to-date information on dates, pricing, extensions and special offers.