An Ultimate Invitation:
The Road To Mandalay

An Escorted Cruise
on Myanmar’s Ayeyarwady River
8th – 23rd September 2019

The Ultimate Travel Company
Escorted Tours
The Ultimate Invitation: The Road To Mandalay
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Tour Leader: Nick Van Gruisen

Raised in Northumberland, in the 1970s Nick spent five years as a professional guide in Botswana and southern Africa. He then joined the Tiger Mountain group, pioneering cultural, trekking and wildlife holidays throughout the Indian subcontinent. He founded Worldwide Journeys and Expeditions in 1991, from which The Ultimate Travel Company emerged in 1998.

Guest Lecturers: Chris & Carolyn Caldicott

Since travelling to some of the most remote parts of the world as Photographer-in-Residence to the Royal Geographical Society, Chris Caldicott has continued his globetrotting lifestyle as a freelance photographer, writer and lecturer specialising in food and travel. He has had several books published about food, travel and the spice trade and visited 108 countries in search of the perfect meal, finding most of the top contenders on his many trips to Asia. As a journalist he is a regular contributor to publications such as Vanity Fair, Conde Nast Traveller, The Sunday Times, Harpers Bazaar, Tatler, House and Garden and the Telegraph. Chris will offer an initial workshop at the beginning of the trip on how to take better travel photographs and get the best out of your camera covering exposure, focus and composition illustrated with examples of his own work. He will also be offering one to one tutorials during the journey.

Carolyn owed and ran the World Food Cafe in London’s Covent Garden for 20 years. She now works as an author and food writer and together with husband Chris has written several World Food Cafe recipe books about global cuisine. Her recent books including Vintage Tea Party, re-creating the nostalgic world of traditional English teatime treats; Rosehips On a Kitchen Table, a manual for foragers, farmers market shoppers and allotment gardeners; Comfort, recipes to warm the heart and feed the soul; Bombay Lunch Box, about Anglo-Indian Tiffin with a contemporary twist; and Great British Cooking, covering everything from roast beef to making marmalade. Her next book Beside the Seaside, celebrating retro and contemporary seaside cuisine, is out this spring. She is also a food and travel writer for Elle magazine. Carolyn will give a introduction to the regional cuisine and the dishes you will enjoy on the journey and be on hand to explain the mysteries of the weird and wonderful ingredients you will see along the way.
Detailed Itinerary

As more of the world comes within our reach every day, few places still conjure up the thrill of discovery. Of those that do, perhaps the most evocative is Myanmar, a mystical land of great natural beauty, wondrous world heritage sites and deeply religious, gentle people. Following the unqualified success of our inaugural Ultimate Invitation to Myanmar in 2007, 2009, 2013 and 2016 (‘it was one of the best holidays we have had’, ‘the trip was fantastically wonderful’, ‘we enjoyed every minute’), we have decided to repeat this magical journey in September 2019. The Ultimate Invitation provides a unique opportunity to explore this magnificent country on one of the world’s great river journeys along the famed Ayeyarwady River.

Following a two-night stay in Yangon, our adventure begins in earnest when we board Belmond’s (formerly Orient Express) river vessel, Road To Mandalay, which we have chartered exclusively for an 11-day cruise into northern Myanmar. Acknowledged as the most luxurious cruiser on the Ayeyarwady, Road To Mandalay is the perfect setting for our tour, offering beautifully appointed accommodation and a range of excellent facilities.

As we cruise along this great waterway we will discover – on foot (very leisurely!), bicycle rickshaw and train – a natural and cultural landscape little changed since Kipling’s day. At the heart of the voyage is beauty, both natural and man-made, from the spectacular, jungle-clad gorges that dominate the upper reaches of the river to the market scenes of Katha from George Orwell’s Burmese Days, and the ancient capital of Mandalay immortalized by Kipling’s eponymous poem. For many the high point of the cruise will be the 3,000 temple ruins spread across the great plain of Bagan, but for everyone on board the overwhelming impression will be of a land and a people unchanged by time.

Throughout, you will also enjoy the company of Nick Van Gruisen from The Ultimate Travel Company and his wife Iris, along with highly regarded photojournalist and past owner of London’s famous World Food Café, Chris Caldicott and his wife Carolyn. With his help your photographic record of Myanmar should convey just how very special this magical country and your cruise on the Ayeyarwady.

We are also offering the option to extend your stay at Inle Lake for a three nights after the cruise.
Day 1: Sunday, 8th September - London / Bangkok
Depart London Heathrow at 12.30hrs on a Thai Airways flight TG911 overnight to Bangkok (suggested flights are subject to schedule change and have not been included in cost of tour).

Day 2: Monday, 9th September - Bangkok / Yangon
Arrive in Bangkok at 06.05hrs and depart at 07.55hrs on flight TG303 arriving Yangon at 08.50hrs. On arrival transfer to the Governor’s Residence Hotel where two nights are spent and where rooms are ready for immediate occupation. Housed in an imposing restored Burmese teak mansion in the Embassy Quarter of Yangon, this intimate 48-room hotel offers spacious rooms overlooking the private lotus garden and free-form swimming pool. Rooms are luxuriously decorated in teak with tropical cottons and silks, and each has a large handmade free-form bath.

Lunch under own arrangements. The remainder of the day will be at leisure to relax after the journey followed by a welcome dinner at the hotel.

Day 3: Tuesday, 10th September - Yangon
City tour of the garden city of Yangon which will include a visit to the 2,500-year-old Shwedagon Pagoda, one of the world’s most spectacular religious monuments. The golden dome of the Shwedagon Pagoda rises 98 meters above its base and is covered with 60 tons of pure gold. Other stops may include the Chauk Htat Gyi, a huge reclining Buddha image, the Sule Pagoda with its golden chedi, a photo stop at the Karaweik Hall royal floating barge and Bogyoke (Scott) Market to see Myanmar's wide range of handicrafts.

Lunch at a local restaurant. Dinner under own arrangements.

Day 4: Wednesday, 11th September - Yangon / Mandalay / Mingun
Transfer to the airport for a morning flight from Yangon to Mandalay. Board the Road To Mandalay berthed on the Ayeyarwady River at Shwe Kyet Yet - opposite the pagoda-studded Sagaing Hills.

After lunch on board we begin our cruise, which offers an insight into the history, culture and magnificent scenery of this river land, and a glimpse of the timeless life of the river people as we sail. As in ancient Egypt, much of Myanmar’s history is linked with the river, and all the country’s ancient capitals and ‘lost’ cities lie along the banks of the Ayeyarwady. Travelling north, we pass Mandalay on the east shore of the river and enjoy a view of Mandalay Hill in the distance. Late in the afternoon we anchor at Mingun for a visit to the largest brick-built pagoda in the world and the world’s largest un-cracked bell. Welcome dinner on board.
Day 5: Thursday, 12th September  
Mingun / Nwe Nyein

The ship makes an early start today, transiting the plain to the north and west of Mandalay before entering the 3rd Defile (gorge) at Singu around midday. In the late morning, the Road To Mandalay drops anchor off the town of Kyan Hnyat for a walking tour.

Lunch on board. In the afternoon the ship will sail past the picturesque island pagoda of Thihadaw. This evening, pre-dinner drinks on the ship's Observation Deck, followed by dinner on board.

Day 6: Friday, 13th September  
Kyan Hnyat / Katha

Today begins with an early morning walking tour of the delightful village of Kyan Hnyat, when we will see hundreds of school children and the lively morning business in the market.

Lunch on board. We continue our journey north along vast stretches of river, expansive scenery and interesting rural villages on its shores. As the sun sets, the ship will anchor off the old market town of Katha, famous as the site where, in May 1942, the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company scuttled as many as 75 ships to defy the Japanese. Dinner on board.

Day 7: Saturday, 14th September  
Katha / Shwequ

Early this morning we visit Katha by trishaw, to see the market place made famous by George Orwell in Burmese Days. Back on board, the ship continues its journey north through the picturesque landscape, with the distant mountains marking the 2nd Defile (gorge) coming into view in the afternoon.

Lunch on board. Disembark into boats to take you ashore to the industrious port of Shwequ to experience life in a typical Shan riverside village. The ship anchors off the splendid island pagoda of Shwe Paw. Dinner on board.

Day 8: Sunday, 15th September  
Zinbon / Bhamo / Shwe Paw

Today we reach the magnificent 2nd Defile with its green-clad mountains reaching down to the narrowing channel. The ship holds close to one or other of the banks, passing logging camps and an old colonial village at Zinbon. We continue north towards the challenging 1st Defile where the ship will drop anchor off Bhamo.

Lunch on board. Afternoon visit to the town of Bhamo, which has been fought over for years by Burmans, Kachins, Chinese, British, Japanese and Americans. The town is barely 50 miles from the Chinese border in the foothills of Yunnan, which can be clearly seen to the east. Visit the local sights and markets. Dinner on board.
Day 9: Monday, 16th September  
Shwe Paw / Katha

This morning we begin the day exploring Shwe Paw Island with its ancient pagodas. Lunch on board. Sail this afternoon to the riverside village of Moe Dar to witness a traditional Noviciation Ceremony, a very important aspect of Buddhist life. Dinner on board.

Day 10: Tuesday, 17th September  
Katha / Kyan Hnyat

In the morning board an antique train which takes us on a journey through the thick Kachin jungle to the forest station of Naba. Returning through the rainforest to the Road To Mandalay, we continue sailing to Kyan Hnayt.

Lunch on board. Evening cocktails on the Observation Deck. Dinner on board.

Day 11: Wednesday, 18th September  
Kyan Hnyat / Mogok

This morning the ship anchors off Thabeikkyin where we will take the road to Mogok to explore the scenery of the forestry reserve where many precious plants are grown for their essential oils. Meet working elephants in the Burmese teak forest before returning to the ship.

Lunch on board. Remainder of the day is spent on board as we continue our journey south. Dinner on board.

Day 12: Thursday, 19th September  
Mandalay

This morning we reach Mandalay once again in time to enjoy a tour of the city. During the day we will see the most revered religious monument in Myanmar, the Mahamuni Pagoda Buddha, stop to see the stone carving and, later, to see the gold leaf being beaten into wafer thin pieces.

Lunch at a local restaurant. Visit the Shwenandaw Monastery, an ancient wooden building with intricate carving, which was once King Mindon’s home. We continue to see the ‘world’s largest book’ (Buddhist Scriptures inscribed on marble slabs) at the Kuthodaw Pagoda, before visiting the Kyaukdawgi Pagoda to see the vast statue of Buddha carved out of a single block of marble. At sunset, we might enjoy the spectacular views from Mandalay Hill where there are interesting glass-studded temples. Rejoining the ship at Shwe Kyet Yet, we enjoy a tribal dance display in the evening. Dinner on board.
Day 13: Friday, 20th September
Mandalay / Bagan

Early today we leave Mandalay on the last leg of our journey. We will enjoy magnificent views of the Sagaing Hill before sailing under Ava Bridge and passing traditional riverside communities with women doing household chores by the river and waving children as we spend the day relaxing on board.

Lunch on board. By mid-afternoon we are well on our way into the ancient city of Bagan, just in time to witness sunset over the plain. This evening enjoy traditional Bagan entertainers. Dinner on board.

Day 14: Saturday, 21st September
Bagan & Mount Popa

Our final day offers the opportunity to visit just some of the ancient sites in and around Bagan. These include: the Shwezigon Pagoda, an 11th century religious shrine with a golden stupa, which is Bagan's most important reliquary shrine; the Kyansittha ‘Cave’ Temple; Htilominlo, which has old murals and friezes; the Ananda Temple, a whitewashed masterpiece of ‘Mon’ architecture with four standing Buddhas; the 61-metre tall 12th century Thatbyinnyu temple; Dhammayangyi, a massive-looking 12th century temple famous for its mortar-less brickwork; and Mingalazedi, the last of the large Pagodas built in the 13th century and representing the pinnacle of Bamar pagoda architecture. Time permitting, we might also visit the Moe Moe lacquer-ware factory to watch craftsmen skillfully making this most famous of Bagan handicrafts.

Lunch on board. In the afternoon there will be an optional tour out of the city to Mount Popa, home to Myanmar’s intriguing ‘nats’ (spirits). This is a steep and energetic climb (or you can be carried on a litter!), but rewarded with fabulous views from its impressive monastery at the summit. This evening, pre-dinner drinks mark the end of a most memorable voyage. Farewell dinner on board.

Day 15: Sunday, 22nd September
Bagan / Yangon / Bangkok

Early this morning, sadly we disembark from the Road To Mandalay and transfer to the airport for a flight back to Yangon. On arrival, we transfer to the Park Royal Hotel where day rooms have been booked.

Lunch at the hotel. The remainder of the afternoon under own arrangements. Late afternoon transfer to the airport. Depart Yangon at 19.45hrs on Thai Airways flight TG306 to Bangkok arriving at 21.40hrs (suggested flights are subject to schedule change and have not been included in cost of tour).

Day 16: Monday, 23rd September
Bangkok / London

Depart Bangkok at 00.25hrs on TG 910 to London Heathrow arriving at 07.15hrs.
Tour Price

COST IN A SUPERIOR SINGLE BEDDED CABIN: £4,995 per person
Single Supplement (for hotels only): £560

COST IN A SUPERIOR TWIN CABIN: £4,995 per person
Single supplement for Superior Cabin: £1,995

COST IN A DELUXE CABIN: £5,995 per person
Single supplement for Deluxe cabin: £2,995

COST IN A STATE CABIN: £6,995 per person

COST IN GOVERNOR’S SUITE: £9,495 per person

Single supplements for State cabins are available on request.

Online E-Visa fees: USD 50 per person (subject to change)

Please note that as the flight schedule is not available until October 2018 we have not included the cost of the flights in the tour cost. When the flight schedule has been released we will let you know prices including upgrades with Thai Airways should you wish to book them through us.

The tour cost includes:

- accommodation throughout as shown in the itinerary
- breakfast daily; 13 lunches; 12 dinners; bottled water included at meals
- all entrance fees, visits and excursions as per the itinerary
- domestic flights
- all transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- Attendance at Novicication Ceremony
- local English-speaking guides
- gratuities in restaurants; gratuities to drivers; porterage
- the services of your tour leaders and guest lecturer throughout the tour

The tour cost does NOT include:

- international return flights from London to Yangon (approximately £700 per person including taxes for Economy Class)
- drinks with meals (except bottled water)
- visas; travel insurance
- items of personal expenditure (e.g. telephone calls / laundry etc.)
- gratuities to guide/s
- gratuities to boat staff
- government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication of this programme on 02/08/17
Changes to the Itinerary

Please note, that certain elements of this itinerary, and/or the order of events, may well be subject to alteration due to circumstances beyond our control.

Fitness to travel

Whilst we do not impose any age limitations on joining a tour, participants must be reasonably fit. The very nature of the sightseeing involved in our tours (and the difficulties of direct access by coach in various places) means that a considerable amount of walking and standing is unavoidable on almost all tours. We regret that our tours are not suitable for people who have difficulty in walking, may require wheelchair assistance at any time, or are unable to keep pace with the group. If you are in any doubt as to the suitability of a tour, please make this known to us before you book and we will advise you accordingly. The Ultimate Travel Company reserves the right to decline a reservation without necessarily giving a reason. Your tour leader may also refuse to take participants on particular excursions if they feel that the rest of the group will be held up.

Health Requirements

As we are not medical experts we advise that you contact your doctor or local health authority for up-to-date medical advice.

We would advise that all your routine vaccinations are up-to date prior to travel. No special precautions are required for travel to Myanmar, and no inoculations are compulsory, although a Yellow Fever certificate is required if you have travelled within an infected area recently.

A number of inoculations are ‘recommended’ in certain circumstances including Diphtheria; Hepatitis A; Poliomyelitis; Tetanus; Typhoid.

Stomach upsets are an ever-present problem but avoidable if you are careful. Do not drink tap water that has not been first boiled or sterilised (purified and bottled water is available everywhere) and be cautious when eating outside of the hotel. Beware of the tropical sun especially on the Ayeyarwady River. Limit your exposure to the sun to a minimum, always use protective creams with a high UV filter and wear a hat. It is advisable to take a small personal first aid kit with you.

Malaria risk throughout the year in all areas excluding the major cities Mandalay and Yangon (Rangoon) so anti-malarial prophylactics are recommended.

Please check recommended practice with your GP, practice nurse or travel health clinic.

Passport and Visas

A visa is required by all British passport holders and most other nationalities, and must be obtained prior to departure. This can be done through CIBT, directly with the embassy or through the new online e-visa service. NB. It is best not to state any media related occupation (journalist, writer or photographer for example) on the visa application form.

At the time of writing, your passport must be valid for 6 months beyond your departure date from Myanmar and have at least two blank pages.

The new online e-visa service allows travellers to obtain a visa prior to arrival in Myanmar without the need for sending away your passport. Applications can be submitted at www.myanmarevisa.gov.mm. A passport photo needs to be uploaded or alternatively you can take a picture using your web cam (if available).
Payment must be made using either MasterCard or Visa. Once you have applied for your e-visa and the Burmese government approves it (this process takes approximately one week), it must be used within three months. You will need to print a copy of the approval notice you will receive as it will be required to board your international flights. On arrival in Myanmar you will also need to present to immigration a copy of your e-visa approval notice and your passport. There is no extra cost for the visa at the airport and no need for passport photographs. Please note it is only possible to obtain an e-visa is entering Myanmar through Yangon. The e-visa can be used for a single-entry only and is valid for 28 days after entering the country.

Within your confirmation documents we provide details of the company ‘CIBT’ who will offer the facility of obtaining your visa. Should you wish to use this service, we ask you to deal directly with ‘CIBT’ who will obtain all visas in person, and return your passport to you (with visa) by registered post. Should you have any queries with this process CIBT can be contacted on 0207 963 3871.

If you decide to make an application directly with the Embassy, we recommend you do this in person and not by post. For further information contact the Embassy of the Union of Myanmar, 19A Charles Street, London, W1J 5DX, telephone 020 7499 4340.

**FCO Advice**

Travel advice issued by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office can be viewed at www.gov.uk/knowbeforeyougo.
The Road to Mandalay Fact Sheet

The Road To Mandalay originally began life as a Rhine cruiser in Germany. She was purchased by Belmond (formerly Orient-Express Hotels, Trains & Cruises) in 1994, and underwent a $6 million refurbishment that saw the number of cabins reduced and state of the art technology installed. On completion the vessel was transported to Myanmar where local craftsmen added final decoration and fittings, including locally woven furniture for the Observation Lounge, carvings for the Restaurant, and carefully chosen local antiques were sought to provide a truly Burmese atmosphere on board. Following the cyclone in 2009 during which the vessel was damaged, she underwent a further refit making the State and Deluxe Cabins even more luxurious and spacious. Today the Road To Mandalay offers passengers the opportunity to see this fascinating and ancient land in a high standard of traditional comfort.

The ship is air-conditioned throughout and has four decks:

- Observation Deck Top deck with pool and Bar.
- Main Deck Public rooms with Restaurant, Bar, Observation Lounge and Boutique.
- State Deck Governor’s Suite, State Cabins, Superior Cabins and Reception.
- Deluxe Deck Deluxe and Single Cabins, Road To Mandalay Wellbeing (two areas which include a Fitness Room and Hair/Beauty Treatment area) and Medical Room.
The Observation Deck

As the Road To Mandalay meanders along the Irrawaddy River, you can gaze at the surrounding beauty from the canopied Observation Deck, cool off in the small swimming pool or enjoy a refreshing drink from the bar, which is open all day and evening. Cane and teak furniture allows you to relax in comfort and to observe the unfolding river life or watch the beautiful sunsets - quite simply, the best views in Burma. Weather permitting, buffet lunches and afternoon tea are also served here.
The Restaurant

On board you can enjoy an acclaimed menu of Eastern and Western delicacies, which are served with natural Burmese courtesy and charm. The buffet breakfast is augmented by an *a la carte* selection of hot items cooked to order. Buffet-style lunch is served on the Observation Deck or in the Restaurant in seven different themes: Burmese, Shan, Thai, Indonesian, Chinese, Indian and European. Dinners are served in the Restaurant, at a time to suit you. They offer a choice of dishes to suit all tastes, from the flavours of Asia and *a la carte* menus. A selection of European and Australian wines is available. Early morning coffee and afternoon tea is served in the Lounge, on the Observation Deck or in your cabin on request.

The Observation Lounge

This has a colonial ambience with woven-cane furniture and wooden-slated Venetian blinds. Its large windows provide an excellent view of the Irrawaddy River. A variety of local entertainment takes place here in the evenings, and during sailing days lectures are given by guides. It also has a library offering a range of books in various languages and games.

Piano Bar

Decorated with a mixture of light wood and Burmese lacquer ware, the relaxing Piano Bar offers guests a range of delicious local and international cocktails to the accompaniment of a local pianist.

Boutique

The on-board boutique is located on the Main Deck. You will be able to purchase a range of lacquerware, traditional Myanmar clothing, books, as well as guest amenities. The Road To Mandalay Collection provides a range of exclusively designed gifts. On request, these may be gift-wrapped and brought to your cabin. In addition, gifts may be purchased via mail-order.

Road To Mandalay Wellbeing

Located on the Deluxe Deck, Road To Mandalay Wellbeing offers passengers a 33sq m fitness room consisting of three exercise machines (stepper, bicycle, treadmill), stretch/crunch area and a shower with a changing room. Fresh, healthy drinks are available.

A range of beauty treatments, from aromatherapy massages, facials, manicures and pedicures is available for guests to enjoy alongside a hair wash/blow-dry service.
Accommodation

All cabins are air-conditioned and have en-suite shower, hairdryer and WC facilities, wardrobe, a personal safe, telephone and TV with two DVD movie channels, and a selection of live news, sports and general interest channels. Sockets are suitable for two-pin round plugs (220 volts).

WIFI

On the Road to Mandalay internet connection is available on the observation lounge, Piano Bar and Governors Suite via a Satellite connection. The connection is limited to certain areas only. The Cruise Director will inform you of the coverage details.
Deck Plans

BELMOND
ROAD TO MANDALAY
MYANMAR

Length 101.6m  Draft 1.4m  Cabins 43
Beam 11.6  Service Speed 11 Knots  Passengers 82
Cabin Plans

This luxury cruise ship offer every comfort. Each cabin has been designed to combine comfort and elegance, while reflecting local styles and materials. Step inside and discover luxurious furnishings lovingly crafted by local artisans.

All cabins enjoy outward-facing windows—to make the most of the fantastic views—satellite TV, an iPod docking station, air-conditioning, generous closet space and spacious en-suite bathrooms with hairdryers, bathrobes, slippers and locally made soaps.

The Ship

- 82 passengers
- Restaurant - 84 seats
- Observation Lounge - 50 seats
- Observation Deck bar and swimming pool
- Boutique
- Beauty Spa and Fitness facility
- Library
- Medical facility
- Air conditioned throughout

Cabins

- 1 Governor’s Suite with en-suite showers, WC and washbasin and amenities
- 18 State Cabins with en-suite showers, WC and washbasin and amenities
- 16 Deluxe Cabins with en-suite showers, WC and washbasin and amenities
- 4 Superior Cabins with en-suite showers, WC and washbasin and amenities
- 4 Single Cabins with en-suite showers, WC and washbasin and amenities
Single Superior Cabin

The layout of the four single cabins is similar to that of the Superior Twin Cabins however they feature a single bed to optimise space and comfort and are supplied with private facilities.

Specifications:
- 10.6 square meters / 114 square feet
- A single bed
- Wardrobe and drawers
- Desk/dressing table and stool
- TV
- En-suite with shower and WC facilities. Single washbasin in cabin
- Two windows

Superior Twin Cabin

These four superior cabins offer all the comfort needed to fully experience the cruise. Like all our cabins on board, they are external and feature a large window through which to admire the passing scenery when cruising.

Specifications:
- 11.3 square meters / 121 square feet
- Twin beds
- A bedside table
- Wardrobe and drawers
- Desk/dressing table and stool
- TV
- En-suite with shower and WC facilities. Single washbasin in cabin
- One large window
Deluxe Cabin

These 16 cabins have been designed to optimise space and views through their three windows.

**Specifications:**
- 17.95 square meters / 193.2 square feet
- Twin beds
- A bedside tables
- Built in flat screen TV
- Luggage rack
- Desk/dressing table and chair
- En-suite with shower, single washbasin and WC facilities
- Wardrobe and drawers
- Three windows

State Cabin

These 18 cabins are the most popular cabins on the cruise and offer either twin or double beds.

**Specifications:**
- 23.25 square meters / 250 square feet
- Cupboard and shelves
- Ottoman
- Desk/dressing table and chair and armchair
- Bedside tables
- Built in flat screen TV
- Twin beds which can be configured into a double bed
- Luggage rack
- Wardrobe and drawers
- En-suite with shower and single washbasins
- Separate WC facilities
- Two large windows
Governor’s Suite

This exclusive suite features its own butler service as well as a separate sitting room. Exceptionally spacious, it is the jewel in the crown of accommodation on board Belmond Road to Mandalay.

Specifications:
- 29.1 square metres / 313 square feet
- Twin beds (can be configured into a double bed)
- Bedside tables
- Wardrobe including drawers
- Lounge area
- En-suite shower and double wash basins
- Separate WC facilities
- Two built in flat screen TVs
- Desk / dressing table and chair
- Luggage rack
- Three large windows
- Welcome flowers and fruit basket
- Butler service
- Unpacking service on arrival and packing for departure
- Complimentary mini bar including soft drinks, beer, local wine and spirits
- Wireless internet
- Nespresso machine
Optional Post Tour Extension to Inle Lake

Day 15: Sunday, 22nd September   Bagan / Heho / Inle Lake

Early this morning, we disembark from the Road To Mandalay and transfer to the airport for a flight to Heho. On arrival drive to the valley of Nyaungshwe and stop at Aye Thar Yar winery and vineyard, one of the only wineries in the country, for a wine tasting. Continue to the shores of Inle Lake and take a boat to the delightful Inle Princess Resort on the banks of the lake, where three nights are spent.

After lunch at the resort, enjoy a boat tour to Indein, at the western end of the Lake. The boat travels through a long channel where the farmers can be seen cultivating their produce. This ride is one of the most scenic boat tours on Lake Inle. Dinner at the resort.

Day 16: Monday, 23rd September   Inle Lake

This morning explore one of the 5-day markets (on market day only). Then take another boat trip on Inle Lake, enjoying its calm waters dotted with floating vegetation and fishing canoes, and picturesque hills providing the perfect backdrop. See the lake's unique ‘leg rowers’, standing with one leg wrapped around an oar.

Lunch at a local restaurant. Afternoon visit to Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda, the holiest religious site in southern Shan State. Also visit Nga Phe Kyaung Monastery, one of the oldest monasteries on the lake, to see the ancient Buddha statues which are more than 200 years old. Dinner at the resort.

Day 17: Tuesday, 24th September   Inle Lake

This morning depart by boat to go to the Pwe Za Kong Monastery before a gentle walk through the back waters of the lake, passing by farmhouses and witnessing how cheroot and rice-paper crackers are made. You will have the unique opportunity of mingling with the local people going to and from their schools, markets and fields. Your walk will end at the May Nigone Monastery where you can relax and chat with the monks before returning to your hotel.

Lunch at a local restaurant. Return to the hotel where the remainder of the afternoon is at leisure. Dinner at the hotel.

Day 18: Wednesday, 25th September   Inle Lake / Heho / Yangon / Bangkok

Return to Heho for a morning flight to Yangon. On arrival transfer to the Novotel where day rooms have been booked.
Lunch at the hotel. The remainder of the afternoon under own arrangements. Late afternoon transfer to the airport. Depart Yangon at 19.45hrs on Thai Airways flight TG306 to Bangkok arriving at 21.40hrs (suggested flights are subject to schedule change and have not been included in cost of tour).

Day 19: Thursday, 26th September

Depart Bangkok at 00.25hrs on TG 910 to London Heathrow arriving at 07.15hrs.
Extension Price

COST PER PERSON: £1,125 (in a Lake Front Chalet at the Inle Princess Resort)
Single supplement: £480

The tour cost includes:

- accommodation throughout as shown in the itinerary
- breakfast daily; 4 lunches; 3 dinners; bottled water included at meals
- all entrance fees, visits and excursions as per the itinerary
- domestic flights
- all transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- local English-speaking guide/s

The tour cost does NOT include:

- drinks with meals (except bottled water at meals)
- gratuities in restaurants; gratuities to driver/s; porterage
- tour leader services
- visa; travel insurance
- items of personal expenditure (e.g. telephone calls / laundry etc.)
- government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication of this programme on 02/08/17

Changes to the Itinerary

Please note, that certain elements of this itinerary, and/or the order of events, may well be subject to alteration due to circumstances beyond our control.