

IRRAWADDY GORGES

8 NIGHTS
FROM
£4,595



*Discover the Upper
Irrawaddy on an 8 night
Luxury River Cruise
Holiday in Burma.*

Irrawaddy Gorges River Cruise

Upper Irrawaddy River Cruise

Cruise through the gorges of the Upper Irrawaddy aboard Heritage Line Cruises luxury Anawrahta and be amongst the very few to have explored the upper reaches of the Irrawaddy River.

The cruise passes through the most dramatic scenery of the entire Irrawaddy River, reaching it's peak in the drama of the Second Defile.

Walk in the footsteps of George Orwell in Katha, the real-life setting for his Burmese Days, before visiting a nearby elephant logging camp.

Savour the peace and tranquility of a remote island monastery and on board, learn from cultural demonstrations & lectures and enjoy the luxury on board spa.

Heritage Line's Anawrahta operates the Upper Irrawaddy cruises. With the largest cabin space on the Irrawaddy, and the highest crew to passenger ratio, The Anawrahta offers the finest on-board experience in Myanmar.

This impressive vessel was named after the founder of the Burmese nation, modern day Myanmar.

IRRAWADDY GORGES

Day 1: UK - Mandalay

Fly overnight from the UK to Mandalay.

Day 2: Mandalay

On arrival in Mandalay you will be transferred to your chosen hotel, with the rest of the day to relax at leisure.

Mandalay is the spiritual and religious centre of Burma with many surrounding attractions such as the monastic centre of Sagaing, the unfinished pagoda at Mingun and the beautiful teak bridge across the lake at U-Bein.

Mandalay is also the starting point for your Irrawaddy River cruise adventure along the Upper Irrawaddy and through the Irrawaddy Gorges.

Overnight: Mandalay

Meals: Breakfast included



Cruising the Upper Irrawaddy is to enter a region of Myanmar barely touched by tourism.



The Irrawaddy is one of Asia's great rivers and in its upper reaches flows over three well defined defiles in its course from Myitkyina to Mandalay...

IRRAWADDY GORGES

Day 3: Nwe Nyein

Transfer to the Anawrahta in the morning and sail upstream, through the Dolphin Sanctuary.

Enjoy a morning lecture on Myanmar culture entitled “Myanmar Ways of Life”, followed by a Myanmar Traditional Dress demonstration early in the afternoon.

In the cooler air of the late-afternoon make a tour of the pottery village of Nwe Nyein where you can see traditional techniques still being used to produce a wide variety of decorative pots.

Tonight a longyi Cocktail Party will break the ice with your fellow guests.

Overnight: On board

Meals: All meals included





Traditional tribal dress and customs are still very strong in Burma, and thrive in the more remote corners of the country such as the upper reaches of the Irrawaddy...

IRRAWADDY GORGES

Day 4: Dagaung

Enjoy a morning yoga/meditation session if you wish.

Today's sailing is through the rolling hills of the Third Defile.

Passing bamboo villages and even smaller fishing settlements, you will be amazed at how tranquil life is along this stretch of the river.

Join the Chef for a Cookery Demonstration in the morning and attend an informal Burmese language lesson in the afternoon.

Reach Dagaung for another late-afternoon tour, which will show you life on the riverbank and introduce you to this small town with its ancient fortifications, archaeological area and famous nat or spirit shrines.

Overnight: On board

Meals: All meals included



IRRAWADDY GORGES

Day 5: Katha

In the early afternoon, reach the enchanting colonial town of Katha, the setting for George Orwell's *Burmese Days* where little has changed since then.

Of interest are the fire station's collections of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company's ship's bells taken from sunken ships in the Second War.

Katha was the final resting place for much of the old flotilla as over a hundred ships were scuppered here in 1942 - an act of denial before the advancing Japanese.

Today's tour will take you around all the places that appear in the book and give you the opportunity to really imagine how life was in this far-flung corner of the British Empire.

Overnight: On board
Meals: All meals included





Katha inspired the setting for George Orwell's 'Burmese Days'. Explore this enchanting colonial outpost where little has changed since Orwell's days here in the 1920's....

IRRAWADDY GORGES

Day 6: Katha & Shwe Gu

In the morning disembark for a visit to Katha's colourful, bustling and noisy market before going on to visit an elephant logging camp in the hardwood forests of the hills that surround the town.

Afterwards, call into the old Golf Club before returning to the ship for lunch.

In the afternoon you may relax on the Sun Deck whilst the Anawrahta continues cruising upstream to Shwe Gu.

Afternoon tea will be served before a lecture on Myanmar history and current affairs.

Overnight: On board

Meals: All meals included





Burma is known as the "Land of Pagodas" and pagodas ancient and modern litter the landscape. Pagodas usually house Buddhist relics and are centres of reverence for Buddhists...

IRRAWADDY GORGES



Day 7: Shwe Paw Kyun and the Second Defile

Another early start is recommended as a tranquil walk through the rarely-visited island of Shwe Paw Kyun is organised for this morning.

Afterwards, be prepared on the Sun Deck as the Anawrahta makes its first passing through the dramatic Second Defile.

This will take about two hours, depending on the force of the current.

Once through the other side, the ship will turn at Sinkan Bridge and begin the return journey by plunging once again into the fast flowing waters of the Defile.

It may take as little as 25 minutes to reach the other end! The Anawrahta will sail on, passing Katha before mooring for the night.

Overnight: On board

Meals: All meals included

IRRAWADDY GORGES

Day 8: Thagara

After a short cruise, reach Thagara, go ashore and climb the hill to reach a majestic Reclining Buddha gazing serenely southwards, taking in the view of the Third Defile.

Return to the ship for another relaxing afternoon perhaps enjoying the facilities of the spacious Spa (including the only Swedish-style sauna on the Irrawaddy) or the 8-metre whirlpool swimming pool, conveniently raised so you may lie in the water and still enjoy the passing scenery.

For those looking for some mental stimulation there will be a lecture on 'Religion in Myanmar' and another Burmese language lesson.

Tonight the Anawrahta moors near Tabbeikyin, the nearest port to the famous ruby mines of Mogok.

Overnight: On board

Meals: All meals included



IRRAWADDY GORGES



Day 9: Mandalay

Depending on the water level and local conditions, visit Thiha Taw Island in the mouth of the Third Defile this morning.

Here a beautiful monastery was suddenly and mysteriously abandoned around 100 years ago.

The monks from this monastery were reputed to have tamed fish and used to place gold-leaf on them during special ceremonies.

In the afternoon there will be a lecture entitled “History of Mandalay” as the Anawrahta continues sailing south.

Reach Mandalay late in the afternoon where you will disembark in time to see sunset at the famous U-Bein Bridge, the longest teak bridge in Myanmar.

Overnight: On board
Meals: All meals included





The white pagoda of Hsinbyume is one of the most beautiful pagodas in Burma, located on the west bank of the Irrawaddy near Mingun...

IRRAWADDY GORGES

Day 10: Mandalay

Disembark your Irrawaddy Cruise and transfer to the airport for your flight back to the UK.

Alternatively extend your trip with a stay in Mandalay if you haven't seen it before or explore other destinations in Burma or neighbouring countries.



Day 11: UK

Arrive back in the UK.



Irrawaddy River Cruise Experience

Cruise with Heritage Line

Heritage Line operates three classic luxury boutique river cruise ships on the Mekong and Irrawaddy Rivers.

Heritage Line's ships are designed to reflect the atmosphere of a by-gone era and each detail is painstakingly crafted.

Two ships, Jayavarman and Jahan operate the Mekong Cruises. The Jayavarman, was inspired by a French-Colonial cruise liner and charms guests with it's romantic, pastel coloured cabins and quaint wooden bar.

The Jahan is Heritage Line's most romantic cruise liner, evoking the opulent vessels of British India.

Heritage Line's Anawrahta operates the cruises on the Irrawaddy, with a range of itinerary options.

With the largest cabin space on the Irrawaddy, and the highest crew to passenger ratio, The Anawrahta offers the finest on-board experience in Myanmar.

This impressive vessel was named after the founder of the Burmese nation, modern day Myanmar. During his reign in the 11th century Anawrahta introduced and spread the religion of Theravada Buddhism throughout Burma.

While the Anawrahta is the perfect stage, the star of the show is the river. Rising early, you make your way to the Sundeck, just as the first rays of gold touch the surface of the river. A fisherman casts his net, throwing shimmering droplets into the morning light. You pass all manner of other craft, from simple fishing canoes to boats crowded with

fresh produce, household goods, giggling school children.

Villagers come out to wave. Water buffaloes watch you warily and you keep a lookout for the river's most famous residents, the Irrawaddy dolphins.

The Anawrahta was named after the founder of the Burmese nation who spread Buddhism around the country....



Anawrahta's 16 beautifully appointed Deluxe Cabins (32 sq. m.) are decorated with original handicrafts, locally-carved wood panels and richly-textured fabrics inspired by the brocade of Burma's ethnic minority groups. Large windows and serene colors inspire total relaxation.

Named after some of the most fascinating rivers in Myanmar, the Anawrahta offers three Junior Suites, combining dark, regal wood with bright oranges, saffrons and greens. The suites offer a comfortable seating area and a private balcony from which to enjoy the lush beauty of the Irrawaddy.

The Anawrahta has just 16 elegantly decorated Deluxe Cabins, the most spacious on the Irrawaddy.



When it's time for lunch you join your fellow guests in the Hintha Hall dining room, where waiters – who now greet you like an old friend – serve tantalizing dishes from throughout Burma. As you learn about the complex cuisine, you understand more about this nation's cultural diversity.

Sunset finds you and your friends in the Kipling's Bar enjoying freshly made cocktails – and freshly inspiring views. As the river turns from blue to violet, you understand Rudyard Kipling's long-ago nostalgia: "If you've 'eard the East a-callin', you won't never 'need naught-else."



With polished wood floors, comfortable rattan chairs and traditional Burmese decorations, the Mandalay Lounge has the relaxed feel of a colonial club, at once exclusive and welcoming. Lean back against the burnt-orange cushions and enjoy a good book, or join friends for a nightcap.

Inspired by the lavish decorations of old Bagan and Mandalay, Anawrahta's Hinthla Hall Restaurant evokes the elegant dining halls of yesteryear. White tablecloths and gleaming glassware are surrounded by polished wood, intricately-carved floor and ceiling panels and large picture windows.

The Popular Jacuzzi
Pool Deck on the
Anawrahta.



MANDALAY ACCOMMODATION

Bagan King Hotel

Well-regarded mid-range boutique hotel in Mandalay with a very local flavour and spacious rooms.

Short stroll from the moated walls, old-style street markets & teashops,



Mandalay Hill Resort

Located at the foot of Mandalay Hill, and ideally situated for exploring Mandalay.

Features a nice pool and spa and offers views of the surrounding pagodas.



Hotel by the Red Canal

Boutique hotel in the centre of Mandalay, just 5 minutes from Mandalay Palace.

Lush tropical gardens, water features and a décor which pays homage to Burma's rich heritage.



EXTEND YOUR TRIP



DISCOVER THE BEAUTY OF

INLE LAKE

Add 3 nights
from £375 pp

Inle Lake is a popular destination on any tour of Myanmar, because of its beautiful surroundings and the famous Intha lake fisherman, who have a unique style of “leg-rowing”.

Inle Lake is surrounded by fishing villages and floating gardens and is one of the most scenic destinations in Myanmar - ideal for those looking to enjoy some trekking or cycling excursions.

Close to Inle Lake, the temple complexes of Kakku and Thar Khauk make for very rewarding excursions.

EXTEND YOUR TRIP



BEACH ADD-ON

NGAPALI BEACH

Add 3 nights
from £395 pp

Ngapali Beach is Myanmar's prime beach resort destination and a popular add-on to a River Cruise journey for a few days of relaxation.

Reached by domestic flight, Ngapali offers a long stretch of golden sand, back by swaying palms and dotted with simple beach resorts.

Ngapali Beach has an old style beach resort ambience, little touched by larger resort development. There are a couple of very nice boutique style resorts which are great for a few days low-key relaxation.

DATES & PRICES

Month	Dates	Price
Jul 17:	28	£4,595 pp
Aug 17:	14	£4,595 pp
Nov 17:	12, 20	£6,175 pp
Jul 18:	28	£4,595 pp
Aug 18:	14	£4,595 pp
Nov 18:	12, 20	£6,175 pp

Call us Today
0333 7000 747
9 until 9 daily

Please contact us for updated prices as prices are all subject to change. Remember that all of our River Cruise Holidays can be tailored to suit your interests and dates.



JASMINE HOLIDAYS

Jasmine Holidays is a fully ATOL bonded UK Tour Operator, operating since 2007.

We are based in Petersfield in Hampshire and have a small team of dedicated River Cruise holiday experts.

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Email: sales@jasmineholidays.co.uk

