

ASIA

River Cruises

+ Antarctic & Arctic Cruises

BY DISCOVER ASIA



2011-12

River Cruising has been a delight to man since the first caveman sat astride a log and pushed off into the unknown! Majestic wooden ships with great canvas sails took men to exotic lands, where they saw wondrous sights, ate delectable foods and witnessed strange cultures... and modern day cruising still does. Modern cruise vessels happily are a lot more comfortable than that first log, but the joy of sitting still whilst the world passes you by still remains. Unlike most forms of travel, on a cruise you do not live out of a suitcase, you can unpack, put your clothes into a wardrobe and not worry about them until you disembark. On a small boat cruise you not only get to know your fellow travellers better, but your crew become close confidants too, aware of your every whim.

Discover Asia has searched for those vessels and journeys that offer a little bit more than just being a cruise ship. Vessels restored from old paddle steamers, rice barges converted into luxury cruisers and journeys into areas that have no roads or airports. This is the Golden Age of Travel rediscovered. Enjoy.



VIETNAM & CAMBODIA, TOUM TIOU 1 & 2

SAIGON - SIEM REAP & VV 8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS FROM **\$2656⁽¹⁾-\$2785⁽²⁾**

Because of their shallow draught the Toum Tiou boats are some of the very few Mekong cruise boats which depart from downtown Saigon. Fully-panelled in wood, with charm and comfort in mind, they have been designed in keeping with the local style. Modestly sized and with the safety of a steel hull, their low draught makes it possible for the boat to access the smallest of villages. With the tasteful decoration of a bygone era, the ships boast 10 cozy double cabins with private shower, a large lounge area, a panoramic viewing space to the front, a half-covered bar-restaurant to the rear and a roof patio. Air conditioning, hi-fi system and library are provided. The captain, boat hands, hostesses, cooks and boat master are quiet and inconspicuous in the performance of their duties. We have targeted these boats as PERFECT for the Australian market, offering as they do... high quality, lower passenger numbers and excellent prices.



VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA, INDOCHINE

SAIGON - SIEM REAP 7 DAYS/6 NIGHTS FROM **\$2701**

The RV Indochine is a modern ship crafted in exotic timbers and brass to recreate the aura of the 'grand old days of cruising'. Cabins on the RV Indochine are roomy (16m²) and comfortable with two movable low beds, whose bed bases act as cupboards. They have two large windows. The bathroom has a spacious shower room, a wash-hand basin and WC. Each cabin is equipped with a safe, a dressing table and hair drier. Air-conditioning is adjustable in all cabins.

Entirely covered with wood, the RV INDOCHINE was built in the purest 'Starbay' style (reminiscent of European colonial campaigns, luxurious travel in the early 20th century and contemporary urban living from the Art Deco style through today - Nature's finest...

Precious woods including Rosewood, Black Walnut, Cavasingo, Bubinga and Umbila. Solid Brass and Chrome hardware. Hand carved pure bone and the finest leathers. Her refined setting will enhance the quality of your sailing. The RV INDOCHINE has 24 comfortable and roomy cabins, all outside.





VIETNAM & CAMBODIA, JAHAN

The Jahan has been designed to set a new standard of uncompromising excellence in Mekong River cruising. The on-board accommodation is a sanctuary of style and space, featuring carefully designed staterooms and suites with floor to ceiling windows and sliding doors that open onto a private balcony plus many thoughtful touches offering privacy and uncompromised luxury. All staterooms have private balconies and king size beds. The well appointed bathrooms offer vanities and glass shower cabin. The Spa Suites have a full spa bath and shower, plus double vanities. Luxurious wooden furniture, decorated ceilings and lavish bedding finish off the feeling of unabashed luxury in all staterooms.

Every comfort is allowed for in the spacious staterooms including Apple I-pod docking stations, personal espresso machine and tea making facilities and mini bars. The public guest areas exude relaxed elegance with a Colonial era style reminiscent of the days of the British East India Company?

You can be as relaxed or active as you desire... enjoy a quiet drink in the Lobby Lounge, view the ever changing panorama in the Observatory, shop in the well stocked Boutique or pamper yourself in the Spa. Listen to your favourite music courtesy of the Wi-fi library with laptops, I-pods, DVD players and Infomedia Kiosk. With your senses thus stimulated perhaps you will feel it is time to work out a little on the Pool deck, in the gymnasium or at the steam bath.

Fine dining is a focus of the Jahan. Put your feet up with a Prosecco-Breakfast on your private balcony, pamper yourself with high tea at the Observatory or Sundowner drinks and snacks a la carte at the Funnel Bar. The Viceroy dining hall caters to your most demanding whims with Western cuisine, Khmer and Vietnamese specialties. Dining highlights may feature a Barbeque at the Pool Deck or, for that special occasion, why not enjoy a private dinner at the Observatory.

With a maximum of 52 passengers, the Jahan is able to offer a very intimate sightseeing experience. Explore the Mekong at your own pace with a la carte private shore excursions organized by your cruise concierge and private tour butler. River cruising as boutique as it can get. The choice is yours: ask your cruise concierge and choose between an array of private shore excursions or join your fellow passengers to explore the Mekong and its tributaries at your leisure. Regular movies and lectures by specialists compliment your river experience.

SAIGON – SIEM REAP & VV 12 DAYS/11 NIGHTS FROM \$3225 (Apr 2012) – \$3787 (Oct 2011-Mar 2012) (incl. 4 nts deluxe hotels & ss)

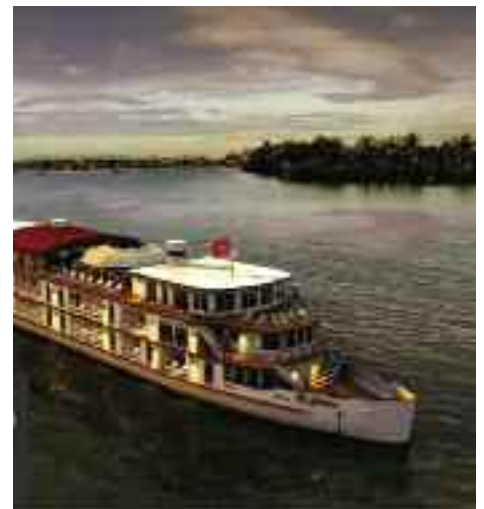
SAIGON – SIEM REAP & VV 8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS FROM \$2249 (Apr 2012) – \$2811 (Oct 2011-Mar 2012)

Rates include 7 nts on board Jahan + 2 nts twin share room at Caravelle in Saigon (with sightseeing) + 2 nts twin share room at Prince D'Angkor in Siem Reap (with sightseeing), full board on board Jahan (breakfast and lunch in Saigon & Siem Reap), all group excursions, entrance fees, arrival/departure transfers and transportation. Rates exclude the Phnom Penh Port Tax of 65 USD per person and drinks. (Drinking water all day and coffee/tea for breakfast are included.)

SAIGON – PHNOM PENH & VV 5 DAYS/4 NIGHTS FROM \$1349 (Apr 2012) – \$1687 (Oct 2011-Mar 2012)

Rates include 7 nts on board Jahan, full board on board Jahan, all group excursions, entrance fees, arrival/departure transfers and transportation. Rates exclude the Phnom Penh Port Tax of 65 USD per person and drinks. (Drinking water all day and coffee/tea for breakfast are included.)

NB: All rates are based on Superior stateroom in low season.





VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA, JAYAVARMAN

SAIGON – SIEM REAP 8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS & VV FROM **\$1692** (Jun-Sep 2011) **\$2680** (Oct 2011-Mar 2012)

SAIGON – PHNOM PENH & VV 5 DAYS/4 NIGHTS FROM **\$1116** (Jun-Sep 2011) **\$1640** (Oct 2011-Mar 2012)

Inspired by the 1930s cruise liner Normandie (a 'grand dame' from the golden age of cruising) - "The Jayavarman" (named after the most famous line of Khmer Kings) is a 20th century boutique style marvel which successfully marries avant-garde French colonial design, enchanting Indochine architecture, Khmer artifacts and the modern conveniences of a luxury cruise vessel to perfection. "The Jayavarman" is Indochina's first of its kind boutique style river cruise liner and offers uncompromising luxury on 800 m² of public space over 4 decks. This 60 meter long beauty is poised to create the upscale cruising benchmark in Vietnam. The guest accommodation (all with private bathroom) consists of 27 expansive and carefully designed staterooms and junior suites with floor to ceiling panoramic sliding glass doors onto a private French balcony offering privacy and matchless luxury. Public facilities include an indoor restaurant, bar & lounge terrace, library, boutique shop, beauty spa & Sun deck.

Start your day on the Mekong with Thai Chi lessons on the Sun Deck. Or bathe in the rays of dawn shining through your balcony as you lay in bed. A journey full of reverberating sights, colours and sounds awaits you.

As the sun slowly sets...Step out on to your private balcony...sip on your drink and become part of the river life unfolding around you. Whether it is a refreshing sundowner drink at the lounge or a pampering time at the "Apsara" beauty salon, this is a time for reflection and relaxation.

When night falls, dancers perform and dinner is served. The ship changes hue at night and the staff emerge the following morning in their exquisite Cambodian traditional outfit.

Every cruise option is offered by the Jayavarman... from the classic 8 day "Lost Civilisation" (Saigon – Siem Reap & vv), a 5 day "Serenity Cruise" (Siem Reap to Phnom Penh & vv) and the 4 days "Pearl of the Orient" (Phnom Penh to Saigon & vv).

We have purposefully left your land arrangements open so that we can design the perfect tour of Indochina for you. Add a stay at the hotel of your choice in Siem Reap whilst you explore the temples of Angkor. This may be as simple as the basic two day trip to visit the main temples or extend your stay and ramble further afield to Beng Melea, amazingly intact but overgrown by the jungle (it was this temple that was chosen as the setting for Tomb Raider!), take a cruise on Tonle Sap and witness the amazing stilt villages. The options for your stay in Saigon are only limited by your time and budget.





VIETNAM, SONG XANH SAMPANS, MEKONG DELTA

SAIGON - SAIGON 2 DAYS/1 NIGHT FROM \$195 - \$238

3 DAYS/2 NIGHTS FROM \$248 - \$281

Enjoy the complete freedom of totally independent travel whilst luxuriating in the comfort of a traditional sampan which, whilst it blends in with the local boats, offers a standard of comfort and luxury you can only dream of. Each sampan carries a charming rowing boat ("Xuong"), perfect for deeper cruises along small canals and arroyos during the itinerary. Bicycles can also be taken on board for exciting "off the beaten track" countryside rides.

Roughly 18 metres long and 4 metres wide, these delightful, luxurious vessels can get to places the bigger boats simply cannot. Designed for individuals looking for an authentic "Private Cruise" experience with overnight on board.

Equipped with a bathroom (wash basin, wc and shower), most sampans offer 1 bedroom plus a living area that can be converted into a 2nd bedroom at night. The sampans have a crew of three people including English-speaking guide. Breakfasts are served on board, but you will visit local & traditional restaurants ashore for your lunches and dinners, which adds to the cultural diversity of the cruise.

Each cruise is individually tailored by Discover Asia to fit into your time-frame and take you to the sights that will most appeal to you. Perfect for romantics wanting to avoid the crowds; parents who want to show their young kids a real, but safe, cultural experience and true travellers wanting to get off the beaten path.



* This cruise can only be booked in conjunction with a minimum 4 nights land arrangements



VIETNAM, HALONG BAY

HANOI - HANOI 2 DAYS/1 NIGHT FROM \$256 - 3 DAYS/2 NIGHTS FROM \$390

Most Halong Bay cruises are by traditional 'junks' featuring Chinese sails and a large sundeck. On the longer cruise, the 'mother ship' returns to shore whilst you transfer to a daytrip boat with private crew and cruise to the bay's most untouched areas. Enjoy swimming on quiet beaches, visiting water tunnels, fishing villages or kayaking. Lunch is served on board by your private chef. Return to the mother boat in the evening. Whilst there are many 'junks' cruising Halong Bay (and Discover Asia can book them all)... all are not created equal and you certainly 'get what you pay for'. Our preferred 'junks' are unquestionably the following...

Halong Ginger - Launched in mid 2006, this wooden junk combines classic beauty with modern comfort. This custom-designed junk features three decks that house an elegant restaurant, lounge, two bars, a small boutique, library and ten luxurious sleeping cabins. With so much space, passengers can truly unwind.

Halong Jasmine - Launched in late 2007, the attention to detail and quality of design is apparent in every inch of this newly-built junk, artfully marrying space, rich 1930s Indochine-style wooden décor and exquisite ornamentation throughout its air-conditioned 24 bedrooms, restaurant, bars and communal spaces. Halong Jasmine is the perfect way to enjoy the bay.

Halong Violet - Launched on November 2009, our newest five star junk is fitted out in the 1930's Indochine style. It features a boutique dining room, library & lounge, Spa & Gym and



* This cruise can only be booked in conjunction with a minimum 4 nights land arrangements

** Includes return car transfers Hanoi



THAILAND, MANOHRA SONG

BANGKOK - BANGKOK 3 DAYS/2 NIGHTS FROM \$1175 (Apr-Sep 2011) - \$1272 (Oct 2011-Mar 2012)

The Manohra Song, dubbed "The Oriental Express of the River", is a 20-meter, authentic river rice barge that has been lovingly restored and converted into an ultra-deluxe river cruiser. Built upon the original 100-year-old, solid teak hull, the Manohra Song features four air-conditioned bedrooms with queen-size bed, en suite bathrooms, an expansive saloon living and dining area with bar, plus an ample forward sun-deck lounging area. Interior details feature warm Teak, Padua and Mahogany woods throughout, custom-designed furniture covered with colourful silks and cottons, Oriental rugs, Thai and Southeast Asian art, sculpture and artifacts and Thai art—a marriage of exquisite styles past and present. Relive the splendour of the Thailand's past – and present – as you explore the grounds of Wat Arun (Temple of Dawn) and Wat Pananchoeng, embark on a merit-making journey at a riverfront temple, tour the fabulous Summer Palace complex at beautiful Bang Pa-In or explore Ayutthaya's temple ruins on elephant back. In between every adventure, enjoy a sumptuous menu of gourmet snacks, traditional English afternoon tea, Thai-inspired canapés and cocktails, all prepared to taste by an on-board chef and his crew. Manohra Song is staffed by an experienced and attentive crew of four including a Chef presenting the finest traditional Thai cuisine for lunch and dinner.

A variety of custom-planned cruises are available, including the regularly scheduled two night – three day "Ayutthaya Adventure". The Chao Phraya River itself offers a never-ending vista of vignettes: temples, log-rafts, barges, long-tail boats, houses, palaces; and above all, the friendly, happy people who are never too busy to wave at visitors cruising aboard Manohra Song. Ask a Discover Asia expert to design a custom-made tour of Thailand for you featuring this amazing luxury cruise.



*** This cruise can only be booked in conjunction with a minimum 4 nights land arrangements**

**** Both directions by river**



THAILAND, MEKHALA

BANGKOK - BANGKOK 2 DAYS/1 NIGHT FROM \$420 (Apr 2011-Oct 2011)

- \$497 (Nov 2011-Mar 2012)

Welcome aboard for an enchanting journey along the historical Chao Phraya River. Cruise either up-stream or down-stream between Bangkok and the ancient capital of Ayutthaya, staying overnight alongside a traditional Buddhist temple. Once a rice barge, the exotic boat is now a floating boutique hotel. There is no better way to sample the leisurely life along the River of Kings. Just one day's journey can transport you back through hundreds of years of Siamese culture and history. View life along this waterway of Thai life in style.

From Bangkok's Grand Palace and Temple of Dawn (Wat Arun) to Ayutthaya's Bang Pa-In Palace and ancient temple ruins, this journey brings you a complete picture of Thailand's pre- and post-colonial historical and architectural heritage. Enjoy a romantic candlelight dinner of mouthwatering Thai cuisine, then surround yourself in the idyllic atmosphere of the night. Next morning, awaken to the river sunrise and board a long-tail speedboat to the heart of Ayutthaya city.

Features:- Four air-conditioned staterooms with en suite bathrooms - Beautifully furnished with appointments of Teak and rare woods, Thai fabrics, Antiques, Art and Oriental Carpets - Deluxe Amenities - Bathrobe & Slippers - Vanity and make-up mirror - Personal safe - Hairdryer - Spacious upper deck with lounge and dining area - Sun deck - Fully provisioned galley - Captain, Chief Steward, Assistant Steward and First Mate on-board - Full bar available - Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner, all tours, guide, admissions and transfers included.



*** This cruise can only be booked in conjunction with a minimum 4 nights land arrangements**

**** return to Bangkok by road included**



LAOS, LUANGSAY - UPPER MEKONG

HOUAY XAI - LUANG PRABANG & VV 2 DAYS/1 NIGHT PRICE ON APPLICATION

The Luangsay boat travels on the Mekong river from Houay Xai to Luang Prabang in Laos, and, in the other direction, from Luang Prabang to Houay Xai.

Your cruise on the Mekong to the Luang Say Lodge, near the town of Pakbeng, will take about 7 - 8 hours. The overnight accommodation is in one of the more comfortable Lodges in the region. From your luxury teak and rosewood bungalow, you can view the dramatic river scenery of the Mekong, enjoying the fiery and romantic sunset and the mysterious and poetic sunrise. It is a pleasure to have dinner in the middle of the mountains of northern Laos.

The second leg of your journey is from Pakbeng to the ancient royal capital Luang Prabang, a World Heritage site. En route you will visit the world famous PakOu caves (filled with thousands of Buddhas) as the Mekong river winds its sometimes turbulent way through jungle, mountains, teak plantations and farmland.

The Luangsay is a purpose built 34 metre Mekong river barge. It is appointed with everything for your comfort, safety and enjoyment, with ample table seating for up to 40 people, lots of room to walk around, a bar, modern & clean toilet facilities and a galley to prepare a delicious lunch on board. The perfect way to relax and enjoy a unique and romantic cruise on the Mekong.

This charming and comfortable cruise is the perfect way to link a tour to Northern Thailand with the most historic and picturesque areas of Laos. Overnight in Chiang Rai (visiting the Golden Triangle and Hill-tribes), before travelling the 3 hours by road to the Mekong River and boarding the Luangsay. On the cruise you will visit numerous remote villages, unapproachable by any other means. Often these villagers only see Westerners once a week, so your visit becomes a big occasion with colourful wares adorning every home.



*** This cruise can only be booked in conjunction with a minimum 4 nights land arrangements**



LAOS, VAT PHU - LOWER MEKONG

PAKSE - PAKSE 3 DAYS/2 NIGHTS PRICE ON APPLICATION

The Vat Phu Mekong cruise offers a 3 day / 2 night cruise that starts and finishes in Pakse, Laos. This cruise on the southern part of the Mekong river in Laos visits the majestic UNESCO World Heritage Vat Phou ruins at Champassak which pre-date Angkor Wat, the mysterious Oum Muong ruins at Huei Thamo, the region known as '4,000 Islands' with its myriad of waterways, and the Pha Pheng waterfall on the Laos - Cambodia border.

Your cruise through this historically significant area of south-east Asia is on board the Vat Phu boat, a former teak wood ferry boat, and now fully restored as a luxurious cruising floating hotel. The boat is appointed with everything for your comfort, safety and enjoyment. It has 12 air conditioned cabins with private bathrooms, two large, shaded open air decks, a bar, and a restaurant.

The boat staff and guide are always available to help you with any need you may have during your cruise on the Mekong. The Mekong is the artery of life in Laos: a trading route, a source of food and water, and a social centre for the settlements along its route. Known locally as The Mother of Waters, the Mekong river has been venerated and worshipped for thousands of years.

Fly from the Lao Capital - Vientiane, to Pakse where you board the Vat Phu. At the end of your cruise you can either fly from Pakse direct to Bangkok or travel by road via Chongmek into the I-San region of Eastern Thailand. This area is rarely visited by Westerners, but has some remarkable historic and scenic wonders, such as the stunning Khmer sanctuaries of Phimai and Phanom Rung and the 4000 year old cliff-paintings of Pha Taem.



*** This cruise can only be booked in conjunction with a minimum 4 nights land arrangements**

PANDAW CRUISES -

With six luxury ships exploring five countries, Pandaw is the largest luxury river cruise company in Asia. In 1995 they were the first since the war to pioneer the great Irrawaddy and Chindwin rivers in Burma. In 2003 they were the first on the Mekong River in Cambodia and the backwaters of the Mekong Delta in Vietnam. These small ships can penetrate remote and otherwise inaccessible areas. In 2009 they opened a new route on the Rajang in Borneo. Whilst they offer a real adventure experience, travellers are cushioned with incredible, comfort, fine dining, great cocktails and choice wines, not to mention extraordinary levels of service. Their six ships were built new and designed and finished as authentic replicas of colonial river steamers. These small ships claim to have the highest passenger to space ratio of any ships afloat. Their much loved, staterooms are 170 square feet and finished in teak and brass.

A feature of all their river cruises is the once or twice daily shore excursions led by expert local guides to explore temples, historical sites, markets and handicraft workshops. The Pandaws have an ultra shallow draft enabling them to moor where larger ships could not stop. Inland water navigation in these regions is challenging, and the Pandaws have been specially designed to cope with constantly changing river conditions.



VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA, MEKONG

SAIGON - SIEM REAP & VV 8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS FROM \$1416-\$2466

To allow you to design your own distinct tour, we have left the land arrangements in Saigon & Siem Reap for you to discuss with our expert consultants.

A deluxe shipping link between Saigon and Angkor is immensely practical for travellers as it makes it possible to connect three important destinations on one trip with easy plane connections at either end: Saigon the exotic Frenchified former capital of South Vietnam, Phnom Penh, the quaint Cambodian capital, and the stupendous World Heritage monuments at Angkor. One need no longer check in and out of hotels and endure bumpy roads to visit these magnificent places. En route you will visit many riverside villages, each night returning to the luxury of your Pandaw floating hotel.



BORNEO, RAJANG RIVER

9 DAYS/8 NIGHTS FROM \$2025-\$2697

6 DAYS/5 NIGHTS FROM \$1260-\$1680

The Rajang River, at 640km, is the longest river in Malaysia and flows across Borneo from Sarawak into Indonesian Kalimantan. Though well known to many from Redmond O'Hanlon's classic 'Into the Heart of Borneo', there is very little tourism here due to the river's remoteness and lack of facilities. The scenery is magnificent – a total jungle experience with the rainforest tumbling into the fast flowing river. The Rajang is navigable on a ship of Pandaw's size for at least 250km until the Pelagus Rapids, and further on its main tributary the Baleh River. The river is peopled with the Iban, headhunters till the 1950s, whose unique long house culture survives well to this day.



MYANMAR, IRRAWADDY

8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS FROM \$2455

15 DAYS /14 NIGHTS FROM \$3262-\$3683

Pandaw operates a range of cruises from 7-20 nights duration. Stops include historic Pagan with its 3,000 monuments, and Mandalay with its royal palace and many sites around the city, particularly on the river. Sights vary from the lush teak forests around Prome, through the near desert of Middle Burma, into the mountains of Upper Burma with its' awesome river gorges. As some cruises have just one departure date and others are still to be scheduled, contact Discover Asia for the most up to date details.





MYANMAR, ROAD TO MANDALAY

MANDALAY – BAGAN 4 DAYS/3 NIGHTS FROM \$2500 (Jul 2011-Dec 2012)

BAGAN – MANDALAY 5 DAYS/4 NIGHTS FROM \$2670 (Jul 2011-Dec 2012)

Explore Bagan, where the ruins of more than 2,000 temples and pagodas remain on the awe-inspiring plain. Enjoy watching local riverlife as you cruise the Ayeyarwady River where magnificent sights await. Visit Sagaing considered to be the living centre of the Buddhist faith. Cruise to Mingun and enjoy a guided tour of Mandalay.

Upper reaches of Irawaddy, 12 days/11 nts from \$1462. Explore the wonders of hidden Burma in unrivalled comfort and style, and marvel at the gorges that rear up from the scenic Ayeyarwady River. Discover the hidden gems of Burma on daily sidetrips into the thick Kachin jungles by both road and train. Travel as far north as possible by river, just 50 miles from the Chinese border. There are just four departures of this truly memorable 11 night cruise. August 3, 17, September 7, 21 – from \$5283.

Inside this graceful river cruiser the emphasis rests on traditional comfort combined with delightful luxury. The spacious en suite cabins (deluxe = 18m2, suites from = 23m2), are fully air-conditioned and furnished with the most beautiful fabrics, finest linens and softest towels. All tours include flights to/from Yangon.

Originally plying the River Rhine in Germany, this vessel is truly luxurious by European standards, 5 newly refurbished cabin types are available on the Road To Mandalay, all of which feature a small personal safe, telephone, satellite television, en-suite bathroom and shower amenities. A collection of carefully selected European and Australian wines are available to compliment your gourmet dining. At the end of a day of discovery, guests may retire to the Piano Bar decorated with a mixture of light wood and Burmese lacquerware,



*** This cruise can only be booked in conjunction with a minimum 4 nights land arrangements**



MYANMAR, PANDAW 1947 / PAUKAN

BAGAN - MANDALAY & VV 3 DAYS/2 NIGHTS FROM \$620-\$750

Built in Scotland on the Clyde in 1947 by the famous ship-builder Yarrow & Co with the same design of the pre-war Quarter Wheeler steamers of the famed Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, this ship has been renovated and restored to now be a luxury boutique floating hotel. While retaining the many old touches such as teak and ironwood decks, old brass outfitting and the teak-walled spacious cabins, additional features were incorporated to make her lovelier, more comfortable and safe, a truly boutique-style cruise ship. Specially-designed new furniture replaced the old, new air-conditioning, silent generators plus new water de-sedimentation and treatment systems installed. For a luxury touch, natural handmade soap is installed in each shower and essence burners in each cabin. The menus include such succulent fare for dinner as roasted turkey with mushroom sauce, and the lunch buffet offers a variety of Western and Asian cuisine including delectable desserts. Whilst various cruises are operated, the standard 5 night cruise is between Bagan, famed for its' pyramid temples, and Mandalay (former Royal Capital). The cruise visits small villages and moors on the shores of the ancient capitals of Ava, Mingun and Sagaing. Approximately every 3 weeks Pandaw 1947 operates a 10 day cruise between the ancient capital of Pyay (Prome) via Bagan to Mandalay and the ancient Capitals.



*** This cruise can only be booked in conjunction with a minimum 4 nights land arrangements**

INDIA, GANGES & BRAHMAPUTRA - ASSAM BENGAL NAVIGATION (ABN)

An Indo-British joint venture, in 2003 ABN pioneered long-distance river cruising in India with their unique cruises on the River Brahmaputra in Assam, and in 2007 they were also the first to run cruises on the River Hugli between Kolkata and the Ganges. They were awarded the Indian National Tourism Award for Innovation in 2004-5. Their expertise in the field of river cruising on both waterways is unrivalled. Their first luxury river boat, the "Charaidew", with 12 air-conditioned en-suite cabins was joined in 2006 by her near-identical sister ship "Sukapha". Cruises operate in Assam from October to April, and in Bengal virtually all through the year.

Both vessels are 38m long twin-engine steel hulled passenger boats. They have been built to provide 12 generous-sized twin-bedded cabins with en-suite shower and W.C. All cabin accommodation is on the upper deck, as is a bar and saloon opening on to a front deck. A dining room with full length opening glass doors on each side is on the lower deck, while a large top sundeck offers additional comfortable open-air seating in shade or sun. The maximum group size of 24 is well-matched to the numbers of riding elephants available in National Parks along the valley, while the need to use jeeps to access the river beaches also limits group size. The result is an ideal number for fostering a friendly house-party atmosphere on board.

Food on board is a mixture of Assamese (milder than most Indian cuisine) and continental. Wines, beer and spirits are available.



BRAHMAPUTRA

GUWAHATI - KAZIRANGA & VV 8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS FROM \$1365 (8 Oct

2011-Apr 2012) - \$2450 (1 Sep - 7 Oct 2011)

With few roads and no rail, the remote NE Indian state of Assam is best visited by cruising the Brahmaputra. Thus, ABN opens up the scenic and cultural delights of Assam in a way previously impossible. Apart from daily village visits, a highlight of the river is a visit to Kaziranga NP where you will get within metres of the rare one horned Rhino on an elephant-back safari. Kaziranga is a World Heritage site and right on the river, Kaziranga National park holds most of India's One-Horned Rhinoceros as well as elephant, tiger, wild buffalo, sambar, swamp deer, hog deer and many other species. Viewing is both by jeep and on elephant back.

Both Guwahati and Dibrugarh airports are linked to Delhi and Kolkata, (Daily 3 flights to Guwahati from Delhi and Kolkata) while Guwahati is also linked to Bagdogra (for Darjeeling and Sikkim) and Bangkok in Thailand.



HISTORIC HOOGLY

CALCUTTA - FARAKKA & VV 8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS FROM \$1365 (Jul-Sep

2011) - \$2450 (Oct 2011-Apr 2012)

These 7-night cruises, upstream or downstream with return journey by rail, take you along the intimate lower Ganges sidestream, the River Hugli, which flows from Farakka on the main river down to Kolkata. As well as sightseeing of Kolkata itself and the European colonies just outside, the cruise takes in Murshidabad, capital of the Nawabs of Bengal, the battlefield of Plassey close by, and the many monuments of the medieval Islamic capital of Gaur. A highlight are several delightful and little known Bengali Terracotta temples. Cruises can be combined with Ganges cruises on most dates. The City of Palaces, Calcutta was the capital of British India for around 150 years, and boasts much superb colonial architecture. In the northern suburbs lie the old French, Dutch and Danish colonial enclaves, still retaining a distinctive flavour.



HOLY GANGES

PATNA - FARAKKA - & VV 7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS FROM \$1170 (Jul-Sep

2011) - \$2100 (Oct 2011-Apr 2012)

These cruises along the main stream of the Ganges, 6 nights downstream/8 nights upstream, operate between Farakka, reached by rail from Kolkata, and the city of Patna, and can be combined with the Hugli cruises. Mughal ruins at Rajmahal, East India Company relics at Patna and Monghyr, and Buddhist monuments at Bodhgaya and elsewhere in this, the Buddha's homeland, make for an exciting voyage through totally undiscovered territory.

A road journey south of the river is Bodhgaya, a pilgrimage centre where the Buddha achieved enlightenment. The great temple is surrounded by monasteries housing pilgrims from Tibet, Sri Lanka, Japan and many other countries. En route lie the early Buddhist monastery of Nalanda and the sacred Rajgir Hill.





VICTORIA CRUISES

For most of our clients we recommend only one cruise line on the Yangtze River - Victoria Cruises. There is a very good reason for this, whilst not the most expensive cruise line on the river, Victoria offer a standard of comfort that is perfect for most Australians. Also, they have such a large fleet that 6 days of the week in each direction we can guarantee that there will be a Victoria Cruise vessel operating.

What we show you here is simply the Yangtze section of your tour, obviously, your visit to China will be more extensive than simply the Yangtze. For all of our Victoria cruise clients we offer 'individually tailored' tours - Private car, personal English-speaking guide and the option of as many or as few inclusions as YOU desire.

VICTORIA CRUISES ARE RENOWNED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

The only American-owned cruise line on the Yangtze River, International multi-lingual cruise directors, All cabins are outside, All cabins have private balconies and bathrooms with bathtub and shower, Luxurious suite accommodations feature a private sitting area, All ships are fully air conditioned, Fabulous breakfast and luncheon buffets, Chinese dinner banquets served in an elegant single seating, and alternate dining arrangements available in our a la carte dining room on most ships, Facilities include a business center, reading room, fitness area, gift shop, and beauty salon, Onboard activities feature lectures on Chinese history and culture, Tai Chi lessons, and calligraphy demonstrations, Narrative by knowledgeable river guides while sailing through the Three Gorges, Departures year round, Latest satellite communications, HBO, CNN, and internet access on every ship.



NEW FOR 2011!

EXECUTIVE DECKS WITH LUXURY AMENITIES

In 2011, passengers in Suites and in upgraded Superior Cabins on Executive Decks will receive the following services and amenities:

- Choice of 2 dining rooms (main Dynasty Dining Room and a la carte Western/Chinese Restaurant) on the Victoria Anna, Jenna and Katarina
- Reserved window seating in the main dining room on the Victoria Empress, Queen, Prince and Star
- Concierge service
- Use of the Executive Lounge
- Use of the Executive Business Center
- Exclusive shore excursions with groups of 6 or more
- Private lectures by senior American and European staff
- Free coffee, tea and cold drinks all day in the Executive Lounge
- Reserved seating for evening entertainment

WE OFFER TWO EXCITING ITINERARIES ON THE YANGTZE...

4 DAYS/3 NIGHTS BETWEEN CHONGKING & YICHANG FROM \$480

(Mar, Jun, Jul, Aug, Nov 2012) - \$580 (Apr, May, Sep, Oct 2012)

This tour shows you all the highlights of the Yangtze Gorges, including the Lesser Gorges and riverside villages.

7 DAYS/6 NIGHTS BETWEEN CHONGKING & SHANGHAI FROM \$995

(Mar, Jun, Jul, Aug, Nov 2012) - \$1096 (Apr, May, Sep, Oct 2012)

As well as the highlights above, the longer tour includes a cable car trip up Huangshan (Yellow Mountain) and the former Capital - Nanjing before cruising into the East China Sea and docking in Shanghai. In 2012 this cruise will travel by high speed train from Nanjing to Shanghai.



* This cruise can only be booked in conjunction with a minimum 4 nights land arrangements



EXPEDITION CRUISES THE SPIRIT OF ENDERBY

TOURS START FROM **\$3750** FOR 7 DAYS

Throughout the year we operate a range of cruises which explore Antarctica, sub-Antarctic islands, West Pacific islands and the Russian Far East into the Arctic region.

Our Antarctic cruises are of special appeal to Australians, because they set sail from New Zealand, saving you the high cost and exhausting flight to Ushuaia in Sth America where most other cruises leave from.

Our vessel, the 'Spirit of Enderby' is perfect for Expedition Travel. The real focus and emphasis of every expedition is getting you ashore as often as possible for as long as possible with maximum safety and comfort. It carries just 48 passengers in very comfortable accommodation (refurbished in New Zealand Nov '04). The cuisine is excellent and is prepared by top NZ and Australian chefs.

Our Expeditions are accompanied by some of the most experienced naturalists and guides, who have devoted a lifetime to field research in the areas that we visit. The ship is crewed by a very enthusiastic and most experienced Russian Captain and crew.

The 'Spirit of Enderby' measures 72 metres in length and is fully ice-strengthened. Powered by two 1,560 horse power diesel engines. It is capable of speeds of up to 12 knots. What makes this Expedition Vessel absolutely unique is the equipment we carry including:

- a) Our fleet of RIB's, (rigid inflatable boats) sometimes referred to as zodiacs. These extremely safe and stable craft will land you at some of the most amazing places.
- b) Our specially designed and built Hovercraft (2) give us unprecedented over ice capability in Antarctica allowing us to land in places that are inaccessible to other ships.

'South to Antarctica' – 12 Jan 2012 18 days from AU\$16,900

'In the Wake of Scott & Shackleton' - 08 Jan & 06 Feb 2013 29 days from AU\$18,500

'Birding Downunder' – 31 Oct 2011 & 21 Dec 2012 18 days from AU\$10,295

'Galapagos of the Southern Ocean' – 18 Nov 2011 & 09 Dec 2012 12 days from AU\$5750

'Forgotten Islands of the South Pacific' – 28 Dec 2011 & 05 Jan 2012 7 days from AU\$3750

'Western Pacific Odyssey' – 29 Mar 2010 30 days from AU\$ 10,500

'Birding the Russian Far East' – 12 Jun 2011 & 26 May 2012 13 days from AU\$7,800

'In the Wake of Bering' – 26 Jun 2011 & 24 Jun 2012 14 days from AU\$8395

'Across the Top of the World' – 26 Jul, 09 Aug & 23 Aug 2011 14 days from AU\$8200

'Jewel of the Russian Far East' – 06 Sep 2011 19 days from AU\$11,500

As each cruise is unique and berths sell out one year in advance – we suggest you talk to our Polar cruise expert – Lisa.



YOUR AGENT

IMPORTANT – For a booking form, booking terms & conditions and to view our full range of hundreds of tours to 26 destinations in Asia... visit our website www.discoverasia.com.au. All tour costs in this brochure include twin share accommodation in minimum level cabin in low season, breakfast - lunch - dinner on board, arrival and departure transfers to a designated point, comprehensive sightseeing including English-speaking guide and entrance fees. International air fares, items of a personal nature, Government & local taxes and visa excluded. Contact Discover Asia for full pricing, cabin upgrades and departure dates.

DISCOVER ASIA

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web: www.discoverasia.com.au

Payment by Money Direct, e-nett or cheque

All prices are in Australian Dollars.

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