

Dold World Journeys presents

Irrawaddy River Cruise, Myanmar 18 days

Including fascinating Inle Lake



Dates & Prices

Leave **Mon. Oct. 17** - Return **Thu. Nov. 03**, 2016 - **\$9,690***

Port Tax - \$85 / Single Room Supplement - \$4,950 / Child Discount - (\$745) / Land Only - \$8,165

* Priced based on "B" category. Upgrade to category "A" (upper deck) for \$400 per person more.

\$ 372 - Globus Journeys Club Discount (submit your Globus Journeys Club number to qualify).

Save Up To \$100 with our Sign-up Discounts.

Highlights

- Deluxe 10-nights River Cruise from Bhamo to Bagan on the *Avalon Myanmar* in hotel-style, outside stateroom, and 4 nights in Superior First Class, or Deluxe Hotels. Deluxe Avalon Waterways. 14 (B) Breakfasts, 13 (L) Lunches, and 13 (D) Dinners. Bottled Water on excursions. Free coffee, tea, soda, local beer/spirits on ship.
- Escorted by **Alex Dold** from Honolulu. Professional Cruise Director and a selection of certified local guides. Twin-bedded rooms/cabins with private bath or shower, service charges, and tips for baggage handling.
- Airfare from Honolulu. Three intra-flights. Trishaw tour in Bhamo, Elephant Ride near Katha, Amarapura Sunset Sampan experience, Ox Cart journey in Bagan. Private deluxe transfer shuttle with air-conditioning.
- Daily guided explorations. Visits to a Tapestry & Woodcarving, Gold Leaf, Silversmiths, Lacquer, Silk, and Cheroot Workshops. Learn how 50-gallon pots are created in Kyauk Myaung.
- Special interaction with locals at: a Fisherman's Home, School and Nunnery in Kyun Daw; Monks Monastery (witness alms collection and lunch ritual) at Kya Hnyat; and a Farmer's Home in Shwe Pyi Thar.
- Some of our spectacular sites are the Dramatic Second Defile, Chaukhtatgyi's reclining Buddha, Shwedagon Pagoda, the 1783 teakwood U Bein Bridge, Mahamuni Gold-Leaf Buddha, Shwenandaw Moastery (remnant of King Midon's "Golden City"), the view from Soon U Ponya Shin Pagoda, and the Bagan Archaeological zone.
- Savor a Mandalay Dance performance, Traditional Puppet show in Shwe Pyi Thar, and Padaung music and dance performed by the long-necked women of Inle. *Ran out of space : (more highlights found in the itinerary -*

Itinerary

Day 1. Honolulu Departure. Our adventure to the "Golden Land" of Myanmar begins today with an overnight departure for the Orient. Once the preliminary flight schedule is ready it will be displayed online at doldworldjourneys.com under the journey's web page and distributed to those already signed up.

Day 2. Orient Overnight. Depending on our airlines and flight connections, we may need to overnight in the Orient. This hotel stay will be included in our airfare. *Sorry UA fans, this one will not be United Airlines.*

Day 3. Myanmar Arrival. Welcome to Yangon, formerly known as Rangoon, the Myanmar's largest city and former capital. We touchdown in the mid-morning, clear customs and immigration, and are met by our Globus local guide who takes us to the Sule Shangri-La Hotel, our home for the next two nights. Our day is at leisure to rest or start exploring this dynamic city. Alex, our Hawaii host, and our local guide will be available with suggestions.

Day 4. Exploring Yangon. Begin with a guided stroll featuring many of the city's famous and historic landmarks, including the High Court, City Hall, Central Railway Station, and Sule Pagoda, built during the time of Buddha. Stop along the way at a **Local Tea Shop** for a cup of tea/coffee with the locals. After lunch, visit **Chaukhtatgyi** to see the massive reclining Buddha measuring in at 213 feet. Then continue to **Shwedagon Pagoda**, the most important religious site in the country and a national symbol. Here, a truly enchanting scene unfolds as the sunsets on the golden stupa and locals come to pay their respects. Tonight, our welcome dinner is in one of Yangon's best restaurants. (B), (L), (D)

Day 5. Experience Bhamo (Embarkation) and the Dramatic Second Defile. Our day starts with a transfer to the airport for our flight to Bhamo. Upon arrival, we explore **Bhamo** by local trishaw and by foot, and then transfer to the port and board the **Avalon Myanmar** to begin our 10-night deluxe cruise on the spectacular **Irrawaddy River**. In the afternoon, get acquainted with the ship and sail through the limestone rocks of the **Dramatic Second Defile** with its magnificent cliffs reaching down the narrow channel. (B), (L), (D)

The all-suite Avalon Myanmar was launched in 2015. The ship reflects the traditions of Myanmar while offering all the comforting modern features. Carrying only 36 guests the ship offers an unrivaled small-ship cruise experience ensuring we engage with locals, experience their culture, and revel in the unique sights along the majestic Irrawaddy. It is built as long and wide as other ships that carry twice as many guests. From the spacious dining room and open-air observation lounge to the Sky Deck and air-conditioned Panorama Lounge there are plenty of places to sit and relax. Anywhere you sit you will have a great view of the passing scenery. In addition, there's a gym and two spa rooms offering relaxing massages. And with a crew to guest ratio of nearly 1:1 we will experience personalized service throughout the journey.

The hotel-style Avalon Suites features an expansive 245 square feet of living space. The innovative Open-Air Balcony is a floor-to-ceiling, wall-to-wall panoramic window measuring a massive 14 feet across. The doors slide open a full 9 feet, creating the feeling of sitting outside. And when the window is closed the space transforms into a comfortable sitting room as you watch the passing scenery. You'll also appreciate the thoughtful design of the bathroom, with its enlarged showers, marble countertops, premium fixtures, and a rain shower head. It's a luxurious hotel room on a ship.

With all meals included on board, every dining experience brings our destination to life. Try authentic cuisine from Myanmar or more familiar Western alternatives. The breakfast buffet offers a wide variety of dishes to start our day off right. Lunch features a buffet and a live cooking station showcasing local specialties served by our Head Chef. In the evening, a four-course à la carte dinner awaits with choice of salads, soups, entrées, dessert or cheese, and complimentary wine, local beer/spirits, soft drinks, coffee & tea. Vegetarian options are available with all meals.

Day 6. Kyun Daw. This morning we have a visit to the fascinating island village of **Kyun Daw**, where over 7,000 stupas surround the monastery. Take a guided walk for memorable encounters with the villagers. Visit a **Fisherman's Home** to learn more about daily life here and a **School** to interact with the children. We also experience a **Nunnery** to present the nuns with food purchased the day before at the market in Bhamo. Unlike monks, they have to collect and cook their own food. As we sail south this afternoon, with some luck, we may catch a glimpse of the rare *Irrawaddy dolphin* with its distinctive round forehead. (B), (L), (D)

Day 7. Via Katha to Tigyang. After breakfast we explore a **Local Market** and observe the locals buying and selling fish, meat, produce, and more. Then, journey a short distance outside the city to an **Elephant Camp** in the teak forest. Skilled mahouts will explain how they have worked with elephants for centuries, and give us the opportunity to *ride an elephant* through the forest. Then sail to the small village of **Tigyang** for an afternoon guided stroll through its narrow lanes and to visit the pagoda and *reclining Buddha* on a hilltop with stunning views. (B), (L), (D)

Day 8. Kya Hnyat. Today explore the village of **Kya Hnyat** with its many Buddhist monasteries. Here we will *interact with the monks* at a local monastery. Each morning they don their distinctive saffron-colored robes and walk through the streets to collect alms, offerings of food, like cooked rice and curry. This is a truly memorable experience as we present alms to the monks and witness their lunch ritual. (B), (L), (D)

Day 9. Kyauk Myaung. Begin the day walk with our guide through the captivating pottery-making village of **Kyauk Myaung**. Along the way learn more about the pot-making process and see how they are formed, fired, and glazed. Most interesting is the eye-catching 50-gallon variety, often referred to as *Martaban* or *Ali Baba* jars in colonial times. These pots could transport large quantities of liquor, fish sauce, peanut oil, and more, and have played an important part of maritime trade throughout Asia for centuries. (B), (L), (D)

Day 10. Via Mingun to Mandalay and excursion to Amarapura. This morning a guided tour on foot through the village of **Mingun** to witness its bronze bell, considered the largest working bell in the world. Then stop at the famous unfinished pagoda, where construction was abandoned at 160 feet, only a third of the planned height. Afterward, sail a short distance to **Mandalay**. We visit nearby **Amarapura**, former capital of Myanmar. Here our focus is on the famous **U Bein Bridge**, a three-quarter-mile-long bridge built in 1783 from reclaimed teakwood from the old royal palace in Inwa. The bridge is still a cornerstone of the community as locals and monks use it daily to cross *Taungthaman Lake* while fishermen and farmers go about their daily work below. In the late afternoon we take a **Sampan Ride** on the lake for memorable views of the sunset behind the iconic bridge. (B), (L), (D)

Day 11. Discovering Mandalay. Our morning starts with a visit to a **Tapestry & Woodcarving Workshop** to learn more about these cottage industries and see the skilled artisans at work. Then, stop at a **Gold Leaf Workshop** to learn how it is made. Lastly, experience **Mahamuni Pagoda**, the most revered shrine in Mandalay, to see its impressive *gold-leaf Buddha*. Due to the continual application of gold leaves, officials estimate the gold is approximately six inches thick.

In the afternoon, explore **Kuthodaw Pagoda** and **Shwenandaw Monastery**, the only remnant of former King Mindon's "*Golden City*" to survive the bombing of World War II. Originally this was the king's living quarters, but the building was moved after his death to its current location and converted into a monastery. Today, the original gilding has faded, but the intricate wood carvings endure, giving us a sense of how extravagant the original teak palace complex was. This evening, enjoy a **Traditional Dance Performance** featuring local song and dance. (B), (L), (D)

Day 12. Sagaing. Today our highlight is a visit to **Sagaing**, an important religious site with countless pagodas dotting the surrounding hillsides. Here, stop to see **Kaunghmudaw Pagoda** with its golden egg-shaped dome - unique among more

traditional pagodas in Myanmar. Next, on to a **Silversmith Workshop** to learn how the local artisans turn silver into beautiful works of art. Lastly, explore **Soon U Ponya Shin Pagoda** at the top of *Sagaing Hill* for stunning views of the Irrawaddy and across to Mandalay. (B), (L), (D)

Day 13. Shwe Pyi Thar. Relax this morning and take in the sights from one of the ship's lounges or our suite. This afternoon, take a guided stroll through **Shwe Pyi Thar**, a typical village along the Irrawaddy. Here we will experience a **Local Farmer's Home** to learn more about daily life here and see the locals making palm candy, a sweet and smoky candy, from the sap of the toddy palm. To harvest the sap, a climber scales the toddy palm and hangs an earthen pot under a slit he cuts in the tree. The sap is then cooked in an iron pan over an open wood fire until it thickens and can be formed into small pieces by hand. After dinner, enjoy a **Traditional Puppet Show** presented in one of the lounges. (B), (L), (D)

Day 14. Exploring Bagan. Today we discover **Bagan**, capital of Myanmar from the 9th to the 13th centuries. It is estimated that during this time over 13,000 temples, monasteries, and pagodas were built in the plains surrounding the city - an area of about 40 square miles. Many of these structures have been lost over time, but around 2,300 still stand today, making this one of the *world's greatest archaeological sites*. Early risers can visit one of the temples with a Local Guide to witness sunrise.

Our morning excursion starts with a visit to a **Local Market** selling handicrafts, fabrics, and longyis - a versatile sheet of cloth worn around the waist by most local men and women. Then, stop at the ornate **Shwezigon Pagoda**, one of the country's most important shrines. We will also visit a **Lacquer Workshop** to learn more about this ancient craft. After lunch, our sightseeing centers on the **Bagan Archaeological Zone**. Highlights include **Ananda**, considered by many to be the most beautiful temple, and **Dhammayang Yi**, the best preserved monument left standing. Also admire the exquisite and well preserved fresco paintings at **Sulamani**. End our day with an **Ox Cart Ride** to a temple, where we will ascend to the top as the sun sets. Tonight, join our Cruise Director and ship's crew for a *Farewell Reception* and special *Farewell Dinner*. (B), (L), (D)

Day 15. Disembarkation, then via Heho to Inle Lake. Amazing thoughts of the Irrawaddy are with us as we transfer to the airport for our flight to Heho, the gateway to **Inle Lake**, a tranquil lake surrounded by mountains. We pause at **Red Mountain Estate** to bask in the beautiful scenery as we savor a lunch of authentic fare and wine produced from the vineyards here. Then we continue to the lakeside Villa Inle Resort & Spa, our home for the next two nights. (B), (L), (D)

Day 16. Inle Lake. A fascinating excursion experiencing life around the lake is in store for us today. Stilted houses dot the shorelines and the local Intha use the famous one-legged rowing technique to fish and tend their floating gardens of tomatoes, cucumbers, aubergine, and more. These clever gardens are made from weeds lashed together and mud from the lake bottom, then anchored using bamboo poles, allowing them to rise and fall with the water level of the lake. Along the way we will stop at a **Silk Workshop**, where they use the fibers of the lotus plant to weave garments. Also visit a **Silversmith Workshop** and a **Cheroot Workshop**, where young girls roll the cigars at a dizzying pace. Before dinner, attend a **Music & Dance Performance** by the Padaung long-necked women who live in this area. (B), (L), (D)

Day 17. Via Heho to Yangon. Before noon we head to Heho for our flight back to Yangon where transfer to a First-Class airport hotel for the rest of the afternoon. In the late evening we say "*Aloha*" to our newly made friends as we head to the airport to begin our flight home. (B)

Day 18. To Honolulu. Fabulous memories of an amazing experience are with us as make our way home today.

General Conditions - Irrawaddy

DEPOSIT AND FINAL PAYMENT: A **\$250** per person *credit card* deposit processed by the Globus Family is required to secure your space. Please **do not** send money. Once we receive your Reservation Form we will contact you. This deposit is part of your final payment, which is due no later than **90 days** prior to departure. You will receive a final payment request approximately two weeks before its due date. Final payment will be divided, with the land portion going to the Globus Family and the international airfare plus any extras going to ES International (DWJ's airline ticketing agent).

Sign-up discounts are combinable with other discounts, but are not transferable to other programs. Land-only space is limited. Land price does NOT include airport transfers, dayrooms, or pre or post night hotel accommodations. *These can be purchased.*

CANCELLATION AND REFUND: Full refund* will be made, if cancellation is received up to **185 days** prior to departure; thereafter, only the monies which will be recovered from the hotels, operators, airlines, etc., will be refunded. No refund will be made for services not used once the tour commences. All refunds or penalties are subject to the rules and tariffs of the vendors concerned. (*Note: Once your airline ticket is issued it is non-refundable.) There is a \$25 fee for any changes made after 90 days.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We recommended purchasing travel insurance with your DEPOSIT. This will insure you are covered from a pre-existing condition. We will send you a copy of the coverage offered for this journey. This insurance is refundable up to 180 days prior to departure. You can also purchase insurance with final payment but **will not** be covered for a pre-existing condition.

PRICE: Prices are per person based on two people sharing a room/cabin and accurate as of December 3, 2015. Our program prices are guaranteed (unless taxes increase). We need a minimum of 14 people flying with the group to operate this program.

PRICE INCLUDES: The price includes airfare based on a special group fare, which is subject to certain restrictions; accommodations in Superior First class or Deluxe hotels/ships based on two people sharing a room/cabin with private facilities (bath or shower); meals as indicated in the itinerary: (B) breakfast, (L) lunch, and (D) dinner; and entrance fees where applicable.

NOT INCLUDED: The price does not include passport expenses; meals not listed above; all beverages; airport tax; baggage and health insurance; laundry expenses; and all items of a personal nature. Tips to tour directors, tour drivers, local guides, and hotel personnel; excursions; city sightseeing; and entrance fees are excluded unless specifically noted in the itinerary.

PASSPORT AND VISA: A passport valid 6 months past the date of your return with at least 3 blank pages is required. A Tourist Visa for Myanmar is required on this program (approx. \$60). We will help you obtain this Visa online. Visa fees are not included in the journey price. Your passport copies are due with the **deposit**.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: For persons traveling alone who wish to share hotel rooms, every effort will be made to find you a roommate; however, if this is not possible, through choice or circumstance, the single supplement must be charged.

SIGHTSEEING AND TRANSFERS: All sightseeing and transfers are by private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach with extra leg room.

BAGGAGE: Due to limited motorcoach capacity, only one suitcase (50 lbs maximum) and one carry-on per person will be allowed. Porterage for this suitcase is included in the tour price. No responsibility is accepted for loss of or damage to baggage or any of the passengers' belongings. We recommend buying travel insurance.

RESPONSIBILITY: Dold World Journeys, LLC. and Group Voyagers Inc., dba Globus, 5301 S. Federal Circle, Littleton, CO 80123 (hereinafter referred to as "the Companies") are responsible to you in making arrangements for the tour services offered in the itinerary, including transportation, sightseeing, and hotel accommodations.

The carriers, hotels and other suppliers providing tour services are independent contractors and are not agents, employees, or servants of, or joint ventures with, the Companies or its affiliates. All certificates and other travel documents for tour services issued by the Companies are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the supplier and to the laws of the countries in which the services are supplied. If, after tour departure, the services included in the tour cannot be supplied or there are changes in an itinerary for reasons beyond the control of the Companies, the Companies will arrange for the provision of comparable services. Any resulting additional expense will be payable by tour participants and any resulting savings will be refunded by the Companies to tour participants.

The Companies reserves the right to accept or reject any person as a tour participant, to expel any tour participant from the tour, to make changes in the itinerary whenever the Companies deems it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of the tour participants, and to cancel a tour at any time.

Any disability requiring special attention should be reported to Globus at the time the reservation is made. Globus will make reasonable attempts to accommodate the special needs of disabled tour participants, but the Companies are not responsible for any denial of services by carriers, hotels, restaurants, and other independent suppliers. The motorcoach company and other carrier employees may not physically lift participants or assist them on or off transportation vehicles. Persons requiring such assistance must be accompanied by a qualified companion.

The tour participant agrees that neither the Companies nor its affiliates shall be liable for any damages, loss (including personal injury, death, and property loss), or expense occasioned by any act or omission of any supplier providing tour services or of any other person.

Legal proceedings against the Companies may be instituted only in a state or federal court located within the State of Colorado, and any claim involved in such proceedings shall be decided in accordance with the laws of the State of Colorado. Any legal proceedings against the Companies must be commenced within one year following the date of tour completion.

No person other than an authorized representative of the Companies, by a document in writing, is authorized to vary, add, or waive any term or condition in regard to this tour program, including any term or condition set forth in the preceding provisions. (Travel Agents Registration #7051)

Reservation Form

Irrawaddy River Cruise, Myanmar

Date of Tour: _____

To join our journey please complete, sign, and return by e-mail or mail. If the itinerary has been finalized a per person credit card deposit (and possibly insurance payment) will be due to hold your space.

Dold World Journeys, LLC

4348 Waialae Avenue, Box 372, Honolulu, HI 96816

alex@doldworldjourneys.com / www.DoldWorldJourneys.com / (808) 732-9430

Name (1): Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____

Roommate (2): Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____

Correspondence & Billing Information

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Other Phone _____

Email _____

In Case Of Emergency While On Tour, Please Notify

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Other Phone _____

Secure Flight Passenger Information

We need your LEGAL NAME and BIRTH DATE for all tours

Passport copies are due with final payment for all international tours, including Canada & Mexico.

Person 1

Legal Name _____ Birth Date _____

Citizenship _____ Example: United States, Japan, Philippines

Person 2

Legal Name _____ Birth Date _____

Citizenship _____ Example: United States, Japan, Philippines

By signing this application I acknowledge that I have read the General Conditions and agree with the terms outlined therein.

Signature _____

World Explorations in the Dold Family Tradition of Value and Service!