



HERITAGE DESTINATIONS

NATURE • BUILDINGS • PEOPLE

Burma: Land of the Buddhas

Program Commences:	Saturday 27 October 2007 in Yangon **SOLD OUT** or Saturday 26 January 2008 in Yangon
Program Concludes:	Tuesday 13 November 2007 in Yangon **SOLD OUT** or Tuesday 12 February 2008 in Yangon
Program in conjunction with:	<i>Australian Museum Members</i>
Cost per person twinshare:	AUD4990 including economy class return airfare ex Sydney
Single Supplement:	AUD825
Program Leaders:	Dr Bob Hudson , from the Archaeology Department at the University of Sydney, is one of the few international researchers currently conducting regular excavations in Burma. He specialises in the origin and development of early Buddhist urban centres of South East Asia, with a special focus on Myanmar. Bob is an experienced leader of educational travel programs to Myanmar and other Buddhist destinations, most recently with The Australian Institute of International Affairs. He looks forward to sharing his enthusiasm and knowledge of Myanmar's rich, textured and binding culture with fellow travellers.
Fitness Level:	This is a coach-based touring program with moderate transfers between centres. Visits to museums and outdoor sites will require medium mobility and the ability to stand for varying periods.
Accommodation:	Accommodation, including two nights on board the luxury cruiser <i>Discovery</i> , is of a high standard throughout the program.
Program Overview:	<p>This is Burma, and it will be quite unlike any land you know about.</p> <p>Kipling's words echo as true today as when they were written. Primitive and untamed, Myanmar (Burma) is one of the most enigmatic nations of Southeast Asia. Part of the reason is due to the terrain: ringed by rugged mountains on three borders and the Bay of Bengal to the south, Myanmar's physical setting is a key influence in its climate; but it also kept it politically and culturally apart from the rest of the world, introverted and caught up in its own strange and exotic destinies. This isolation and the relative absence of foreign influence offers travellers an unparalleled glimpse of traditional life in Southeast Asia, where even today in many provinces there are minimal concessions to modern living. Myanmar's built environment includes exquisite sites full of interest - caves, temples, pagodas, gardens, museums, monuments and picturesque districts - and when not exploring these, you will be introduced to the curiosities of local tribal and Buddhist cultures and, of course, the delights of some of the most exciting, colourful and fragrant markets in Asia.</p>

Our Myanmar itinerary has been carefully designed by a specialist team supervised by our leader Dr Bob Hudson to encompass a truly extraordinary number of historical and cultural Burmese sites. Our tour differs from conventional Myanmar itineraries and includes a visit to the lost ancient kingdom of Arakan (now Rakhine State in Myanmar), a largely undiscovered region which played a central role in the cultural exchange between India and South East Asia and Pyin-U-Lwin (Maymyo), the former British hill station in the Shan foothills. We cover a lot of ground, but we do so in a leisurely manner that will leave free time for personal exploration, shopping or for visiting additional places of interest along the way.

We journey through breathtakingly beautiful and infinitely varied landscapes as we explore the many strands of the country's cultural tapestry. The Burmese remain a tribal and predominantly rural people and their relationship to the dynasties who emerged and ruled them can only be understood by reference to the countryside. The fertile agricultural plains give way to the mountains, each range possessing its own character.

Insular and intriguing, Burma is one of the oldest, richest cultures in the world, mysterious, beautiful and addictive. You are going to see incredible things, enjoy unforgettable experiences, and meet many warm, friendly people.

[Contact us](#) for a detailed program brochure.