

December 14, 2015

Dear Ruth & Garry,

Thank you for choosing Explorient! We are delighted to have the opportunity to serve you on your 2016 trip to Asia. Kindly review the below summary of services for your trip. All services have been confirmed at this time.

TOUR SUMMARY:

27 Day / 26 Night Custom Hong Kong, Vietnam, Myanmar & China Program

- Economy Class Hong Kong / Hanoi / Yangon – Mandalay / Bangkok / Shanghai / Xian / Beijing Airfares
- 4 nights at InterContinental Grand Stanford Hotel** in Hong Kong (Premier Side Harbor View Room)
- 2 nights at Hotel de L'Opera in Hanoi (Deluxe Room)
- 1 night at Novotel Halong Bay (Superior Bay View)
- 2 nights at Sule Shangri-la Hotel in Yangon (Deluxe Room)
- 10 nights on board Amapura Cruise by AMA Waterways (SF Cabin)
- 1 night at Sedona Hotel in Mandalay (Deluxe Room)
- 3 nights at Swissotel Grand Hotel in Shanghai (Premier Room)
- 2 nights at Shangri-la Hotel in Xian (Deluxe City View Room)
- 3 nights at The Regent Beijing (Deluxe Room)
- Hotel Breakfasts Daily
- Other lunches & dinners as specified per land portion of itinerary (food only)
- Full board daily on board Amapura Cruise (including beverages)
- Private tour throughout: all transfers and sightseeing by private vehicle, driver & professional guides (except on board Amapura – shore excursions on join basis with other cruise passengers)

TOUR ITINERARY

Day	Activity Summary
Mar. 09	Arrive Hong Kong: Upon arrival in Hong Kong, transfer to InterContinental Grand Stanford Hotel by private car (driver only) for your next 4 nights' accommodations. ***Note: Passengers are to meet airport representation at counter "B1" in front of Exit B upon arrival at HKIA for arrival transfers to hotel. Transfers on private basis without guide. ***
Mar. 10	Hong Kong: Full day free at leisure to relax and explore Hong Kong on your own. (B)
Mar. 11	Hong Kong: Free at leisure. (B)
Mar. 12	Hong Kong: This morning, enjoy private walking tour via public transportation to explore Hong Kong's Central & Western Districts. Starting with a ride on the Star Ferry, we visit Central District, the business and financial hub of Hong Kong – a glittering show of mirrored towers, multi-million dollars high-rises and designer shops. Take a tram ride up to Victoria Peak, one of Hong Kong's must-sees offering panoramic views of the Hong Kong Harbor. Afterwards, hop on the historic HK Tramway to one of the island's oldest residential areas. Visit a local market and board the world's longest outdoor escalator to Hollywood Road famous for its many antiques, curio shops and furniture. Time permitting, make a brief stop at Man Mo Temple before returning to your hotel by subway (MTR). Enjoy the balance of the afternoon at leisure. (B)

Mar. 13	Hong Kong / Hanoi: Transfer to the airport (driver only) for your afternoon flight to Hanoi. Upon arrival, be met and transferred to Hotel de L'Opera. Enjoy the balance of the afternoon at leisure. (B)
Mar. 14	Hanoi: Enjoy full day sightseeing of Hanoi City that includes Ho Chi Minh Complex visiting his Still house and the Presidential Palace (outside viewing), Hanoi's Old Quarters, Temple of Literature, "Hanoi Hilton" Prison, Opera House, National Museum and One Pillar Pagoda. Includes lunch at a local restaurant. (B,L)
Mar. 15	Hanoi / Halong Bay: This morning, depart by road for Halong Bay (4 hours) and board your privately chartered "junk" for a fantastic cruise through Ha Long Bay with a fresh seafood lunch on board. Enjoy sea kayaking and visits to several islands in the bay. Overnight at Novotel Halong Bay. (B,L)
May 16	Halong Bay / Yangon: Transfer to Hanoi Airport for your afternoon flight to Yangon. Upon arrival, be met and transferred to Sule Shangri-la Hotel. (B)
Mar. 17	<p>Yangon: Yangon lies in the fertile delta of southern Myanmar, on the wide Yangon River. The city is filled with tree-shaded boulevards, while shimmering stupas float above the treetops. Start the day at the Sule Pagoda, a gleaming octagonal pagoda that stands squarely at the centre point of the city. Afterwards, visit the National Museum (closed on Mondays and Public Holidays) to gain an insight into Myanmar. See the eight meter high Sihasana Lion Throne, used by the last Burmese king, and other fascinating artefacts from Burmese history and culture. Enjoy a break at Bogyoke (Scott) Market, a pleasant covered market containing crafts from all corners of Myanmar, gems, fabrics and more. Lunch is served at a local restaurant.</p> <p>This afternoon, visit some of the more well-known pagodas, including Botataung Pagoda, named after the 1000 military leaders who escorted relics of the Buddha from India over 2000 years ago. Visit Chaukhtatgyi Pagoda, a reclining Buddha that is almost as large as the enormous figure of Shwethalyaung Buddha in Bago. It's housed in a large metal-roofed shed on Shwegondaing Lan, only a short distance north-east beyond the Shwedagon Paya. Finally, continue to the Shwedagon Pagoda, the highlight of any visit to Yangon. Towering over the city, this pagoda is the most sacred spot in the country, built to house eight hair relics of the Buddha. The Shwedagon and surrounding shrines are at their most beautiful during the sunset hour, as the golden stupa reflects the changing colours of twilight. (B,L)</p>
Mar. 18	Yangon / Pyay / Irrawaddy Cruise: Today, transfer overland by private vehicle (approx. 6 hours) to Pyay and board your Amapura Cruise for your Irrawaddy River Journey. This evening, enjoy a Welcome Dinner on board your cruise. (B,D)
Mar. 19	Irrawaddy Cruise (Pyay): Take a walking tour of Pyay, the former capital that once served as an important junction between Lower and Upper Burma and home to more than 80 gilded pagodas. During your city tour you will see the ancient Sri Kestra City Gate, enjoy a visit to the Sri Kestra Museum and the Payagi Pagoda. (B,L,D)
Mar. 20	Irrawaddy Cruise (Minhla – Magwe): Further upstream today, the ship will stop at Minhla, site of a great battle during the Second Anglo-Burmese War. A short walk brings you to a Colonial Fort, built by Italian engineers in 1860 to keep British forces out of Burma. You will also have an opportunity to stop a local market. Later, visit Magwe and take a panoramic coach tour to see the Mud Volcano in Minbu, the mythical home of fire breathing dragons living deep beneath the earth. You'll also see the General Aung San "Bogyoke" Statue and the Myathalon Pagoda, situated on the banks of the river. (B,L,D)
Mar. 21	Irrawaddy Cruise (Salay): Your ship cruises to Salay today, a small community that boasts more than 50 monasteries built of teak. Visit Yokesonekyau, built in 1882 and the region's oldest surviving wooden monastery, famous for its wood carvings and collection of religious artifacts. You will also see a splendid colonial-era house and the 13th century Man Pagoda, which contains the largest lacquer Buddha in Myanmar. (B,L,D)
Mar. 22	Irrawaddy Cruise (Tant Kyi Taung – Bagan): Join your fellow passengers for an excursion up Tant Kyi Taung

	Mountain to visit its famous pagoda, built in the year 1059 by King Anawrahta and known to house a sacred Buddha relic. Later, your ship's Sun Deck offers the perfect vantage point for your first glimpse of the plain of Bagan, one of the world's most awe-inspiring archeological sites. Upon arrival in Bagan, you will have two tour options. Choose to visit an observation tower where you will enjoy a beautiful sunset while sipping on a refreshing cocktail. Afterwards, transfer to a local temple and participate in a candle lighting ceremony blessed by local monks. Or you may choose to watch the sunset from the top of Guni Temple instead, and then meet with your fellow travelers at the temple for the candle lighting ceremony. (B,L,D)
Mar. 23	Irrawaddy Cruise (Bagan): Your full day in Bagan offers you three sightseeing choices. The first is climbing to the observation deck (250 steps) or the top (777 steps) of Mount Popa, legendary home of animist nat spirits. Afterwards, stop for lunch and enjoy a tasting of Jaggery, a palm sugar that is made from the Totty Palm Tree. Alternatively, you may enjoy free time to shop and explore other attractions at the Mount Popa Resort. Your third option is an excursion to some of the most distinctive pagodas in the Bagan Archaeological Zone, like Shwezigon Pagoda and the Ananda temple. Afterwards, you will spend some time at the lively Nyaungoo market, where you can search for local handicrafts, colorful textiles and other unique souvenirs. Later, visit the 13th century Gubyaulgyi Temple, which is situated near the Wetkyi-inn Village, and the Pyathada temple. (B,L,D)
Mar. 24	Irrawaddy Cruise (Bagan – Yandabo): Admire one last sunrise over Bagan before the ship departs for Yandabo, a peaceful village where the British and Burmese signed a treaty ending the First Anglo-Burmese War in 1826. Yandabo is widely known for its finely crafted terracotta wares and you'll have a chance to see a pottery-making demonstration by local artisans, as well as glimpses of typical village life. (B,L,D)
Mar. 25	Irrawaddy Cruise (Inwa – Amarapura - Sagaing): This afternoon you will visit Inwa, the capital of the Burmese kingdom for more than four centuries. Explore the ancient ruins of the city by horse-drawn carriage and see the splendid Bagaya monastery, built entirely of teak. Afterwards, drive to Amarapura to watch the sunset at the world's longest teak wood footbridge, the U-Bein Bridge. If you prefer to spend more time relaxing on board, you may forego the Inwa village visit and choose to take the U-Bein Bridge excursion only. (B,L,D)
Mar. 26	Irrawaddy Cruise (Sagaing – Mingun – Mandalay): This morning ship stops today at the former royal capital of Sagaing, famous for its hundreds of monasteries and its tranquil atmosphere. In Sagaing, you'll visit a local monastic school and the Soonuonyashin Pagoda. Continue on to Mingun where you will see its famous 12-foot high bronze bell and the massive ruins of Pathodawgyi (the "unfinished pagoda"), originally intended to be 499 feet high. Although only a third of it was ever completed, it remains the world's largest brick pagoda. Alternatively, take a tuk-tuk ride through Mingun to explore the sights. You'll also have a chance to visit the Myatheindan Pagoda, built in 1816 and painted white as a representation of the mythological Buddhist mountain, Mount Meru. Another option today in Mingun allows you to visit the Pathodawgyi, the Mingun bronze bell, and also offers you a chance to climb to the top of Myatheindan Pagoda (77 steps). (B,L,D)
Mar. 27	Irrawaddy Cruise (Mandalay): After arriving in Mandalay, head ashore for a full-day tour that includes many of the city's most iconic sights, including the bronze Mahamuni Buddha, covered by the faithful with a thick layer of gold leaf. Visit the workshops of skilled craftsmen making thin sheets of gold, marble carvings and tapestries, and stop at Kuthodaw Pagoda (said to contain the world's largest book, Buddhist scriptures inscribed on 729 marble slabs), Mandalay Hill, and Shwenandaw monastery, an architectural masterpiece filled with wood carvings. Instead, you may choose to take a half-day city tour of Mandalay which includes the Kuthodaw Pagoda, Shwenadaw Monastery, and Mahamuni Buddha. Afterwards you will have the unique opportunity to visit a local school in Mandalay. Tonight, enjoy a Farewell Dinner on board the ship with your fellow travelers. (B,L,D)
Mar. 28	Mandalay: Breakfast on board. Upon disembarkation, be met and transferred to Sedona Hotel Mandalay. This afternoon, enjoy a city tour of visiting Mandalay Palace (Myanansankyaw Golden Palace), Sandamuni Paya, and the Night Market. (B) ****Note: early hotel check-in subject to availability.****
Mar. 29	Mandalay / Shanghai: Morning at leisure. Transfer for your afternoon flight to Shanghai, connecting in Bangkok. Upon late night arrival, be met and transferred to Swissotel Grand for your next 3 nights' accommodations. (B)

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TRAVEL SERVICES, INC.

Mar. 30	Shanghai: Full day private tour of Shanghai includes visits to the Old Town, Yu Gardens, Shanghai Museum, Urban Planning & Exhibition Center and Tianzifang Art District. Enjoy a delicious dumpling lunch at Nanxiang Xiaolongbao Restaurant (or similar). This evening, enjoy a breathtaking ERA Shanghai Acrobatics Show. (B,L)
Mar. 31	Shanghai: Full day free at leisure to relax, shop and explore Shanghai on your own. (B)
Apr. 01	Shanghai / Xian: Transfer to the airport for your flight to Xian. Upon arrival, enjoy a tour of the Yangling Tombs followed by the City Wall before checking in at Shangri-la Hotel. This evening, enjoy brief tour of the Night Market at Muslim Quarters. (B,D)
Apr. 02	Xian: This morning, enjoy a tour of Terracotta Museum, the excavation site of the impressive Terracotta Warriors and Horses, Big Wild Goose Pagoda and Stone Stele Museum. This evening, enjoy a dinner and cultural show at the Tang Dynasty Theatre. (B,L)
Apr. 03	Xian / Beijing: Transfer to the airport by the ultra-fast MagLev for your flight to Beijing. Upon arrival, be met and transferred to The Regent Beijing for your next 3 nights' accommodations. This evening, enjoy the Legends of Kung Fu Show followed by a Peking Duck Dinner. (B,D)
Apr. 04	Beijing: Enjoy a full day tour of Beijing City visiting The Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Temple of Heaven and Summer Palace. Includes lunch at a local restaurant. (B,L)
Apr. 05	Beijing (Great Wall): Today, enjoy a full excursion to the Great Wall at Mutianyu with cable car ride, After lunch at a local restaurant, return to the city and visit Beijing's Old Quarters by Rickshaw visiting the Bell Tower. (B,L)
Apr. 06	Return Home: Transfer to the airport for your departure flight home. (B) ****END OF PROGRAM****

Please review the materials above for accuracy and feel free to contact us with any questions regarding your trip. We appreciate your business and look forward to having you on board with us!

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