

## Mandalay to Homalin

*Upper Chindwin River Cruise visiting Monywa, Mingin, Mawlaik, Sitthaung and Homalin*



*Follow the course of the Chindwin River into the heart of Burmese Nagaland on this unique 8-day river cruise. Departing from Monywa, near Mandalay, your cruise will take you along the Upper Chindwin to the capital of Nagaland, Homalin, on the border with India. En-route, you'll find time to stop and explore remote villages, religious sites from the Konbaung-era, and old colonial towns. You will travel on the RV Kalay Pandaw—an intimate ship with only 5 cabins accommodating a maximum of 10 guests—the perfect way to explore in comfort this otherwise difficult-to-access region of Myanmar.*

*This cruise is operated by Pandaw River Expeditions, one of the only companies currently offering luxury cruises on the Upper Chindwin. Gane and Marshall can help you secure the best rates on this and other Pandaw cruises.*

### **Your Financial Protection**

All monies paid by you for the air holiday package shown [or flights if appropriate] are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 3145.

For more information see our booking terms and conditions.

### Day 1 – Monywa

Your cruise departs from **Monywa**, a small city on the banks of the Chindwin River, about 3 hours' drive from Mandalay. You will be transferred from Mandalay to the pier in Monywa in the morning, arriving midday. You'll have the afternoon to explore the city, including a visit to the prominent **Thanbodi Temple**, with its countless Buddha images.

Tonight is spent in Monywa on board ship. You set sail tomorrow afternoon.



### Day 2 – Phowin Taung

After breakfast, set sail from Monywa. You'll stop late morning to explore the **Phowintaung Caves**, a series of mountain caves decorated with a huge number of Buddha statues and murals depicting jakata scenes, reminiscent of the better-known Pak Ou Buddha Caves in Laos.

Beyond Monywa and the Phowintaung Caves you'll enter the Upper Chindwin.

### Day 3 – Cruising

Today is spent cruising the Upper Chindwin. Relax on board the RV Kalay Pandaw and watch life go by on the river bank. The scenery will change as you journey further north, with the river beginning to narrow and the forested hills falling away to reveal brilliant-green paddy fields. During the afternoon, you'll make a brief stop at a local fishing village to stretch and explore. Otherwise, today is at leisure on board ship.

### Day 4 – Mingin

Sometimes described as the Luang Prabang of Myanmar, **Mingin** is one of the country's very best-kept-secrets, a beautiful town on the banks of the Chindwin. Formerly a royal retreat, the town's teak monasteries are remnants of Myanmar's pre-colonial history. They survive in excellent condition and are beautifully decorated with relics from the Konbaung era. You'll have ample time to explore them today, including the oldest wooden monastery in Myanmar, which is to be found in the nearby village of Kan. You'll also find time to visit Mingin's bustling market.



### Day 5 – Mawlaik

This morning you'll have the chance to explore the old British colonial outpost of **Mawlaik**. Originally intended to replace Kindat as the administrative capital of Chindwin, the town was largely settled by the staff of the Bombay Myanmar Trading Corporation in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Unlike Mingin, there's little that is traditionally Burmese about the place; certainly not the abandoned golf course, the colonial houses, or what is perhaps the most curious of all of Mawlaik's features, the 'Olympic stadium', long past its prime and now a convenient cattle grazing field. Mawlaik truly feels like a relic from a bygone age, and the small number of cars—this region is only easily accessed by boat—and lack of any other signs of modernity only add to this feeling.

In the afternoon continue across the confluence of Yu and Chindwin Rivers to Sitthaung.



### Day 6 – Sitthaung

Today you'll have the opportunity to explore a more recent period of Burmese (and British) history with a visit to the town of **Sitthaung**. Occupied by the Japanese during WWII, the town is



the resting place of several IFC steamers scuppered there in 1942 by the retreating British forces. When the water levels are low, you can see the remains of these old ships. There will also be time to visit Tamu, a small town on the Indian border where the survivors of the Japanese invasions retreated to.

### Day 7 – Thaungdut

**Thaungdut** is an historic Shan enclave which in colonial times was governed by an independent Sawbwa, or Shan chief. You'll have the morning to explore the town, including the old Royal household and palace, before continuing to **Homalin**.

Arrive at Homalin late afternoon. The last stop of your tour, the remote city of Homalin is the furthest point on the Chindwin River that can be accessed by larger vessels such as the RV Kalay. Close the day with a sumptuous dinner to mark the end of your cruise.

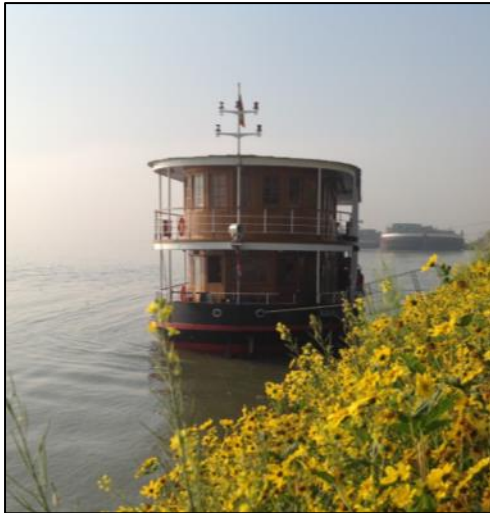
### Day 8 – Homalin

This morning is free to explore the peaceful town of Homalin, before transferring to the airport for your afternoon flight to Mandalay/Yangon (included).



Your tour ends in Mandalay/Yangon. If you are continuing your travels in Myanmar, you will be met by your guide and/or driver on arrival at the airport for the continuation of your itinerary.





### About Your Vessel

*Built in 2013, the RV Kalay Pandaw is one of the newest additions to Pandaw Cruises. A small and intimate ship, it has only 5 cabins and accommodates a maximum of 10 guests, in addition to staff.*

*The en-suite cabins on the Kalay are generously sized and beautifully furnished with convertible double beds and teak wood furniture. Wide French windows allow for wonderful views. There is ample storage space.*

*The public areas are equally generous. There is a shaded lounge on the upper deck and spacious viewing areas.*

*The Kalay is booked on a full-board basis. Guests enjoy excellent dinner menus and access to a well-stocked bar.*

*Optional evening entertainment, in the form of cookery classes and talks on the local history and culture of the regions of Myanmar you visit, is provided while on board the Kalay.*



*Private guides and transportation are provided for all excursions.*





## Price Guide

The cost of this cruise is from **£2,290 per person (US\$2,975)** based on a shared twin/double cabin and subject to availability at the time of booking. For more information, or if you would like to enquire about a tailor-made holiday combining part or all of the above itinerary, please [contact us](#).

### **Includes:**

- Twin/double cabin
- Transfer from Mandalay to Monywa
- Flight from Homalin to Mandalay/Yangon
- All meals and local beverages (imported beverages at additional cost)
- All entrance fees

### **Excludes:**

- International flights – please ask us for a quote
- Visas
- Personal travel insurance
- Personal expenses, tips and laundry

**Special offer:** on select departures, book a single cabin and pay no single supplement. Contact us for further details.

