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Women of Myanmar's "Long-Neck" Kayan Tribe traditionally wear as many as twenty rings around their neck (Photo by Thomas Schoch free of copyright c/o Wikimedia Commons)- all other photos compliments of our Myanmar tour operator)

“LAND OF THE THOUSAND PAGODAS”: MYANMAR (BIRMA) AND NORTHERN THAILAND”

16 days, from Wednesday, November 22, to Thursday, December 7, 2017

Our comprehensive tour of these two very exotic Southeast Asian countries includes the major sights of Myanmar, formerly known as Birma, such as Inle Lake, the “Asian Venice,” the great cultural centre of Bagan, and the fabled cities of Mandalay and Rangoon, now known as Yangon, as well as Thailand's scenic northern Chiang Mai region and exciting capital, Bangkok. The tour leader is Jacques R. Pauwels, author of ‘Beneath the Dust of Time: A History of the Names of Peoples and Places’, London, 2009.

Tour price from Toronto, including all airport taxes/surcharges/security fees and based on double occupancy: \$5,895 – “land only”: \$4,695 – single room supplement: \$1,550.

Day 1 - Wednesday, November 22: Flight Toronto–Yangon (formerly known as Rangoon) via Hong Kong, with Cathay Pacific. Departure around 2 PM.

Day 2 - Thursday, November 23: Arrival in Hong Kong around 7 PM, and connecting flight to Yangon, Myanmar's capital, arriving around midnight.

Day 3 - Friday, November 24: After midnight, transfer from the airport to the Park Royal Hotel (www.parkroyalhotels.com/en/hotels-resorts/myanmar/yangon.html) and overnight. Late breakfast, followed by city tour, with as highlights our visit to the massive reclining Buddha at Kyaukhtatgyi Pagoda; Kandawgyi Park; the royal floating barge named Karaweik Palace; and the world-famous golden stupa, Shwedagon Pagoda, whose golden stupac rises 98 meters above its base and is covered with 60 tons of pure gold. After watching the sunset

from the vantage point of Pagoda, dinner in a typical restaurant such as the House of Memories, located in a colonial building.



Day 4 - Saturday, November 25: After breakfast, transfer to the airport and short flight to Bagan. Arrival and comprehensive tour of this beautiful city, one of Myanmar's premier historical and cultural centres, home to more than 2,000 temples and pagodas! Our tour includes shrines such as Ananda, Htilominlo, Thatbyinnyu, Dhammayangyi, Sulamani, and Shwezigon Pagoda, plus secular sights such as Nyaung U market and traditional workshops. Dinner and overnight in the Myanmar Treasure Resort (www.myanmar-treasure-resorts.com/bagan).

Day 5 – Sunday, November 26: Today we rise early to enjoy the sunrise from the upper terrace of one of the temples. After breakfast, we proceed to the Mount Popa, an extinct volcano with spectacular views and shrines associated with Myanmar Nats spirits, said to be born here, making this volcano a major centre of pilgrimage. Returning to Bagan, we visit a palm tree plantation and a typical village. Late afternoon boat tour on the Irrawaddy River, finishing as the sun sets on riverside villages and temples.



Day 6 – Monday, November 27: This morning we fly to Mandalay, the last royal city of the Myanmar Kingdom. Upon arrival, sightseeing tour in Mandalay and area, including sights such as Mahagandaryone Monastery and U Bein, the world's longest teakwood bridge, in Amarapura, the "City of Immortality"; Sagaing, the religious centre of Myanmar, featuring over 600 Buddhist monasteries and pagodas; the local market and traditional shops; a Buddhist nunnery; Shwenandaw Monastery, famous for its exquisite woodcarvings; and Kuthodaw Pagoda, proud owner of what is said to be the world's largest book. We conclude the tour with a visit to Mandalay Hill for a panoramic view of the city. Dinner and overnight in Eastern Palace Hotel (www.easternpalacehotels.com).



Day 7 – Tuesday, November 28: After breakfast, we view the Mahamuni Buddha, a bronze image cast during the Buddha’s own lifetime. Then we leave Mandalay for scenic drive to Inle Lake, driving through the ancestral land of the Danu Tribe and stopping en route to visit a coffee and tea plantation. Lunch in the lakeside town of Pindaya, where we also visit the famous Pindaya Cave, containing thousands of Buddha images, and view centuries-old Banyan trees, associated with Hinduism as well as Buddhism. Continue via Kalaw, a picturesque hilltop town that functioned as a resort for Myanmar’s former British colonial masters, to our hotel on the shores of Inle Lake, the Amata Garden Resort (www.amatainleresort.com)



Day 8 – Wednesday, November 29: Full-day tour of beautiful Inle Lake, the “Asian Venice,” featuring stilt houses and villages, island-bound Buddhist temples, floating gardens, fishermen using ancient techniques such as leg-rowing, and, on the shores, workshops of traditional artisans, e.g. weavers and cigar-makers. Also included are visits to sanctuaries such as Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda and Nga Phe Chaung Monastery, and to villages like Indein, a settlement of the Pa-Oh tribe, famous for its hilltop covered with 1,054 stupas constructed in the 17th and 18th centuries! Another highlight will be our visit to a village of the “Long-Neck” Kayan Tribe, where many women traditionally wear as many as twenty rings around their neck! ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kayan_people_\(Myanmar\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kayan_people_(Myanmar)))

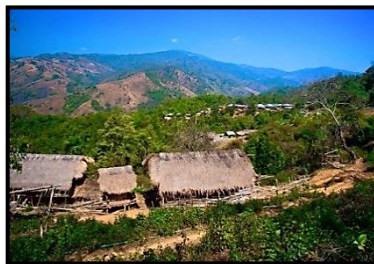


Day 9 – Thursday, November 30: Morning visit to the colourful local market, where villagers from the surrounding area sell their products; this is a great opportunity to observe and photograph members of the hill tribes in their traditional dresses! After lunch, transfer to the airport and short flight to the town of Kengtung. Transfer to the Amazing Kyaingtong Resort (www.amazingkyaingtongresort.com) and time to relax before dinner.

Day 10 – Friday, December 1: Today we explore two typical villages of the Ann, Akha, and Palaung tribes, meeting with the locals and learning about their cultures. After a picnic lunch in one of the villages or some scenic spot, we return to Kengtung, with en route a visit to a traditional rice whisky distillery. (Please note that a fair amount of walking will be involved today!)



Day 11 – Saturday, December 2: Departure after breakfast. We motor through beautiful mountain scenery to the border town of Tarchileik, hub of the so-called Golden Triangle, the region where the borders of Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar converge ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Triangle_\(Southeast_Asia\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Triangle_(Southeast_Asia))). Before we cross into Thailand, which may take some time, we hope to take a look at some of the local sites of interest, such as Ta Lot Market, the Shwedagon Pagoda, and/or Two Dragons Monastery. Then it is time to say goodbye to our Myanmar guide and hello to our Thailand tour host. After lunch in a local restaurant, we enjoy a boat trip on the mighty Mekong River., then visit the Opium Museum, featuring historical displays about a product for which this region used to be (in)famous! Arrival in Chiang Rai, where we stay in the Legend Chiang Rai Resort (www.thelegend-chiangrai.com).



Day 12 – Sunday, December 3: A day of leisurely sightseeing in Chiang Rai and surroundings. The highlights will include the White Temple, designed by a famous national artist; a visit to an Akha hill tribe village; Mae Salong Mountain; Santi Kiri, a settlement of ethnic Chinese, descendants of nationalist forces that took refuge in Northern Thailand after Mao Ze Dong’s victory in the late 1940s; they originally survived by growing opium but now specialize in tea, medicinal herbs, and all sorts of other exotic products we will introduced to during visits to a plantation and a coop/shop. Lunch in a local restaurant. Continue to Thaton Temple, situated on the banks of the Mae Kok River in the peaceful village of Ban Thaton. Return to Chiang Rai for dinner and overnight.



Day 13 – Monday, December 4: Today we motor through scenic hilly countryside to the town of Chiang Mai, situated on the banks of the Mae Ping River in a beautiful valley in the mountains of Northern Thailand. City tour upon arrival, including visits to Wat Phra Tat Doi Suthep Temple, featuring a golden Pagoda and relics of Lord Buddha, as well as Wat Sri Suphan, the “Silver Temple.” Lunch at a local restaurant. Check into our hotel, the Siripanna Resort (www.siripanna.com), and free time to relax before our traditional Northern-Thailand Khuntoke dinner, with folk dances typical of the regional hill tribes.



Day 14 – Tuesday, December 5: Morning excursion to Mae Taeng Elephant Camp, including an elephant show and a ride short ride on one of the gentle giants. On to Lisu Tribal Village to learn about their traditional lifestyle and a ride in an ox-drawn cart back to the camp. After a group lunch, we enjoy a 30-minute trip by bamboo raft on the Mae Taeng River and a visit to an orchid and butterfly farm. Return to Chiang Mai in time for dinner.



Day 15 – Wednesday, December 6: After Breakfast, transfer to the airport and short flight to Bangkok. City tour upon arrival, including visits to the Ananta Samakhom Throne Hall, the flower market, and the temples of the Emerald, the Reclining , and the Golden Buddha, the latter the world’s largest solid gold Buddha statue, 10 feet high and weighing over 5 tons! We conclude the day’s sightseeing, and our tour of Myanmar and Thailand in general, with a dinner cruise! Overnight in the Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel (www.royalorchidsheraton.com).



Day 16 – Thursday, December 7: After breakfast, transfer to the airport and departure for Toronto, via Hong Kong, with Cathay Pacific. Departure around 1 PM, and same-day arrival in Toronto around 8 PM.

Tour price from Toronto, including all airport taxes/surcharges/security fees and based on double occupancy: \$5,895 – “land only”: \$4,695 - single room supplement: \$1,550.

Included in the price are:

- Flights from Toronto-Yangon and Bangkok-Toronto (via Hong Kong) with Cathay Pacific, including all airport taxes, security fees, and fuel surcharges;
- Domestic flights as indicated in the above itinerary;
- Accommodation based on double occupancy, in superior, mostly 4-star/first-class hotels and resorts – the single room supplement is \$1,550;
- Overland transportation by coach and/or minibuses, depending on the number of participants;

- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily, starting with breakfast in Yangon day 3 and finishing with breakfast in Bangkok on day 16;
- All visits and sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary;
- Hotel porterage services;
- Services of local guides as well as a Pauwels Travel tour escort.

Not included:

- Cost of the Myanmar visa, approximately \$85 which can be submitted electronically.
- Beverages such as wine or beer with dinners;
- All expenses of a personal nature;
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers, in total \$100 US, to be collected and disbursed by the tour director;
- Travel insurance, available upon request.

VACCINATIONS:

The following vaccinations are *not compulsory, but recommended*. It is advised to consult your doctor about their desirability: Hepatitis A and B – Typhoid - Japanese Encephalitis – Rabies - Yellow Fever - Malaria



Map of Myanmar (from CIA World Factbook, c/o Wikimedia Commons)

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:

Reservations should be made as early as possible to ensure the departure of your choice. A deposit of \$750.00 is required at the time of registration. Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of your deposit and application form. No reservations will be accepted without a signed application form.

REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Refund of deposit is made in full if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior of the departure date of the tour less a \$500.00 non-refundable administrative fee per person. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply:

90 days to 46 days before departure: 25% of tour cost
45 to 31 days before departure: 50% of tour cost
Within 30 days prior to departure: 100% of tour cost

RESPONSIBILITY:

Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. reserves the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, etc. February necessitate changes in the itinerary as outlined. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable. Any savings realized by these changes will be passed on to the passengers, any resultant expenses shall be borne by the passenger. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. acts only as an agent in securing hotel, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotel, transportation and other travel services are provided to tour members subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally. The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. also reserves the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour, in which case equitable refund will be made at the discretion of the tour operators.

AIR TRANSPORTATION:

Transatlantic economy flight by scheduled IATA carrier(s), based on an economy class group fare. All fares are subject to specific rules and regulations, to changes and to government approval. Deviations from the group flights are possible but subject to higher rates. Pauwels Travel will research any request for date or routing changes at the time they are requested. Should any individual rate be less than the group fare plus airline and administrative fees, the lower rate will be offered to the tour participant. Individual airfares are subject to immediate ticketing and the fare plus taxes must be paid at the time the ticket is issued by the participant requesting the change. Should the group airfare be the lowest available rate, an administrative fee of \$50.00 plus any airline charges will apply.

APPLICATION FORM

Please book ___ seat(s) on the "Myanmar and Northern Thailand tour" departing November 22 – December 7, 2017. Enclosed is my/our deposit of _____ (\$750 per person, plus insurance premium if taken.)

Please indicate with an X if you intend to travel on Group flights _____ or Land Only _____.

Deposit and insurance premium, if taken, are due with registration. You will be invoiced for an interim payment of \$1500.00 and the balance due 45 days prior to departure.

WE REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (INFORMATION PAGES ONLY) VALID 6 MONTHS AFTER TOUR DATE TO BE SENT IN WITH YOUR APPLICATION FORM.

PASSPORT NAME(S): Please indicate the appropriate title (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

If applicable, give your commonly used first name as you would like it to appear on your name tag: (e.g. "Liz" for "Mary Elizabeth") _____

ADDRESS: _____

Postal Code: _____

PHONE: _____ (Email) _____

If traveling alone, is a SINGLE ROOM REQUIRED? YES ___ NO ___

If sharing, what is your bed preference: twin _____ double _____.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: We find the earlier a request is made, the more success we have in filling it, so please list any dietary requests, allergies, any special physical needs, etc here. We cannot ensure requests made 30 days or less prior to departure will be possible. Seating will be assigned at the airport upon check-in, so specific seating requests will not be possible.

Insurance, Please call the office for premiums then record it on application and add premium to deposit.

I /we would like to purchase (please check and record your rate):

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

All-inclusive Package ___ \$ _____ Non-medical Package ___ \$ _____

Other _____ \$ _____ **OR** Decline Insurance _____

PAYMENT: 9 Cheque payable to Pauwels Travel 9 Visa 9 Mastercard 9 American Express

Amount Paid: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiry: _____ Security Code: _____

Signature: _____

"I/we agree to the terms and conditions attached to the program, have indicated our insurance choice, indicated any special requests and included payment".

Date _____ (Signature)(s) _____

Please forward this completed and signed form, copy of passport and payment to:

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