

THE SOCIETY FOR ASIAN ART PRESENTS

THE TRADITIONAL ARTS AND CRAFTS OF BURMA

Led by Sylvia Fraser-Lu

January 5 - January 20, 2013

Optional Extension to Inle Lake

January 20 - January 24, 2013



This trip has been especially crafted for the intrepid traveler interested in discovering the traditional arts and crafts of Burma which are rapidly disappearing. Burmese textiles are considered by many as some of the finest in the world. You will have the opportunity to witness many of the traditional arts and crafts, in the rural villages where they have been practiced for centuries. But today, Burma is changing fast, and many of these old traditions are becoming extinct.

This program is for the eager student and collector of Burmese crafts such as lacquer, dyeing and weaving and other textile arts, marble carving, puppets, ceramics of all techniques, and silversmithing and gold-leaf appliqué. Traveling with Sylvia Fraser-Lu, our scholar, will further enhance our understanding of the importance of traditional Burmese arts and crafts. Sylvia is a prolific author and world renowned expert in Burmese traditional crafts, based now in Washington, D.C.

<http://www.bookfinder.com/author/sylvia-fraser-lu/>

Synopsis of the Tour

RANGOON - 3 nights

Strand Hotel

- Visit the Reclining Buddha and the Shwedagon Pagoda and National Museum
- Explore Scott (Bogyoke) Market
- Private home reception to view Pa Mang & Nu Shwe's collection of Chin Textile

MANDALAY - 3 nights

The Hotel by the Red Canal

- Visit pagodas and monasteries
- Watch sunset from Mandalay Hill
- Tour Amarapura, Ava and Sagaing
- Visit cottage industries including gold leaf beating and Acheik weaving
- Private reception at artist U Sein Myint's Kinnari House Kalaga Gallery

BAGAN - 3 nights

Thiripyitsaya Sanctuary Resort

- Visit Nyaung Oo Market and the Lacquer School, workshops and the lacquer village
- Optional Hot Air Balloon Ride over the magnificent temples of Bagan
- Visit Bagan's spectacular Pagodas

NGAPALI BEACH - 2 nights

Ngapali Bay Resort

- Visit Kin-maw pottery village and Than-dwe known for weaving
- Free time to enjoy the beach

SITTWE - 1 night

Royal Sittwe Hotel

- Visit the weaving school, market and monastic museum
- Private cruise from Sittwe to Mrauk-U with stops at Waboo and Mro weaving villages

MRAUK-U - 3 nights

Mrauk-U Princess Resort

- Tour the local market, ancient pagodas and remarkable collections of Arakanese Buddha and ancient relief images
- Visit Rachine & Chin villages and witness their traditions, weaving and crafts



OPTIONAL EXTENSION TO INLE LAKE - 4 nights - Inle Princess Resort

- Dinner reception with resort owner in private wine cellar
- Visit the 5 day traditional market, Nga Pe Kyaung Monastery, Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda
- Excursion to the hidden village of Sagar, meet members of the Pa-O tribe, see pagodas and monasteries
- A day of learning at local weaving and craft industries including Shan bags, all purpose cotton, silversmithing, cheroot making, silk weaving, lotus weaving, lacquer, blacksmithing and pottery.

This trip is rated as *Very Strenuous*. Participants should be able to walk several miles daily, on uneven surfaces, climb steep stairs to temples, and climb in and out of small boats unaided. If you have any questions, please check with your doctor before signing up for this trip.

Our trip begins in Rangoon with a visit to the Shwedagon Pagoda, Burma's most sacred site, Kyauktawgyi (reclining Buddha) and the National Museum.

Fly to Mandalay, see the Mahamuni Pagoda, the side stalls with crafts such as gold leaf lacquer, marble carving and glass stones for kalaga wall hangings and view 19th century wall paintings and bronze statues originally from Angkor Wat. Watch sunset from Mandalay Hill with its great view of the city.

Experience Burmese history at the former capitals, Amarapura, Ava and Sagaing. See Saundar's Weaving School, the Bagaya Kyaung monastery with processions of monks receiving alms. Visit Thakaya Tita Nunnery, Tilawkgaguru Caves and the Buddha Museum, the Kyauk-taw-gyi Temple and walk across the world's longest teak bridge at U Bein Bridge. Visit cottage industries including Gold-leaf beating, acheik weaving, and the Kinnari House – with kalaga artist Sein Myint's fabulous folk art collection.

Full day cruise on a riverboat down the mighty Irrawaddy from Mandalay to Bagan. Explore the Nyaung Oo Market, visit the Lacquer School, leading lacquer workshops and Myinkaba lacquer-ware village where you'll witness the process firsthand. Visit the Golden Cuckoo and other lacquer-ware establishments. A full day visit to some of Bagan's most spectacular pagodas including the Shwe-zi-gon Pagoda – one of the earliest. Watch sunset from one of Bagan's Temples. *There is an optional early morning Hot Air Balloon Ride over the magnificent temples of Bagan.*

A morning flight takes us to Ngapali Beach with time to relax. Enjoy a visit to the Kin-maw pottery village where women make pots without a wheel, and Than-dwe known for its weaving. Time for relaxing on the beach. A flight to Sitwe, the capital of the Rakhine State, with visits to the weaving school, market and monastic museum. Evening BBQ at the hotel located on the Bay of Bengal

A private boat cruise takes us on to Mrauk-U, where we'll explore the local market and ancient pagodas, Shit-thaung and Koe-thaung Temples and Htu-kan-thein with remarkable collections of Buddha images. Visit the Mrauk-U Archaeological Museum, palace ruins, the Parabaw Pongyi-Kyaung museum, and the local weavers famous for textiles.

We'll return to Rangoon, and a farewell dinner at the Strand Hotel.

Those on the optional extension will fly to Heho, gateway to Inle Lake, one of the most picturesque spots in Southeast Asia. Surrounded by hazy Blue Mountains, the lake is home to the Intha people, who constructed villages on stilts over the surface of the lake, and farm floating islands created from mud and reed. It is a kind of "water world", where the only mode of transportation is by boats, and the Intha are also known for their unique leg rowing.

Included will be visits to local markets, the Nyang-Shwe Museum, Nga Pe Kyaung Monastery, Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda. Explore the hidden village of Sagar with floating "hydroponic" islands of vegetables and see Inthas, leg-rowing their small boats. A day of learning includes visits to some of the local weaving and craft industries.

THE TRADITIONAL ARTS AND CRAFTS OF BURMA

\$6,820*/ Per Person \$2,250*/ Single Room Supplement
A deposit of \$500.00 by check payable to Global Spectrum Travel will hold your reservation

The Tour Cost includes:

- Accommodations in double occupancy in hotels as listed
- Breakfast daily, 13 lunches, 11 dinners
- All sightseeing and entrance fees as noted on the itinerary
- Scholar Sylvia Fraser-Lu will accompany the trip
- English speaking Burmese guides
- Private ground, boat and coach class air transportation within Burma
- All gratuities
- A \$400 donation to the Society for Asian Arts

Not included are:

- International airfares to and from Burma
- Visa fees
- Travel Insurance - highly recommended (Trip cancellation insurance "for any reason" must be purchased within 15 days of your initial deposit)
- Meals not mentioned, drinks and items of a personal nature

Optional Hot Air Balloon Ride in Bagan \$300*/ per person, space is limited, please sign up on Advance Booking Form below
Optional Extension to Inle Lake
\$2,250*/ per person \$600*/ Single room Supplement
Minimum 6 participants including airfare to and from Inle Lake

**All the costs are payable by check to Global Spectrum Travel*

*For more information or a detailed itinerary, call
The Society for Asian Art at (415) 581-3701*

ADVANCE BOOKING FORM

I/we would like to reserve _____ space(s) for *The Traditional Arts and Crafts of Burma* tour.
Enclosed is a deposit of \$500 per person, in the total amount of \$ _____
(Please make checks payable to Global Spectrum Travel and mail with this completed form to SAA, address below.)

Room Arrangements

I/we would like a single room double room
 I would prefer a roommate, but will pay the single supplement if one is not available.

Options

I/we wish to include: Hot Air Balloon ride over Bagan Extension to Inle Lake

Personal Information

Last Name _____ First Name _____
Address _____ City, State, Zip _____
Daytime Phone _____ E-Mail Address _____

Send Advance Booking Form to: Society for Asian Art, 200 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

When we receive your completed Advance Booking Form and deposit, a detailed Reservation & Participant Agreement Form, and a travel insurance application will be mailed to you. Upon receipt of the completed forms, a confirmation letter will be sent. Your deposit is refundable up to 90 days prior to departure with a \$250 per person administration fee.