



TOM HARPER

*River Journeys*

ABOUT TOM HARPER

RIVER JOURNEYS

SHIPS

REQUEST A BROCHURE

COMMUNITY

JOURNEY SUPPORT

CONTACT US

Support Center

FOR NO HASSLE SERVICE CALL  
1-855-464-2773

&lt; Tom's News

« Prev | Next »

February 18, 2014

## Mystical Yangon, Myanmar



The Southeast Asian country of Burma, officially known as the Union of Myanmar, has always been somewhat of an enigma to Americans. Certainly since a coup d'état in 1962 installed a military-backed socialist government, it hasn't exactly been a popular tourist destination. But that situation may be about to change.

According to a recent article in the [New York Times](#), control of the country is incrementally being transferred from the military to a civilian-based leadership. And, with its recent appointment to the chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Myanmar is opening its doors to the world. With a marked decrease in political and religious strife that in past years discouraged all but the most intrepid visitors, Myanmar is poised to become the next tourist hotspot in Asia.

Now is a great time to visit Myanmar, to see it in all its pre-revolution glory before "improvements" change its urban centers such as Yangon and Mandalay into modern metropolises like Hong Kong and Singapore. Come along on Tom Harper's [Myanmar & the Irrawaddy River](#) journey, and let us introduce you to the mystical ancient Kingdom of Burma.

Although Yangon is not the capital, it is Myanmar's largest city by far, with a population nearing four million. We spend two days and nights exploring this great city on the banks of the mighty Irrawaddy River, a river that transects the entire country from the foothills of the Himalayas to the sea.

Among the wonders we visit in Yangon is the stunning 2,500-year-old Shwedagon Pagoda temple complex. Positioned on a hill, its central gold and jewel-encrusted stupa more than 350 feet high is visible from afar—especially at night when the gleaming bell-shaped dome is illuminated. It is the most sacred Buddhist pagoda in the country, and said to contain relics from the past four incarnations of Buddha.

We will take you to Chauk Htat Gyi Pagoda, home of the gargantuan Reclining Buddha, measuring more than 200 feet in length and 50 feet high. Completed in 1907, the figure badly needed repair by the mid-1960s. Extensive renovations begun in 1966, funded by Burmese Buddhists and

[3 Comments](#)

g+1

Tweet

Like

8

### Recent Articles

[The Moselle Valley](#)[Exploring Edinburgh](#)[Experience Europe Your Way](#)[We Love the Loire River Valley](#)[Eastern Europe Odyssey](#)

Search Tom's News...



TOM HARPER

*River Journeys*

ABOUT TOM HARPER

RIVER JOURNEYS

SHIPS

REQUEST A BROCHURE

COMMUNITY

JOURNEY SUPPORT

CONTACT US

Support Center

foreign tourists, restored the image to its current magnificence.

If you pay attention to world news, you may recognize the name Aung San Suu Kyi. A renowned political activist, Suu Kyi was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 and elected to the Burmese parliament in 2012. Her successes came with great personal hardship however, as the country's ruling junta kept her under house arrest for 15 years, finally granting her release in 2010.

What you may not know, is that her father, General Aung San, is equally as famous in Myanmar. Instrumental in the fight to free Burma from British colonial rule, he never lived to see the completion of his quest. He was assassinated by political rivals in 1947 at the age of 32, a year before Burma achieved independence. In Yangon, we visit Bogyoke Aung San Museum, once home to the Aung San family and the place where Aung San Suu Kyi lived as a child.

Yangon is only the beginning of our journey through a country that seems to exist in another time. We are certain you will be entranced by this magical, mysterious, beautiful land. In fact, you may want to extend your stay by adding the 4-day post-journey excursion to Inle Lake—a place of great scenic beauty, floating villages and native tribes—where time truly seems to stand still.

### 3 Comments

#### Tom Harper River Journeys

August 18, 2014

Cosby,

Our 2016 dates will be released on our website approximately in a month, however we give you a heads-up now:

March 30 – April 10, 2016

September 17 – 28, 2016

#### Cosby

August 12, 2014

Is there a 2016 schedule?

#### Mona

March 25, 2014

What is the weather like in September?

### Leave a comment

Name\*

Email\*

Comment



TOM HARPER

River Journeys

Comments have to be approved before showing up.

POST COMMENT

ABOUT TOM HARPER

HOME PRIVACY POLICY TOUR CONTRACT GROUPS SIGN UP CONTACT US CAREERS FAQ PRESS AGENTS

Reserve Online or Call Toll Free 1-855-464-2773

2015 Tom Harper Cruises, LLC | All Rights Reserved



RIVER JOURNEYS

Support Center

SHIPS

REQUEST A BROCHURE

COMMUNITY

JOURNEY SUPPORT

CONTACT US