Williams College presents

MYSTERIES OF MYANMAR

Burmese Heritage Revealed

Two Departures:
November 7-20, 2014
November 21-December 4, 2014

14 days from $4,998 total price from Los Angeles, San Francisco
($4,495 air & land inclusive plus $503 airline taxes and departure fees)

This tour is provided by Odysseys Unlimited, six-time honoree Travel & Leisure’s World’s Best Tour Operators award.

An Exclusive Small Group Tour for Alumni & Friends of Williams College

Both Departures are Accompanied by Peter Frost, Professor Emeritus of History at Williams College
Day 1: Depart U.S. for Yangon, Myanmar

Day 2: Arrive Yangon

Upon arrival late this evening, we meet our Tour Director and transfer to our hotel.

Day 3: Yangon

After a briefing this morning about the journey ahead, we set off to discover Yangon, Myanmar’s largest and most interesting city that appears both provincial and pastoral. Our tour includes the city’s downtown area, redolent with Yangon’s British past (as Rangoon), where well-preserved colonial buildings flank ancient pagodas. Next we visit revered Shwedagon Pagoda, a wonder of the religious world and Kipling’s 2,500-year-old “golden mystery.” Shwedagon’s gold-leafed dome sparkles with 4,531 diamonds – and is crowned by a single diamond of 76 carats. This afternoon we call on Kalaywa Tawa Monastery, where we learn about the fundamental role of Buddhism in Burmese culture. Tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

B,L,D

Day 4: Yangon/Bagan

This morning we fly to Bagan, “city of four million pagodas” and one of the richest archaeological sites in all of Asia. With some 2,000 pagodas, temples, and monasteries (still standing) spread over a 16-square-mile site on the Eastern shores of the Irrawaddy, Bagan distills the very essence of Myanmar’s Buddhist culture. Upon arrival, we visit several important shrines, including revered Ananda with its golden spires. This afternoon we encounter Bagan’s rich artistic heritage as we see artisans craft lacquerware. Then we return to Bagan to watch the sun set over this sacred site. Tonight we dine in the home of a local Burmese family.

B,L,D

Day 5: Bagan

Today we encounter everyday Burmese life up close, first at the bustling Nyaung Oo fruit and vegetable market then at Phwar Saw Village. After lunch we return to Bagan where we explore by pony cart, venturing into areas inaccessible by car or bus. Early this evening we embark on a tour of Inle Lake – a journey of deep discovery and reward.

Cover photo: We visit the amazing temples and pagodas of ancient Bagan on Days 4 and 5.
On Day 3 we visit the shrine at Yangon’s revered Shwedagon Pagoda.

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Day 6: Bagan/Mandalay We fly this morning to fabled Mandalay, Myanmar’s second largest city at once a center of commerce and a repository of ancient culture. Upon arrival we visit the former royal capital of Amarapura, with its iconic pedestrian U Bein Bridge built of teak posts that spans lovely Taungthaman Lake. Our tour here features Mahamuni Pagoda, the country’s most sacred site after Shwedagon. After lunch we proceed to peaceful Shwe Kyaung, the “Golden Palace Monastery” that is all that remains of the former 19th-century wooden Royal Palace; and Kuthodaw Pagoda, housing the Buddhist scripture carved on 729 marble slabs. Our tour concludes with a panoramic view from atop Mandalay Hill. B,L,D

Day 7: Mandalay/Mingun We return to the Irrawaddy for a cruise to Mingun, famed for Mingun Paya (pagoda), begun in 1790 by King Bodawpaya but left unfinished because of a prophecy that he would die when the temple was completed. We visit the huge temple then continue on to Myatheindan Paya, with its seven circular terraces; and the 90-ton Mingun Bell. This afternoon we visit artisans creating works of marble and silk. Then we watch the setting sun paint vivid pictures as pedestrians cross wooden U Bein Bridge. B,L

Day 8: Mandalay/Heho/Kalaw After flying to Heho, we travel by motorcoach about 1½ hours to the peaceful hill station of Kalaw, home to several of Myanmar’s many ethnic peoples. En route we visit farming villages of the Pa-O and Shan people. B,L,D

Day 9: Kalaw/Inle Lake Area Our day begins at the Kalaw market, where the region’s ethnic minorities come to sell their wares. Then we travel to beautiful Inle Lake, whose shore and islands host 17 villages on stilts inhabited mostly by native Intha people. Primarily farmers and fishermen, the Intha propel their flat-bottomed boats with one leg and an oar – a unique style that we’ll see during our stay. We arrive in Nyaung Shwe, gateway to Inle Lake, where we visit Shwe Yan Pyae Monastery known for its oval windows. We also see Phaung...
Daw U Pagoda, with its five gilded Buddha images; and visit local artisan villages. B,L,D

Day 10: Inle Lake/Inndein A morning visit to the Inndein temple complex of decaying wooden stupas surrounded and overtaken by huge banyan trees offers an evocative and contemplative scene reminiscent of the Khmer temples at Angkor Wat. Lunch today is a small group highlight as we dine in the floating home of a local Intha family. Returning to our hotel, we see the fishermen engaged in their unique styles of rowing and fishing, and also visit one of the lake’s improbable floating farms. B,L,D

Day 11: Inle Lake We encounter various ethnic minorities today at the Five-Day Market, where hill tribespeople come from all over the Lake Region—in their traditional tribal colors—to trade with the Intha. From here we visit the “Jumping Cat” monastery. B,L,D

Day 12: Inle Lake/Heho/Yangon We return to Heho today for the flight to Yangon. After checking in at our hotel, the afternoon is at leisure. Tonight we enjoy a farewell dinner at our hotel. B,D

Day 13: Yangon/Depart for U.S. After a morning at leisure, this afternoon we visit the colossal Chauk Htat Gyi Reclining Buddha. Then we visit the Scott Market, featuring a large selection of Burmese handcrafts and other goods. Early evening we wander through Yangon’s fresh fruit market, taking in the vibrant atmosphere and mingling with locals. Then we enjoy our last meal together before we transfer to the airport for our flight to the U.S. B,D

Day 14: Arrive U.S. We arrive in the U.S. this morning and connect with our flights home.

Tour Dates: November 7, 2014
November 21, 2014

Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

- Los Angeles, San Francisco: $4,998
- Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, New York, Phoenix, Portland (OR), Seattle, Washington, DC: $5,298
- Boston, Denver, Houston, Minneapolis: $5,398
- Baltimore, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Miami, Orlando, Philadelphia, Tampa: $5,498
- Land Only (transfers not included): $3,995

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, fuel surcharges, and departure fees of $503, which are subject to change until final payment is made. Single travelers please add $1,895. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, fuel surcharges, and departure fees) are guaranteed. Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Pacific flight: $3,995 per person in addition to the costs above (upgrades are on request and pricing is subject to change). Please note: This tour involves considerable walking on uneven terrain and embarkation/disembarkation on small river and lake boats. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy this tour to the fullest.

For reservations and information, please call Odysseys Unlimited toll-free at 888-370-6765 Monday-Friday, 9:00am-7:00pm, Eastern Time

For information, please contact the Williams College Alumni Travel Office at 413-597-4011

Meet Your Williams Professor

Professor Peter Frost was a longtime member of the History Department at Williams before his retirement. While at Williams he helped to establish the College’s Department of Asian Studies, and was the initial Director of the Associated Kyoto Program which allowed juniors to spend a year abroad in Japan. Peter has led prior alumni trips to Asian venues and looks forward to sharing his passion for the region with alumni and friends on this special trip to Myanmar.

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History is always changing.”
—Aung San Suu Kyi
Dear Williams Alumni and Friends,

Join Peter Frost, Professor Emeritus of History, on an exciting adventure to Myanmar, a nation emerging from decades of isolation with a genuine move toward democratization. Peter is an expert on Southeast Asia, with a prior visit to Myanmar just a few years ago.

Begin our tour in Yangon, Myanmar’s largest city and home to the revered Shwedagon Pagoda. Next, travel to Bagan, known as the “city of four million pagodas” and one of the richest archaeological sites in all of Asia. From there, continue on to Mandalay, and see the former royal capital of Amarapura, which features the iconic pedestrian U Bein Bridge. After a night at the peaceful hill station of ethnically diverse Kalaw, move on for a three-night stay at beautiful Inle Lake, home to 17 villages on stilts inhabited mostly by native Intha people. Conclude our visit with a farewell dinner, and toast an amazing adventure.

Space on each exclusive Williams tour is limited to just 24 guests and will fill quickly. Your early reservations are encouraged.

Best Wishes,

Robert V. Behr
Director, Alumni Travel Study
Williams College Society of Alumni

WILLIAMS COLLEGE RESERVATION FORM: MYSTERIES OF MYANMAR

Enclosed is my/our deposit for $______ ($500 per person) for ____ person/people on Mysteries of Myanmar departing either November 7, 2014 or November 21, 2014. I/we understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA or by personal check. Please make deposit check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and mail deposit check (along with completed reservation form) to: Odysseys Unlimited, One Newton Place, 275 Washington St., Suite 300, Newton, MA 02458. Please contact Odysseys Unlimited at (toll-free) 888-370-6765 for questions or reservations. You may also contact Bob Behr at Williams College at 413-597-4011 for information, or e-mail at Robert.V.Behr@williams.edu.

Method of Payment

- Check
- American Express
- Discover
- MasterCard
- VISA

Account # ___________________________ Security Code _________ Exp. Date __________
Name of Cardholder ____________________________________________________________
Signature _____________________________________________________________________

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure, and is payable by check or credit card.

Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for Mysteries of Myanmar, November 7, 2014, or November 21, 2014, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature(s) __________________________________________________________ Date________________

Post-Tour Cambodia – Angkor Wat Extension: Please sign me/us up ☐

Post-Tour Cambodia – Angkor Wat Extension: Please sign me/us up ☐
GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a $500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not included in tour price
Airfare when purchasing a Land Only tour package; costs of passports and visas, if required; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only tour package; communication charges; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: $10-$15 per day, per traveler); optional sightseeing; trip cancellation insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline prior to departure.

Cancellations, refunds and changes
If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your written notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: Cancel 95 days or more before departure: $200 charge; Cancel 94-65 days before departure: 50% of tour price; Cancel 64-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; Cancel 29-0 days before departure: No refund. If a guest makes any changes to their reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a $100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure. Upon reservation you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket’s reissue.

Insurance
We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event you must cancel your participation in the travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Information will be sent upon registration.

Responsibility
The liability of the President and Trustees of Williams College, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. The President and Trustees of Williams College, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchase transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. The President and Trustees of Williams College, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line, and other independent suppliers.

We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Health and Medical Issues
We request that you be in good health to participate in this Odysseys Unlimited tour. There is a reasonable amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own. If you require the use of a wheelchair or have other personal needs, you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, the President and Trustees of Williams College, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation – Important Information
Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown and contracts with those airlines they feel provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. Please note that seat assignments on your international flight are usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited is unable to guarantee any seat assignments. Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and departure fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

JOIN ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF WILLIAMS COLLEGE ON AN EXCLUSIVE TOUR TO MYANMAR!
Guaranteed Small Group: Limited to 24 Guests

Presorted Standard U.S. POSTAGE P A I D
Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.