

Golden Pagoda Tour

GOLDEN PAGODA TOUR

MYANMAR BURMA WITH EXTENSION TO BHUTAN

LIMITED TO
40
DELEGATES AND
PARTNERS



TOUR DATES

MYANMAR 18 NIGHTS

4–22 October 2016

BHUTAN 7 NIGHTS

22–28 October 2016

NEW

*Our ship is the brand
new **RV Makara Queen**.
Bigger ship, bigger cabins, more space.*

TOUR LEADERS

Mike & Yvonne Lazarow



impact
ORGANISATION



Documented, lauded and explained by the likes of Rudyard Kipling and George Orwell, on first glance Burma seems like a work of fiction. But once you look a little closer, it's clear that this land is full of real experiences. Real beauty, history, people and culture is what the country is all about. In spite of the country's dramatic past, the locals are welcoming, gentle and good-natured.

A visit to Burma is a little like a trip back in time – but technology and services which used to be decades behind that of the developed world have caught up quickly.

Bursting with sights rarely seen and stories waiting to be told, Burma is one of the least explored destinations in the world. Encounter ornate pagodas, thriving cities built on river's edge, gracious people and entire villages floating on a lake.

With an abundance of awe-inspiring natural landscapes, ancient temples and truly gracious locals, Burma is one of the world's most inspiring travel destinations. And there's simply no better way to experience the untouched essence of this beautiful nation than on our Golden Pagoda Tour. It will be an unforgettable adventure.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

The Vibrant City of Yangon

A former capital of Burma, Yangon is known as the Garden City of the East due to its lush tropical setting. At its heart is a stunning showcase of timeless colonial architecture, Shwedagon Pagoda – among the most sacred of all Burma's pagodas, and the bustling Bogyoke Aung San Market.

Treasures of Mandalay

Situated on the east bank of the Irrawaddy River, Mandalay is considered the cultural heart of Burma – with good reason. Here, traditional arts abound, as does a thriving craft community and a number of markets.

The Irrawaddy River and RV Makara Queen

Moving to its own unique rhythm, the Irrawaddy River flows from the snow-capped Himalayas in the north all the way down to the Andaman Sea. To cruise the Irrawaddy is to adopt a whole new perspective on river cruising as a mode of travel.

We will cruise for 14 nights on the river in the brand new, luxurious RV Makara Queen. Holding a maximum of 40 passengers, this will define the total capacity of our tour group.

Inle Lake – Paradise Found

Spanning just over 22 kilometers in length, the water paradise of Inle Lake is dotted with numerous villages mounted on stilts along the lake's shallow fringes. Daily life here consists of locals making floating islands, building houses, constructing monasteries and fishing – adopting an incredibly unique one-legged rowing technique.

Beguiling Bagan

Once the capital of the first Empire of Myanmar, Bagan is one of the richest archaeological sites in Southeast Asia, if not the world. It's home to thousands of Buddhist temples, with many still perfectly preserved and no two temples alike.



MYANMAR & BHUTAN ITINERARY

1 Tue 4 Oct 2016 YANGON (L,D)

Arrive in Yangon and check-through immigration and customs. Welcome by your English speaking guide from Yangon. Transfer to the RV Makara Queen and check-in. Embark the ship at **Botataung Jetty** and enjoy lunch on board as well as an Orientation Briefing. After lunch explore the city and later visit the **Shwedagon Pagoda** then return to the ship for welcome cocktails and dinner.

2 Wed 5 Oct 2016 YANGON – IRRAWADDY DELTA – MA U BIN (B,L,D)

This morning continue the city bus tour in Yangon. Visit to the ancient **church** and the famous **Scott market**. Late morning cast off from Yangon and sail on Yangon River through the Twante Canal to the confluence of the Irrawaddy river. Lunch on board.

Late afternoon walk through the lively delta port of **Ma U Bin** with its fish market (if time permits).

3 Thu 6 Oct 2016 DANUPYU – ZALON (B,L,D)

Excursion to **Danupyu** by local rickshaw, visiting a century old monastery with a beautiful botanical garden and a traditional **cigar factory**. The afternoon cruise through the Delta. Lecture on board about Burmese culture and traditions. Afternoon visit **Zalon Pagoda**. Dinner and overnight on board.

4 Fri 7 Oct 2016 MYAN AUNG (B,L,D)

Enjoy cruising upstream including **Business Session 1**. 13:00 Lunch on board. Evening walk in the small town of Myan Aung with its many well-preserved colonial houses and visit to the local market.

Continue sailing upstream. Dinner and overnight on board.

5 Sat 8 Oct 2016 A KAUK TAUNG – PYAY – SHWE DAUNG (B,L,D)

Early morning sail past the famous cliffs of **A Kauk Taung** with amazing stone carvings. Lunch on board. Afternoon excursion by bus to **Pyay**, once an important trade town on the Irrawaddy River. Visit the local ancient library with an amazing collection of ancient art. Continue to the famous **Shweson-Daw pagoda**, before heading by bus to the village of **Shwe Daung**, with its famous 'glasses wearing' Buddha statue. Dinner and overnight on board.

6 Sun 09 Oct 2016 THAYET MYO (B,L,D)

Thayet Myo was once the border town between the Royal Burmese North and the British Colonial South.

Sightseeing by horse cart around the town and market. Afternoon sail upstream including **Business Session 2**. Dinner and overnight on board

7 Mon 10 Oct 2016 MINHLA – MAGWE (B,L,D)

Visit to the fortress of **Minhla** on foot; it was built by Italian architects to help the Burmese King to keep the British at bay from advancing their troops towards the north. Afternoon excursion by buses to the surrounding area of **Magwe** with a visit to the holy "Dragon Volcano" at Minbu. Continue to the famous **Myat Thalon pagoda** in Magwe to enjoy sunset over the Irrawaddy River. Dinner and overnight at Magwe.



8 Tue 11 Oct 2016

MAGWE (B,L,D)

Morning city tour by **local rickshaw** with visit to a large **local market** and a **blacksmith**.

Afternoon sail upstream.

Presentation on board about exotic fruits and vegetables and traditional Burmese medicine.

Dinner and overnight on board.

9 Wed 12 Oct 2016

SALE – TAN GYI TAUNG (B,L,D)

Explore on foot the little town of **Sale** with its impressive colonial villas and the 150-year old teak monastery with magnificent wood carvings

In the afternoon arrive at **Tan-Gyi Taung** and climb the hill with local jeeps to enjoy the view.

Afterwards an elephant dance performance by local artists on the river shore.

Dinner and overnight on board.

10 Thu 13 Oct 2016

BAGAN (B,L,D)

The former royal capital of **Bagan**, with its more than 3000 Buddhist religious buildings of brick is one of the largest archaeological sites in Southeast Asia. Bus Tours throughout the day with a visit to some of the major temples and pagodas.

Lunch on board followed by further touring in Bagan.

Evening puppet show.

Dinner and overnight on board.

11 Fri 14 Oct 2016

RIVER VILLAGE – YANDABO (B,L,D)

Morning visit to a small **riverside village** (Shwe Pyi Thar).

Continue upstream passing the confluence of the Chindwin and Irrawaddy River.

In the afternoon walk through the picturesque village of **Yandabo** with its many family-run potteries. Yandabo became famous when the peace agreement after the second Anglo-Burmese war was signed here.

Dinner and overnight on board.

12 Sat 15 Oct 2016

AMARAPURA (B,L,D)

Enjoy a relaxing morning on board cruising upstream.

In the afternoon visit to a silk and cotton weaving factory and at sunset continue to **Amarapura** to visit the world's longest teak bridge, built in 1784.

Dinner and overnight on board.

13 Sun 16 Oct 2016

SAGAING – AVA – MINGUN (B,L,D)

Bus excursion to the beautiful **Sagaing Hills**, with its many hermitages and monasteries. Sagaing is an important religious and meditation centre. Visit to the 14th century **Sun-U-Ponnya-Shin pagoda** on the hill-top and stop at a nunnery. Later excursion by horse cart to the city of **Ava** (Inwa) with its ruins.

That afternoon visit to the famous **Mingun Paya**, meant to be the biggest pagoda worldwide. However, after the death of King Bodawphaya in 1819 the construction was halted. Admire the largest hanging bell in the world weighing over 100 tons.

In the evening **traditional Burmese dance performance on board**.

Dinner and overnight on board.

14 Mon 17 Oct 2016

MANDALAY (B,L,D)

Full day excursion by bus in **Mandalay**, the former Royal capital of Burma and the second biggest city as well as the commercial centre for central Myanmar. Visit to the much admired **Mahamuni pagoda**, with its famous Buddha image, covered with a 15cm thick layer of gold leaf. Visit different art workshops, including a gold leaf and stone-carving workshop. Stop at the central market where you will have some free time for shopping.

That afternoon visit **Shwenandaw Kyaung** the monastery built of teak with its fine wood carvings, a silent reminder of the ancient **Royal Palace**.

That evening enjoy a Farewell Cocktail on board.

Dinner and overnight on board at Mandalay.



15 Tue 18 Oct 2016

MANDALAY – HEHO – KAKKU – INLE (B,L,D)

Morning disembark and transfer to the airport and check-in for flight to **Heho**.

Arrive in **Heho**. Transfer by coach to **Taungyi** and then **Kakku** for 2 hours, an interesting and often picturesque drive up into the hills and across the **Shan Plateau**, through fields of mountain rice and other agricultural crops.

Visit to **Kakku pagodas**, an archaeological site with 1000 ancient pagodas.

Transfer to **Nyaung Shwe** for 2 hours by coach, the small town at the entrance to **Inle Lake**.

Transfer by long tail boat to your hotel on the lake for check-in.

Overnight at **Inle Lake, Aureum Palace Spa & Resort**.

16 Wed 19 Oct 2016

INLE LAKE (B,L,D)

Transfer for the Famous Boat Race.

The famous Boat race: Annually, during the Burmese month of Thadingyut (from September to October), an 18-day pagoda

festival is held, during which four Buddha images are placed on a replica of a royal barge designed as a hintha bird (a mythical bird) and taken throughout Inle Lake. One image always remains at the temple. The elaborately decorated barge is towed by several boats of leg-rowers, rowing in unison and other accompanying boats making an impressive procession on the water. The barge is towed from village to village along the shores of the lake in clockwise fashion, and the four images reside at the main monastery in each village for the night.

Lunch at Local restaurant near Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda.

Take time to explore the charm of Inle Lake by visiting **Inthas villages and floating gardens**. Continue by boat for a visit to a **lotus and silk weaving** centre, the one and only place in the world where we can find hand-made fabrics from the fibres of lotus stems.

Dinner and overnight at **Inle Lake, Aureum Palace Spa & Resort**.

17 Thu 20 Oct 2016

INLE LAKE (B,L,D)

Breakfast at the hotel.

Transfer by boat to the **5 days market**, the rendezvous of people who live in the Inle Lake area.

Transfer by boat to reach the **Indein** village by passing some Paohs and Inthas villages, really off the usual tourist's tracks.

Private lunch in the middle of bamboo groves.

Continue by boat to **Indein village** where we visit the beautiful **Indein** archaeological site with its abandoned pagodas.

Dinner and overnight at **Inle Lake, Aureum Palace Spa & Resort**.

18 Fri 21 Oct 2016

HEHO – YANGON (B,L,D)

After breakfast at the hotel transfer to Heho airport for the flight to Yangon.

Arrive in Yangon. Visit to the **Chauk Htat Gyi pagoda** with 72 meters long reclining Buddha statue.

Transfer to your hotel and check in.

Transfer to the downtown and visit the **colonial quarter**. Yangon is known for its largest number of colonial buildings in Southeast Asia.

Fine dining at **Le Planteur** restaurant.

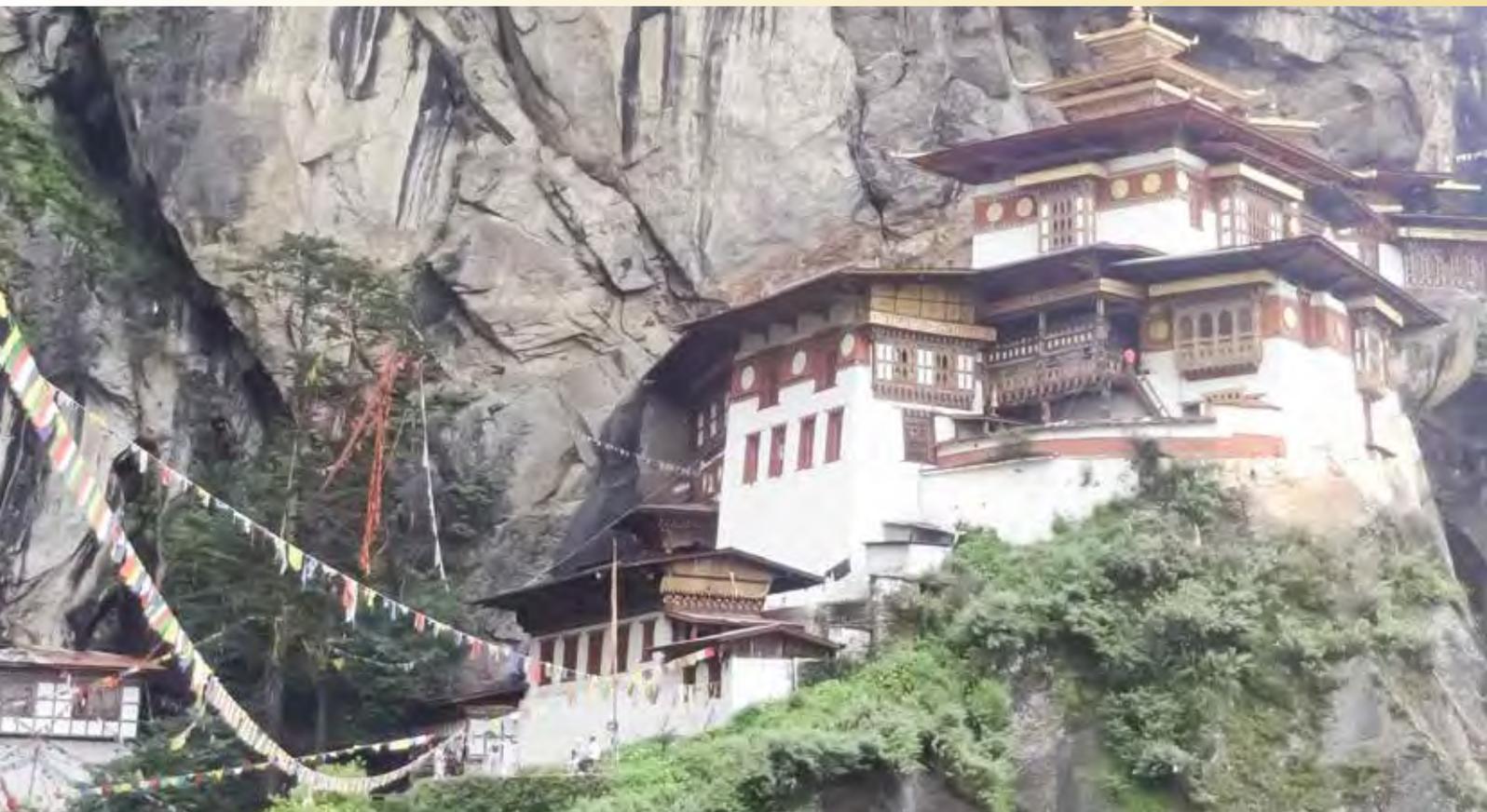
Overnight in **Yangon at the Sedona Hotel**.

19 Sat 22 Oct 2016

YANGON – INTERNATIONAL DEPARTURE (B)

Breakfast at the hotel.

Transfer to the Yangon International airport for our onward flight to Bhutan.



BHUTAN EXTENSION

Land of the Thunder Dragon

Bhutan is no ordinary place. It is a Himalayan kingdom with a reputation for mystery and magic, where a traditional Buddhist culture carefully embraces global developments.

Bhutan holds many surprises. This is a country where the rice is red and where chillies aren't just a seasoning but the main ingredient. It's also a deeply Buddhist land, where monasteries are part of the mainstream and where giant protective penises are painted beside the entrance to many houses. While it visibly maintains its Buddhist traditions, Bhutan is not a museum. You will find the Bhutanese well educated, fun loving and vibrant.

19 Sat 22 Oct 2016

YANGON – PARO – THIMPU
(B,L,D)

Depart Yangon on our charter flight directly into Paro, Bhutan. This special charter obviates the necessity of overnighing in Bangkok.

The flight to Paro is one of the most spectacular of all mountain flights. One can see Mt. Everest and other peaks in Bhutan. The first gift from Bhutan will be the cool, clean and fresh air as you step out of the plane

On arrival drive to Thimpu (65km/approx. 2hr). On the drive to Thimpu, you can also see the Three Chortens of Chhuzom, located on the Confluence of the two rivers, the Paro Chhu and the Thimpu Chhu.

Thimpu – the capital of Bhutan since 1960, lies at an elevation of over 7600ft in a fertile valley. The slopes are stocked with bricks and tea to horseshoes and cooking oil to cloth fabrics.

Wooden houses stand side by side with concrete buildings, all painted and constructed in traditional Bhutanese architectural styles.

**Overnight in THIMPU
LE MERIDIEN THIMPU HOTEL**

20 Sun 23 Oct 2016

THIMPU (B,L,D)

Morning tour of the city visiting the **Tashicho Dzong** which has more than 100 rooms and houses the Government Departments (including the main **Secretariat building**, the **National Assembly Hall**, and the **Throne Room of the King**).

Visit the giant **Buddah statue** standing over 51m high. The highest Buddah in the world.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

This afternoon visit the **Motithang mini zoo** to see the rare "**Takin**", the national animal of Bhutan. Visit the **Handicrafts Emporium**, with its wide assortment of beautifully hand-



woven and crafted products.

Overnight in THIMPU LE MERIDIEN HOTEL THIMPU

21 Mon 24 Oct 2016

THIMPU / PUNAKHA (B,L,D)

Drive to Punakha (70km/ approx. 3.5hr drive with scenic stops along the way). En route visit the **Simtokha Dzong**, the oldest fortress of its kind. Continue drive to Punakha through some of the finest mountain roads with beautiful views of the mountains. The road to Punakha is marked by a large number of prayer flags. At an elevation of 1300m, **Punakha** is one of the lowest lying valleys in the Kingdom. It was Bhutan's winter capital for 300 years until Thimpu became the official capital. With its temperate climate, this valley is the market garden of the country, where produce grows year round and many Bhutanese reside during the colder winter months. One

of the highlights of Punakha, is the Punakha Dzong, which straddles the confluence of the Mother (Mo) and Father (Pho) rivers like an ancient ship stranded by the tide.

Dinner and Overnight in PUNAKHA RKPO GREEN RESORT

22 Tue 25 Oct 2016

PUNAKHA (B,L,D)

After breakfast drive to Lobeyasa and walk for about 10 minutes to **Chimi Lhakhang** (Temple of Fertility). The trail traverses across rice fields from the road – wooden phalluses are often found hanging in the four corners of the houses and also phalluses are painted on the walls of houses. It is the common belief that this helps in driving away evil spirits. The souvenir shops should keep you entertained!

Return to Punakha for lunch at a local restaurant.

Post lunch walk up through whitewashed homesteads and farmland to **Khamsum Yuley Namgay Chorten**, a shrine recently built by the royal family. Head down along the riverside to the architectural edifice of the 17th century **Punakha Dzong** – strategically built at the junction of the two rivers by the first Shabdrung to serve as the religious and administrative centre.

Dinner and Overnight in PUNAKHA RKPO GREEN RESORT

23 Wed 26 Oct 2016

PUNAKHA / PARO (B,L,D)

Breakfast at leisure.

Late morning drive to Paro

(124km/approx.). Drive through some of the finest mountain roads with beautiful views of the mountains. Photo stops will be provided en route.

Lunch will be organized en route at a local restaurant.

Upon arrival at the hotel in Paro you will be accorded with a traditional welcome and check in to the hotel.

Paro, “The Beautiful Valley”. To the north, **Mount Chomolhari** (“Mountain of the Goddess”), reigns in its white glory. The glacier waters from its “five sister” peaks, plunge torrentially through deep gorges, finally converging to form the Paro Chhu River that nourishes the rice fields and the apple and peach orchards of the Paro Valley. Paro is one of the most fertile valleys in the kingdom, producing the bulk of the famous red rice from its terraced fields, home to some of Bhutan's oldest temples and monasteries.

Afternoon: Visit some of the beautiful monasteries of Paro. Relax and enjoy the wonderful spa activities of the hotel.

Dinner and Overnight in LE MERIDIEN HOTEL PARO

24 Thu 27 Oct 2016

PARO (B,L,D)

Optional Morning hike to **Taksang Monastery**, literally meaning “Tiger’s Nest”. The monastery clings, to a rock face or cliff 3000 ft. above the valley floor. A visit to this monastery is a challenge and a pilgrimage; exhausting, thrilling and profoundly mystical. An uphill trek to the monastery would take about 2 hrs till the view-point cafeteria. From here,

another 1hr steep trek will bring you to the actual monastery (**horses are available for those who opt not to hike**).

For those not up to the hike, a shopping excursion to the busy streets of Paro is a worthwhile experience. Bustling with traditional handicrafts, this is a fun activity.

Afternoon return to the city.

Lunch will be organized at a local restaurant.

Post lunch we will organize a fun **Archery Competition** for the group. Archery is Bhutan's National Sport and one in which they have excelled to even participate in the Olympics.

Dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight in LE MERIDIEN HOTEL PARO

25 Fri 28 Oct 2016

PARO/BANGKOK/AUSTRALIA

Today is intended as a day at leisure. A range of activities including handicraft shopping will be offered as well as spa options at the hotel.

Farewell Dinner will be held at the hotel.

Overnight in LE MERIDIEN HOTEL PARO

26 Sat 29 Oct 2016

PARO/SINGAPORE/AUSTRALIA

Morning transfer to the airport for flight to Singapore and connect to your flight back to Australia.

PRICES & INCLUSIONS

TOUR PACKAGE

Myanmar + Bhutan

4–28 October 2016 (25 nights)

**Land and River Cruise Only
excluding all International
airfares**

\$21,950 Double/Twin per person

**\$1,570 Single Supplement
(Hotels only)**

**\$3,640 Single Supplement
(RV Makara Queen
14 nights)**

Indicative Economy Class
airfares are \$1500 per person
including taxes.

Indicative Business Class
airfares are \$4500 per person
including taxes.

Special prices might become
available at time of booking.

Suggested International flights
are on Singapore Airlines from
Australia to and from Yangon,
Myanmar and Paro, Bhutan
via Singapore.

Tour Package (Myanmar Only)

4–22 October 2016 (18 nights)

**Land and River Cruise Only
excluding all International
airfares**

\$14,800 Double/Twin per person

**\$700 Single Supplement
(Hotels only)**

**\$3,640 Single Supplement
(RV Makara Queen)**

Consult with Yvonne to arrange
all flights and required flight
upgrades.

- Business Class upgrades
are available on the SQ
International flights

Tour Package Includes

- All airport-hotel transfers when
travelling with the group
- Accommodation on twin
sharing basis at Aureum Palace/
Inle Lake, Sedona/Yangon, Le

Meridien/Paro & Thimpu and
RKPO Green Resort/Punakha

- 14-night cruise on the boutique-
sized RV Makara Queen
- Transportation by 2 air-
conditioned coaches and
the use of a luggage truck
throughout
- Flights From Mandalay and
Heho and on to Yangon
- For those extending to Bhutan
the international return flight
from Yangon to Paro
- 18 nights' accommodation for
the Myanmar Tour
- 7 nights' accommodation for
the Bhutan Extension
- Includes **all** breakfasts,
lunches and dinners
- Complimentary beer and
wine at lunch and at dinner
included during the land and
cruise segments
- 2 dedicated English-speaking
guides and tour escort
- All tours and entry fees as per
the itinerary
- Porterage
- All gratuities
- A comprehensive range of
included shore excursions and
sightseeing whilst on the RV
Makara Queen

Not Included

- Passport and visa costs and
associated courier costs
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Expenses of a personal nature
such as personal phone calls,
room service and laundry
- Alcohol and refreshments not
included in the program
- Single supplement for all
hotels and boat where
applicable

Pharmacy Small Group Tours

Mike & Yvonne Lazarow
are the principals of the
Golden Pagoda Tour. After
commencing our Small Group
Tours over a decade ago and
with the experience of sixteen
tours behind us, we now return
to the Southeast Asian region
to the Republic of the Union
of Myanmar and the Buddhist
kingdom of Bhutan. A feature
of all our tours are the little
extras built into the program
that ensures extraordinary
value for money. This tour is
no exception.

Amaco Small Group Tours

Amaco has been successfully
owned and run by Impact
Organisation for a number of
years. Amaco is a specialist
provider of accredited CPD
activities and delivers overseas
conferences to GPs and
Medical Specialists.

Mathew Lazarow, senior
account manager for Impact
Organisation has been
responsible for the Amaco
Division for a number of

years, has now assumed sole
ownership of Amaco. As part
of Mike & Yvonne Lazarow's
personal succession planning,
Mathew will also assume
responsibility for Pharmacy
Small Group Tours as well from
2017 onwards.

Amaco Small Group Tours
(Mathew Lazarow) will continue
operating out of our existing
offices in Mulgrave.

Impact Organisation (Travel)

Impact Travel is an accredited
travel company, well versed
in handling large and small
travel groups. All monies are
safeguarded in an appropriate
trust account.

Deposits

Please submit your registration
form and \$1500 per person
deposit before 31 March 2016.
As only a limited number of
registrations can be accepted
for the tour, we strongly advise
that you register as soon as
possible. All deposits are fully
refundable if you decide to
cancel before 30 April 2016.



ALL ENQUIRIES

IMPACT ORGANISATION (TRAVEL)

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