

THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL  
OF PHILADELPHIA  
AND COOPERATING COUNCILS:

**INSIDE MYANMAR AND LAOS**  
**\$5,950 PER PERSON • SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT \$1,360**

**Tour price includes:**

- Accommodations in hotels as listed
- Meals as listed in the program
- All sightseeing in a deluxe air-conditioned coach
- All entrance fees and special events listed
- Pre-departure materials and reading list
- Educational content provided by Dr. Donald Stadtner
- The services of a Council staff person
- Services of an English-speaking local guide in Myanmar and one in Laos
- Gratuities to guides and drivers
- The following flights  
*Yangon/Mandalay, Mandalay/Pagan, Pagan/Yangon, Yangon/Bangkok, Bangkok/Vientiane, Vientiane/Luang Prabang*

**Does not include:**

- International airfare (approximately \$1,650 from JFK)
- Visa fee for Myanmar (approximately \$30 on arrival)
- Visa fee for Laos (approximately \$35 on arrival)
- Trip Insurance
- Any items not specifically listed



*For more information or to make a reservation,  
please call*

**World Affairs Council of Philadelphia at  
800.942.5004 x 209 or 217**  
or email [travel@wacphila.org](mailto:travel@wacphila.org)  
[www.wacphila.org](http://www.wacphila.org)

Tour Operated by Distant Horizons  
1-800-333-1240  
CST 2046776-10



Dear World Affairs Council Travelers,

Burma, renamed Myanmar by the military junta, is an extraordinary country. It is a land with an unwavering belief in Theravada Buddhism where the ruins of ancient and glorious kingdoms stand stark and impressive against a landscape of great beauty. Neighboring Laos is a tiny, undiscovered gem of a country whose refined and elegant culture offers a tapestry of unparalleled beauty. Join scholar Dr. Don Stadtner as we travel through these two little-known and little-understood lands.

Begin the trip in Yangon, where the heart and soul of the city is the Shwedagon Pagoda, one of the world's most beautiful religious complexes. From Yangon fly to Mandalay and explore Sagaing, a cluster of stupas and monasteries and sail down the Irrawaddy to Mingun to admire the world's largest intact bell. Spend three days exploring the ancient capital of Pagan where hundreds of pagodas and temples - ruins of all sizes - soar toward the sky.

Fly through Yangon and Bangkok to Laos and its capital city, Vientiane, located on the banks of the Mekong River. Explore glorious sanctuaries like Wat Si Saket with a butterfly-filled courtyard and a cloister with thousands of Buddhas. Further north lies Luang Prabang, a UNESCO World Heritage site, which sits on a bowl of mountains on a peninsula where the Nam Khan River flows into the Mekong. Meet weavers and artists and, travel by boat along the Mekong River to the Pak Ou Caves where ancient Buddhist statues peer out toward the river. Return home from Luang Prabang.

Throughout the program a series of lectures and briefings will be arranged that will focus on the contemporary issues facing both countries today.

Space is limited and we hope you will be able to join us on this magnificent tour of Myanmar and Laos.

Joan Russell  
Director of Travel



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## INSIDE MYANMAR AND LAOS WITH DR. DONALD STADTNER

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FEBRUARY 3 - 16, 2011



**WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL**  
*of Philadelphia & Cooperating Councils*



*"Then on a sudden I found myself in the tropics. I was met, as by an unexpected friend with the savor of South East Asia. The depth of color, the hot touch of the air on one's cheek, the dazzling yet strangely veiled light, the different walk of the people, the lazy breath of their gestures, the silence, the solemnity, the dust - this was the real thing and my jaded spirits rose."*  
Somerset Maugham



**WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL**  
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One South Broad Street, Suite 2M  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

INSIDE MYANMAR AND LAOS WITH DR. DONALD STADTNER  
FEBRUARY 3 - 16, 2011

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THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA  
AND COOPERATING COUNCILS:  
**INSIDE MYANMAR AND LAOS  
RESERVATION FORM**

Legal Name (exactly as it appears on passport)

(1) \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

(2) \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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I would like to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ space(s) at \$500 per person on "Inside Myanmar and Laos"

Enclosed is my deposit for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

I am a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ Council.

**Please make checks payable to *Distant Horizons*.**  
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The Council will be moving offices in June 2010. Please email us or visit our website for more information before mailing a reservation to us..

**U.S. to YANGON**

Depart the U.S.

**EN ROUTE**

**YANGON**

Morning arrival in Taipei where you will connect with a non-stop flight to Yangon. Arrive Yangon, formerly Rangoon, and transfer to the *Traders Hotel Yangon*. D.

**YANGON**

Our day starts with an orientation tour of Yangon, beginning with the Sule Pagoda and ending at the historic Strand Hotel. Return to the hotel for lunch and a talk by Ms. Ma Thanegi, a prominent author on Burmese cultural matters and history. By late afternoon we will arrive at the Shwedagon Pagoda, perhaps the most beautiful Buddhist shrine in Asia, to enjoy the golden temple basking in the rays of the setting sun. Welcome dinner. B,L,D.

**YANGON**

This morning, Dr. Stadtner will lead a walking tour which focuses on Yangon's magnificent and decaying colonial architecture. Burma's capital is believed to have the greatest number of surviving colonial structures of any Southeast Asian city. After lunch, visit the Chauk Htat Gyi Pagoda which contains one of the largest reclining Buddhas in Myanmar. End the day with briefing given by a member of the NLD political party. In the evening, enjoy a reception at the American ambassador's residence followed by dinner at a local restaurant. B,L,D.

**MANDALAY**

Fly to Mandalay and the *Mandalay Hill Resort*. Begin exploring Mandalay this afternoon at the Shwe Nandaw Kyaung, a beautiful monastery built of teak. At sunset drive to the top of Mandalay Hill and pay homage to a temple said to contain bones of the Buddha. As we walk down, astrologers and souvenir peddlers line the descending path. B,L,D.

**MANDALAY**

In the morning, drive to the Maha Muni Temple, the most important religious structure in Mandalay. After lunch, travel by boat to Mingun to see the world's largest intact bell and to visit the studio of U Zau Maung, a young watercolor artist. End the day with a stroll across the famous U Bein Bridge. B,L,D.

**Thursday, February 3**

**Friday, February 4**

**Saturday, February 5**

**Sunday, February 6**

**Monday, February 7**

**Tuesday, February 8**

**Wednesday, February 9**

**PAGAN**

Morning flight to Pagan. Pagan is a most remarkable town, offering one of Myanmar's most amazing sights: across 25 square miles, stretching back from the Irrawaddy, stand hundreds of pagodas and temples. Begin exploring and in the late afternoon visit a number of shops specializing in the production of lacquerware. There will be an opportunity to talk to the owner of one workshop about the forced relocation of their workshop from Pagan's old town to the new town. *Thiripyitsaya Hotel*. B,L,D.

**PAGAN**

Spend the day getting to know this beautiful town. Meet with locals and visit a small school. The final stop for the morning will be at Ananda Temple, which was built by Kyansittha in 1091 and constructed according to a plan furnished by Indian Buddhist monks. Drive to Minnanthu village to see the Thambula, Nandamanya, and Payathonzu temples, a very interesting late group of temples with excellent paintings. Dinner at the Sunset Garden Restaurant. B,L,D.

**VIENTIANE**

Fly through Yangon and Bangkok to Vientiane, arriving mid-afternoon. Enjoy a late afternoon meeting with textile collector and maker, Carol Cassidy. A staff person from the Asia Foundation will join the group for dinner. In 2009 the Asia Foundation re-established its Laos operation and is involved in programs accelerating the country's legal development, women's rights and encouraging sustainable development. Overnight at the *Novotel Hotel*. B,L,D.

**VIENTIANE**

This morning begin exploring the charming capital city of Vientiane. Walk along Lane Xang which is modeled on the Parisian style boulevards, and runs from the Presidential Palace by the Mekong River to a huge monument which is considered to be a replica of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris with a somewhat incongruous roof. Also visit Wat Si Saket and Wat Ong Tu in addition to the Museum of Revolution which traces the country's history from its earliest days through the 1970s. Afternoon briefing at the US Embassy in Vientiane (on request). Enjoy a delicious dinner tonight of fine French food. B,L,D.

**LUANG PRABANG**

Morning flight to Luang Prabang. Visit the Heritage Information Center and learn how Luang Prabang fuses and preserves its traditional Lao and European colonial

**Thursday, February 10**

**Friday, February 11**

**Saturday, February 12**

**Sunday, February 13**

**Monday, February 14**

architecture. Later this afternoon, visit Wat Xieng Thong and the hilltop temple of Wat Phousi. We have arranged a meeting at the House of Puang Champa, a private organization founded by Prince Nithakhong Somsanith, a world-renowned patron of the Lao Arts. Enjoy a private show of traditional dancers wearing intricately embroidered costumes. Overnight at the *La Residence Phou Vao*. B,L,D.

**LUANG PRABANG**

Morning visit to the Palace Museum and the market. Travel by a private and covered motorized long-boat along the Mekong River to the Pak Ou Buddhist Caves. Stop en route at the village of Sang Hai which is noted for its potent rice alcohol, and the village of Done Kien where you can see local villagers panning for gold in the Mekong River. On the way back to Luang Prabang, stop at the village of Phanom, home to 800 people of the Leu minority who produce textiles which they sell at the local market. There will also be a chance to purchase these textiles. Farewell dinner this evening. B,L,D.

**LUANG PRABANG to U.S. Wednesday, February 16**

Mid-morning drive to the airport for return flights home. B.

Our trip will be accompanied by Dr. Donald Stadtner who received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1976, and then joined the faculty at the University of Texas, Austin. His publications range widely over Asian art. His latest book, *Sacred Sites of Burma* (2010), followed his *Ancient Pagan* (2005). He has conducted numerous study groups to Asia and has lectured extensively on a wide variety of topics.

