Burma
THE ROAD TO MANDALAY

January 27 to February 11, 2017

a program of the stanford alumni association
I’ll never forget the first time I visited Burma with a Stanford group: the people welcomed us with genuine, open smiles and the sky was such a clear, crisp blue it literally took my breath away. Previously one of the world’s most isolated countries, Burma still possesses unparalleled mystique and charm for the intrepid traveler, filled with treasures few tourists ever see. Stanford faculty leader Barton “Buzz” Thompson, ’72, MBA and JD ’76, leads our group as we learn about traditional rural environments and lifestyles that are deeply imbued with Buddhist and animist religious culture. Join us on this extraordinary journey!

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

ADMIRE the impressive golden Shwedagon Pagoda, made of 60 tons of gold leaf and festooned with a 76-carat diamond and thousands of precious stones.

CRUISE for four nights down the Irrawaddy River from Mandalay to Bagan, through the agricultural heartland of Burma.

EXPLORE the ruins and temples of Bagan, a city of more than 2,000 temples and monuments covered with gold, silver and fine mosaic paintings.

MEET with local people and government officials in Rangoon to discuss Burma’s past, present and future.
“A+ on educational experience. The combination of the sites, local guides and Stanford faculty was excellent.”

BARTON “BUZZ” THOMPSON, ’72, MBA ’76, JD ’76, loves to travel to nations such as Burma where the past blends with the future and new experiences abound. An avowed water wonk, he also can’t wait to spend quality time on the Irrawaddy, which he considers one of the great voyaging rivers of the world. An expert in sustainable development, he has consulted with governments and nonprofit organizations on six continents, including Asia, on how to grow economies while protecting the environment and natural resources on which people and economies depend. At Stanford, he co-founded and directs the Woods Institute for the Environment, which brings together more than 180 faculty from throughout the university to solve global environmental challenges, and he is a popular and innovative Stanford professor. On this trip, he looks forward to talking with us about everything from Burma’s political history and the opportunities for truly sustainable economic development to environmental topics such as the impact climate change is likely to have on Burma.

— At Stanford Law School: Robert E. Paradise Professor of Natural Resources Law since 1995; vice dean, 1999–2004; founding director, environmental and natural resources program
— Perry L. McCarty Director of the Woods Institute for the Environment since 2004
— Senior fellow, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, since 2001
— Chairman of the board, Resources Legacy Fund; California trustee, The Nature Conservancy
— BA, economics and political science, 1972, Stanford University
— MBA, 1976, Stanford Business School
— JD, 1976, Stanford Law School

SIGN UP ONLINE: alumni.stanford.edu/trip?burma2017
OR BY PHONE: (650) 725-1093

U BEIN BRIDGE ON TAUNGTHAMAN LAKE, AMARAPURA, OUTSIDE MANDALAY
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JANUARY 27 & 28
DEPART U.S. / RANGOON, BURMA
Depart the U.S. on overnight flights to Rangoon, also called Yangon, crossing the international date line en route. Arrive in Rangoon on Saturday and transfer to our hotel to relax for the rest of the afternoon. Gather for a casual dinner this evening at our hotel. STRAND HOTEL (1/28: D)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29
RANGOON
Explore Rangoon, beginning with the historic downtown district and continuing to the riverfront. Visit the Sule Pagoda and the National Museum, which features royal treasures of the last Burmese kings and other historical objects. This afternoon, visit the Nga Phe Kyaung Monastery to view the finest Shan-style Buddhist statues of the region. NOVOTEL INLE (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31
INLE LAKE
Following a visit to the local market, take a boat ride on Inle Lake to observe traditional daily life. Visit local fisherman and artisans as well as floating gardens. This afternoon, visit the Maha Muni temple complex and its colossal golden Buddha image, the iconic U Bein Bridge, Shwenandaw Temple with its magnificent wood carvings and the Kuthodaw Pagoda to see the “world’s largest book”—the complete Buddhist scriptures carved on 729 stone slabs spread around the foot of Mandalay Hill. NOVOTEL INLE (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1
INLE LAKE / HEHO / MANDALAY
Explore the magnificent temple ruins at Indein and see hundreds of stupas dating from the 11th and 12th centuries. Visit local market town of Nyaung Shwe to the west of Mandalay. NOVOTEL INLE (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2
MANDALAY / IRRAWADDY RIVER / EMBARK PAUKAN 2012
Explore Mandalay, Burma’s second-largest city and an important religious center, with one quarter of the land area covered by monasteries that provide housing to 20,000 monks. Stop at the Maha Muni temple complex and its colossal golden Buddha image, the iconic U Bein Bridge, Shwenandaw Temple with its magnificent wood carvings and the Kuthodaw Pagoda to see the “world’s largest book”—the complete Buddhist scriptures carved on 729 stone slabs spread around the foot of Mandalay Hill. This afternoon, board our riverboat and cruise the Irrawaddy River through the agricultural heartland of Burma. RV PAUKAN 2012 (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3
KYAUK MYAUNG / MINGUN
Visit the spectacular artisan village of Kyauk Myaung to meet with local craftspeople and view their pottery. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit the small town of Nyaung Shwe on the way to the Heho airport for our flight to Mandalay. NOVOTEL INLE (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4
AVA
This morning go ashore for an excursion by horse cart to explore the remains of the ancient city of Ava, capital of the Burmese Kingdom from 1364 to 1841. View Ava’s temples, its magnificent teakwood Bagaya Monastery and vestiges of the former royal palace. This evening cruise downstream to Yandabo. RV PAUKAN 2012 (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5
YANDABO
Today we visit the village of Yandabo where we stop at a school, monastery and pottery shop to meet local people and artisans. As we continue our cruise down the Irrawaddy River, relax and enjoy the amenities of our riverboat. RV PAUKAN 2012 (B,L,D)
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6
**DISEMBARK / BAGAN**
Disembark our riverboat and explore the stupas and temples of Bagan, filled with more than 2,000 temples decorated with gold, silver and mosaic paintings. See the Ananda, Gubyaukgyi and Htilominlo complexes, followed by a visit to a village lacquerware workshop. **AUREUM PALACE (B,L,D)**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7
**MOUNT POPA**
Today we visit Mount Popa, the “Mount Olympus” of Burma, an extinct volcano estimated to have erupted for the last time more than 32,000 years ago. It is known as the home to nats, or mischievous local spirits, that are a key element of daily life in Burma. **AUREUM PALACE (B,L,D)**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8
**BAGAN**
Continue our exploration of Bagan, visiting ruins and more temples, including the Shwezigon Pagoda with its gilded golden dome. **AUREUM PALACE (B,L,D)**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9
**RANGOON**
This morning we fly to Rangoon, where we spend the remainder of the day exploring the former capital city independently, perhaps returning to the Aung San Market or visiting the Chaukhtatgyi “Reclining Buddha.” **STRAND HOTEL (B,L,D)**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10
**RANGOON**
Today we have the opportunity to meet with local people and dignitaries to learn about the current state of affairs in Burma. Toast the end of our trip at a farewell reception and dinner this evening. **STRAND HOTEL (B,L,D)**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11
**RANGOON / U.S.**
This morning transfer to the airport for international flights back to the U.S., arriving home the same day. (B)
RV Paukan 2012

The RV Paukan 2012 is a beautiful river cruise vessel, blending colonial old-world charm with contemporary Burmese style and modern comforts. The timber-walled cabins are furnished with colonial-style cupboards and a dresser. Meals in the dining room on the main deck include both Burmese and Western-style cuisine. A good selection of international and local wines, spirits and beers is served at meal times and is available from the bar on the upper deck.

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Program Cost*

Rates are per person, based on double or single occupancy, as specified.

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<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>DOUBLE RATE</th>
<th>SINGLE RATE**</th>
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<tr>
<td>SUPERIOR</td>
<td>$10,995</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cabin on Main Deck with twin beds and a large window. 250 sq. ft.</td>
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<td>DELUXE</td>
<td>$11,495</td>
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<td>Cabin on Upper Deck with fixed double bed, large window and a private balcony. 270 sq. ft.</td>
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<td>SUITE</td>
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<td>Cabin on Upper Deck with double bed, large window and a private balcony. 270 sq. ft.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SINGLE</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>$13,195</td>
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<td>Cabin on Upper Deck with twin bed and a large window. 107 sq. ft.</td>
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*Association nonmembers add $300 per person.
**Single accommodations may be limited to as few as two cabins.
Information

DATES
January 27 to February 11, 2017 (16 days)

SIZE
This program can accommodate 32 participants. Single accommodations are extremely limited; please call for availability.

INCLUDED
10 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations ■ 4-night cruise on the RV Paukan 2012 ■ 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches, 14 dinners ■ Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions ■ Gratuities to guides, drivers and ship crew for all group activities ■ All tours and shore excursions as described in the itinerary ■ Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days ■ Internal flights within Burma ■ Port fees and embarkation taxes ■ Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance ■ Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information ■ Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

NOT INCLUDED
International and U.S. domestic airfare ■ Passport and visa fees ■ Immunization costs ■ Meals and beverages other than those specified as included ■ Independent and private transfers ■ Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance ■ Excess-baggage charges ■ Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

AIR ARRANGEMENTS
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on Singapore Airlines between San Francisco and Rangoon, Burma, is approximately $1,050 as of April 2016 and is subject to change without notice. Information on recommended flight itineraries will be sent by our designated agent.

WHAT TO EXPECT
Travel in Burma can be demanding. This is a fast-paced, strenuous program in a country where conditions can be hot and dusty and where delays are not uncommon. Some sites include one to three miles of walking, as well as stairs and uneven terrain. In some instances, such as ruins, steps are a necessary part of the tour and may not have handrails. Temples in Bagan and elsewhere must be entered without shoes or socks. Passengers will frequently be stepping in and out of motorized canoes. Good health and stamina with a sense of adventure and a flexible attitude about delays and inconveniences are essential. All stops while aboard the RV Paukan 2012 depend on river conditions and the schedule will be adjusted accordingly. Hotel accommodations are best-available and provide all necessary amenities. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

Terms & Conditions

Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold space on this program. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?burma2017 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information will be provided to travelers with their welcome materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written confirmation of your participation on the trip.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the members’ price. A person traveling as a paid guest of a current member will not be charged the nonmember fee. To purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and ship arrangements and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger at tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. It is understood that the ship’s ticket, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the cruise company. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in May 2016 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.
“I couldn’t recommend this trip more highly. The opportunity to see traditional Asia on the cusp of dramatic change was a very special opportunity.”

PATRICIA LEICHER, ’70, BURMA, 2013