

### Myanmar's retired elephants wallow with guests & crew of river cruise operator Irrawaddy Voyages

(copy starts)



Commencing 2019, guests cruising with Irrawaddy Voyages will be treated to a discreet and spontaneously natural display of wallowing elephants ('momos'), as they take their daily bathe in the Palin River, located an hour outside the fabled ancient city of Bagan.

Over the past two years government legislation has prohibited indiscriminate logging of Burma's forests. Consequently and virtually overnight around 5000 working elephants have become 'unemployed'.

The Myanmar Timber Enterprise has quickly adjusted to this challenge and embraced responsible care and management of their retired elephants, by opening interactive & educational camps in various locations across the country.

These camps serve many purposes including keeping the elephants well fed and exercised on a daily basis. Other benefits include educating Myanmar's students, attracting domestic tourism and new scientific research programs.

Irrawaddy Voyages plan to reach the Palin River View Camp at pre-arranged times, to coincide with the elephant's daily routine of taking a bathe and wallowing in the river.





*“Our vessels will not come alongside the riverbank or anchor. This experience is designed to be zero impact. Guests and crew will be able to observe these elephants in their natural environment as the “momos” enjoy their daily bathe and exercise. We will observe from afar, about thirty-forty meters from the riverbank.”* Said Fleet Manager U Tun Naing.

Myanmar (Burma) is home to the second largest total population of Asian elephants remaining worldwide (after India), including a captive population of approximately 5,000 the largest captive population in the world today.

*“This is a truly unique opportunity for our river cruise guests and ship’s crew. We are the only cruise operation to have such ease of access and to have included these kinds of interactions in our schedules”.* Said Managing Director Ms Aye Thuzar Thant.



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## Related links

<http://elephant-project.science/>

<http://www.myanmarimber.com.mm/>

<http://www.irrawaddyvoyages.com/eco/wwf-elephant-partition.html>

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## Responsible Tourism Commitment;

*To minimize the negative impacts of our operation through prudent purchasing procedures, waste recycling, village & community projects and staff training and awareness.*

*To form dedicated teams to implement our sustainable policies, with the full support from business owners and management. (Ref: Travelife [www.travelife.org](http://www.travelife.org) )*

*To comply with all relevant national and regional environmental rules and regulations.*

*To continuously create high quality products and services to meet our guest needs, wants and expectations.*

*To continuously learn and understand the environmental, social and cultural issues associated with our operation.*

*To be a fair employer that recruits locally and supports internships, training and long term career opportunities for local employees.*

*To encourage and promote local prudent purchasing whenever possible, both onboard our vessels and onshore.*

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