Dear Princetonian,

Rarely does one have the opportunity to witness change on the scale currently taking place in Burma. This past May, just after the historic visits of U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and U.N. Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon and Aung San Suu Kyi’s swearing in to Parliament, I traveled to Burma and found signs of progress and great hope as I traversed the country to design this special tour for Princeton travelers.

Burma still retains its incredible physical beauty and mixes the quiet charm of a 19th-century Southeast Asian country where time appears to have stood still with palpable changes and expansion in its modern cities. Join Princeton Journeys for its first program in Burma where you will at once experience and witness—in real time—the political shifts, commerce expansion, and cultural recognition transforming this region, while soaking in the area’s natural splendor.

Beginning in fabled Rangoon, the journey will continue to Burma’s cultural capital of Mandalay onward to Inle Lake, revered as the magical land of the Intha people. The final destination, Pagan, is a breathtaking site where over 2,000 stupas have withstood the test of time. Along the way, the group will be joined by local writers, artists, and entrepreneurs providing a unique insight into the culture and life of Burma today.

Space on this exciting program to one of Asia’s least visited countries is limited. Contact Princeton Journeys today to reserve your place.

With kind regards,

Leslie J. Rowley S95
Executive Manager, Princeton Journeys
Office of the Alumni Association
Princeton University
Elaine Pearson

As deputy director of Human Rights Watch’s Asia division, Elaine Pearson has supervised the organization’s work across Asia, especially South East Asia. Based in New York, she regularly briefs members of the media, government, and UN officials. On Burma, Ms. Pearson has edited reports focusing on armed conflict abuses, sectarian violence, freedom of expression, humanitarian assistance after devastating Cyclone Nargis, and abuses faced by Burmese migrants and refugees. She has worked for the International Labour Organization, as well as the UN Development Fund for Women, and led the first trafficking program at Anti-Slavery International in London. Ms. Pearson writes frequently for numerous publications such as the Guardian, Wall Street Journal, and Human Rights Quarterly. Prior to joining Human Rights Watch in 2007, Ms. Pearson previously lived and worked in Bangkok, Hong Kong, Kathmandu, and London. Originally from Australia, Ms. Pearson holds degrees in law and arts from Australia’s Murdoch University and has been part of the 2012-13 Master in Public Policy program for mid-career professionals at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Relations at Princeton University. After finishing at Princeton, she will return to Human Rights Watch as Australia director, based in Sydney.
DETAILED ITINERARY

**Wednesday, October 23 – Friday, October 25, 2013 Home – Rangoon (Yangon).**

In order to arrive in Yangon on Friday, October 25, travelers from the U.S. will likely have to depart on Wednesday, October 23. Each traveler will be met upon arrival in Rangoon and will be transferred to the Chatrium Hotel.

In the early evening on Friday, the group will gather for a welcome reception followed by dinner at the hotel.

*Chatrium Hotel (meals in flight; D)*

**Saturday, October 26. Rangoon**

Before breakfast, enjoy an optional excursion to the Shwedagon Pagoda, best viewed in the early morning or late afternoon hours.

A day of sightseeing in Rangoon begins with a driving tour of the city, providing a glimpse into the past—a time when the British ruled Burma and Rangoon was bustling with high officials, bankers and merchants. During those days one would sit on the veranda of the old Strand Hotel and watch the ships carrying goods from all over Asia pass by the waterfront or would take a stroll along Merchant Street, past the Lloyds of London and HSBC Bank. Visit the most impressive example of Rangoon’s colonial architectural heritage, the High Court where, in 1947 General Aung San was assassinated.

Next, explore the centrality of Buddhist history, architecture, ideology at the 2,500-year-old Sule Pagoda, a focal point for religious activity in the heart of the city. Surrounded by commercial hustle and bustle, Sule Pagoda is a prayer and meditation haven for monks and local people alike.

After lunch at Pandomar Restaurant, the group will drive to Bogyoke Aung San Market, where, amidst more than 1,000 shops, one can find everything ranging from basic household items to local crafts and souvenirs.

The day ends with a sunset visit to what many consider the most beautiful shrine in Asia—the Shwedagon Pagoda. Rudyard Kipling called it “a golden mystery...a beautiful winking wonder” and Somerset Maugham thought of it as “a sudden hope in the dark night of the soul.” Hundreds of people throng to the sacred shrine in the evening while the golden spire is soaked in the warm hues of the setting sun.
A cocktail reception is scheduled at the newly reopened American Embassy before dinner at Mes Amis Restaurant. The invited guest for the evening is Ms. Ma Thanegi, one of Burma’s most well known writers and a former advisor to Aung San Suu Kyi. Her writing has been published in the International Herald Tribune, the Far Eastern Economic Review, and many other publications.

Chatrium Hotel (B,L,D)

**Sunday, October 27. Rangoon**

This morning the group will depart for a visit to Chaukthatgyi Pagoda, which houses a grand reclining Buddha. Nearby, at the Ngahtatgyi Pagoda, worshippers pray in front of another large and beautifully serene seated Buddha image.

After lunch at Le Planteur Restaurant, dive into Rangoon’s thriving modern art scene. The afternoon tour includes visits to some of the best galleries and concludes at the home of Min Wei, Burma’s most well-known artist. Min Wei and his wife will host a cocktail party for the group on the rooftop of their home.

Ms. Mieng Ngie will be this evening’s dinner host at her restaurant House of Memories, an old colonial building, which once housed the offices of General Aung San and whose walls are adorned with old photos and memorabilia of a time long gone.

Chatrium Hotel (B,L,D)

**Monday, October 28. Mandalay**

An early morning flight takes the group to Mandalay; early check-in at the Mandalay Hill Hotel allows for leisure time prior to lunch.
This afternoon, drive to the monastery and stupa atop Sagaing Hill, home to 6,000 monks and nuns. The local Burmese people consider Sagaing Hill a foothill of mystical Mount Meru and come here on retreat, some for a day, some for years. The sweet smell of burning incense is everywhere and the sounds of Buddhist cymbals can be heard along the stairways and colonnades leading to the top of the mountain, which offers incredible views.

Return to downtown Mandalay for dinner at the Green Elephant Restaurant.

_Mandalay Hill Hotel (B,L,D)_

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**Tuesday, October 29. Mandalay**

Spend the morning in the outskirts of Mandalay in the 12th-century capital city of Inwa. Horse drawn carts will take the group on an excursion passing by the ruins of an ancient palace, a massive fort, and magnificent wooden monasteries adorned with splendid carvings created by Inwa artists.

En route back to Mandalay, there will be a stop at Amarapura, an industrious part of Mandalay known for its weaving school, bronze production, pottery studios, and the famous gold leaf shops. Gold leaf represents an important aspect of Burma’s Buddhist culture; one can show devotion at Buddhist temples by placing small pieces of gold leaf on the Buddha’s face or body. A great example of this display of devotion can be found inside one of Burma’s most sacred and important sites, the Mahamuni Temple, which will be seen in the afternoon. The main image inside the temple is a 12-foot high, seated Buddha. Over the years, the entire figure has been covered in a six-inch layer of gold leaf.

The U Bein Bridge, the longest teak span bridge in the world, marks the last stop for the day. The gentle sunset light makes for a perfect photo opportunity.

Dinner will be served at the hotel.

_Mandalay Hill Hotel (B,L,D)_

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_http://alumni.princeton.edu/journeys_
Wednesday, October 30. Pagan

Burma’s lifeline, the powerful Irrawaddy (Ayeyarwady) River, originates in the remote mountain glaciers in the northern part of the country and winds its way south until it reaches the Andaman Sea. Along the way it passes by the ruined city of Mingun where thousands of slaves and prisoners of war built a gigantic stupa in the 18th century. This morning, the group will journey by private boat down the Irrawaddy River for a visit to Mingun.

After lunch back in Mandalay, an afternoon flight takes the group to Pagan and the Aureum Palace Hotel, where dinner will be served this evening.

Aureum Palace Hotel (B,L,D)

Thursday, October 31. Pagan

The Pagan Archeological Zone and its monuments are a site to behold! The view over 2,000 temples scattered among the arid landscape, some small and gracefully ornamented and others gloriously soaring into the sky, will take your breath away. A morning tour of the ruins will include a stop off the tourist path, at the rarely visited small Tayoke.pyai Temple dating back to the 13th century. An easy climb up a flight of stairs allows for one of the most beautiful panoramic views of the countryside.

A stroll through the local morning market provides an opportunity to catch a glimpse of village life and activity before the tour concludes at the great gold-leaf gilded Shwezigon Pagoda. It is one of the earliest sites in Pagan dating back to 1102 AD.

Lunch awaits in a local restaurant.

In the afternoon, learn about Pagan’s lacquerware artisans, who produce some of the best and highly collectable pieces in the world. Just in time for sunset, gather for cocktails and dinner at the Aureum Hotel Tower.

Aureum Palace Hotel (B,L,D)
Friday, November 1. Pagan

A special morning excursion to the small village of Pwey Bwe, away from the tourist sites, has been arranged. The group will have a chance to meet and interact with the students and teachers in a primary village school. Today's school lunch will be donated to the students on behalf of the group.

Group lunch will be served at the hotel.

During the cool late afternoon hours enjoy several more highlights of Pagan's landscape such as the Ananda Temple, considered to be Pagan's best preserved and most revered site.

Dinner this evening is on your own.

Aureum Palace Hotel (B,L)

Saturday, November 2. Inle Lake

After a short flight to Heho and a drive to Jetty Town, the fairy tale land of the Intha people awaits! Having perfectly adapted to their environment, the Intha people live in floating villages on Inle Lake and support themselves by fishing and cultivating floating crops and vegetable fields.

Board a small long-tail boat for the transfer from Jetty Town to the Aureum Resort Hotel. After checking in, reboard the boats to sample typical Shan fare at the Cat Heritage House. An afternoon lake excursion provides a chance to witness the life and traditions of the Intha people. The long-tail boats will pass floating village schools, shops, and fishermen maneuvering their way through small canals, famously standing at the stern of their boat with one leg wrapped around the oar.

The group gathers in the evening for sunset cocktails and dinner on the hotel veranda.

Aureum Resort Hotel (B,L,D)
**Sunday, November 3. Inle Lake**

The morning trip across the lake starts with a visit to one of the colorful village markets, where the local Pa-O women come to sell their goods and buy fish, fruits, and vegetables from the Intha. The river journey continues along one of the Inle Lake tributaries, winding its way to the pagoda forest. Disembark for a leisurely walk through a small complex of ruined temples.

Following lunch at the Kite Restaurant, return to the hotel for free time or continue on to the lotus-weaving village. Watch expert weavers extract the lotus silk from the stem of the lotus flowers, spin it into fine thread, and weave it into the beautiful fabrics on display.

The day concludes with dinner at the hotel.

*Aureum Resort Hotel (B,L,D)*

**Monday November 4. Inle Lake**

Travelers may choose to ride on the old British railway to the colonial hill station of Kalaw for lunch or take a full-day hike to one of the Pa-O villages in the hills above the lake. Alternatively, enjoy a day of leisure and serenity at the hotel.

Dine independently at the hotel.

*Aureum Resort Hotel (B,L)*

**Tuesday-Wednesday, November 5 & 6**

The journey ends this morning with a short flight to Rangoon, arriving in time to allow for international afternoon and evening connections.

For those travelers with a longer layover in Rangoon, the coach will be available for last minute shopping or sightseeing until departure time. Most flights departing on November 5 will return to the U.S. on November 6.

(B; meals in flight)
TRIP INFORMATION & TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Trip Price: $6,995 per person based on double occupancy

Single Room Supplement: $1,455

Included are:

All accommodations as listed (or comparable); all internal flights (economy class) within Burma; all meals as listed; individualized airport transfers in Rangoon; meals as indicated in the itinerary, including welcome and farewell cocktail receptions; water, tea, and coffee at all group meals; all sightseeing and entrance fees as listed; bottled water during group excursions; gratuities to porters, guides, drivers, and wait staff for group activities; Burma visa fee; leadership of a professional tour manager, national guide, and Princeton host.

Not included are:

U.S. domestic and international airfare in and out of Rangoon; beverages other than bottled water and cocktails during the welcome and farewell dinner and during cocktail reception; trip cancellation/baggage insurance; excess baggage charges; items of purely personal nature and those not expressly mentioned as included.

Insurance:

As a service to its travelers, the Office of the Alumni Association of Princeton University automatically provides all travelers basic medical coverage under a group travel insurance policy. It is highly recommended that you supplement this basic protection with your own additional coverage, as well as trip cancellation/interruption or baggage coverage. Information on additional insurance is available and will be mailed upon receipt of your reservation.

Size:

This departure is limited to a maximum of 20 paying participants.

What to expect:

This trip does involve a certain amount of physical activity such as moderate stair climbing, walking on uneven surfaces, and getting in and out of small boats. Travelers must be in good physical health in order to fully participate in the tour.
As of the printing of this brochure (November 2012), the U.S. trade embargo, while loosened, is still in place. Credit cards are not accepted anywhere in Burma. All personal transactions and incidentals must be paid in cash.

While cellular phone coverage is limited, internet access is available throughout the program.

**Reservations & Payments**

To reserve a space, return the completed reservation form with your $1,000 per person deposit to: Princeton Journeys, John Maclean House, P.O. Box 291, Princeton, NJ 08542-0291 or fax to (609) 258-5561. Balance of payment is due 3 months prior to departure. Our tour operator accepts personal checks made payable to Authentic Asia Tours and Travel, as well as VISA, MasterCard, and American Express. Reservations will be processed in order of receipt.

**Registration Form**

All registration forms must be sent to:

The Office of Alumni Association of Princeton University
John Maclean House
P.O. Box 291
Princeton, NJ 08542-0291

Should you have any questions, please contact Princeton Journeys at (609) 258-8686 or journeys@princeton.edu.

**Cancellation Policy and Refund**

The tour deposit of $1,000 is non-refundable. The final invoice will be sent three months prior to departure and is due upon receipt. Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing and confirmed by Princeton Journeys. The following cancellation fees will apply:

If a written refund is received 89 to 60 days prior to departure 50% of the trip price will be refunded.
If a written refund is received 59 to 45 days prior to departure 25% of the trip price will be refunded.
If a written refund is received less than 45 days prior to departure no refunds will be issued. No refunds shall be issued after the tour has commenced, or for leaving the tour early. No refunds shall be issued for missed meals, sightseeing tours or any unused services.

http://alumni.princeton.edu/journeys
Responsibility

Tour participants assume the responsibility to select a tour that is appropriate for his or her abilities and health.

Authentic Asia acts only in the capacity of agents for the hotels, airlines, bus and ship lines or owners of contractors providing accommodations, transportation or other services. As a result, all coupons, receipts or tickets are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by the supplier. By acceptance of tour membership, the participant agrees that neither Authentic Asia nor any of its subsidiaries shall become liable or responsible for personal injury or illness, damage to person or property, loss, delay or irregularity caused by person not controlled by it, such as (without limitation) airlines, bus, and shipping companies, suppliers of accommodations or other services, or resulting from any acts of God, defects in vehicles, strikes, wars, whether declared or otherwise, civil disturbances, medical or customs regulations, acts of terrorism, epidemics, government restrictions, criminal or negligent acts or others, weather, or any other circumstances over which Authentic Asia has no control. Authentic Asia is not responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the participants as a result of the above-mentioned causes.

Tour participant acknowledges receipt of a copy of these Terms and Conditions and signifies acceptance of, and consents to all of the terms and conditions set forth herein, when registering for, or making payments on this tour.

ASSOCIATION’S DISCLAIMER

Princeton University, through its Office of the Alumni Association and Princeton Journeys, is pleased to provide this service of facilitating travel opportunities for its Alumni and Friends. The Office of the Alumni Association strives to work with the best tour operators to make available interesting and enriching travel opportunities for the Princeton family.

Please note that the University does not conduct tours, nor does it act as an agent for guests interested in tours. Princeton Journeys acts as a facilitator with tour operators, with whom tour participants make arrangements for completing travel, and is pleased to act as a liaison with tour operators should you have any questions or concerns that may arise before, during, or after your tour. Princeton Journeys encourages you to familiarize yourself thoroughly with the tour operator’s cancellation and refund policies, and also to investigate available services such as trip cancellation insurance. The University is not responsible for changes to trips or travel arrangements or for losses or additional expenses resulting from travel.

http://alumni.princeton.edu/journeys
REGISTRATION FORM
Burma
October 23 – November 6, 2013

NAME(S) (as it appears on passport) ________________________________________________

ADDRESS________________________________________________________________________

CITY____________________________________________________________________________

HOME PHONE________________________ STATE_________________ZIP____________________

EMAIL________________________________ WORK/CELL________________________________

NO. OF PERSONS________ AMOUNT ENCLOSED ($1,000 per person, non-refundable):__________

I/we are registering:________ DOUBLE OCCUPANCY ($6,995) _______ SINGLE OCCUPANCY (plus $1,455)

If using a credit card for deposit, please complete the following section:

______VISA ______MASTERCARD ______AMEX       CARD NUMBER____________________________

EXPIRATION DATE____________________ SECURITY CODE_______________________________

BILLING ADDRESS:_______________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

EACH PARTICIPANT MUST SIGN:

SIGNATURE_____________________________________________________ DATE_________________

SIGNATURE_____________________________________________________ DATE_________________

PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM WITH YOUR DEPOSIT TO:  
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