

HOMEFRONT™

The art of living

WINTER 2016/17 ■ \$5.95

Where in the world?

Rolling farmland,
sparkling waters,
open skies



On tour:

Asian adventures
Exotic cruising
Boho-chic farmhouse

\$5.95



homefrontmagazine.ca

Not your grandmother's cruise....

Expedition cruises take passengers
to the ends of the earth, in style.
So why not suit up, jump into the zodiac,
and go dive with the best of them.



There's a sense of adventure that takes hold the moment we set sail from the picturesque Singapore harbour. After all, we're heading where no man, or woman, has been before. Or so we think. But first, to get to nowhere, there are shipping lanes of cargo ships that share the once-pirate-ridden Malacca Strait with us. (A lesson in global trade, I'd say.)

We're sailing towards the Andaman Sea and slowly onwards, through an exotic island-dotted passage to our final destination: the fascinatingly vibrant city of Phuket.

Onboard the Silver Discoverer, we find ourselves right at home and ready

for action. This lady's been around, from the look of the pictures on the wall and the tales of her crew. Within a few hours, we've connected with other guests who are happily ensconced in one of 62 good-sized cabins. Given the boutique nature of the ship, it's easy to find our way around the five decks, survey all the nooks and crannies, collect our flippers, snorkels and scuba gear, plus inspect the 'military style'

zodiacs used for stealth, shallow water landings. Check! We're good to go for eleven days at sea.

How could we not be in seventh heaven? We've got a veranda view, the perfect backdrop for breakfast in bed, a Robinson Crusoe style butler, laundry service, 24/7 room service, and all the comforts of home. For added interest, there's a team of experts to show us the way: naturalists, ornithologists, botanists and marine biologists, historians and, of course, the captain and his crew.

Our published itinerary: Getting to know the fascinating faces of the former Burmese empire. We'll be exploring the







hidden wildlife of Indonesia during a bus tour through the famous Gunung Leuser National Park, and cruising the unspoiled islands of Myanmar's Mergui Archipelago.

Despite the fact that this is adventure cruising at its finest, and a somewhat rugged expedition trip, Silversea doesn't want us to go without a little TLC. Onboard spa services—delivered by a multi-talented spa director and her assistant—include massages for our water weary bodies; along with hairstyling, manicures, pedicures, etc., for cleanup after the fact. There's also a large fitness room with stationary bikes, treadmills, free weights and other workout machines.

Life onboard in this warm climate revolves around the pool deck in the aft of the ship. The Grill restaurant serves familiar dishes that are a mix of comfort food and healthy options, and the dining room still promises Relais and Chateaux inspired menus. However, as expected, meal times are more buffet style and less formal than

in the rest of the fleet. Activities are what's really on the menu—so after a busy day of exploration, no assigned tables, times or required fancy dinner dressing are appreciated.

Briefings and lectures, which are frequent, diverse and very informative (albeit at times a little "school-serious"), are held in the Explorer Lounge, where uninterrupted views of each destination can be captured from the comfort of the ship's interior. When we're not outside, social gatherings take place here, as does the entertainment.

While the zodiac rides and days slide together in a gentle, 'we've not a care in the world' style, the highlights for us were the unspoiled islands and opportunities for snorkeling in Myanmar.

From Kawthaung to Frost and Shark islands: with their little fishing trawlers, local villages and stunning beaches... these waters are full of daily surprises. ■

silversea.com



Our itinerary...

- Singapore
- Day at sea
- Belawan (for Gunung Leuser National Park)
- Banda Aceh, Indonesia
- Day at sea
- Kawthaung and Myauk Phyu, Myanmar
- Lampi Island, Myanmar
- Bo Cho Island, Myanmar
- Frost Island, Myanmar
- Shark Island and Kho Yinn Kwa Island, Myanmar
- Phuket, Thailand.

silversea.com/expeditions

