



departs  
22 February

# Burma

## RAC President's Cruise 2015

Unlock the mysterious kingdom by luxury river cruise,  
hosted by RAC President Esme Bowen

“Travelling with the president and other RAC guests made interesting conversation and friendships have formed as a result. Thank you.”

Guest, 2014 RAC President's Cruise





## President's message

Following the success of 2014 President's Cruise to Vietnam & Cambodia, in 2015 I invite you to join me to unlock the mysterious kingdom of Burma, aboard the luxurious Cruiseco Explorer.

Over twelve exciting days, we'll cruise along one of Asia's greatest rivers, the Irrawaddy revealing Burma's ancient and glorious history. Enjoy fine cuisine, local beverages and unforgettable experiences as we explore towns and villages revealing a tapestry of sights, sounds and tastes.

This exciting itinerary will create memories of a lifetime. Take an ox and cart through a riverside village, marvel at the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon or enjoy a breathtaking hot air balloon flight over Bagan.

I look forward to welcoming you as together we discover a once 'forbidden land' on this exclusive RAC member event.



*Esme J Bowen*  
**Esme Bowen - RAC President**



## Let us take you deeper into the mystery and the simplicity

Imagine the delights that await you on a luxury river cruise through a once 'forbidden land'. This is an adventure you'll remember forever.

With the launch of the brand new river vessel Cruiseco Explorer, limited to just 56 passengers, we will take you into the heart of an ancient and glorious history of Burma. This is a refreshing opportunity to explore this once British Empire thoroughly, immersing you in its culture, spectacle and antiquity—all while in the ultimate elegance and comfort.

Cruiseco is renowned for combining its luxury cruising expertise with local knowledge to create the most authentic itineraries and the most intimate explorations.

Our itinerary draws on years of experience and decades of local knowledge. You'll spend your days visiting breath-taking landscapes as English-speaking guides reveal countless historical treasures and introduce you to the friendliest local villagers. On board you will enjoy the most sumptuous of surroundings as this waterborne palace glides along waterways previously denied to outsiders' eyes.

Burma is a kaleidoscope of influences and beliefs. Its centuries old tea culture, faded colonial grandeur, and devout spiritual observances combine a tapestry of sights, sounds and tastes. Awe-inspiring monuments sit aside the most basic of living and new technologies force their presence on traditional cityscapes.

With the dawn of each day connect with a land steeped in myths, rich in legends and laden in folklore. Fortunately, our hand-picked local guides will ensure you see the most magical and learn the most important of it all.

As night falls experience tantalising cuisine, enchanting local entertainment and service from our ever-attentive crew, before it's time to retreat to your sumptuous five-star haven. Each day will also be a chance to make lasting friendships with other guests who share your desire for a river cruise that is authentic and entirely unforgettable.

Welcome aboard.



“Thank you for showing us Burma.  
We learnt so much and laughed  
such a lot.” - **Guest 2013**

# RAC President's Cruise Burma

**12 days » Departing Perth 22 February 2015**

## **Inclusions**

- » 7 night luxury river cruise onboard Cruiseco Explorer between Prome and Mandalay including soft drinks, local beers and wine is served with lunch and dinner
- » Return economy class airfares flying Singapore Airlines including air taxes
- » Exclusive RAC Cocktail Party on night of arrival
- » Private farewell highlight dinner in Mandalay
- » Government taxes and onboard gratuities
- » 2 nights deluxe accommodation in Yangon at the Chatrium Hotel
- » 2 nights deluxe accommodation in Mandalay at the Mandalay Hill Resort
- » Breakfast daily, lunch and dinner as specified in itinerary
- » Extensive sightseeing with expert local guides
- » All transfers and countless unique experiences

## **Additional inclusions**

- » RAC Travel pre-departure function
- » Tour escort throughout

## **Optional extras**

- » Extensions Inle Lake
- » Balloon flight over Bagan
- » Business class upgrades
- » Cabin upgrades
- » Discount travel insurance
- » Qantas Frequent Flyer points



# After the day's exploration even more discoveries await you on board

Luxurious appointments, mouth-watering cuisine, impeccable service - Cruiseco Explorer is a floating 5-star hotel and your ultimate waterbed.

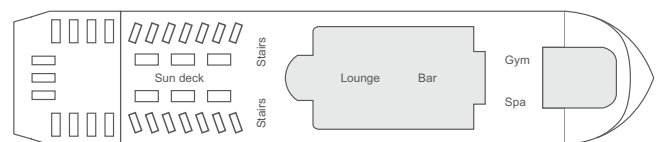
Restricted to 56 guests, you are assured of the most cossetting privacy and the most accessible amenities. Choose either a state room or a suite and prepare to be amazed at the quality and spaciousness of your sanctum.

All accommodations come with a french or exterior balcony and bathroom. And deluxe suites even feature a jacuzzi.

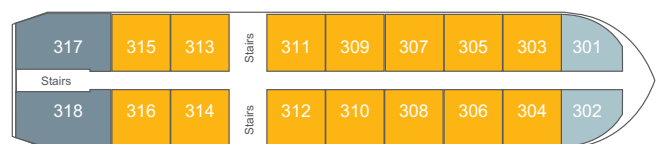
From its sundeck to the bar, dining room, spa, gym... Cruiseco Explorer exudes a relaxed sophistication and 'private club' feel.

Of course your entertainment is not limited to the ship's facilities. Evenings on board will include skilful demonstrations by local performers, depicting this wondrous and enigmatic land.

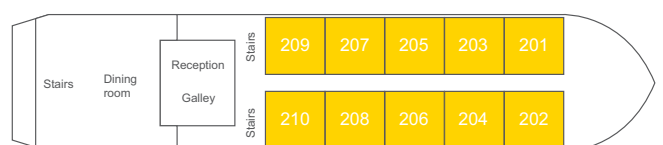
And the hospitality is delivered by a team intent on exceeding your expectations; no wonder that this ship is lauded as the highest of high-end cruising.



**Sun deck**



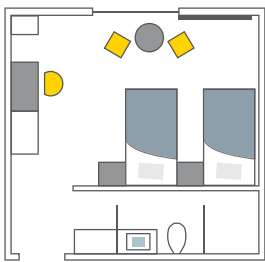
**Upper deck**



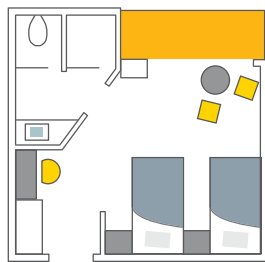
**Main deck**



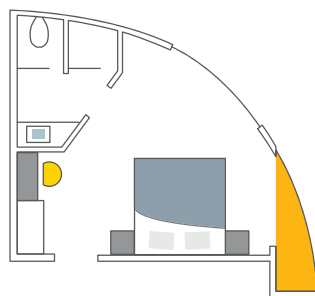
This ship exudes quality throughout, is purpose-built for Burmese waters and offers the ultimate in luxury.



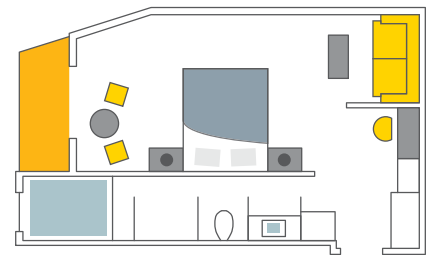
Relax in the sheer cosiness of your Main Deck Stateroom while enjoying the view from your own french balcony.



After marvelling at the internal features in your Upper Deck Stateroom, you will be captivated by the view from your floor to ceiling windows and exterior balcony.



Choose a Suite and you'll be rewarded with even more luxurious space and the sweeping balcony views that being in such a prominent position offers.



Guests in Deluxe Suites enjoy the most spacious of accommodation and elegant surroundings, complete with a private jacuzzi, balcony and extra lounge area.



**Guests upgrading to a Suite or Deluxe Suite will receive complimentary 'welcome' champagne and laundry services**

Recently launched, CruiseCO Explorer is the epitome of luxury with the finest amenities, inviting public areas and relaxing sun beds on its observation deck.

Everything about CruiseCO Explorer helps you to relax, from the crew's welcoming to the warm wood-tones and rich furnishings that abound throughout.

Make your selection from a menu rich with epicurean delights, skillfully prepared from only the freshest of local ingredients and served in a most elegant dining room.



The interior and exterior images of CruiseCO Explorer are indicative only; the decor and colourings may differ on the actual ship.

Ancient Prome sits amidst lush teak forests while Mandalay is a striking combination of modern and classic cultural sights.



## Prome to Mandalay

12 day adventure » 7 night Irrawaddy River Cruise

### Day 1 Sunday »

#### Perth - Singapore - Yangon <sup>D</sup>

Fly with Singapore Airlines to Yangon via Singapore\*. Upon arrival at Yangon International Airport, meet your guide and transfer to the Chatrium Hotel. This afternoon is at your leisure and this evening enjoy a welcome dinner at the hotel.

### Day 2 Monday » Yangon <sup>B,L,D</sup>

After breakfast, visit Kyaukhtatgyi Pagoda, home to a 70-metre long reclining Buddha and stop by Kyaukhtatgy. Next explore Kandawagyi Park, one of central Yangon's greenest spots. Following a lunch of Burmese cuisine, enjoy a tour of downtown. Travel streets lined with faded colonial buildings, past historic landmarks, to Sule Paya and continue through Chinatown to Bogyoke Market and finally, the Shwedagon Pagoda.

### Day 3 Tuesday » Yangon, Prome (Pyay) <sup>B,L,D</sup>

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer by coach from Yangon to Prome to embark Cruiseco Explorer. In the afternoon, drive to Thayekhittaya, an ancient Pyu city that ruled in this area between the 5th and the 9th century AD. In central Prome, visit the Shwesandaw

Pagoda complex, and the Wunchataung Paya (Apology Mountain Pagoda) a fabulous vantage point of the Shwesandaw Pagoda and surrounding mountains. This afternoon, set sail on the Irrawaddy River.

### Day 4 Wednesday » Thayetmyo <sup>B,L,D</sup>

This morning, explore the town, visiting the local market, the oldest golf course of Myanmar, as well as several colonial homes constructed during the British colonisation of Burma.

### Day 5 Thursday » Magwe <sup>B,L,D</sup>

Arrive at Magwe and visit Myat Than Lun Paya, a 1929 built pagoda of gold solid bricks set on a hilltop with a beautiful panoramic vantage point.

### Day 6 Friday » Salay, Tan Kyi Mountain <sup>B,L,D</sup>

Visit Salay this morning, a village founded in the 13th century with Bagan-era shrines, beautiful 19th century teak monasteries and preserved British colonial buildings. After lunch, continue upstream to the village of Tan Kyi. Reach the mountaintop by jeep and enjoy a sunset over the Bagan plains.



Category	Twin share, per person
Main deck	\$5,599
Upper deck	\$5,999
Suite	Upgrade from + \$59 per day (total price \$6,699)
Deluxe suite	Upgrade from + \$109 per day (total price \$7,299)

\*Upgrade per day costing is in addition to upper deck price. Single occupancy incurs \$3,000 supplement. Availability is limited, ask your consultant for details.



### Day 7 Saturday » Bagan<sup>B,L,D</sup>

Today, enjoy a full day visit of the most significant pagodas and temples of the 2,000 listed around Bagan. Dine on board for lunch and in the afternoon continue the exploration of the archaeological area. Sunset will be atop one of the temples (subject to government approval) with a champagne toast. Dinner is on board the Cruiseco Explorer.

### Day 8 Sunday » Bagan, River Village<sup>B,L,D</sup>

Explore some of Bagan's local markets selling wood carvings, fabrics and rattan products. Alternatively passengers can hire a horse cart and explore the site on their own or enjoy an early morning Balloon Flight over Bagan (optional—surcharge applies, see page 24). This afternoon, sail to Shwe Pyi Thar village, a typical village along the Irrawaddy River. This evening, dinner is followed by a Puppet Show performance.

### Day 9 Monday » Yandabo<sup>B,L,D</sup>

This morning, arrive at Yandabo, a village famous for its pottery. It is also where the peace treaty of the First Anglo-Burmese war was signed in 1826. Go ashore, stopping at workshops to witness local crafts and pottery firing. Visit the local school and monastery. Cruise upstream and moor overnight midstream.

### Day 10 Tuesday » Mandalay, Amarapura » Embark RV Cruiseco Explorer<sup>B,L,D</sup>

After breakfast, disembark Cruiseco Explorer and visit Mahagandayon monastery where over 1000 monks reside. En route to Mandalay, stop at Amarapura to stroll along the 200 year old teak U Bein Bridge. Upon arrival, check into Mandalay Hill Resort. This afternoon enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and afterwards visit Mahamuni Pagoda, Mandalay Hill and Kuthodaw Paya, home to 'the world's biggest book'. Dinner this evening is at the hotel.

### Day 11 Wednesday » Mandalay, Sagaing<sup>B,L,D</sup>

This morning, visit Sagaing. Covered with 600 white painted pagodas and monasteries, it's home to 3000 monks. Visit various pagodas, a local market and a small pottery village. Following this, continue south to Ava, the capital in the 14-18th centuries. Enjoy a tour of Ava by horse and cart to visit the old wooden Bagaya Monastery and the remains of the Royal Palace and Fort. Return this afternoon for dinner at the hotel.

### Day 12 Thursday » Mandalay - Singapore - Perth<sup>B,L</sup>

Following breakfast, head to the top of Mandalay Hill for stunning views of the surrounding countryside, Irrawaddy River and city centre. Afterwards, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before transferring to Mandalay Airport for your journey home with Singapore Airlines.\*

Add even more exploration to your cruise with these extensions



four day extension

## Inle Lake

### Inclusions

- » 3 nights accommodation at the Aureum Palace Resort in shared twin or shared double room (villa on the lake)
- » Meals as per itinerary
- » Economy class return airfare to Heho from Mandalay including taxes (surcharge applies for flights to/from Yangon)
- » Entrance fees for included sightseeing
- » All land and boat transfers listed in the itinerary
- » Private air-conditioned vehicles included for sightseeing and transfers, with a local English-speaking guide

**\$1,890\*** per person twin share

**\$2,540\*** single supplement



Ask us about Singapore Stopover packages

\*Prices subject to change. Due to a very strong and continuous increase in demand for travelers to Myanmar, prices may increase without notice. Deposit is required to secure bookings and prices. Surcharges may apply for holiday periods. Please ask your Cruiseco travel agent for confirmed pricing and availability. Tour costs do not include fees for visas, meals other than those specified in the itinerary, drinks, or personal expenses.



optional  
tour

## Balloons over Bagan

Start your morning with the magic of a hot-air balloon flight over the plains of Bagan. As the sun rises you will be effortlessly lifted to float above the stupas and Irrawaddy River.

In this breathtaking 45-minute adventure, Balloons over Bagan will reveal the majesty of the ancient temples that dot the landscape.

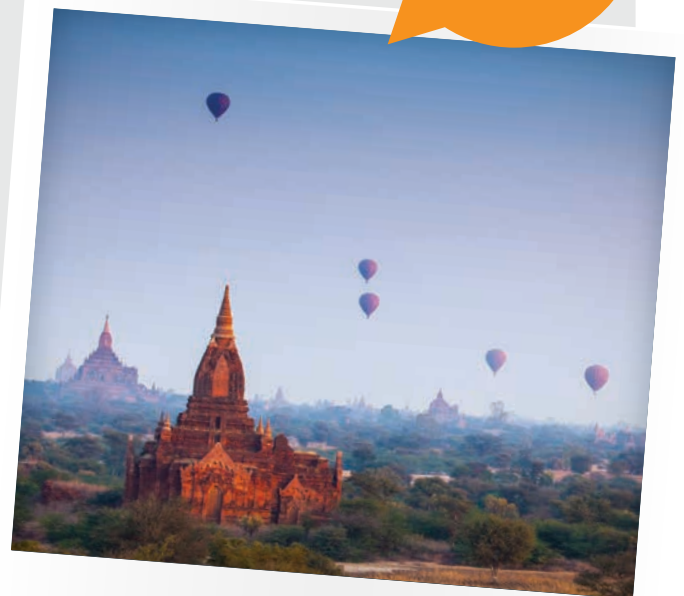
All of the equipment is manufactured in the UK and the pilots and technicians are UK-licensed pilots and public transport inspectors.

Don't miss this chance for a truly unforgettable experience!

**\$420\*** per person



Ask us about the premium option



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# FAQ's

## **Is travel insurance required?**

Travel insurance is a mandatory requirement of all Cruiseco Explorer holidays. Please note that some of the destinations we visit are remote and emergency services may be required. We recommend you get travel insurance before paying a deposit. Failure to obtain travel insurance will not waive any cancellation fees in the event that you need to cancel your trip.

## **Is a doctor on board and do I need injections before I travel?**

There's no doctor on board. Limited medical facilities are available on board, and in the event of an emergency, the vessel will head to shore immediately. It's recommended you check with your doctor that you are fit for travel. Your doctor should also check as to whether any prophylactic drugs or inoculations are required.

## **What facilities are available in the cabins?**

All cabins have their own air conditioning, en-suite shower, wc facilities, hairdryers, mini-safe, mini-fridge, intercom phones, luggage storage, wardrobe, writing desk, kimono, slippers, and chairs. Cabins do not have mini bars or televisions.

## **What sort of power adapter is used on board?**

The electricity voltage is 230 volts; two round pin type as found in Continental Europe.

## **Do I need to take insect precautions?**

To avoid insects entering your cabin, it is advisable to keep cabin windows and doors closed during the late afternoon and evening. It is also recommended that you apply insect repellent if you are outside your cabin or going ashore at dusk or at night. As a further precaution, please switch off lights before leaving your cabin.

## **Is there air-conditioning onboard?**

You can control the air-conditioning in your cabin. It is not recommended to over-cool it as a sudden change from the temperature outside can bring on colds, respiratory illnesses and even stomach upsets.

## **What is the dress code?**

The atmosphere onboard is informal and relaxed; comfortable, casual attire during the day and the evenings are smart-casual.

## **What drinks are included?**

Locally produced soft drinks, local beer, coffee, tea and mineral water are served free of charge throughout the cruise. House wine and beer are served with lunch and dinner. Only liquors, premium wines or imported mineral waters will be charged.

## **Security**

Moored or docked, Cruiseco Explorer will have a crew member watching the gangway and controlling access. However, we request you lock the cabin door and use your cabin's safe. No liability will be accepted by the company for loss of any valuable items from the ship or while guests are ashore on excursions.

## **What currency is used onboard?**

Cruiseco Explorer's onboard currency is the USD. You'll have a ship account to sign a bill for all purchases and services throughout the cruise. Onboard charges will be in USD and accounts can be settled by cash or credit card (only Mastercard or Visa). Please note: only accounts over \$25 USD can be paid by credit card. There is a limited money exchange service on board but travellers cheques are not accepted.

The local currency is the kyat but most vendors ashore take USD. Main cities (Bagan included) have ATMs and travellers cheques can be exchanged in local banks but this is not recommended. Hotels and shops charge up to 7% for credit card processing.

## **Am I required to tip the staff onboard?**

Gratuities are included in your cruise fare and passengers are not expected to tip staff individually or collectively.

## **Is there Internet access onboard?**

There is a wifi system. Internet is available in Mandalay, Bagan, Prome and where there is GSM signal (almost 65% of the journey). Please check coverage with the Cruise Director.

## **Are there laundry facilities?**

A laundry bag is provided for your needs and a laundry list is available in your cabin. Laundry is collected each morning when your room is made up and will be returned the following day. It's not recommended to have 'whites' washed onboard. Charges for the laundry service will be made to your onboard account.

## **Is the water onboard suitable for drinking?**

The vessel's water supply is from the river but it is run through a sterilisation plant. It is suitable for washing and brushing teeth but NOT drinking. Bottled drinking water is provided free of charge. Never accept ice in drinks and avoid ice creams, crushed sugar cane, salads or the skins of fruits when ashore.

## **Is smoking permitted onboard?**

Smoking is not permitted in your cabin, private balcony or any internal areas. It's permitted only on open areas of the sun deck.

## **What type of meals are provided onboard?**

Breakfast and lunch is a buffet and dinner is served at the tables. We offer a fusion of Asian and Western cuisine and vegetarian dishes can also be requested. Other special meal requirements will be made on a 'request' basis only and can't be guaranteed. Please advise your Cruiseco travel agent of your requirements at time of booking.

## **Can I have a double bed?**

All beds can be converted into doubles except the two aft suites and the two deluxe suites (bow) which are fixed doubles.

## **Are there lifts onboard and facilities for wheelchairs?**

There are no lifts and the ship is not equipped for passengers travelling in a wheelchair. The vessel regularly moors where paths can be muddy and slippery. It is recommended passengers be relatively fit, able-bodied and able to walk over uneven surfaces. Please consult your Cruiseco travel agent with any questions.

## **Will my mobile phone work?**

These operators offer service: SINGTEL (Singapore), AAIS (Thailand), Mobifone (Vietnam), Unicom (China), SK Telephone (S. Korea), NTT DOCOMO (Japan), Hutchinson (Hong Kong), China Mobile (China). Please check with your local carrier for roaming charges before travelling.

## **Will I need a visa?**

Australian passengers must obtain a visa for Burma. This fee is not included in the cost of your holiday. Ensure your passport has sufficient validity (over six months) before travelling. Please speak to your Cruiseco travel consultant for visa information.

## **What is etiquette in Burma?**

South-East Asians are generally tolerant and easy going. Please do not raise political issues with people, let them raise them. In Burma disrespect for the national religion, Theravada Buddhism, can cause upset. Buddhists open their temples to visitors and permit photography but you must remove shoes and socks. Do not 'point' with your feet or touch peoples' heads or upper body. Never cross your legs in the company of monks or elders and ladies should not sit next to monks. Do not shake hands with monks, nuns and people in general; rather smile and nod. Shorts and skirts should be longish but it is okay to expose arms.

# Booking conditions

## Reservations and payments

A non-refundable deposit of \$1,200 per person is required upon booking.

On confirmation of your booking, a written confirmation will be sent to your Cruiseeco travel agent. An option will be given for 7 days. Before the option expires it will be necessary for you to pay a deposit of \$1,200 per person. This deposit secures your holiday as requested. Failure to pay the deposit by the option due date may result in the cancellation of your booking. Final payment is due 90 days prior to sailing. If your booking is made within 90 days prior to sailing, full payment, along with details of your travel insurance policy will be due immediately.

## Fares

The fares quoted in this brochure are shown in Australian dollars and are based on a twin sharing basis, unless specified as a single cabin category. All rates are subject to change with or without notice and may vary due to government airport taxes.

## What's not included in your holiday price

Passport and visa fees, insurances of all kinds, laundry, phone calls, beverages (except for those noted as being included), additional accommodation made necessary by flight schedules and items of a personal nature are not included in the holiday costs advertised in this brochure.

## Travel documentation

Travel documents will be sent to you approximately 14 days prior to departure from Australia (providing full payment has been received). If you are departing Australia earlier, please ask your Cruiseeco travel agent to request your travel documents in good time.

## Travel insurance

Travel insurance is mandatory. We recommend that you obtain travel insurance before paying a deposit. Failure to obtain travel insurance will not waive any cancellation fees in the event that you need to cancel your trip.

## Booking changes and cancellations

In the unfortunate event that you should have to cancel your holiday, we must be notified in writing. The day that we receive this notice in writing, will be considered the date that your cancellation has been made. Certain cancellation fees apply to your holiday if cancelled after a deposit or final payment has been made.

## Itinerary variations

Sometimes the impact of weather or other conditions on water levels, and or bridges along the river, will require alterations to Cruiseeco Explorer's itinerary. Every effort will be made to keep itineraries and hotels as shown in the brochure but Cruiseeco reserves the right to substitute itineraries or hotels. Itineraries are subject to change without notice. Any changes to itineraries will not result in eligibility for a refund.

## Booking changes

A fee of \$25 per person will be charged for any revision or alteration made to a reservation after the booking is confirmed unless the change increases the value of the booking.

## Cancellations and cancellation fees

Notice of cancellation must be made in writing to your Cruiseeco travel agent. The following scale of charges (includes GST) will apply when notice of cancellation is given prior to sailing.

Days before sailing cancellation received	Cancellation charges
Administration fee on all cancellations	\$100 per person
90 plus days	Loss of deposit
60-89 days	50% of total holiday cost plus admin fee
30-59 days	75% of total holiday cost plus admin fee
29 days to day of departure or no show	100% of total holiday cost

## Qantas Frequent Flyer points

Qantas Frequent Flyer points are awarded on Cruiseeco holidays. Qantas Frequent Flyer members will receive one Qantas Frequent Flyer point for every \$1.50 spent. You must be a member of the Qantas Frequent Flyer program to earn points in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Qantas Frequent Flyer program. Points are not awarded on port charges, government fees, on board gratuities and air taxes.

## Other conditions

It is your responsibility to ensure you have read all of the booking conditions and to provide valid travel documents. Be sure to ask your travel agent for advice concerning passport and visa requirements.

## Cruiseeco's statement of business practice

Your Cruiseeco agent will provide you, on request, with a copy of Cruiseeco's "Statement of Business Practice".

## Booking arrangements

Your booking arrangements are to be made by your travel agent and the person effecting the booking, shall be deemed to have accepted the booking conditions.



Call 1300 655 898, go to [cruiseclub.rac.com.au](http://cruiseclub.rac.com.au)  
or pop into your local RAC Travel Centre



Carousel 9365 4700 » Joondalup 9308 1600 » Mandurah 9512 8200 » Morley 6466 2300 » West Perth 9436 4830