

Day 7d Inle Lake

We stopped at another monastery which seems to be famous for the place where Louis Vuitton once shot a commercial. The Nga Phe Chaung monastery is a wooden monastery built on stilts in the late 1850s. It is the oldest and largest monastery on Inle. There was a time it was famous for its cats. Yes, cats. The monks taught the cats to jump through hoops. But now the older monks have been replaced with younger monks and the trained cats are gone.



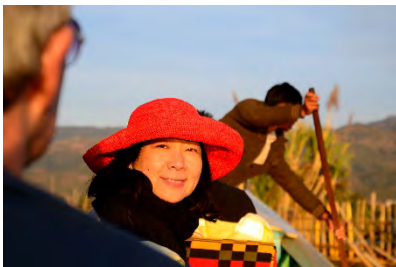
While the fisherman today all use their foot to row, they use regular nets. Once, not that long ago, they used nets in a conical frame. Some of the fishermen now float around the lake demonstrating how it was once done (for tips). This is what Toe had demonstrated at the dock. They would lower the conical net into the water to trap the fish and then spear them. It was very impressive because they did this on one leg. We watched for a while, snapping pictures as the old fisherman did gymnastics with his net.



And then the sun began to drop in the sky, and that's when it became really spectacular as the water turned gold, and the sky orange and the fisherman and his net were silhouettes.



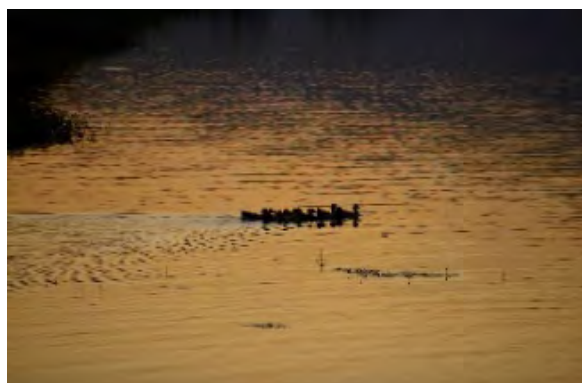
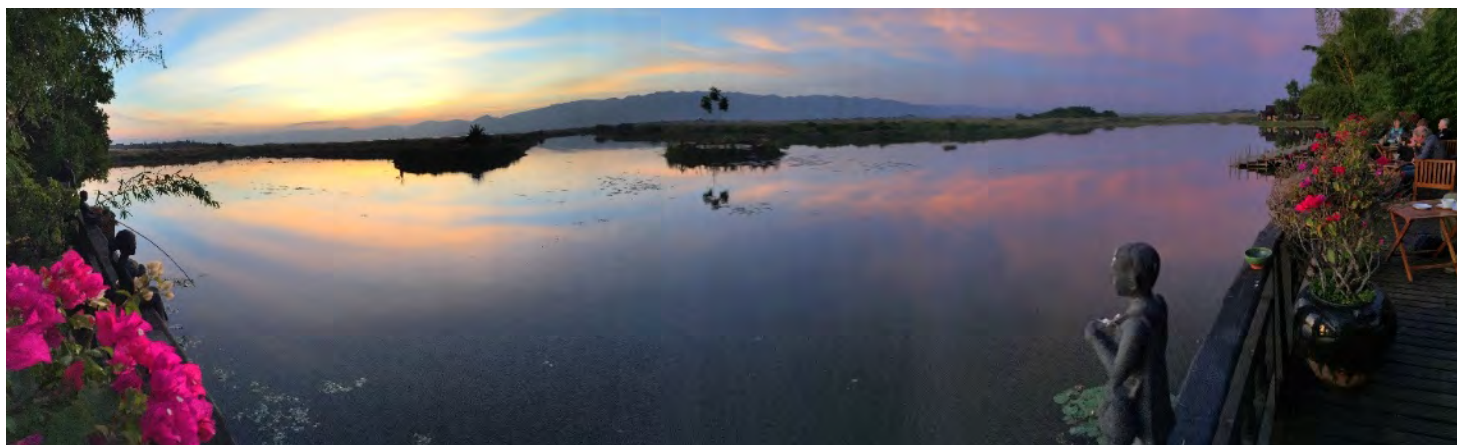
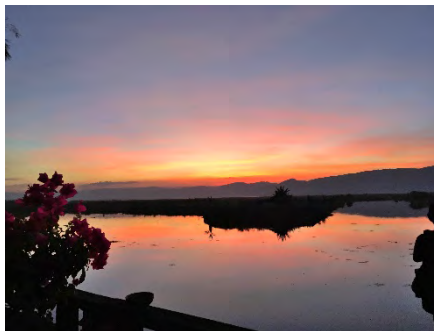
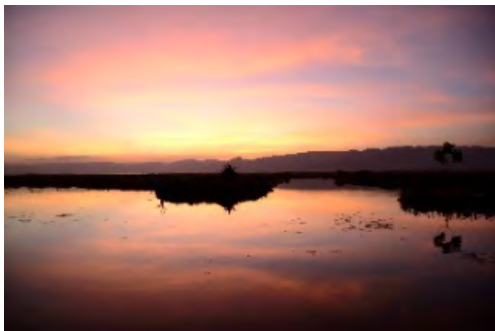
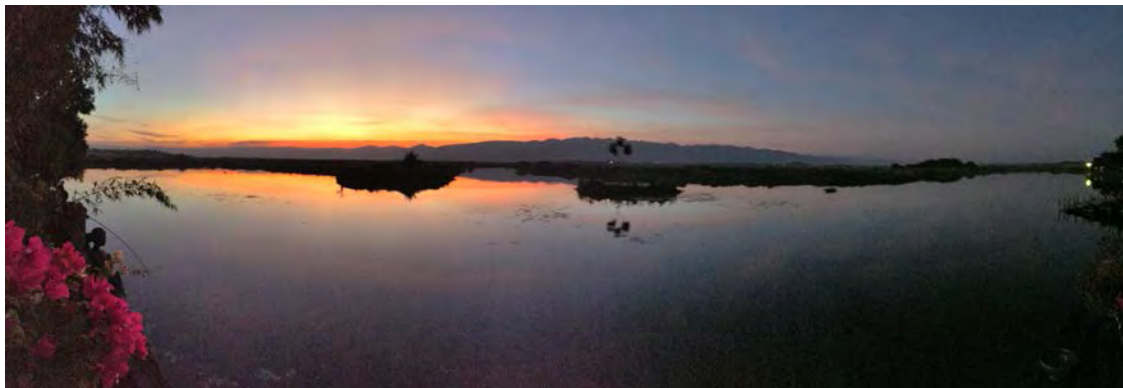
On the way back the wind picked up and as we sped across the open lake it got cold and we got wet. We huddled under the blankets supplied at each seat and I opened the umbrella that I found under my seat, to keep the water from spraying too much and me and on my camera.



The sun continued to go down and the light reflecting on the water and the houses and the fishermen was beautiful. Birds were everywhere.



We got back to the hotel just in time to go to the bar, order a fancy Mandalay Rum drink and watch the magnificent sunset. The sky burst into flames of red, orange, pink, purple. And all that color reflected into the water. A beautiful way to end the beautiful day.





Dinner had to be at the hotel as obviously you can't get anywhere. It got cold once the sun the down and we were glad to have our fleece sweaters. A light down jacket would have been great. The locals all wear them! The food was delicious, the menu with beautiful paintings, the room surrounded by ovens.



Back in our room, the fireplace had been lit with coals, the room was toasty, the minibar was free, our bed was surrounded by the cocoon and all was well.