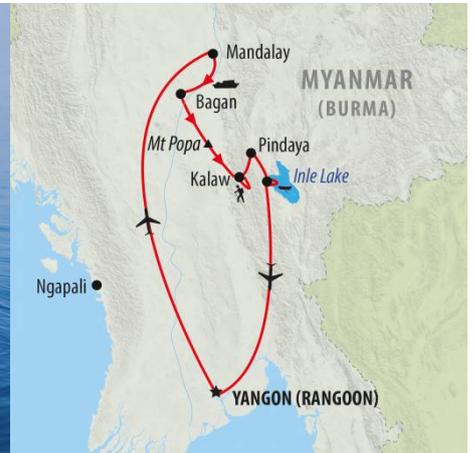


# Best of Myanmar

## 12 Days | Starts/Ends: Yangon



*Discover Myanmar, an exotic land of tradition and sacred sites from the awe-inspiring religious monuments of Yangon to evocative Mandalay and its Royal Palace, the spectacular stupa-filled plains of Bagan and heavenly Inle Lake with a few surprises along the way.*

### HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

#### Trip Highlights

- Yangon – Enjoy a tour of the city including the Sule Pagoda, the colossal golden Shwedagon Pagoda and the bustling Bogyoke Market
- Mingun – See the colossal Mingun Bell and the ruins of the abandoned project, to build the world’s largest pagoda
- Pindaya – Explore inside the famous Pindaya Caves and marvel at thousands of statues and Buddha images
- Irrawaddy River – Cruise along the river to Bagan and enjoy breathtaking views as we travel through scenic countryside
- Mandalay – Discover the sprawling Royal Palace and watch a beautiful sunset from Mandalay Hill
- Bagan – Gaze at the impressive Mingalarzedi Pagoda and browse the vibrant market in Nyaung-U

- Kalaw – Trek past rice paddies and tea plantations in the Palaung Hills on our visit to a local village
- Amarapura – Visit the ancient Mahagandayon Monastery and gaze at the striking U Bein Bridge at sunset
- Sagaing Hill – Admire wonderful views of the Irrawaddy River and see the colourful Thirty Caves Pagoda
- Inle Lake – Tour the lake’s stilted villages and floating gardens by boat and then enjoy free time to relax or explore by canoe or bicycle

#### What's Included

- Breakfast daily and 2 lunches
- 10 nights 3-4 star hotels and 1 night simple country cottage
- 2 economy class flights: Yangon to Mandalay and Heho (Inle Lake) to Yangon
- Private boat on Inle Lake to explore the floating gardens and villages. Boat trip to Mingun
- Riverboat cruise from Mandalay to Bagan. Or flight from Mandalay to Bagan for travel 01 Apr - 31 Jul (dates can vary dependent on the weather conditions)
- Guided sightseeing - Yangon, Mandalay, Amarapura, Bagan, Kalaw, Pindaya and Inle Lake
- Escorted by an English speaking tour guide (for groups of 6 or more) and specialist guides at some sights

- Airport arrival and departure transfers on days 1 and 12
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private air-conditioned vehicles

#### What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$40-50pp, paid in USD
- Entrance Fees: USD\$80-90pp, paid in USD
- International flights and visa
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow USD\$3-6 per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture

### ITINERARY

#### Day 1 : Yangon

Saturday. Welcome to Myanmar, ‘quite unlike any place you know about’. Arrive into Yangon with an included airport transfer to your hotel where later in the day a Welcome Meeting will be held. **Overnight - Yangon**

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### Day 2 : Yangon pagodas, tea rooms & markets



Today we explore the fascinating city of Yangon and its famous religious monuments. In the heart of downtown we begin with a photo stop in front of Yangon City Hall, before visiting the Sule Pagoda, which provides a peaceful place to retreat from the bustle of the city. The pagoda is near Maha Bandoola Park which is encircled by a host of colonial buildings and heritage sites, including Independence Monument and the High Court. We also see the hollow, golden Botahtaung Pagoda before lunch at the Yangon Tea House, which is reminiscent of the grand tea houses of colonial times and serves a delicious cup of traditional tea.

After lunch we take a stroll around the colourful Bogyoke (Scott) Market, which sells an array of goods, including gemstones, handicrafts and clothes. After some retail therapy we visit the giant 70 metre-long reclining Buddha of Chaukhtaygyi Paya at Chaukhtaygyi Pagoda, which has a crown encrusted in diamonds and other precious stones.

Later this evening we enjoy an excursion to the most revered Buddhist temple in Myanmar, the magnificent Shwedagon Pagoda. Standing at 90 metres tall, the gold leaf central stupa dominates the city's skyline and turns vivid hues of yellow, orange and red when the sun begins to set. **Overnight - Yangon (B, L)**

### Day 3 : Mandalay & Mahagandayon Monastery



Yangon – Mandalay. This morning we fly to Mandalay, Myanmar's last royal capital. On the outskirts of Mandalay is the ancient city of Amarapura, a former capital of Myanmar full of sights. Here we visit the largest teaching monastery in the country, the Mahagandayon Monastery. Hundreds of monks from the monastery queue to receive their daily alms from the people.

Travelling into the city we explore the Royal Palace and see the teak carvings on the historic Shwenandaw Monastery. We also have the opportunity to visit a local handicraft workshop to see bronze sculpting, gold leaf marking and wood carving, before spending the afternoon at leisure. This evening we visit the world's largest book at the Kuthodaw Pagoda and our day concludes at Mandalay Hill, where we hope to enjoy a spectacular sunset, with vistas across the city. **Overnight - Mandalay (B)**

### Day 4 : Mingun & U-Bein Bridge



This morning we enjoy a cruise up the Irrawaddy River to Mingun where we visit the remains of what could have been the world's largest pagoda and the mighty Mingun Bell. Intended to reach a staggering height of 152 metres, work on the pagoda stopped

after the death of King Bodawpaya in 1819. Dramatically split by an earthquake in 1838, the monumental structure is still incredibly impressive.

Travelling on to Sagaing Hill we take in the spectacular views over the river and the rolling hills, which are studded with pagodas and stupas. On top of the hill is the ancient Swan Oo Pon Nya Shin pagoda and we see the remarkable Thirty Caves Pagoda and the Kaungmudaw Pagoda.

Returning to ancient Amarapura, which is famous for its textile industry, we see how traditional fabrics are woven at a cottage industry workshop, before our final stop of the day at the famous U Bein Bridge. U Bein is the longest teak bridge in the world, set over the enchanting Taungthaman Lake. Here we have the wonderful opportunity to see the bridge in all its glory at sunset, which is a photographer's dream. **Overnight - Mandalay (B)**

### Day 5 : Mandalay to Bagan by River Cruise



Mandalay - Bagan. Transferring to the jetty this morning we board the MGRG express riverboat that plies the Irrawaddy from Mandalay to Bagan. The journey takes approximately 9 hours and you'll be treated to breathtaking views interrupted by scenes of everyday life as family fishing boats pass and children wave from the shore. Upon arrival to Bagan hotel, we check in and enjoy free time this evening.

If travelling between 01 Apr and 31 July each year the water level of the river is at its lowest which prevents cruises from operating. These dates do vary depending upon rainfall and

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the amount of water coming down the river. When the cruises are not in operation we fly from Mandalay to Bagan. Enjoy a morning at leisure in Mandalay before taking a short flight to Nyaung Oo Airport and transfer to Bagan where we spend the night. Please also note that only breakfast is included when we fly to Bagan, lunch and dinner is excluded.

**Overnight - Bagan (B, L)**

### Day 6 : Bagan's famed Stupas



Early this morning there's the opportunity to float over Bagan in a hot air balloon for those that have booked our Ballooning over Bagan add-on. Nothing can quite prepare you for the spectacular sight of stupa-upon-stupa that fills the green, dusty plains of Bagan. Over 2000 temples and pagodas dating back some 800 years create one of the most impressive skylines to be seen in Southeast Asia. Our sightseeing today begins with a visit to the town of Nyaung-U to see the local market and Bagan's most important reliquary shrine, the Shwezigon Pagoda, and the simple Kyansittha Cave Temple with interesting 12th century frescoes.

Continuing our sightseeing we visit the gigantic Buddhas housed inside the Manuha Temple, the sandstone carvings of the nearby Nanpaya Temple, and the Ananda Temple with its four standing gold-leaf Buddhas. Other highlights of the day include the towering Thatbyinnyu Temple, Dhammayangyi Temple and the Mingalarzedi Pagoda, which was the last of the large pagodas built in the 13th century, representing the pinnacle of Bagan's architectural skills. Our final port of call is a local lacquer workshop where we can see local craftsmen skilfully prepare Bagan's most famous handicraft. **Overnight - Bagan (B)**

### Day 7 : Mt Popa & Colonial Kalaw Hill Station



Bagan – Mount Popa – Kalaw. Today we travel to the popular hill station of Kalaw with a stop en route at the extinct volcano of Mount Popa. The mountain is believed to be the abode of legendary Nats (spirit gods) and at the summit are numerous monasteries, pagodas and shrines in various architectural styles. Arriving into Kalaw, (approx. 7 hrs drive) a former British hill station perched on the western edge of the Shan Plateau, we enjoy breathtaking views and the serenity of the surrounds. Late this afternoon we visit Their Taung Pay pagoda. **Overnight - Kalaw (B)**

### Day 8 : Danu Hill Tribe & Pindaya Caves

Kalaw – Palaung Hills – Pindaya. An early morning start allows us to enjoy a light trek into the Palaung Hills. Meandering through small ranges of rice paddies and tea plantations we arrive to Painaebin village, home to the indigenous Danu people. Walking back to Kalaw, we drive on to the quiet town of Pindaya, set amidst beautiful countryside and famous for its extensive cave network. Highlights of our sightseeing tour today include the carved Buddha images of the Pindaya caves, the ancient Banyan tree and small local factories producing Mulberry paper and bamboo hats. **Overnight - Pindaya (B)**

### Days 9-10 : Inle Lake & Paungdaw Oo pagoda



Pindaya – Inle Lake. After breakfast on day 9 we drive to the wonderful watery world of Inle Lake; home to floating gardens, stilted villages and crumbling stupas. We tour the lake by boat and witness the unique rowing techniques of the local fishermen before visiting the unusual Nga Pe Chaung monastery and Inle Lake's largest pagoda, the Paungdaw Oo pagoda. The remainder of the day and evening offer free time.

Day 10 is spent at leisure. You could take advantage of the lush surrounding countryside and partake in canoeing or cycling, or alternatively you could opt for an excursion to an Indein village to learn more about the ethnic tribes of the region or to Kakku, a valley of more than a thousand stupas to admire the intricate ancient carvings. Other options include a visit to Taunggyi - capital of the Southern Shan state and former British hill station or to Sagar to see the sunken stupas that lay under water for part of the year with local village visits along the way (bookable and payable locally). **Overnight - Inle Lake (B:2)**

### Day 11 : Fly to Yangon & free time



Inle Lake – Heho - Yangon. After breakfast we leave the lake and transfer to the Heho

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airport for our flight back to Yangon. Once back in Yangon, the remainder of the day offers free time for you to further explore this delightful city or sit back, relax and enjoy the hotel facilities. **Overnight - Yangon (B)**

## Day 12 : Yangon

Wednesday. Today marks the end of our Burmese adventure with hotel check out and airport departure transfer.(B)

### HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

**Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.**

### Rose Garden Hotel

Located just a mile from the Shwedagon Pagoda and other attractions, the Rose Garden is an elegant hotel for your stay in Yangon. Enjoy the spacious superior rooms with locally-influenced decor, free Wi-Fi and a range of four-star amenities. The hotel's two restaurants and bar offer delicacies ranging from Burmese to Italian cuisine. Perhaps the highlight of this 7-floor hotel is its 60 ft outdoor pool, perfect for a sunny swim. A gift shop & gallery and 24-hour gym also feature among the hotel's services.



### Eastern Palace Hotel

The Eastern Palace is an elegant hotel situated 10 minutes' drive from central Mandalay. Its all-day restaurant and rooftop bar, large pool, and fitness centre are available for guests to relax in after seeing the sights of the former royal capital. The bright and modern rooms are equipped with flat-screen TVs, free Wi-Fi, and en-suite facilities. The hotel is also near the elaborate

Shwenandaw Monastery, once part of the Burmese Royal Palace.



### Thande Hotel

Built in 1922 to facilitate the arrival of the British Prince of Wales, the Bagan Thande Hotel is the only colonial era building in the city. Rooms are furnished to a high standard with beautiful teakwood, fine fabrics and traditional handicrafts. An AI-fresco dinner overlooking the Ayeyawaddy River facing numerous pagodas is a great way to spend evenings at this wonderful Burmese retreat. The hotel is perfectly situated by the river in Old Bagan and is surrounded by beautiful gardens and temples as far as the eye can see.



### Pine Hill Hotel

### Conqueror Hotel Resort

The beautiful Conqueror Hotel Resort is perfectly integrated in to the stunning wilderness that surrounds it. Bamboo bungalows contain elegant and spacious bedrooms, complete with mosquito nets, satellite TV and tea and coffee making facilities. Delicious cuisine from Burma, China and Europe can be sampled in the magnificent dining area. After dinner, guests can head to the Venda Bar and indulge in a cocktail or two as they soak up the view of the setting sun and listen to the soft Burmese music floating through the air.



### Amata Garden Resort

On the eastern banks of Inle Lake, Amata Garden Resort is a charming 3 story hotel where guests can enjoy beautiful views of the lake and mountains. Guest rooms are beautifully furnished in traditional Myanmar design with luxurious and modern amenities - each with a view of the lake or mountains. Guests can dine at the Royal Lotus Restaurant where international and Myanmar cuisine is served up. The Sunset Bar offers delicious liquid refreshment - perfect for the end of the day and sunset.



### PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 4 persons. Prices shown are per person when there are 2 persons (or 3 persons if you wish to book a triple) sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' is compulsory for solo travellers or if your booking party cannot reach the minimum of 2 persons in a room and the amount needs to be added to the per person price. The single supplement offers the comfort of your own room and is also available to any other person wanting their own room.

### PRICES / DATES 2021

Date	Twin Share	Single
25 Sep	USD 1,695	USD 2,175

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## PRICES / DATES 2021

Date	Twin Share	Single
09 Oct	USD 2,095	USD 2,815
23 Oct	USD 2,095	USD 2,815
06 Nov	USD 2,095	USD 2,815
20 Nov	USD 2,095	USD 2,815
04 Dec	USD 2,095	USD 2,815
18 Dec	USD 2,095	USD 2,815

## PRICES / DATES 2022

Date	Twin Share	Single
08 Jan	USD 2,095	USD 2,815
22 Jan	USD 2,095	USD 2,815
05 Feb	USD 2,095	USD 2,815
19 Feb	USD 2,095	USD 2,815
05 Mar	USD 2,095	USD 2,815
19 Mar	USD 2,095	USD 2,815
02 Apr	USD 1,695	USD 2,175
16 Apr	USD 1,695	USD 2,175
30 Apr	USD 1,695	USD 2,175
28 May	USD 1,695	USD 2,175
25 Jun	USD 1,695	USD 2,175
20 Aug	USD 1,695	USD 2,175
03 Sep	USD 1,695	USD 2,175
17 Sep	USD 1,695	USD 2,175
01 Oct	USD 2,095	USD 2,815
15 Oct	USD 2,095	USD 2,815
29 Oct	USD 2,095	USD 2,815
12 Nov	USD 2,095	USD 2,815
26 Nov	USD 2,095	USD 2,815
10 Dec	USD 2,095	USD 2,815
24 Dec	USD 2,095	USD 2,815

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