

Myanmar Explorer

Yangon, Bagan, Mandalay, Heho, Inle Lake



Beautiful cities, landscapes and temples makes Burma unique. After many years of isolation, Burma, or Myanmar as it is officially known, finally offers travellers the opportunity to experience its rich culture. The country's people are arguably the most memorable part of a visit to this country - highlighted by their smiles and their eagerness to introduce foreigners to their country and their culture.. Myanmar retains the power to surprise and delight even the most jaded of travellers. Now is the moment to visit this extraordinary land, scattered with gilded pagodas, where the traditional ways of Asia still exist. Explore the splendours of this diverse and intriguing country and discover the ancient temples of Bagan, the tranquil shores of Inle Lake, local village life and majestic pagodas including Yangon's stunning Shwedagon Pagoda.

Itinerary

Day 1 – Tuesday 1. March 2015 - ARRIVE IN YANGON

Arrival in Yangon, the transfer to the hotel will be arranged for you (early check in will be on request)

Located in the fertile delta of southern Myanmar, Yangon has an abundance of lush parks, peaceful lakes and historic architecture. Upon arrival in Yangon, meet your guide and transfer to the hotel.

You will be booked at **Hotel Best Western (China Town)** for a stay of 1 night.

Dinner tonight at a local restaurant.

Overnight in Yangon

Day 2 - Wednesday 2. March 2015 - YANGON FULL-DAY TOUR

Although the city of Yangon has grown to accommodate over four million people, it has retained its former charm. Start the day with a visit to the Sule Pagoda. Originally an Indian structure, it is according to legend over 2,500 years old. Stroll through downtown Yangon with its faded colonial atmosphere and visit the beautiful post office. Relax and observe the locals at Mahabandoola park going about their daily activities before visiting the Kyaukhtatgyi pagoda, known for the reclining Buddha that measures 70 metres in length. Lunch is served in town before continuing to the National Museum, which is home to priceless ancient artefacts. Visit the Bogyoke Market (closed on Mondays and public holidays) then head to the Indian quarter for a different view of the city.

End the day with a visit to the magnificent Shwedagon pagoda, where many local and Buddhists come to worship, before returning to your hotel.

Dinner tonight at a local restaurant.

Overnight in Yangon

Day 3 - Thursday 3. March 2015 - YANGON - BAGAN

Transfer to Yangon airport for a flight to Bagan. (Tentative timings Dep 0630 Arr 0750)

The ancient city of Bagan in central Myanmar is reminiscent of other great ancient cities such as of Angkor in Cambodia. Bagan, formerly known as Pagan, was the capital of several ancient Burmese Kingdoms. Approximately 2,200 of the originally 4,400 temples remain standing in Bagan.

Start your day with a visit to the Shwezigon pagoda, one of the four most significant buildings in Bagan which served as the centre of reflection and prayer. Continue to visit the Htilominlo pagoda, famed for its original fine plaster carvings and glazed sandstone decorations which are remarkably well preserved. The temple stands 46 metres high and houses four Buddhas on the lower and upper floors. In the afternoon continue to the Mingalazedi pagoda, which is one of the few temples in Bagan with a full set of glazed terra cotta tiles.

Later, visit the Dhammayangyi pagoda, Bagan's largest temple. The temple is a large square, single story, pyramidal temple with six monumental ascending exterior terraces. The brickwork is perhaps the finest that can be found around Bagan.

Enjoy sunset from one of the most scenic spots in town and return to the hotel in the early evening.

You will be booked at the **Hotel Thiripyitsaya Sakura** for a stay of 2 nights.

Dinner tonight at a local restaurant.

Overnight in Bagan.

Day 4 - Friday 4. March 2015 - BAGAN FULL-DAY TOUR

Rising 1,518 metres from the plains of the surroundings of Bagan, Mount Popa is considered the sacred home of the spirits and is about a 1.5 hour drive from Bagan. Visit a palm village along the way to gain an insight into how palm sugar (jaggery) is produced. Continue to Mount Popa and visit Taung Kalat, the temple which sits atop like a plug in the volcano and holds significance in Myanmar's history and religion. The monastery is home to the 37 nats (spirits) of Myanmar, which are displayed at the base of the temple. The views from atop are incredible and may reach as far as Bagan on a clear day.

Enjoy lunch (own cost) and continue to the colourful old religious centre of Salay - home to a large number of monasteries and colonial buildings. Visit Yoke-Sone-Kyaung, which was built in 1882 and is nowadays a cultural heritage site. Situated on the eastern bank of the Ayeyarwaddy River, the monastery is famous for its spectacular wood carvings.

Return to Bagan late afternoon. Dinner tonight at a local restaurant.

Day 5 - Saturday 5. March 2015 - BAGAN - MANDALAY

Transfer to Nyaung Oo Airport for the domestic flight to Mandalay. (Tentative timings Dep 0800 Arr 0835)

Mandalay was briefly the Burmese capital in the second half on the 19th century. It is home to about one million people and remains the economic, cultural and religious heart of upper Myanmar.

Start your tour with a visit to Mandalay Hill, which is home to many religious sites, and enjoy the magnificent views from the 230m high summit. Continue to the Golden Palace Monastery, located close to Mandalay Hill, it is known locally as Shwenandaw and was built in the early 19th century, being famous for its teak carvings of Buddhist myths. Also at the foot of Mandalay Hill lies Kuthodaw pagoda, which was built in 1857 and is home to the world's largest book. Visit the Maha Muni pagoda later in the day, which is regarded to as the holiest site in Mandalay and is not to be missed.

You will be booked at the **Hotel Sedona** for a stay of 2 nights.

Return to your hotel and enjoy the evening at leisure. Dinner tonight at a local restaurant.

Day 6 - Sunday 6. March 2015 - MANDALAY FULL-DAY TOUR

Amarapura, Ava and Sagaing are all former capitals of the old kingdom of Myanmar. Start with a transfer to Amarapura, the 18th century capital where the country's largest monastery is located; Maha Ghandayon. Continue to the magnificent teak bridge of U Bein, which is over 200 years old. It is the longest teak bridge in the world. Cross the Ayeyarwaddy River and head for the picturesque Sagaing Hill. The area houses an incredible amount of pagodas and monasteries, all painted white. It is regarded to as a religious centre in Myanmar and is home to over 3,000 monks and 100 meditation centres. End the day with a visit to another ancient capital, Ava, which was the capital of Myanmar before Amarapura.

Board a horse carriage and ride to the wooden Bagaya Monastery and the remains of the Royal Palace. Return to Mandalay in the late afternoon. Dinner tonight at a local restaurant.

Day 7 - Monday 7. March 2015 - MANDALAY - HEHO - INLE LAKE

Transfer to Mandalay Airport for your domestic flight to Heho. (Tentative timings Dep 0810 Arr 0840)

Upon arrival, enjoy a scenic one-hour drive to Myanmar's second largest lake, Inle, which measure 70km². Located at an altitude of 880 metres, the lake is also one of the highest in the country, with a cool climate and exceptional flora and fauna. Inle is famous for its unique leg-rowers. This unusual style of rowing requires

remarkable balance and definitely takes some practice. Enjoy a boat trip on the lake and observe the beautiful surroundings en route to the floating market and floating gardens. Lunch is served on the shores before departing for the southwest of the lake where the Indein pagoda complex is situated. Take the small covered path from the Pa O tribe village to a monastery and the very impressive ruins of hundreds of ancient pagodas, some hidden under vegetation. The main stupa-area on the top of the hill offers breathtaking views over the surroundings and into the valley with the lake in the far distance.

Stay 2 nights at the **Pristine Lotus Spa Resort**. Dinner tonight at the hotel.

Day 8 - Tuesday 8. March 2015 - INLE LAKE HALF-DAY TOUR

Rise early to visit the rural but bustling five-day market and observe locals and several minority groups wearing traditional costumes trading farm produce such as vegetables, fruits, dried tea leaves as well as animals. The vibrant atmosphere of the market makes it a jolly experience. (The date of this special market is set by the local people and the location changes every 5 days, your guide will inform you of the exact location).

Return to your resort and spend the rest of the day at your leisure. Dinner tonight at the hotel.

Day 9 - Wednesday 9. March 2015 - INLE LAKE - HEHO -YANGON

Transfer back to the airport of Heho for your flight to Yangon. (Tentative time Dep 0950 Arr 1100)

Connect to your return flight back home.

**** Come home with wonderful memories of your holiday ****

Price per person on a twin-sharing basis: INR 132,600 Single supplement: INR 48,000
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Price Includes:

- Accommodation in 4 star hotels.
- Daily Breakfast
- Daily Dinner
- Internal flights within Burma (Yangon - Bagan, Bagan - Mandalay, Heho – Yangon)
- Sightseeing Program for (Yangon, Inle, Mandalay, Bagan, Yangon).
- Tour Program Sightseeing in a private air- conditioned vehicle
- Porterage at the hotels (1 bag pp)
- Entrance Fee & Zone Fees as per mentioned program.
- Horse craft and ferry boat sightseeing in AVA.
- English Speaking Guide
- 2 mineral water and towel for all coach journeys.
- Government tax 10%
- Service Tax
- Services of an Odyssey Tour Escort

Price excludes

- Air ticket to Myanmar & back
- Airport Taxes
- Meals and Sightseeing not mentioned in the itinerary
- Visa for Myanmar
- Overseas Medical Insurance policy

- Tips to the driver / guides
- Items of a personal nature, such as laundry, telephone expenses, room service, alcoholic beverages, etc.
- Any other services not specified in the itinerary

Airfare

The approx airfare per person is Rs 34000 – Rs 39000 on Thai Airways or Bangkok Airways .

Notes:

- Standard check in at hotels is at 14h00 onwards. Where necessary we will request an early check-in however, this is not guaranteed. The same applies to check out, which is at 12h00.
- Rates subject to change without prior notice due to circumstances beyond our control e.g. fuel increases, rate of exchange fluctuations.
- Please note that your passport should be valid for more than 6 months beyond the date of travel and that you must have atleast 2 blank pages on your passport.
- Please contact us if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation in Yangon.
- ROE calculated at 1 USD = Rs. 66. Any fluctuations at the time of payment will alter the cost
- **Price based on a minimum of 10 people travelling together**

Terms & Conditions

BOOKINGS AND PAYMENTS

1. A deposit of Rs 10,000 per person will be payable before 15th January 2016. If paying by cheque, please make the cheque payable to Odyssey Tours & Travels.
2. At the time of making the booking, please send a copy of the first page of your passport
3. Balance payment is to be made by 31st January 2016.
4. All rates are subject to a revision if there is a fluctuation in the currency rates.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

1. Should you be forced to amend / cancel the booking you must fill and sign the amendment / cancellation advice, which will entail cancelling your particular reservation, thereby the cancellation charges will apply. Should you wish to cancel any part of a confirmed booking / reservation all such cancellations must be advised in writing. Given below is the cancellation policy.
2. Payment of the booking deposit constitutes acceptance of our terms and conditions.
3. Cancellation of a reservation due to any visa being rejected will amount to cancellation charges being levied as per the scale mentioned below and Odyssey Tours & Travels will not be responsible for any visa rejection by the respective consulates.
4. Cancellation of any reservations are subject to the following conditions:
 - a. Cancellation effected before 31st January 2015 will attract a service fee of Rs 3000 pp
 - b. Cancellation effected between 45 to 30 days prior to departure will attract a cancellation charge of 30% of the tour cost.
 - c. Cancellation effected 29 – 15 days prior to departure will attract a cancellation charge of 50% of the tour cost
 - d. Cancellation effected 14 days prior to departure will attract a cancellation charge of 100% of the tour cost.
 - e. No refund will be due after commencement of travel.
5. Refunds due can take upto 5 weeks to process.

Map of Myanmar

