BEST OF MYANMAR ON THE ROAD (10Days/9Nights) Yangon-Bagan-Mandalay-Inle Lake

Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive in Yangon - City visit in the afternoon (No meals)





Upon arrival, meet and greet by our guide who will accompany you and transfer you to your hotel. This afternoon, we'll visit *Kandawgyi Park*, one of central Yangon's greenest spots. Here you will see the glittering Karaweik barge, a replica of the royal barge, and the vast lake with views of Shwedagon in the background.

From Here, end your day at the ancient **Shwedagon Pagoda** which is one of the wonders in the world enshrined with hair relics of Buddha and a place where devoted Buddhists meditate and pray. Enjoy breathtaking views of the golden stupa from this vantage point.

Overnight in Yangon.

Day 2: Yangon - City tour & shopping - overnight bus to Bagan (JJ Express)





(Breakfast)

After breakfast, we'll visit *Chaukhtatgyi Pagoda*, one of Myanmar's most beautiful reclining Buddha which is topped by a crown encrusted with diamonds and other precious stones.

Continue to **Bogyoke Market**, formerly known as Scott's Market, where you can browse through the wide selection of Myanmar handicrafts and other goods.

Afterwards, we'll take a tour around the city center which is filled with various historical and colonial buildings partly by car and partly on foot. We'll first visit to **Sule Pagoda** which is a 2200-year-old temple surrounded by government buildings and commercial shops. Then, you'll pass along the way to **Mahabandoola Park** where Independent Monument exists. Continue your tour by passing **City Hall, High Court, a little India and walk along Strand Road** to admire British old colonial buildings. Further, you will be transferred to **Aung Mingalar Bus station** to take the overnight express bus to Bagan.

Overnight Travel in express bus.

Day 3: Arrival Bagan - Temples visit (Breakfast)





Located on the banks of the Ayeyarwady (Irrawaddy) River, Bagan is home to the largest concentration of Buddhist temples, pagodas, stupas and ruins in the world with many dating from as early as 11th and 12th centuries.

On arrival, at Bagan Shwe Pyi High Way Bus station you will be welcomed by our guide and driven to one of the temples to capture a beautiful and memorable sunrise. After sunrise, you will transfer to the local restaurant for your breakfast post which we begin your journey with a visit to an elevated temple from where you will have a panoramic view of the magnificent plains of Bagan.

Continue with a visit to the golden **Shwezigon Pagoda**, first and prototype monument, which was built in Myanmar style in 1087. Then, visit to **Gubyaukgyi**, a cave temple at Wetkyi-Inn Village well-known for its exquisite Jataka mural paintings and the elegant **Htilominio Temple** noted for its fine plaster carvings and glazed sandstone decorations.

Later this afternoon begin with a visit to a traditional *lacquer ware workshop* where you can observe the production of one of Myanmar's best-known handicrafts. Continue to *Ananda Temple*, an architectural masterpiece and one of Bagan's most beautiful temples. Built in the early Mon-style, this temple contains two unique Buddha images whose expressions seem to change depending on the distance from which the statue is viewed.

From here, you will visit to *Thatbyinnyu*, the highest temple in Bagan, massive *Dhammayangyi Temple,* noted for its remarkable brickwork, and *Sulamani Temple.*

End your day by enjoying an unforgettable sunset over the plains.

Overnight in Bagan.

Day 4: Bagan - Boat trip to Mandalay (Breakfast)





This morning, you'll be transferred to *Nyaung U jetty* for your cruise to *Mandalay*.

This river journey can give you a chance to see the local life of villagers and fisherman who live along the bank of Ayerwaddy River. You can also enjoy the mesmerizing scenery of Ayerwaddy River.

The lunch will be served on boat. Arrive Mandalay in this evening and transfer to your hotel for check-in.

Stay overnight at hotel in Mandalay.

<u>Day 5: Mandalay – City tour – Amarapura (Breakfast)</u>





Mandalay is Myanmar's cultural capital. The nature focus of the city is an abrupt hill, rising above a vast moated and walled square.

After breakfast, we'll drive to *Amarapura*, a former capital which is also known as the 'City of Immortality'. First we visit a *silk weaving workshop* which produces exquisite handmade products and then visit *Mahagandayon monastery*, which is a residential place for over a thousand monks.

In the afternoon, we'll visit Myanmar's one of the famous *Mahamuni Pogada*, wherein one can see the 13ft-high sated Buddha's image. Continue your tour of Mandalay with a visit to *Kuthodaw Pagoda*, whose 729 marble stone slabs of Buddhist scriptures have earned the title of 'World's Biggest Book'. Further we continue to *Shwenandaw Monastery*, the only remaining building from the 19th century Royal Palace built in grand teak which is known for its exquisite woodcarving.

Later head to the top of Mandalay Hill to enjoy magnificent views of the city and Irrawaddy River. **Overnight in Mandalay.**

Day 6: Mandalay - Sagaing - Inwa (Ava) - Mandalay - Taunggyi (JJ Express)





(Breakfast)

After morning breakfast, your journey begins with *Ava*; one of the ancient cities and a remarkably rural backwater of empty fields sparsely dotted with widely spaced ruins, monastic buildings and stupas. Explore Ava by plodding horse cart to visit *BagayaKyaung* (a wonderful teak monastery), *MahaAungmyeBonzan monastery* (the royal monastery temple) and *Nanmyin* (a leaning watchtower of Ava)

Then, we move towards a local restaurant in a city center to enjoy a hearty lunch meal.

Further to which we will drive to Sagaing by crossing a bridge over the Irrawaddy River. Sagaing Hill is widely regarded as the religious center of Myanmar and is a home to 3,000 monks with 100 meditation centers.

Here you will visit pagodas like **Swan OoPon Nya Shin** and **U Min ThoneSae.** We'll also visit **Sagaing's local market**, a typical Burmese market where you will find a range of items for sale including locally made pottery, silver and other handicrafts. We will also stop at a small pottery village to see the process of making the ubiquitous water pots found throughout Myanmar.

After touring this tranquil site, we continue our journey to *U Bein Bridge*, which is world's longest and 200 year-old teak bridge. Enjoy a stroll along the bridge with the fabulous views of the surrounding farms and streams.

Post the sightseeing we drive back to Mandalay and continue to **Kywel Sel Kan Bus station** to take an overnight express bus to Taunggyi.

Overnight travel in express bus.

Day 7: Arrival Taunggyi - Inle Lake Visit (Breakfast)





You will arrive at Taunggyi bus station and continue to the hotel for check in and relax.

After breakfast at local restaurant, visit the *Taunggyi Myoma Market* (where you will find colorful tirbes, traditional foodstuff, and varieties of fresh vegetable) well known throughout Myanmar. Continue visit to *Sulamuni Pagoda* for panoramic view from hill rock. Then, drive to *Pindaya* en route which you'll pass patchwork of fields and hedges, buffalo carts and group of toiling farmers.

Further we'll drive to **Nyaung Shwe**, the gateway village to **Inle Lake** on the way to which we stop at the wooden **Shwe Yan Pyay Monastery** which is an elegant ancient monastery with oval-shaped windows.

Upon reaching the edges of Inle Lake, board a private motorboat to head out to Inle Lake and pass villages built on stilts over the lake by observe the leg-rowing fishermen and their floating gardens built up from strips of water. Visit the 800 years old *Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda*, famous for the Five Buddha statues covered in gold leaf.

Stay overnight at hotel in Inle Lake.

Day 8: Inle Lake - Indein visit (Breakfast)





After breakfast, visit the lake's morning market. The market rotates its location around the lake's villages in a rhythm of 5 days wherein surrounding hill tribes come to sell and trade their wares.

From the middle of the lake, continue down a small canal leading to Indein populated by ethnic **Padaung ("long neck women").** Later continue walk on a covered alley surrounded by thousand pagodas on both sides. Continue on foot by a long covered staircase to discover the magnificent complex of Alaung Sithu in a beautiful scenery of ancient stupas buried in vegetation with a panoramic view of lake. Enjoy afternoon at leisure. Overnight stay in **Inle Lake.**

Day 9: Inle Lake - Heho - fly to Yangon - shopping (Breakfast)





After breakfast, drive to the Heho Airport for the flight to Yangon and upon arrival transfer to the hotel.

Enjoy a free day at leisure or explore the rest of the city by yourself.

Overnight in Yangon.

Day 10: Yangon Departure (Breakfast)

Today wake up at leisure and get ready to say good bye to the wonderful country of Myanmar. Transfer to airport for your departure flight.

Come home with wonderful memories of your tour

Inclusions:

- 2 Nights accommodation in Yangon
- 1 Night accommodation in Bagan
- 2 Nights accommodation in Mandalay
- 2 Night accommodation in Inle Lake
- Overnight JJ Express Bus (Yangon Bagan & Mandalay Taunggyi)
- All entrance fees and sightseeing as mentioned in the program.
- Private Boat services for Inle Lake & Indein excursion Horse cart & ferry boat at Ava visit
- Bagan Mandalay River Cruise services
- Transportation by vehicle with A/C
- Waters during tour day
- Local English speaking guide(s).