

## MYANMAR TOURS – BTC/IT

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# Highlights of Myanmar 12 Days / 09 Nights



## The best of Highlights of Myanmar

- **Yangon** and its colonial architecture, **Bagan** and its mysterious forest of temples, **Mandalay** and its historical heritage and finally the **Inle Lake** and its unique local life.
- **Diversity of means of transportation:** tuk-tuk, pirogue, domestic flight, coach, carriage, small boat, cruise in junk, walking..
- **Diversity of activities:** visits of local markets, cultural tours, tasting of local delicacies, visit of many temples and pagodas.
- **Well-chosen hotels** downtown
- **English speaking tour guides, skilled in group management.**

## HIGHLIGHTS OF MYANMAR 12 Days / 09 Nights

- DAY 1:** YOUR CITY → YANGON
- DAY 2:** YANGON Welcome
- DAY 3:** YANGON
- DAY 4:** YANGON → BAGAN
- DAY 5:** BAGAN
- DAY 6:** BAGAN → MANDALAY
- DAY 7:** MANDALAY – SAGAING - AVA
- DAY 8:** MANDALAY → HEHO
- DAY 9:** PINDAYA – LAC INLE
- DAY 10:** LAC INLE - INDEIN
- DAY 11:** INLE → YOUR CITY
- DAY 12:** YOUR CITY



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### **DAY 1: YOUR CITY → YANGON**

Departure at your expense to the airport of departure.

Registration formalities and flight to **Yangon**.

**Dinner and night on board.**

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### **DAY 2: YANGON WELCOME**

Mingalabar and welcome to Myanmar! The ancient capital Yangon, also known as Rangoon, is still the country's economic center and the gateway for most of international travelers. Its colonial past and its religious heritage makes one of the most fascinating places in Southeast Asia. At the airport, you will be warmly greeted and transferred to your hotel (check-in from 14h. Earlier subject to availability).

#### **Walk on the Mahanbandola Street**

where the Immanuel Baptist Church, built in 1830, is located. Continuing to walk through narrow streets teeming with markets and food stalls. Through the street named Pansodan, you will have the opportunity to observe many shops which sell used books and photocopied books before heading to the Supreme Court, the imposing offices of the Inland Water Transport and the even more sumptuous headquarters of the Myanma Port Authority.



Your next stop will be below of the **majestic Strand Hotel**. Pursuit of your journey on Strand Road, you will discover the **Customs House and the courthouse**, an impressive building with columns. Back to the north of the city on Bank Street that will bring you on Sule Pagoda Road where you can consult one of the many **"fortune tellers"** who shelter under trees. Photo stop at **Sule Pagoda**, a symbol of the city, built 2,000 years ago. Continuing to Mahanbandoola Road crossing two lively districts: Chinatown and Little India. Exploring Golden Street shops of Shwe Bontha Street and take a look at the synagogue Moseh Yeshua on 26th Street.

When you will be on **Theingyi Zei market**, please do not hesitate to discover the cures of Chinese traditional medicine. Then direction Anawratha Road which brings you to Sri Kali temple, the most colorful Hindu temples in Yangon.

**Lunch and dinner at leisure.**

Night in Yangon

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### DAY 3: YANGON

Road towards the Pansodan pier for crossing the river aboard a **local ferry** to the charming Dhala neighborhood. The pier and the ferry itself is extremely dynamic, many people coming there to trade, sell snacks and other items for passengers. On arrival, you will travel by trishaw, main mean of transportation on this side of the river, and **visit the local market** and many small pagodas and temples. **Enjoy a drink in a tea shop** or the way to the pier. Return to Yangon by ferry.

Your exploration begins with the visit of the **Kyaukhtatgyi pagoda** that holds a reclining Buddha of 70 meters. Then towards the Royal Lake located in Kandawgyi Park, popular among locals, especially early in the morning and during sunset. From the shore you can admire the Karaweik Palace, a replica of a royal boat, before visiting one of the holiest sites of the country: **the legendary Shwedagon Pagoda**.

The best time of day to visit is late in the afternoon when the last rays of sun decorate its gilded stupa and gives it a magical glow.

At nightfall, **visit Chinatown** and its Chinese temple Khen Hock Keong with statues of dragons that guard the entrance. Change of scenery guaranteed! Taking the opportunity to **explore the night market** where vendors sell all kinds of fruits, vegetables and many other products.

**Lunch and dinner at leisure.**

Night in Yangon.



### DAY 4: YANGON → BAGAN



Transfer to the airport and **flight to Bagan**. Welcome to Bagan, known to be one of the greatest architectural sites in Asia. When Bagan was the center of Myanmar from the 11th to 13th century, monarchs have built numerous stupas and pagodas, most of them are still present on the banks of the Irrawaddy River. The splendor of Bagan with over 2000 temples in red brick that rise from a desert plain, representing size of Manhattan Island, will be one of the highlights of any trip to Myanmar.

Head to a high point overlooking the plain of Bagan. From here, you can discover **the Ananda Temple**, one of the highest in Bagan. We will ensure that you arrive there before the majority of visitors, allowing you to enjoy in peace the splendor of the temple. Then visit of **Myinkaba village and Gubyaukgyi Temple**. You will be struck by the beauty of the murals and sculptures. You will also have the chance to discover two small temples Manuha and Nan Paya - both known for their Buddha statues. Then you will have the opportunity to learn more about the local culture by visiting two workshops that produce the most famous products of Bagan: lacquer and wood crafts. You will see that the craftsmen still use traditional techniques passed down from generation to generation, to create masterpieces.



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Late afternoon, you will be driven to the pier where a **small private wooden boat** waits for you. Sitting in the shade or on the open deck, you'll get a wonderful view of the Irrawaddy River. Relax on board while enjoying the rays of the sunset on the calm waters of the river. This boat trip will be an alternative to temple visits and offer you a different perspective of Bagan. Preparing to land before returning to your hotel in the evening. A perfect end to the day!

**Lunch and dinner at leisure.** Night in Bagan.

#### **DAY 5: BAGAN**

After breakfast, visit **Nyaung Oo** a **lively market** where locals come every day to exchange fresh produce and other goods. Then, begin your discovery with a visit to the famous **Shwezigon pagoda** built in 11th century by King Anawrahta. Then departure to a small village via dusty roads and shady paths lined with temples and monasteries. Explore the village to discover the lifestyle of the Bagan's people. You will continue to discover less known monuments and protected from mass of tourists, it according to your wishes for the rest of the morning. If you want, a short excursion can be organized to visit a small series of monuments that will offer you a unique perspective of Bagan.



At the end of the afternoon, stroll in a carriage through the temples of Bagan, including Thatbyinnyu, the highest temple in the region, Dhammayangyi with its impressive brick assembly and Sulamani.

From a high point overlooking the plain, enjoy the sunset over the pagodas of Bagan.

**Lunch and dinner at leisure.**

Night in Bagan.

#### **Option: Hot air balloon over Bagan**

*The morning will begin with a hot air balloon ride over the countryside of Bagan. You will observe the sun rise on the Irrawaddy River and the various stupas of the region. You are not ready to find this kind of show on Earth ... (Only available from October / November to March. In case of last minute cancelation due to bad weather conditions the full payment of this activity will be refunded)*

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#### **DAY 6: BAGAN → MANDALAY**

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Mandalay. Your day will begin with Kyauktawgyi Pagoda, known as the Pagoda called **'big marble Buddha'**, a giant Buddha carved in a block of marble who has required the work of 10,000 men to carry him to the river bank. Then visit of the **Kuthodaw Pagoda**, often called "greatest book in the world" for its 729 collection of marble slabs in which are engraved the teachings of Buddha. Then visit of the impressive **Shwenandaw monastery** ("golden monastery"), the last structure of the Royal Palace to have survived from the 19th century, famous for its wood carvings...



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Then visit of the **Mahamuni Pagoda** with its highly revered Buddha, entirely covered in gold leaf filed by devotees over the centuries. Followed by the visit of a craft workshops in Mandalay, which is known to be the finest in the country: wood sculpture, Kalaga tapestries, gold leaf manufacture.

Next step: **Amarapura**, the penultimate royal capital of Myanmar. Amarapura means "city of immortality", even if its period as the capital was relatively brief. You will start by **Mahagandayon Monastery**, which houses more than a thousand young monks. Then you will join the legendary **U Bein Bridge**, the longest teak bridge in the world, built in 1782. Enjoy the special atmosphere at the sunset.

**Lunch and dinner at leisure.** Night in Mandalay.

**DAY 7: MANDALAY – SAGAING – AVA – MANDALAY**

Crossing the bridge over the Irrawaddy River to

Sagaing. With 600 pagodas and ivory monasteries, **Sagaing Hill is considered as the spiritual center** of Myanmar and claims to be the residence of nearly 3,000 monks. You will visit pagodas Swan Oo Pon Nya Shin, U Min Thone Sae and Shin Nan Pin Gyaing. You will continue through the **Sagaing market**. We will drive to a small village of potters to watch craftsmen work according to traditional techniques. Road to Ava which was the capital of the country from the 14th to 18th century. You will cross the river by **local ferry** and reach your carriage to go to the wooden monastery of Bagaya, famous for its wood carvings. Then, you will see **Nanmyint Tower** - also known as "leaning tower of Ava" - one of the vestiges of the ancient palace and Maha Aungmye Bonzan monastery.



**Lunch and dinner at leisure.** Night in Mandalay.

**DAY 8: MANDALAY → HEHO/ PINDAYA**

Transfer to Mandalay airport for your flight to Heho.

**Road to Pindaya.** Pindaya is known throughout Myanmar for its excellent green tea, leaf tea salad and its soya products. You will start with a 20 minute walk to arrive to a family house in a **village near Pindaya**. Here you will have the opportunity to taste freshly green tea and see how soybeans are dried. Continuing to the nearby farm where you will stroll among the tea plantations and help the family to pick up the leaves on the plants. After that, the family will drive you back home to enjoy a cup of tea and watch the preparation of the famous tea leaf salad.



Then, pursuit your tour with the visit of the famous caves of Pindaya, a unique site older than 200 million years which houses within thousands of golden Buddha statues. To visit these caves you must go through the pagodas of Shwe U Min - the white giant stupas surmounting the place.

**Lunch and dinner at leisure.**

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Night in Pindaya.

**DAY 9: PINDAYA / INLE LAKE**

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After breakfast, **visit of the daily local market.**

Transfer to the village of Nyaung Shwegateway to Inle Lake (32 km - 1 hour drive). Possibility to stop along the way to visit local traditional paper crafts factories. Visit the **teak monastery of Shweyanpyay.**

Boat trip to reach and visit the main sites of Inle Lake. You will be astonished by the calm waters of the lake and the beautiful landscape of mountains in the background. Along the way you will pass by several **lakeside villages of Intha,**



with the opportunity to observe their amazing floating gardens and unique style of Inle



fishermen who row standing with one leg. Visiting the **monastery Nga Chaung Hpe** with its collection of ancient Buddha statues. Visit **Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda**, the main sanctuary of the lake that houses five sacred Buddha images covered with gold leaf. You will also discover the varied crafts of Inle, visiting the village of Inpawkhone known for its weaving lotus fibers, cheroots workshop (Burmese cigars), or silver workshop.

**Lunch and dinner at leisure.** Night at Lake Inle

**DAY 10: INLE LAKE – INDEIN – INLE LAKE**

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After breakfast you will **visit the Lake market** (closed the days of new moon and full moon). Every day, the inhabitants of the lake and members of the surrounding tribes attend the market exchange goods.

A one-hour trip by boat along a small canal will lead you to the village of **Pa-Oh Indein**, located on the western shore of Inle Lake. Stroll through the village before you begin your **ascent to the summit of the hill**.

Once at the top you will be greeted by a beautiful Buddha statue which stands in the middle of a hundred stupas in ruins overgrown. The **Indein Pagoda complex** is one of the most impressive sights of the lake, consisting of one hundred stupas covered with moss and greenery.

During the way back, possibility to stop at the **Heritage House Inthar** to learn more about the indigenous culture of the region and enjoy a delicious coffee with a cake (not included snack). Transfer back to the hotel.

**Lunch and dinner at leisure.** Night at Inle Lake.

**DAY 11 : INLE/ HEHO → YANGON → YOUR CITY**

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**Transfer to the airport and flight to Yangon.** Unfortunately, it's time to say goodbye to one of the most enchanting countries in the world. Depending on your flight schedule, you will have the opportunity to explore the **Bogyoke market**, also known as the "Scott Market".

You will have time to buy your last souvenirs and walk into the busy aisles with shelves filled with various handicrafts. (The market is closed on Mondays and public holidays).

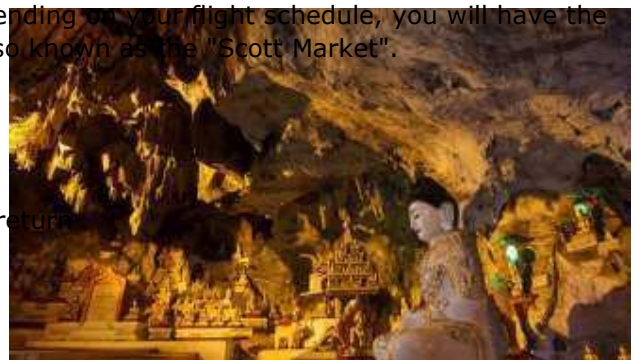
Transfer to Yangon International Airport for return flight. **Lunch at leisure.**

**DAY 12: → YOUR CITY**

Breakfast on board.

Arrival in your city.

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**THE ORDER OF THE SERVICES MENTIONED IN THIS PROGRAM CAN BE ALTERED DUE TO TECHNICAL ISSUES, EVERYTHING MENTIONED WILL HOWEVER BE PROVIDED**

## IMPORTANT NOTES

Usually check-in at hotels in Myanmar takes place around 14:00 or 3:00 p.m. (depending on the hotel). Check-out are usually around noon. Subject to availability, we are able to request an early check-in or late check-out against payment of a fee.

In bad weather or for any other reason beyond our control, we reserve the right to change at any time the program or itinerary of the trip. Our priority is the safety and comfort of our customers.

Thank you to note that Myanmar, travelers checks are not accepted. Officially, the CB and KBZ banks accept Master Card, Visa, Maestro and Cirrus. The network of ATMs covers most tourist cities such as Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi, Pyin Oo Lwin, Kalaw, Nay Pyi Daw, Nyaung Oo, Nyaung Shwe and Muse. The maximum withdrawal is 300,000 kyat (about 350 USD / 300 EUR) per transaction and 1,000,000 kyat per day depending on the conditions of the issuing bank. Each transaction is subject to bank charges amounting to 5,000 kyats or equivalent. Some VISA card are subject to restrictions for withdrawals abroad. Therefore, customers may have to get permission from their issuing bank to make a withdrawal

However, we don't advise you to count on this service, which has already shown some weaknesses and bring enough cash (preferably US dollars but Euros are increasingly accepted). Thank you to note that only the new notes, not stained, not wrinkled, not folded won't be accepted. The serial number of your dollars should never begin with the letters CB, this following rumors in the country that this series is falsified. You can exchange money at the current rate at the airport or in banks on presentation of your passport. Please ask your guide to assist you in the process.

A visa is mandatory for all tourists who visit Myanmar and is valid for 28 days. You can get a visa at the Embassy of the Union of Myanmar in your country of residence or a visa online through the website of the Ministry of Immigration in Burma (<http://evisa.moip.gov.mm>) .

We strongly recommend you to contract a medical repatriation insurance that will cover you for your entire travel. Travel insurance is advised to cover personal injury, medical expenses, repatriation to the country of origin, compensation for loss of baggage, expenses related to the cancellation, postponement or delay of the trip. Customer acknowledges that in case of injury or illness, doctor's fees, hospital expenses and / or repatriation are the customer and the agency will in no event be liable for the reimbursement of travel . It is the customer's responsibility to ensure that he receives adequate medical coverage and fully read the terms of sale of its travel insurance before departure.

# MYANMAR ESSENTIAL

## 12 DAYS / 09 NIGHTS



## The Best of Myanmar Essential

- **Yangon** and its colonial architecture, **Bagan** and its mysterious forest of temples, **Mandalay** and its historical heritage and finally the **Inle Lake** and its unique local life.
- **Diversity of means of transportation:** tuk-tuk, pirogue, domestic flight, coach, carriage, small boat, walking, train...
- **Diversity of activities:** visits of local markets, cultural tours, tasting of local delicacies, visit of many temples and pagodas.
- **Well-chosen hotels** downtown.
- **English speaking tour guides, skilled in group management.**

# MYANMAR ESSENTIAL 12 DAYS / 09 NIGHTS

- DAY 1:** YOUR CITY → YANGON
- DAY 2:** YANGON
- DAY 3:** YANGON → MANDALAY
- DAY 4:** MANDALAY
- DAY 5:** MANDALAY - BAGAN
- DAY 6:** BAGAN
- DAY 7:** BAGAN - KALAW
- DAY 8:** KALAW - INLE LAKE
- DAY 9:** INLE LAKE - INDEIN
- DAY 10:** INLE → YANGON
- DAY 11:** YANGON → YOUR CITY
- DAY 12:** YOUR CITY



## DAY 1: YOUR CITY → YANGON

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Departure at your expense to the airport of departure.

Registration formalities and flight to **Yangon**.

### Dinner and night on board.

## DAY 2: YANGON

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Mingalabar and welcome to Myanmar! The ancient capital Yangon, also known as Rangoon, is still the country's economic center and the gateway for most of international travelers. Its colonial past and its religious heritage makes one of the most fascinating places in Southeast Asia. At the airport, you will be warmly greeted and transferred to your hotel (check-in from 14h. Earlier subject to availability).



**Walk on the Mahanbandola Street** where the Immanuel Baptist Church, built in 1830, is located. Continuing to walk through narrow streets teeming with markets and food stalls. Through the street named Pansodan, you will have the opportunity to observe many shops which sell used books and photocopied books before heading to the Supreme Court, the imposing offices of the Inland Water Transport and the even more sumptuous headquarters of the Myanma Port Authority. Your next stop will be below of the **majestic Strand Hotel**. Pursuit of your journey on Strand Road, you will discover the **Customs House and the courthouse**, an impressive building with columns. Back to the north of the city on Bank Street that will bring you on Sule Pagoda Road where you can consult one of the many

**"fortune tellers"** who shelter under trees. Photo stop at **Sule Pagoda**, a symbol of the city, built 2,000 years ago. Continuing to Mahanbandoola Road crossing two lively districts: Chinatown and Little India. Exploring Golden Street shops of Shwe Bontha Street and take a look at the synagogue Moseh Yeshua on 26th Street.



When you will be on **Theingyi Zei market**, please do not hesitate to discover the cures of Chinese traditional medicine. Then direction Anawratha Road which brings you to Sri Kali temple, the most colorful Hindu temples in Yangon.

**Lunch and dinner at leisure.**

Night in Yangon

**DAY 3: YANGON → MANDALAY**

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After breakfast transfer to the airport for your flight towards Mandalay.

Arrival, greeting by your tour-guide and transfer towards the city.

Visit of **Amarapura**, the penultimate royal capital of Myanmar. Amarapura means "city of immortality", even if its period as the capital was relatively brief. You will start by **Mahagandayon Monastery**, which houses more than a thousand young monks. Then you will join the legendary **U Bein Bridge**, the longest teak bridge in the world, built in 1782. Enjoy the special atmosphere at the sunset.



**Lunch and dinner at leisure.**

Night in Mandalay.

**DAY 4: MANDALAY**

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Visit of the **Mahamuni Pagoda** with its highly revered Buddha, entirely covered in gold leaf filed by devotees over the centuries. Followed by the visit of a craft workshops in Mandalay, which is known to be the finest in the country: wood sculpture, Kalaga tapestries, gold leaf manufacture.

Then visit of the **Kuthodaw Pagoda**, often called "greatest book in the world" for its 729 collection of marble slabs in which are engraved the teachings of Buddha.



Road towards the impressive **Shwenandaw monastery** ("golden monastery"), the last structure of the Royal Palace to have survived from the 19th century, famous for its wood carvings...



In the afternoon road towards **Yankin hill**, east of the city. Along the way stop in one of the numerous monasteries where most of the 350 monks study English but are rarely able to practice it with foreigners. Time to chat with those monks, warm and unforgettable encounters.

From there you will take the stairs towards the top of the hill to appreciate a **panoramic view over the city** and a beautiful sunset.

On the way down you will be just in time for the daily psalmody of the monks, a real spiritual experience.

Road back towards the city.

**NOTES:**

- *During the visit of the monasterie, all have to behave respectfully.*
- *No alcohol and smoking within the enclosure of the monasteries.* Meals at your expense.

Night in Mandalay.

**DAY 5: MANDALAY - BAGAN**

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In the morning, discovery of the life on the river banks . Visit of a **local market** where are sold many kind of exotic vegetables and fruits.

From there, transfer towards Paleik where you will assist in a **special ritual** in the snake temple. You will join the local pilgrims in bathing the pythons, a ceremony unique to this village.

Road to Bagan via a **fascinating road** throughout magnificent sceneries.

Meals at your expense.

Night in Bagan.

**DAY 6: BAGAN**

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Head to a high point overlooking the plain of Bagan. From here, you can discover **the Ananda Temple**, one of the highest in Bagan. We will ensure that you arrive there before the majority of visitors, allowing you to enjoy in peace the splendor of the temple.

You will then continue your trip in the valley dotted with temples of different architectural styles. Life haven't stopped along the temples and you will witness many families and farmer executing daily activities. Assist in a Buddhist ceremony in one of the temples.

Around 10.30am you will make offerings to the monks and will in return **receive a benediction** from them.

Road towards **Myinkaba village for a walk** and to meet local craftsmen, memorable meeting with the locals that will help you understand the culture.



You will then visit the **Gu Byaukgyi temple** and its beautiful mural paintings along with **Nan Paya temple**, one of the most ancient in the area.

Visit of a lacquer workshop in order to discover the traditional techniques leading to one of the most popular artisanal product of the country.

Late afternoon horse carriage ride throughout the area and its temples. Visit of **Thatbyinnyu temple**, the highest in the area, **Dhammayangyi temple** and its surprising patchwork of bricks and finish with the **Sulamani temple** for sunset.

Meals at your expense. Night in Bagan.

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**DAY 7: BAGAN - KALAW**

Road towards Kalaw, a 6 hour journey across **small mountain roads** along local villages and countryside. Many stops along the way to capture the **mind-blowing sceneries**.

Kalaw is an ancient climatic station where British officers came to escape the heat of the valley.

Arrival to Kalaw in the afternoon and time at leisure to **stroll in the charming little mountain town**.



Lunch and dinner at your expense. Night in Kalaw.

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**DAY 8: KALAW – INLE LAKE**

**Stroll in the local market** of the city followed by a transfer towards the train station. **Boarding on a train** to Shwe Nyaung surrounded by spectacular mountain sceneries.

Upon arrival, transfer towards Nyaung Shwe hamlet, gateway to the Inle Lake. Boat trip to reach and visit the main sites of Inle Lake. You will be astonished by the calm waters of the lake and the beautiful landscape of mountains in the background. Along the way you will pass by several **lakeside villages of Intha**, with the opportunity to observe their amazing floating gardens and unique style of Inle fishermen who row standing with one leg. Visit of **Nga Hpe Chaung monastery** and its collection of statues of Buddha.

Visit **Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda**, the main sanctuary of the lake that houses five sacred Buddha images covered with gold leaf. You will also discover the varied crafts of Inle, visiting the village of Inpawkhone known for its weaving lotus fibers,



cheroots workshop (Burmese cigars), or silver workshop.

Picnic lunch during the tour. Dinner at your expense.

Nuit on the lake.

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**DAY 9: LAC INLE - INDEIN**

After breakfast you will **visit the Lake market** (closed the days of new moon and full moon). Every day, the inhabitants of the lake and members of the surrounding tribes attend the market exchange goods.

Aboard a pirogue way towards the **house of an Intha family**, unique experience. The Inthas, an ethnic minority living on the lake have the particularity having houses on stilts on the lake itself and grow floating gardens. Lunch will be cooked before your eyes. Homestay lunch.

An hour long boat trip will take you to **Pa-Oh village**. Stroll in the village before getting to the summit of the hill.



At the summit you will see **about a hundred ruins of pagodas** eaten by the vegetation. This site is one of the most impressive around the lake, covered with lichen and plants.

On the way back, possibility to stop at the **Inthar Heritage House** to learn more about the indigenous culture of the area.

Transfer back to the hotel. Meals at your expense. Night on the lake.

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**DAY 10: INLE → YANGON**

Transfer towards Heho airport for your **flight towards Yangon**. Greeting at the airport and transfer to the city.

Visit the **Kyaukhtatgyi pagoda** that holds a reclining Buddha of 70 meters. Then towards the Royal

Lake located in Kandawgyi Park, popular among locals, especially early in the morning and during sunset. From the shore you can admire the Karaweik Palace, a replica of a royal boat, before visiting one of the holiest sites of the country: **the legendary Shwedagon Pagoda**.

The best time of day to visit is late in the afternoon when the last rays of sun decorate its gilded stupa and gives it a magical glow.



At nightfall, **visit Chinatown** and its Chinese temple Khen Hock Keong with statues of dragons that guard the entrance. Change of scenery guaranteed! Taking the opportunity to **explore the night market** where vendors sell all kinds of fruits, vegetables and many other products.

Lunch and dinner at leisure. Night in Yangon.

**DAY 11: YANGON → YOUR CITY**

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Unfortunately it is time to say goodbye to one of the most fascinating countries on earth. Transfer towards Yangon international airport without tour-guide. Check-in and boarding for your return flight.

**DAY 12: → YOUR CITY**

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Breakfast on board. Arrival in your city.

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### **IMPORTANT NOTES**

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In bad weather or for any other reason beyond our control, we reserve the right to change at any time the program or itinerary of the trip. Our priority is the safety and comfort of our customers.

Thank you to note that Myanmar, travelers checks are not accepted. Officially, the CB and KBZ banks accept Master Card, Visa, Maestro and Cirrus. The network of ATMs covers most tourist cities such as Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi, Pyin Oo Lwin, Kalaw, Nay Pyi Daw, Nyaung Oo, Nyaung Shwe and Muse. The maximum withdrawal is 300,000 kyat (about 350 USD / 300 EUR) per transaction and 1,000,000 kyat per day depending on the conditions of the issuing bank. Each transaction is subject to bank charges amounting to 5,000 kyats or equivalent. Some VISA card are subject to restrictions for withdrawals abroad. Therefore, customers may have to get permission from their issuing bank to make a withdrawal





However, we don't advise you to count on this service, which has already shown some weaknesses and bring enough cash (preferably US dollars but Euros are increasingly accepted). Thank you to note that only the new notes, not stained, not wrinkled, not folded won't be accepted. The serial number of your dollars should never begin with the letters CB, this following rumors in the country that this series is falsified. You can exchange money at the current rate at the airport or in banks on presentation of your passport. Please ask your guide to assist you in the process.

A visa is mandatory for all tourists who visit Myanmar and is valid for 28 days. You can get a visa at the Embassy of the Union of Myanmar in your country of residence or a visa online through the website of the Ministry of Immigration in Burma (<http://evisa.moip.gov.mm>) .

We strongly recommend you to contract a medical repatriation insurance that will cover you for your entire travel. Travel insurance is advised to cover personal injury, medical expenses, repatriation to the country of origin, compensation for loss of baggage, expenses related to the cancellation, postponement or delay of the trip. Customer acknowledges that in case of injury or illness, doctor's fees, hospital expenses and / or repatriation are the customer and the agency will in no event be liable for the reimbursement of travel . It is the customer's responsibility to ensure that he receives adequate medical coverage and fully read the terms of sale of its travel insurance before departure.

## MYANMAR CULTURE AND EXOTICISM

14 Days / 13 Nights



**The Best of Myanmar Culture and exoticism**



- **Yangon** and its colonial architecture, **Bagan** and its mysterious forest of temples, **Mandalay** and its historical heritage and finally the **Inle Lake** and its unique local life.
- **Train ride: one of the most picturesque experiences of South East Asia.**
- **Diversity of means of transportation:** tuk-tuk, pirogue, domestic flight, coach, carriage, small boat, walking...
- **Diversity of activities:** visits of local markets, cultural tours, tasting of local delicacies, trekking, visit of many temples and pagodas
- **Well-chosen hotels** downtown and an **unforgettable night in a monastery.**
- **English speaking tour guides, skilled in group management.**

## MYANMAR CULTURE AND EXOTICISM

- DAY 1:** YOUR CITY → YANGON
- DAY 2:** YANGON
- DAY 3:** YANGON → BAGAN
- DAY 4:** BAGAN
- DAY 5:** BAGAN – PAKOKKU - MONYWA
- DAY 6:** MONYWA – POWINTAUNG - MANDALAY
- DAY 7:** SAGAING – AVA - AMARAPURA
- DAY 8:** MANDALAY – YANKIN HILL
- DAY 9:** MANDALAY → HEHO – PINDAYA - KALAW
- DAY 10:** KALAW - INLE
- DAY 11:** INLE LAKE - INDEIN
- DAY 12:** INLE LAKE – HEHO → YANGON
- DAY 13:** YANGON → YOUR CITY
- DAY 14:** YOUR CITY



### DAY 1: YOUR CITY → YANGON

Departure at your expense to the airport of departure.

### 14 DAYS / 11 NIGHT

Registration formalities and flight to Yangon. Dinner and night on board.

## DAY 2: YANGON WELCOME

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On arrival, you will be warmly welcomed by your guide and then transferred to the city.

Your exploration begins with the visit of the **Kyaukhtatgyi pagoda** that holds a reclining Buddha of 70 meters. Then towards the Royal Lake located in Kandawgyi Park, popular among locals, especially early in the morning and during sunset

From the shore you can admire the Karaweik Palace, a replica of a royal boat, before visiting one of the holiest sites of the country: **the legendary Shwedagon Pagoda..**

**Lunch and dinner at leisure.**

**Night in Yangon**



## DAY 3: YANGON → BAGAN

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Transfer to the airport and **flight to Bagan**. Welcome to Bagan, known to be one of the greatest architectural sites in Asia. When Bagan was the center of Myanmar from the 11th to 13th century, monarchs have built numerous stupas and pagodas, most of them are still present on the banks of the Irrawaddy River. The splendor of Bagan with over 2000 temples in red brick that rise from a desert plain, representing size of Manhattan Island, will be one of the highlights of any trip to Myanmar.

Head to a high point overlooking the plain of Bagan.

From here, you can discover **the Ananda Temple**, one of the highest in Bagan. We will ensure that you arrive there before the majority of visitors, allowing you to enjoy in peace the splendor of the temple. You will continue your trip among temples scattered across the plain and you will confront to various architectural styles of the region. Between the temples, you will see that life does not have end in this museum where families and farmers still working. Continue to the **village of Myinkaba** where you will have the opportunity to meet local craftsmen.



The chance to discover two small temples **Manuha and Nan Paya** - both known for their Buddha statues.

Then you will have the opportunity to learn more

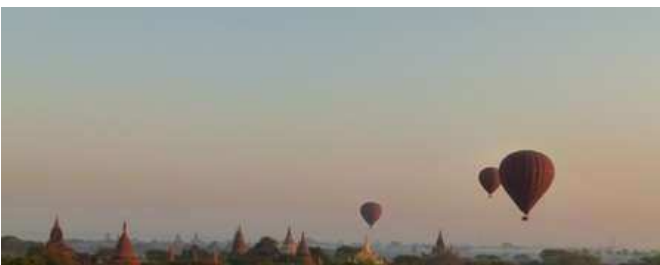
about the local culture by visiting two workshops that produce the most famous products of Bagan: lacquer and wood crafts. You will see that the craftsmen still use **traditional techniques** passed down from generation to generation, to create masterpieces.

During this excursion, you will visit a temple that houses beautiful mural paintings before discovering two of the oldest in the area, built in the 11th century by the Mon King Manuha. Pursuit your expedition on the mystical plain to discover a magnificent temple housing inscriptions dating from the 12th century, written both in Burmese, Pyu, Mon and Pali, hence its nickname "**Local Rosetta Stone.**" **Lunch and dinner at leisure.**

Night at the hotel

## DAY 4: BAGAN

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After breakfast, visit **Nyaung Oo** a lively market where locals come every day to exchange fresh produce and other goods. Then, begin your

discovery with a visit to the famous **Shwezigon pagoda** built in 11th century by King Anawrahta. Then departure to a small village via dusty roads and shady paths lined with temples and monasteries. Explore the village to discover the lifestyle of the Bagan's people. You will continue to discover less known monuments and protected from mass of tourists,.

At the end of the afternoon, **horse pulled carriage ride** through the temples of Bagan, including Thatbyinnyu, the highest temple in the region, Dhammayangyi with its impressive brick patchwork

and Sulamani. From a high point overlooking the plain, enjoy the sunset over the pagodas of Bagan.

**Lunch and dinner at leisure.** Night at the hotel

**Option:** *Hot air balloon over Bagan*

*The morning will begin with a hot air balloon ride over the countryside of Bagan. You will observe the sun rise on the Irrawaddy River and the various stupas of the region. You are not ready to find this kind of show on Earth (Note : Only available from October / November to March. In case of last minute cancelation due to bad weather conditions the full payment of this activity will be refunded))*

**DAY 5: BAGAN – PAKOKKU - MONywa**

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You will leave Bagan directly after breakfast along a **peaceful river**. This itinerary is rarely used by tourists. You will discover **authentic villages** where you will be able to see farmers climbing palm trees to extract the juice needed for making palm sugar. Pursuit of your trip to **Kyauk Gu U Min** on the eastern banks of the river. You will go to the temple entrance with beautiful stone carvings describing religious figures and flowers. This edifice, built into the side of a cliff, provides access to a quiet cave containing several niches: a place of meditation!

After, you will **drive to Monywa** on the Chindwin River, romantic atmosphere. **Lunch and dinner at leisure.**

Night at the hotel

**DAY 6: MONywa – POWINTAUNG - MANDALAY**

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This morning you will leave Monywa to join Mandalay via a **captivating road**. This representative city of Myanmar is located on the east bank of the Chindwin River. On the way to Monywa, you will make a stop at the **Thanboddhay pagoda**, a huge Buddhist temple that houses more than 500,000 Buddha images. Stop at the

Boditahtaung pagoda where there is the highest Buddha statue of Myanmar, 100 meters long and 27 meters high.

In the afternoon, you will get to **Po Win Taung**. This incredible structure composed of 947 sandstone caves dug into the surrounding hills which has the **most amazing set of Buddhist frescoes and statues** of Southeast Asia. You will be then driven to Ba Shwe Taung where temples and monasteries are literally carved into the cliffs,



fascinating site. Road to Mandalay where you will reach your hotel for a relaxing evening

**Lunch and dinner at leisure.**

Night at the hotel

**DAY 7: SAGAING – AVA - AMARAPURA**

---

This morning you will cross the bridge over Irrawaddy River to Sagaing. With 600 pagodas and ivory monasteries, Sagaing Hill is considered like the **spiritual center of Myanmar** and claims to be the residence of nearly 3000 monks. You will visit pagodas Swan Oo Pon Nya Shin, U Min Swe Thone Sae and Taung Oo Maw. You will continue through the Sagaing market, a rarely visited site. Then direction a small village of potters to see craftsmen produce their work using traditional methods.

Your next destination is Ava, which was the capital of the country from the 14th to 18th century. Cross the river by **local ferry** and reach your carriage to go to the **wooden Bagaya monastery** famous for its wood carvings. You will see the **Nanmyint Tour** - also known as "leaning tower of Ava" - one of the remains of the former palace and Maha Aungmye Bonzan monastery.

Direction Amarapura, the penultimate royal capital of Myanmar. You will start by Mahagandayon Monastery, which houses more than a thousand young monks. From here, the **legendary U Bein Bridge**, the longest teak bridge in the world, built in 1782. Enjoy the very special atmosphere at the time of sunset. This completes a wonderful day!



Lunch and dinner at leisure.

Night at the hotel

**DAY 8: MANDALAY – YANKIN HILL**

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Visit of the Mahamuni Pagoda with its highly revered Buddha, entirely covered in gold leaf filed by devotees over the centuries. Followed by the visit of a craft workshops in Mandalay, which is known to be the finest in the country: wood sculpture, Kalaga tapestries, gold leaf manufacture.

Then visit of the Kuthodaw Pagoda, often called "greatest book in the world" for its 729 collection of marble slabs in which are engraved the teachings of Buddha.

Road towards the impressive Shwenandaw monastery ("golden monastery"), the last structure of the Royal Palace to have survived from the 19th century, famous for its wood carvings





In the afternoon road towards Yankin hill, east of the city. Along the way stop in one of the numerous monasteries where most of the 350 monks study English but are rarely able to practice it with foreigners. Time to chat with those monks, warm and unforgettable encounters.

From there you will take the stairs towards the top of the hill to appreciate a panoramic view over the city and a beautiful sunset.

On the way down you will be just in time for the daily psalmody of the monks, a real spiritual experience.

Road back towards the city.

Meals included: breakfast. Lunch and dinner to your leisure. Night at the hotel

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**DAY 9:            MANDALAY → HEHO – PINDAYA - KALAW**

This morning, transfer to Mandalay airport for your flight to Heho, in the heart of the Shan state. Upon arrival at Heho airport, you will take the road to Pindaya (59 km - 2 hours), a town near the Lake Botoloke. Pursuit your tour by visiting the famous caves of Pindaya, an old site 200 million years, which houses within it thousands of golden Buddha statues. To visit these caves you must go through the pagodas of Shwe U Min - the white giant stupas overlooking the town.

Visit to a family to discover the process of preparing the tea leaf salad before tasting the snacks accompanied by a cup of green tea and biscuits.





After lunch, you will continue your road to Kalaw (48 km - 1.5 hours), one climatic resort. Today, this village is a resort where you relax with its pure air, pleasant atmosphere, its green trees and lovely hiking trails. You will reach Kalaw in the afternoon and will have time at leisure to explore this small city. Meals included: breakfast. Lunch and dinner to your leisure. Night at the hotel

**DAY 10: KALAW – INLE**

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Transfer towards the train station. Boarding on a train to Shwe Nyaung surrounded by spectacular mountain sceneries.

Note: the train takes about 3.5 hours. Thanks to note that train delays are quite common in Myanmar.

After, you will traverse the last kilometers by car to Nyaung Shwe. You will have time to make a stop for visiting a traditional paper workshop Shan and teak monastery Shweyanpyay.

On arrival at Nyaung Shwe you will board a canoe and explore the lake, its beautiful lakeside villages and their amazing Intha floating gardens, but also the unique style of Inle fishermen who row standing with one leg. Visit the monastery Nga Chaung Hpe and its collection of ancient Buddha statues. Direction to Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda, the main sanctuary of the lake that houses five sacred Buddha covered with gold leaf.



Meals included: breakfast, picnic lunch in the train. Dinner to your leisure. Night at the hotel.

**DAY 11: INLE LAKE - INDEIN**

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After breakfast you will **visit the Lake market** (closed the days of new moon and full moon). Every day, the inhabitants of the lake and members of the surrounding tribes attend the market exchange goods.

Boat trip to reach and visit the main sites of Inle Lake.

You will discover the varied crafts of Inle, visiting the village of Inpawkhone known for its weaving lotus fiber, and a factory cheroots (Burmese cigars). In the afternoon, you go up a small river (1 hour navigation) to Indein town of Pa-Oh.



Stroll through the village before taking a long covered walkway that leads to the top of a hill. Insein is a beautiful complex with hundreds of stupas overgrown.

Vous rejoindrez votre hôtel en pirogue en fin d'après-midi.

On the way back, if time allows, you will stop at Inthar Heritage House, a Native-inspired home built in the traditional architecture of the region.

You will be at your hotel late afternoon.

Meals included: breakfast. Lunch and dinner at your leisure. Night at the hotel.

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**DAY 12: LAC INLE – HEHO → YANGON**

You will take a morning flight to Yangon from Heho Airport (45 minutes drive).

On arrival in Yangon, you'll be taken to the hotel. Free Day.

Meet at Bogyoke Market, better known as "Scott Market" to stroll through the stalls filled with handicrafts and make your last purchases.

(Note: the market is closed on Mondays and public holidays).

Note: car is available for the trip from the airport to the hotel only.

Meals included: breakfast. Lunch and dinner to your leisure. Night at the hotel.

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**DAY 13: YANGON → YOUR CITY**

Unfortunately it is time to say goodbye to one of the most fascinating countries on earth. Transfer towards Yangon international airport without tour-guide.

Meals included: breakfast. Lunch and dinner to your leisure.

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**DAY 14: → YOUR CITY**

Breakfast on board.

Arrival in Paris

**THE ORDER OF THE SERVICES MENTIONED IN THIS PROGRAM CAN BE ALTERED DUE TO TECHNICAL ISSUES, EVERYTHING MENTIONED WILL HOWEVER BE PROVIDED**

## **IMPORTANT NOTES**

Usually check-in at hotels in Myanmar takes place around 14:00 or 3:00 p.m. (depending on the hotel). Check-out are usually around noon. Subject to availability, we are able to request an early check-in or late check-out against payment of a fee.

In bad weather or for any other reason beyond our control, we reserve the right to change at any time the program or itinerary of the trip. Our priority is the safety and comfort of our customers.



Thank you to note that Myanmar, travelers checks are not accepted. Officially, the CB and KBZ banks accept Master Card, Visa, Maestro and Cirrus. The network of ATMs covers most tourist cities such as Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi, Pyin Oo Lwin, Kalaw, Nay Pyi Daw, Nyaung Oo, Nyaung Shwe and Muse. The maximum withdrawal is 300,000 kyat (about 350 USD / 300 EUR) per transaction and 1,000,000 kyat per day depending on the conditions of the issuing bank. Each transaction is subject to bank charges amounting to 5,000 kyats or equivalent. Some VISA card are subject to restrictions for withdrawals abroad. Therefore, customers may have to get permission from their issuing bank to make a withdrawal

However, we don't advise you to count on this service, which has already shown some weaknesses and bring enough cash (preferably US dollars but Euros are increasingly accepted). Thank you to note that only the new notes, not stained, not wrinkled, not folded won't be accepted. The serial number of your dollars should never begin with the letters CB, this following rumors in the country that this series is falsified. You can exchange money at the current rate at the airport or in banks on presentation of your passport. Please ask your guide to assist you in the process.

A visa is mandatory for all tourists who visit Myanmar and is valid for 28 days. You can get a visa at the Embassy of the Union of Myanmar in your country of residence or a visa online through the website of the Ministry of Immigration in Burma (<http://evisa.moip.gov.mm>) .

We strongly recommend you to contract a medical repatriation insurance that will cover you for your entire travel. Travel insurance is advised to cover personal injury, medical expenses, repatriation to the country of origin, compensation for loss of baggage, expenses related to the cancellation, postponement or delay of the trip. Customer acknowledges that in case of injury or illness, doctor's fees, hospital expenses and / or repatriation are the customer and the agency will in no event be liable for the reimbursement of travel . It is the customer's responsibility to ensure that he receives adequate medical coverage and fully read the terms of sale of its travel insurance before departure.

## MYSTERIOUS MYANMAR

### 15 DAYS / 12 NIGHTS



## The Best of MYSTERIOUS MYANMAR

- **Yangon** and its colonial architecture, **Bagan** and its mysterious forest of temples, **Mandalay** and its historical heritage and finally the **Inle Lake** and its unique local life.
- **Trekking away from mass tourism** in stunning scenaries.
- **Diversity of means of transportation:** tuk-tuk, pirogue, domestic flight, coach, carriage, small boat, walking...
- **Diversity of activities:** visits of local markets, cultural tours, tasting of local delicacies, trekking, visit of many temples and pagodas.
- **Well-chosen hotels** downtown and an **unforgettable night in a monastery.**
- **English speaking tour guides, skilled in group management.**

## MYSTERIOUS MYANMAR 15 DAYS / 12 NIGHTS

- DAY 1:** YOUR CITY → YANGON
- DAY 2:** YANGON
- DAY 3:** YANGON → BAGAN
- DAY 4:** BAGAN
- DAY 5:** BAGAN → MANDALAY
- DAY 6:** MANDALAY - AMARAPURA
- DAY 7:** SAGAING - AVA





**DAY 8:** MANDALAY → HEHO - PINDAYA  
**DAY 9:** PINDAYA – HTUT NI – SEE KYA INN –  
YAZAGYI – TAUNG MYINT GYI  
**DAY 10:** TAUNG MYINT GYI – YA GYI – PWA PYAT  
**DAY 11:** LAC INLE  
**DAY 12:** INDEIN  
**DAY 13:** HEHO → YANGON  
**DAY 14:** YANGON → YOUR CITY  
**DAY 15:** YOUR CITY

**DAY 1: YOUR CITY → YANGON**

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Departure at your expense to the airport of departure.

Registration formalities and flight to **Yangon**.

**Dinner and night on board.**

**DAY 2: YANGON WELCOME**

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Mingalabar and welcome to Myanmar! The ancient capital Yangon, also known as Rangoon, is still the country's economic center and the gateway for most of international travelers. Its colonial past and its religious heritage makes one of the most fascinating places in Southeast Asia. At the airport, you will be warmly greeted and transferred to your hotel (check-in from 14h. Earlier subject to availability).



Visit the **Kyaukhtatgyi pagoda** that holds a reclining Buddha of 70 meters. Then towards the Royal Lake located in Kandawgyi Park, popular among locals, especially early in the morning and during sunset. From the shore you can admire the Karaweik Palace, a replica of a royal boat, before visiting one of the holiest sites of the country: **the legendary Shwedagon Pagoda**.

The best time of day to visit is late in the afternoon when the last rays of sun decorate its gilded stupa and gives it a magical glow.

Lunch and dinner at leisure.

Night in Yangon.

### DAY 3: YANGON → BAGAN

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After breakfast, transfer towards the airport for your flight towards Bagan.

Arrival and greeting by your tour-guide.

Welcome to Bagan, known to be one of the greatest architectural sites in Asia. When Bagan was the center of Myanmar from the 11th to 13th century, monarchs have built numerous stupas and pagodas, most of them are still present on the banks of the Irrawaddy River. The splendor of Bagan with over 2000 temples in red brick that rise from a desert plain, representing size of Manhattan Island, will be one of the highlights of any trip to Myanmar.



Head to a high point overlooking the plain of Bagan.

From here, you can discover **the Ananda Temple**, one of the highest in Bagan. We will ensure that you arrive there before the majority of visitors, allowing you to enjoy in peace the splendor of the temple.

You will then continue your trip in the valley dotted with temples of different architectural styles. Life haven't stopped along the temples and you will witness many families and farmer executing daily activities.

Late afternoon, you will be driven to the pier where a **small private wooden boat** waits for you. Sitting in the shade or on the open deck, you'll get a wonderful view of the Irrawaddy River. Relax on board while enjoying the rays of the sunset on the calm waters of the river. This boat trip will be an alternative to temple visits and offer you a different perspective of Bagan. Preparing to land before returning to your hotel in the evening. A perfect end to the day!

Meals at your expense. Night in Bagan.

### DAY 4: BAGAN

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After breakfast, visit **Nyaung Oo a lively market** where locals come every day to exchange fresh produce and other goods. Then, begin your discovery with a visit to the famous **Shwezigon pagoda** built in 11th century by King Anawrahta. Then departure to a small village via dusty roads and shady paths lined with temples and monasteries. Explore the village to discover the lifestyle of the Bagan's people. You will continue to discover less known monuments and protected from mass of tourists, it according to your wishes for the rest of the morning. If you want, a short excursion can be organized to visit a small series of monuments that will offer you a unique perspective of Bagan.



At the end of the afternoon, stroll in a carriage through the temples of Bagan, including Thatbyinnyu, the highest temple in the region, Dhammayangyi with its impressive brick assembly and Sulamani. From a high point overlooking the plain, enjoy the sunset over the pagodas of Bagan.

**Lunch and dinner at leisure.**

Night in Bagan.

**Option: Hot air balloon over Bagan**

*The morning will begin with a hot air balloon ride over the countryside of Bagan. You will observe the sun rise on the Irrawaddy River and the various stupas of the region. You are not ready to find this kind of show on Earth ... (Only available from October / November to March. In case of last minute cancellation due to bad weather conditions the full payment of this activity will be refunded)*

**DAY 5: BAGAN → MANDALAY**

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Early morning, transfer towards Bagan's boat jetty and boarding on a boat towards Mandalay via the Irrawaddy River.

During the cruise, you will be able to relax on the deck or inside the boat. Drinks can be purchased on board. This all day long cruise is a great way to witness the local life on the river banks. Cruising through the countryside you will see farms and villages all surrounded by **typical Burmese landscapes**.



Along the river you will meet fishermen using traditional techniques, boats transporting goods such as wood or gasoline or even villagers get to the river banks to do laundry and kids who get freshen up.

Arrival to Mandalay and transfer to your hotel.

Lunch on the boat and dinner at leisure.

Night in Mandalay.

**DAY 6: MANDALAY - AMARAPURA**

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Your day will begin with Kyauktawgyi Pagoda, known as the Pagoda called '**big marble Buddha**', a giant Buddha carved in a block of marble who has required the work of 10,000 men to carry him to the river bank.

Then visit of the **Kuthodaw Pagoda**, often called "greatest book in the world" for its 729 collection of marble slabs in which are engraved the teachings of Buddha. Then visit of the impressive **Shwenandaw monastery** ("golden monastery"), the last structure of the Royal Palace to have survived from the 19th century, famous for its wood carvings...

Visit of the **Mahamuni Pagoda** with its highly revered Buddha, entirely covered in gold leaf filed by devotees over the centuries. Followed by the visit of a craft workshops in Mandalay, which is known to be the finest in the country: wood sculpture, Kalaga tapestries, gold leaf manufacture.

Visit of **Amarapura**, the penultimate royal capital of Myanmar. Amarapura means "city of immortality", even if its period as the capital was relatively brief. You will start by **Mahagandayon Monastery**, which houses more

than a thousand young monks. Then you will join the legendary **U Bein Bridge**, the longest teak bridge in the world, built in 1782.



Enjoy the special atmosphere at the sunset.

Lunch and dinner at leisure.

Night at the hotel.

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**DAY 7: SAGAING - AVA**

You will begin the day with a stroll in the **big morning market** nearby the city center. Along with your guide you will explore the numerous food stalls filled with fruits, vegetables, spices, meat and many other eatables. Stop for a cup of Myanmar milk tea in a **local tea shop**, favorite activity of locals.

Crossing the bridge over the Irrawaddy River to Sagaing. With 600 pagodas and ivory monasteries, **Sagaing Hill is considered as the spiritual center** of Myanmar and claims to be the residence of nearly 3,000 monks. You will visit pagodas Swan Oo Pon Nya Shin, U Min Thone Sae and Shin Nan Pin Gyaing. You will continue through the **Sagaing market**. We will drive to a small village of potters to watch craftsmen work according to traditional techniques. Road to Ava which was the capital of the country from the 14th to 18th century. You will cross the river by **local ferry** and reach your carriage to go to the wooden monastery of Bagaya, famous for its wood carvings. Then, you will see **Nanmyint Tower** - also known as "leaning tower of Ava" - one of the vestiges of the ancient palace and Maha Aungmye Bonzan monastery.



**Lunch and dinner at leisure.**

Night in Mandalay.

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**DAY 8: MANDALAY → HEHO - PINDAYA**

Transfer to Mandalay airport for your flight to Heho.



Road to Pindaya to visit of the famous **caves of Pindaya**, a unique site older than 200 million years which houses within thousands of golden Buddha statues. To visit these caves you must go through **the pagodas of Shwe U Min** - the white giant stupas surmounting the place.

Pindaya is also known for its red laced paper umbrellas reserved for monks, you will visit a local workshop to discover the traditional techniques of making of this craft.

**Lunch and dinner at leisure.**

Night in Pindaya.



#### **DAY 9: PINDAYA – HTUT NI – SEE KYA INN – YAZAGYI – TAUNG MYINT GYI**

After breakfast, walk towards **Htut Ni village**. On the way you will meet many members of the Danu ethnic minority, leaving mainly on agriculture of seasonal products. The path goes through **spectacular tea plantations** before hitting See Kya village located in a thick forest in the mountain.



Greeting by a host family and **homestay lunch**.

After lunch, road towards Yazakyi village where you will get the chance to meet members of the Palaung community, one of the first to settle in Myanmar, **warm encounters with the locals**.

Arrival in Taung Myint Gyi and more specifically to its **monastery where you will spend the night and enjoy dinner**, unforgettable experience.

Approximately 4.5 hours walk.

40% uphill; 30% flat; 30% downhill

Homestay lunch and dinner at the monastery.

Night at the monastery.

**Notes:** Common room with mattresses on the ground, pillow and cover. If necessary mosquito nets will be provided. Common bathroom and bathing with a bucket.

#### **DAY 10: TAUNG MYINT GYI – YA GYI – PWE PYAT**

Magical wake up in this village where life starts early in the morning, to enjoy the first few fresh hours of the day. After breakfast in the monastery you will get back on your trek. Walk towards Ya Gyi village followed by a slightly downhill route towards Pwe Pyat. You will be **astonished by the beautiful sceneries** around you. Your trek will end in Pwe Pyat village.

2.5 hours walk. 100% downhill.



Transfer to the village of Nyaung Shwe, gateway to Inle Lake (32 km - 1 hour drive). Possibility to stop along the way to visit local traditional paper crafts factories. Visit the **teak monastery of Shweyanpyay**.

Boat trip to reach and visit the main sites of Inle Lake. You will be astonished by the calm waters of the lake and the beautiful landscape of mountains in the background. Along the way you will pass by several **lakeside villages of Intha**, with the opportunity to observe their amazing floating gardens and unique style of Inle fishermen who row standing with one leg.

Breakfast at the monastery. Lunch and dinner at your expense.

Night on the lake.

#### **DAY 11: INLE LAKE**

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After breakfast you will **visit the Lake market** (closed the days of new moon and full moon). Every day, the inhabitants of the lake and members of the surrounding tribes attend the market exchange goods.



Boat trip to reach and visit the main sites of Inle Lake. You will be astonished by the calm waters of the lake and the beautiful landscape of mountains in the background. Along the way you will pass by several **lakeside villages**

**of Intha**, with the opportunity to observe their amazing floating gardens and unique style of Inle fishermen who row standing with one leg. Visit of **Nga Hpe Chaung monastery** and its collection of statues of Buddha.

Visit **Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda**, the main sanctuary of the lake that houses five sacred Buddha images covered with gold leaf. You will also discover the varied crafts of Inle, visiting the village of Inpawkhone known for its weaving lotus fibers, cheroots workshop (Burmese cigars), or silver workshop. Transfer to your hotel.

Lunch and dinner at your expense. Night on the lake.

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**DAY 12: INDEIN**

An hour long boat trip will take you to **Pa-Oh village**. Stroll in the village before getting to the summit of the hill. At the summit you will see **about a hundred ruins of pagodas** eaten by the vegetation. This site is one of the most impressive around the lake, covered with lichen and plants.



On the way back, possibility to stop at the **Inthar Heritage House** to learn more about the indigenous culture of the area.

Transfer back to the hotel.

Meals at your expense. Night on the lake.

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**DAY 13: HEHO → YANGON**

Transfer towards Heho airport for your **flight towards Yangon**. Greeting at the airport and transfer to the city.

**Walk on the Mahanbandola Street** where the Immanuel Baptist Church, built in 1830, is located. Continuing to walk through narrow streets teeming with markets and food stalls. Through the street named Pansodan, you will have the opportunity to observe many shops which sell used books and photocopied books before heading to the Supreme Court, the imposing offices of the Inland Water Transport and the even more sumptuous headquarters of the Myanma Port Authority. Your next stop will be below of the **majestic Strand Hotel**. Pursuit of your journey on Strand Road, you will discover the **Customs House and the courthouse**, an impressive building with columns. Back to the north of the city on Bank Street that will bring you on Sule Pagoda Road where you can consult one of the many **"fortune tellers"** who shelter under trees. Photo stop at **Sule Pagoda**, a symbol of the city, built 2,000 years ago. Continuing to Mahanbandoola Road crossing two lively districts: Chinatown and Little India. Exploring Golden Street shops of Shwe Bontha Street and take a look at the synagogue Moseh Yeshua on 26th Street.

When you will be on **Theingyi Zei market**, please do not hesitate to discover the cures of Chinese traditional medicine. Then direction Anawratha Road which brings you to Sri Kali temple, the most colorful Hindu temples in Yangon.

At nightfall, **visit Chinatown** and its Chinese temple Khen Hock Keong with statues of dragons that guard the entrance. Change of scenery guaranteed! Taking the opportunity to **explore the night market** where vendors sell all kinds of fruits, vegetables and many other products.

Lunch and dinner at leisure.

Night in Yangon.

**DAY 14: YANGON → YOUR CITY**

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Unfortunately it is time to say goodbye to one of the most fascinating countries on earth. Transfer towards Yangon international airport without tour-guide.

Check-in and boarding for your return flight.

**DAY 15: → YOUR CITY**

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Breakfast on board. Arrival in your city.

**THE ORDER OF THE SERVICES MENTIONED IN THIS PROGRAM CAN BE ALTERED DUE TO TECHNICAL ISSUES, EVERYTHING MENTIONED WILL HOWEVER BE PROVIDED**

### **IMPORTANT NOTES:**

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In bad weather or for any other reason beyond our control, we reserve the right to change at any time the program or itinerary of the trip. Our priority is the safety and comfort of our customers.

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We strongly recommend you to contract a medical repatriation insurance that will cover you for your entire travel. Travel insurance is advised to cover personal injury, medical expenses, repatriation to the country of origin, compensation for loss of baggage, expenses related to the cancellation, postponement or delay of the trip. Customer acknowledges that in case of injury or illness, doctor's fees, hospital expenses and / or repatriation are the customer and the agency will in no event be liable for the reimbursement of travel . It is the customer's responsibility to ensure that he receives adequate medical coverage and fully read the terms of sale of its travel insurance before departure.



## MYANMAR CULTURE AND BEACH

17 DAYS / 15 NIGHTS



**The Best of Myanmar Culture and Beach**

- **Yangon** and its colonial architecture, **Bagan** and its mysterious forest of temples, **Mandalay** and its historical heritage and finally the **Inle Lake** and its unique local life.
- **Beach retreat** in Ngapaly, away from mass-tourism.
- **Diversity of means of transportation:** tuk-tuk, pirogue, domestic flight, coach, carriage, small boat, walking...
- **Diversity of activities:** visits of local markets, cultural tours, tasting of local delicacies, trekking, visit of many temples and pagodas.
- **Well-chosen hotels** downtown and an **unforgettable night in a monastery**.
- **English speaking tour guides, skilled in group management.**

## MYANMAR CULTURE AND BEACH 17 DAYS / 15 NIGHTS

- DAY 1:** YOUR CITY → MANDALAY
- DAY 2:** MANDALAY
- DAY 3:** MANDALAY – SAGAING – AMARAPURA - MANDALAY
- DAY 4:** MANDALAY – PO WIN TAUNG - MONYWA
- DAY 5:** MONYWA – PAKKOKHU - BAGAN
- DAY 6:** BAGAN
- DAY 7:** BAGAN
- DAY 8:** BAGAN - KALAW
- DAY 9:** KALAW – WAR GYI MYAUNG
- DAY 10:** WAR GYI MYAUNG – KHAUNG DINE – INLE LAKE
- DAY 11:** INLE LAKE
- DAY 12:** INLE LAKE – HEHO → NGAPALI BEACH
- DAY 13:** NGAPALI BEACH
- DAY 14:** NGAPALI BEACH - YANGON
- DAY 15:** YANGON
- DAY 16:** YANGON → YOUR CITY
- DAY 17:** YOUR CITY



### DAY 1: YOUR CITY → MANDALAY

Departure at your expense to the airport of departure.  
Registration formalities and flight to **Mandalay. Dinner and night on board.**

### DAY 2: MANDALAY WELCOME

Greeting at the airport by your english-speaking guide and transfer to the city.



Your day will begin with Kyauktawgyi Pagoda, known as the Pagoda called '**big marble Buddha**', a giant Buddha carved in a block of marble who has required the work of 10,000 men to carry him to the river bank.

Then visit of the impressive **Shwenandaw monastery** ("golden monastery"), the last structure of the Royal Palace to have survived from the 19th century, famous for its wood carvings...

Short break from the visits to check-in at the hotel (room available from 2pm).

Then visit of the **Mahamuni Pagoda** with its highly revered Buddha, entirely covered in gold leaf filed by devotees over the centuries. Followed by the visit of a craft workshops in Mandalay, which is known to be the finest in the country: wood sculpture, Kalaga tapestries, gold leaf manufacture.

Lunch and dinner at your expense. Night in Mandalay.

**DAY 3 : MANDALAY – SAGAING – AMARAPURA - MANDALAY**

You will begin the day with a stroll in the **big morning market** nearby the city center. Along with your guide you will explore the numerous food stalls filled with fruits, vegetables, spices, meat and many other eatables. Stop for a cup of Myanmar milk tea in a **local tea shop**, favorite activity of locals.



Crossing the bridge over the Irrawaddy River to Sagaing. With 600 pagodas and ivory monasteries, **Sagaing Hill is considered as the spiritual center** of Myanmar and claims to be the residence of nearly 3,000 monks. You will visit pagodas Swan Oo Pon Nya Shin, U Min Thone Sae and Shin Nan Pin Gyaing.

Then road towards a small village known for its potters, using ancestral technics. The road towards Kan Daw village where you will be able to witness the production of longyis and other textiles. Tea tasting with a local family before heading to **Amarapura**.

Next stop, Amarapura previously royal capital of Myanmar.

Start with the **Mahagandayon monastery**, home of more than a thousand young monks. You will then head towards the famous U Bein bridge, the longest teak bridge in the world constructed in 1782. Enjoy the very mystic sunset at the bridge.

Lunch and dinner at your expense.

Night in Mandalay.

**DAY 4: MANDALAY – PO WIN TAUNG - MONYWA**

Road towards Monywa, via an interesting road for around 3,5 hours.

On the way you will stop at an enormous Buddhist pagoda holding more than 500 000 statues of Lord Buddha.

Visit of the **Boditahtaung pagoda**, where you will see the biggest statue of Buddha, 100 meters long and 27 meters high.



In the afternoon, you will get to **Po Win Taung**. This incredible structure composed of 947 caves carved in the mountain holds an incredible collection of Buddhist mural paintings and statues. Then road towards Shwe Ba Taung, where you will stroll around the area where many temples and monasteries are carved directly in the mountain. Road towards your hotel for a good night of sleep.

Lunch and dinner at leisure.

Night in Monywa.

#### **DAY 5: MONYWA – PAKKOKHU - BAGAN**

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Departure from Monywa in the morning along a **small road along the river**. This itinerary is rarely used by travelers, so you will be able to witness the **genuine countryside** life of Myanmar, authentic villages, farmers at work, untouched sceneries... Stop in a village to learn about the local way of life.

Back on the road towards Pakokku, upon arrival **get on a boat for a trip on the river** towards Bagan. If there is enough time, the boat will stop at the Kyauk Gu U Min temple.



Arrival in Bagan and transfer to your hotel.

Lunch and dinner at your expense.

Night at the hotel.

#### **DAY 6: BAGAN**

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Welcome to Bagan, known to be one of the greatest architectural sites in Asia.

When Bagan was the center of Myanmar from the 11th to 13th century, monarchs have built numerous stupas and pagodas, most of them are still present on the banks of the Irrawaddy River.

The splendor of Bagan with over 2000 temples in red brick that rise from a desert plain, representing size of Manhattan Island, will be one of the highlights of any trip to Myanmar.





Head to a high point overlooking the plain of Bagan. From here, you can discover **the Ananda Temple**, one of the highest in Bagan. We will ensure that you arrive there before the majority of visitors, allowing you to enjoy in peace the splendor of the temple.

You will then continue your trip in the valley dotted with temples of different architectural styles. Life haven't stopped along the temples and you will witness many families and farmer executing daily activities.

Visit of a lacquer workshop in order to discover the traditional techniques leading to one of the most popular artisanal product of the country.

Late afternoon horse carriage ride throughout the area and its temples. Visit of **Thatbyinnyu temple**, the highest in the area, **Dhammayangyi temple** and its surprising patchwork of bricks and finish with the **Sulamani temple** for sunset.

Lunch and dinner at your expense. Night in Bagan.

#### DAY 7: BAGAN

After breakfast, visit **Nyaung Oo a lively market** where locals come every day to exchange fresh produce and other goods. Then, begin your discovery with a visit to the famous **Shwezigon pagoda** built in 11th century by King Anawrahta.

Then departure to a small village via dusty roads and shady paths lined with temples and monasteries. Explore the village to discover the lifestyle of the Bagan's people. You will continue to discover less known monuments and protected from mass of tourists, it according to your wishes for the rest of the morning.

If you want, a short excursion can be organized to visit a small series of monuments that will offer you a unique perspective of Bagan.



Get to the countryside of Bagan and more specifically to **Minnanthu village**, one of the less visited areas of Bagan. There you will discover temples such as **Payathonzu, Lemyentha and Nandamannya**, all very different from each other. You will make a stop at the **Kyat Kan cave monastery** which is a spot of high spirit for meditation.

Road towards **Myinkaba village for a walk** and to meet local craftsmen, memorable meeting with the locals that will help you understand the culture.

You will then visit the **Gu Byaukgyi temple** and its beautiful mural paintings along with **Nan Paya temple**, one of the most ancient in the area. The nearby Myazedi stupa will surprise you as it has carvings in 4 different local languages, which is why it is known as the **"local Rosetta stone"**.

Lunch and dinner at your expense. Night in Bagan.

**DAY 8: BAGAN - KALAW**

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Road towards Kalaw, a 6 hour journey across **small mountain roads** along local villages and countryside. Many stops along the way to capture the **mind-blowing sceneries**.

Kalaw is an ancient climatic station where British officers came to escape the heat of the valley.

Arrival to Kalaw in the afternoon and time at leisure to **stroll in the charming little mountain town**.



Lunch and dinner at your expense.

Night in Kalaw.

**DAY 9: KALAW – WAR GYU MYAUNG**

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After an early breakfast, transfer towards Tha Yet Pu village which will be your departure point for your **2 days trek towards** Inle Lake.

The first hour of walking will lead you to Kan Par Ni village which is essentially on flat land. You will stop in the village for a cup of tea and then head to **Su Pan Inn village** where you will enjoy lunch at a local house or at the monastery.

Pursuit of the trek towards **Chaung Char village**, from there the way to Wa Gyi Myaung will get steep but the rewards you will get upon arrival is worth it. Wa Gyi Myaung is a peaceful little village offering outstanding views on the surroundings.

**Time in the village at leisure for own discoveries, warm encounters with the locals.**

Dinner in a local house or at the monastery.

Homestay night either in the monastery or in a local home.

**DAY 10: WAR GYI MYAUNG – KHAUNG DINE – INLE LAKE**

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**Magical wake up** in this little village that seems away from everything and after breakfast start walking towards Inle Lake. You will go through rice fields and hilly valleys to finish at **Khaung Daine village** from where you will **get on a boat** that will get you to your hotel on the lake.

Lunch and dinner at your expense. Night on the lake.

**DAY 11: INLE LAKE**

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After breakfast you will **visit the Lake market** (closed the days of new moon and full moon). Every day, the inhabitants of the lake and members of the surrounding tribes attend the market exchange goods.

Boat trip to reach and visit the main sites of Inle Lake. You will be astonished by the calm waters of the lake and the beautiful landscape of mountains in the background. Along the way you will pass by several **lakeside villages of Intha**, with the opportunity to observe their amazing floating gardens and unique style of Inle fishermen who row standing with one leg. Visit of **Nga Hpe Chaung monastery** and its collection of statues of Buddha.



Visit **Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda**, the main sanctuary of the lake that houses five sacred Buddha images covered with gold leaf. You will also discover the varied crafts of Inle, visiting the village of Inpawkhone known for its weaving lotus fibers, cheroots workshop (Burmese cigars), or silver workshop. Transfer to your hotel.

Lunch and dinner at your expense.



Transfer towards Heho airport for your flight towards Thandwe.

Arrival in Thandwe and greeting by a member of the staff of your resort.

Check-in at your sea side resort in Ngapali and time at leisure to enjoy the beach. Lunch and dinner at your expense. Night in Ngapali.

**DAY 13: NGAPALI BEACH (WITHOUT TOUR-GUIDE)**

Time at leisure to enjoy the facilities of the resort and the beach. Lunch and dinner at leisure. Night In Ngapali.



**DAY 14: NGAPALI BEACH → YANGON (WITHOUT TOUR-GUIDE)**



Transfer towards the airport for your flight towards Yangon. Arrival in Yangon and transfer directly to your hotel. Rest of the day at leisure. Lunch and dinner at your expense. Night in Yangon.

**DAY 15: YANGON**

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**Walk on the Mahanbandola Street** where the Immanuel Baptist Church, built in 1830, is located. Continuing to walk through narrow streets teeming with markets and food stalls. Through the street named Pansodan, you will have the opportunity to observe many shops which sell used books and photocopied books before heading to the Supreme Court, the imposing offices of the Inland Water Transport and the even more sumptuous headquarters of the Myanmar Port Authority. Your next stop will be below of the **majestic Strand Hotel**.

Pursuit of your journey on Strand Road, you will discover the **Customs House and the courthouse**, an impressive building with columns. Back to the north of the city on Bank Street that will bring you on Sule Pagoda Road where you can consult one of the many **"fortune tellers"** who shelter under trees. Photo stop at **Sule Pagoda**, a symbol of the city, built 2,000 years ago.

Continuing to Mahanbandoola Road crossing two lively districts: Chinatown and Little India. Exploring Golden Street shops of Shwe Bontha Street and take a look at the synagogue Moseh Yeshua on 26th Street.

When you will be on **Theingyi Zei market**, please do not hesitate to discover the cures of Chinese traditional medicine. Then direction Anawratha Road which brings you to Sri Kali temple, the most colorful Hindu temples in Yangon.



Grab a cup of tea in a local tea shop and road towards the **Kyaukhtatgyi pagoda** that holds a reclining Buddha of 70 meters. Then towards the Royal Lake located in Kandawgyi Park, popular among locals, especially early in the morning and during sunset. From the shore you can admire the Karaweik Palace, a replica of a royal boat, before visiting one of the holiest sites of the country: **the legendary Shwedagon Pagoda**.

The best time of day to visit is late in the afternoon when the last rays of sun decorate its gilded stupa and gives it a magical glow.

At nightfall, **visit Chinatown** and its Chinese temple Khen Hock Keong with statues of dragons that guard the entrance. Change of scenery guaranteed! Taking the opportunity to **explore the night market** where vendors sell all kinds of fruits, vegetables and many other products.

Lunch and dinner at leisure.

Night in Yangon.

**DAY 16: YANGON → YOUR CITY**

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Unfortunately it is time to say goodbye to one of the most fascinating countries on earth. Transfer towards Yangon international airport without tour-guide.

Check-in and boarding for your return flight.

**DAY 17: → YOUR CITY**

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Breakfast on board.

Arrival in your city.



**THE ORDER OF THE SERVICES MENTIONED IN THIS PROGRAM CAN BE ALTERED DUE TO TECHNICAL ISSUES, EVERYTHING MENTIONED WILL HOWEVER BE PROVIDED**

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