

Unforgettable Experience of Myanmar

20 Days - 19 Nights

Summary : Yangon – Mandalay – Amarapura, Ava, Sagaing – Mingun – Pyin Oo Lwin - Bagan – Mount Popa -Heho – Pindaya – Taunggyi – Inle – Ngwe Saung Beach

Detailed Itinerary

Day 01: YANGON (ARRIVAL)



- ❖ **Yangon** is the gateway through which most foreign tourists enter Myanmar, the biggest urban area in the country. Myanmar's biggest city, Yangon is comparatively young. It became the capital only in 1885 when the British completed their conquest of northern Myanmar. And now you are about to start your Unforgettable Experience of Myanmar trip, Welcome to Myanmar! Upon arrival we will take you to your hotel about 40 minutes drive from the airport.
- ❖ Check in your hotel, take a time for a rest.
- ❖ And dinner at local restaurant (provided arrival time is in the evening)
- ❖ If the time permit, visit to the magnificent **Shwedagon**

Padogoda. Among Yangon's biggest attractions are its numerous, Buddhist shrines, the most famous and spectacular of which is Shwedagon Pagoda. This 98-metre-high golden spire, located at the top of Singuttara Hill, can be seen from anywhere in the city, towering above the hectic urban landscape like a glowing beacon of peace and serenity. The pagoda platform holds a dazzling array of shrines where devotees gather to meditate, make offerings, meet friends and share food. It is a vibrant, life – affirming atmosphere where visitors can experience firsthand the essence of Buddhist culture in Myanmar.

- ❖ Overnight at your hotel.

Day 02: YANGON SIGHTSEEING



- ❖ Breakfast at your hotel. We will begin our unforgettable experience of Yangon trip.
- ❖ Visit to the **Chaukhatgyi reclining** Buddha image. It has 75m long. It is also one of Myanmar's more beautiful reclining Buddha.
- ❖ After that we will visit to the **Kandawgyi Lake**, by its literal translation Royal lake, this natural lake close to the city centre is a good place for a stroll. The lake is most attractive at sunset. When the glittering Shwedagon is reflected in its calm water. And take your time at from the Lake's eastern edge.
- ❖ Lunch at "Feel Traditional Myanmar Restaurant" where you can taste and have authentic dishes of famous Myanmar cuisine.
- ❖ Free time for a rest.

- ❖ After that sightseeing around the **downtown area** is also home to many impressive examples of architecture dating back to the **British Colonial era**, including **City Hall, High Court, Inland Water Transport (previously owned by Irrawaddy Flotilla Company), Strand Hotel** and the sprawling **Secretariat building**, where General Aung San, Myanmar's hero of independence and father to Aung San Suu Kyi, was assassinated on July 19, 1947. Having a cup of coffee or tea at the Strand Hotel during your visit at the Strand Hotel will give a nice and relaxing sensation of your unforgettable trip in Myanmar.
- ❖ Visit to the **China Town** while other areas show a heavy India influence. This cultural diversity is reflected in the wide range of cuisine available in the city, from traditional Burmese curries: to ethnic foods from Myanmar's border areas such as Shan and Kachin States: to Asian favorites from China, India and Thailand; to gourmets fare from as far away as France and Italy.
- ❖ Dinner at local restaurant.
- ❖ Overnight at the hotel.

Day 03: YANGON SIGHTSEEING



- ❖ Breakfast at your hotel.
- ❖ A short stopover to take photo in front of the resident of Daw Aung San Su Kyi, the International Democracy Icon and Leader of National League for Democracy, the leading opposition political party.
- ❖ Visit **National Museum** to observe the display of lion throne of King Thibaw the last king of Myanmar. And other historical and cultural display. Visit to the royal regalia room is worthwhile to visit.
- ❖ Lunch at local restaurant.
- ❖ Visit to the **Botataung Pagoda** in downtown area and said to contain hair

relics of the Buddha. After the war the Botataung was rebuilt in a very similar style to its predecessor, but with one important and usual difference: unlike most stupa which are solid, the Botataung is hollow and you can walk through it. A short walk from Botataung Paya at Botataung jetty, you can watch ferries and oared water taxis cross the Yangon River.

- ❖ Visit to **City Hall and the Sule Pagoda**, surrounded by government buildings and commercial shops, the tall zedi at Sule Paya is another example of the strange incongruity of the Yangon cityscape.
- ❖ Take your time at Sule Pagoda.
- ❖ Dinner at "Happy Restaurant" where you can have authentic tribal cuisines from all over the country.
- ❖ Overnight at the hotel



Day 04: YANGON -MANDALAY



- ❖ Breakfast at the hotel and we will transfer to the air port to go to **Mandalay**, the culture, art and craft centre of Myanmar. Mandalay has beautiful scenery which complements the famous sites around the city. Mandalay holds a special place in the hearts of the people of Myanmar, being the site of the capital of the last Burmese

kingdom and to this day, the national centre for traditional Burmese culture.

- ❖ Check in your hotel
- ❖ Visit to the **Eindawya Paya**, built in 1847 by King Pagan Min, Eindawya is ranged around a typical gilded pagoda off a street where shops sell all the gear a monk would need. Little visited, its importance is as the site of one of Myanmar's many cultural battles before independence. In 1919 a group of Europeans had defied the Buddhist ban on Shoe-wearing within Eindawya and were forcibly evicted by outraged monks. For their pains, four monks were convicted by a colonial court, and one, U Kettaya, received a life sentence. (So please take your shoes off!)
- ❖ Lunch at local restaurant
- ❖ Visit to the **Shwenandaw Monastery, Atumashi Kyaungdawgyi and Kuthodaw Pagoda**, where the collected Buddhist scriptures are inscribed on 729 slabs of marble each protected by its own small temple. It is also known as World's Biggest Book.
- ❖ Visit to the **Golden Place Monastery** there you will see the classic Myanmar wooden architecture. Just to the northeast of the fort is **Mandalay hill** which has a fantastic sunset view from the hill, which rises 760 feet above the otherwise level city. Crowned by a popular pagoda that can be reached by a long stairway or escalator, the hills affords spectacular views not only across Mandalay but also well beyond the urban area to the farmland to the north, the Ayeyarwaddy River to the west and hills of Shan State to the east. You will get a unforgettable experience of sunset view from the Mandalay Hill.
- ❖ Dinner at "Shwe Be Restaurant" which is famous for its Chinese cuisines with roasted duck and many popular Chinese cuisines.
- ❖ Overnight at your Hotel.



Day 05: MANDALAY – AMARAPURA – AVA - SAGAING

- ❖ Breakfast at the hotel.
- ❖ Visit to be Mandalay's most venerated religious site, **Mahamuni Pagoda**, is located in the southwestern part of the city. The Pagoda's famous seated Buddha image, brought from Rakhine state by the Burmese army of king Bodaw paya in 1784 sparkles with gold leaf applied year after year by Buddhist Pilgrims seeking to gain merit.
- ❖ After that we will drive to the southern suburb **Amarapura**, (the city of immortality), ancient capital. The visitors can watch the artists at work, traditional handicraft workshops, where skilled weaver and artisans create everything from beautiful silk clothing and sequined tapestries, to wooden marionettes and marble statues. Amarapura, where **Mahagandayon Monastery**, the largest in the country is located. It is famous for his high disciplinary teaching of Buddhist teaching. You can observe the daily lunch offering to hundreds of Buddhist monks in Mahagandayon Monastery which is renown for its high disciplinary Buddhist teaching.
- ❖ After that we will proceed to **Ava** for over half of the past 650 years, Burma's royal capital was Innwa (Ava) now a popular tourist destination as a day-trip tour from Mandalay.
- ❖ Lunch at local restaurant.
- ❖ Visit to **Sagaing** after crossing the mighty Ayeyarwaddy River via Innwa Bridge where tranquil, tree covered hills are dotted with scores of pagodas, monasteries and nunneries. And is also the widely regarded as the religious center of Myanmar and is home to 3000 monks and also 100 meditation centers.
- ❖ On the way to Mandalay, You can watch a sunset from **U Bein Bridge** a stunningly tranquil and picturesque pedestrian span that stretches more than half a mile across Taungthaman lake. It is one of the best places in all of Myanmar to watch the sunrise or sunset.
- ❖ Dinner at Local restaurant
- ❖ Overnight at your hotel.



Day 06: MANDALAY –MINGUN – MANDALAY



- ❖ Breakfast at the hotel.
- ❖ Visit to the **Mingun** across the Ayeyarwaddy River, on the bank of the river about 7 miles north of Mandalay. You can have a scenic view from the mighty Ayeyarwaddy River.
- ❖ Visit to the **Mingun Bell**, is that you can scramble beneath and stand within some helpful bystander gives it a good thump.
- ❖ Lunch at local restaurant.
- ❖ Free time for a rest.
- ❖ Continue to visit **Mingun Paya or Pathodaw gyi**, would have been the world's biggest stupa, the monolithic unfinished.
- ❖ You are able to visit **old-age** home for the poor in Mingun for a while.
- ❖ Dinner at local restaurant.
- ❖ Overnight at the Hotel.



Day 07: MANDALAY –PYIN OO LWIN- MANDALAY



- ❖ Breakfast at the hotel.
- ❖ Another popular trip from Mandalay is the colonial hill station town of **PYIN OO LWIN**, less than 60 KM (40 miles) distant by roads but worlds away in terms of climate and atmosphere. Set at an elevation of nearly 3,500 feet above sea level, **PYIN OO LWIN** offers cool temperatures, well-preserved colonial architecture nice traditional Shan noodle and visiting the famous places will have a memorable time in your life. **PYIN OO LWIN** also known as flower city of MYANMAR as it has plenty of wild flowers.
- ❖ On the way lunch at local restaurant.
- ❖ Free time for a rest at Lush **National Kandawgyi Garden (Botanic Garden)** and short hikes to picturesque **Waterfalls**. Visitors can have a look at stunning architecture of many old colonial era buildings around the city as Pyin Oo Lwin (Old name May Myo) is the city of hill resort for British officers during the colonial period.
- ❖ Visitors usually explore using the town's unique decorative horse carts which is unique in the country.
- ❖ On the way back to Mandalay, dinner at local restaurant.

- ❖ Overnight at the hotel.



Day 08: MDY - BAGAN



- ❖ Breakfast at your hotel and head to the airport to catch your flight to go to Bagan.
- ❖ At Nyaung U air port we will transfer to your hotel for check in.
- ❖ **Bagan** located on a wide plain east of the Ayeyarwaddy River in Central Myanmar is home to more than 2000 temples and pagoda dating back about 1000 years. Bagan took form as the capital of a Burmese kingdom whose **heyday** occurred from the 11th to 13th centuries AD. Staying in the ancient town and spending time around the famous temples and peaceful nature of town will give you the best memorable moments of your life.
- ❖ Now we will start to visit famous pagoda, **Shwezigon Pagoda**, near the town of Nyaung U, 170-foot-high **Ananda Temple**, which shelters four revered standing Buddha statues **Gubyaukgyi** is formed for its vivid murals depicting scene from the life of the Buddha, while **Dhammayazika Pagoda** is said to be haunted by the ghost of a general who died during its construction in 1196 AD.
- ❖ Lunch at local restaurant and free time for a rest.
- ❖ Continue visit to the famous pagoda. **That byinnya**, the tallest monument in Bagan and **Gawdawpalin** the second tallest temple in Bagan.
- ❖ Try **Baloon over Bagan**, hot aired balloon with experienced foreign captain will give you a magnificent view above Bagan from above.
- ❖ Dinner at local restaurant facing the magnificent Ayeyarwaddy River.
- ❖ Over night at your hotel.

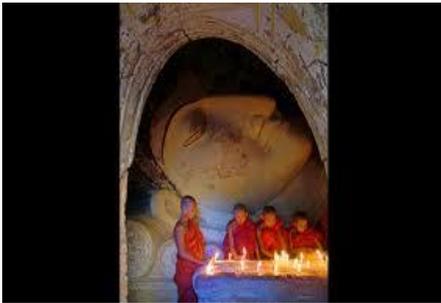
Day 09: BAGAN



- ❖ Breakfast at your hotel.
- ❖ Visit to the **Nathlaung Kyaung**, stubby building – the only Hindu temple remaining in Bagan – has a fascinating history. Named "Shrine Confining Nat", it's where King Anawrahta stored non-Buddhist images, particularly ones for local nat, as he tried to enforce Buddhism. The king himself described the temple as "where the nat are kept prisoner". Severely damaged in the 1975 earthquake, only the temples's main hall and superstructure (with seven original Gupta-style reliefs) still stand.
- ❖ And visit to the **Shwegugyi**, built by Alaungsithu in 1131, this smaller but elegant pahto, 220yd north of Thatbyinnyu, is an example of Bagan's middle period of temple-building, a transition in architectural style from the dark and cloistered to the airy and light. Its name means "Great Golden Cave" and its conic sikhara is a scaled-down version of the one at Ananda.
- ❖ Lunch at local restaurant & free time for a rest.

- ❖ After Relaxing, visit to the **Pitaka Taik**, following the sacking of Thaton, King Anawrahta is said to have carted off some 30 elephant-loads of Buddhist scriptures in 1058 and built this library (just northeast of Shwegugyi) to house them. The square design follows the basic early Bagan gu (cave temple) plan, perfect for the preservation of light-sensitive palm-leaf scriptures. It's notable for the perforated stone windows, each carved from single stone slabs, and the plaster carvings on the roof, which imitate Myanmar woodcarvings. Pitaka Taik are the beginning of library system in Myanmar.
- ❖ Visit to the **Mahabodhi Paya**, unlike any other Bagan temple, this monument, located on the north side of the main road 380yd west of the **Tharabar Gate**, is modeled after the famous Mahabodhi temple in Bodhgaya, India, which commemorates the spot where the Buddha attained enlightenment. Built during the reign of Nantaungmya in 1215, the temple's unusual pyramidal spire is richly coated in niches enclosing seated Buddha figures, rising from a square block. The stairway to the top is closed. Inside is a modern makeover – with tile floor and carpet. The ruined buildings just north feature some original glazed painting fragments.
- ❖ A short (2 hours) boat ride on the Ayeyarwaddy River to see the sunset view from the mighty river.
- ❖ Dinner at local restaurant.
- ❖ Overnight at your hotel.

Day 10: BAGAN



- ❖ Breakfast at your hotel.
- ❖ Visit to famous **Nyaung U market**. Visitors can find antique looking lacquerwares or buy seasonal fruits and foods. You can mingle with locals in the market too while studying daily life style of locals.
- ❖ Visit to the **Ananda Ok Kyaung**, small vihara (sanctuary or chapel) features some detailed 18th century murals bursting with bright red and green, showing details of everyday life from the Bagan period.
- ❖ Visit to the **Upali Thein**. Just north of the Bagan-Nyaung U Rd, almost midway to Nyaung U, this squat mid-13th century ordination

hall houses some brightly painted frescoes depicting big scenes on the walls and ceilings from the late 17th or early 18th century.

- ❖ Lunch at local restaurant. Free time for a rest.
- ❖ Visit famous lacquerware workshops and shops. Bagan is the birthplace Myanmar lacquerware industry.
- ❖ Visit to the **Buledi and Gubyaukng, Wetkyi-in-Gubyaukgyi and famous pagodas**.
- ❖ Visit to the **Shwesandaw Paya**, Bagan's most famous sunset-viewing spot, the Shwesandaw is a graceful white pyramis-style pagoda with steps leading past five terraces to the circular stupa top, with good 360-degree views.
- ❖ Dinner at local restaurant.
- ❖ Overnight at your hotel.



Day 11: BAGAN - MT. POPA - BAGAN



- ❖ Breakfast at your hotel.
- ❖ Visit to the **Mt. Popa**, 42KM (28 miles) east of Bagan. It takes of one and half hour journey. The most famous nat (spirit) shrine lies at the base of Mount Popa which is itself a protected nature reserve

and an extinct volcanic mountain but give an above eye view of the mountain and the central plain.

- ❖ For the energetic, it's time to climb the 777 steps leading to the shrine on top of Taung kalat adjacent to the Volcano. Children can happily join the visit as there are so many monkeys along the steps.
- ❖ Lunch & Free time at Mt. Popa.
- ❖ After Relaxing at Mt. Popa, come back to Bagan.
- ❖ Dinner at local restaurant.
- ❖ Check in hotel.
- ❖ Overnight at your hotel.

Day 12: BAGAN – HEHO –PINDAYA (SHAN STAE)



- ❖ Breakfast at your hotel.
- ❖ Transfer to the Airport to go to Shan State, take only 1 hour flight from Bagan, you will reach to the most beautiful place on the earth. Temperature climates (can be cooled to about 4°C in January) magnificent mountain views, meeting with tribal people, essence and flavours of wild flowers and pine trees and studying simple village lives of ethnic group will always surprise you. Shan food is close to food of northern Thai but has a unique taste and style of cooking.
- ❖ On the way to Pindaya, visit to the **Aung Chan Tha Zedi**, a glittery stupa (Buddhist ceremonial tower), covered in gold and silver-coloured glass mosaics. And visit to the **Hsu Taung Pye Paya** were restored from ruins using donations from visiting pilgrims.
- ❖ Lunch & Free time at local restaurant.
- ❖ After Relaxing, visit to the **Shwe Oo Min Natural Cave Pagoda**, there are several "Golden Cave" temples in Shan State, but Pindaya's Shwe Oo Min pagoda is by far the most impressive. Set high on a limestone ridge above **Pone Taloke Lake**, this winding complex of natural caves and tunnels is filled to bursting point with Buddha images in an astonishing variety of shapes, sizes and materials, many gaudily daubed with gold paint. At the latest count, the caves contained more than 8700 statues, some left centuries ago by Burmese pilgrims and others newly installed by Buddhist organizations from as far afield as Singapore, the Netherlands and the USA. The collection of alabaster, teak, marble, brick, lacquer and cement images is still growing – pilgrims arrive in a show but steady stream, installing new images and meditating in tiny meditation chambers formed by natural cavities in the cave walls.
- ❖ Visit to the **Hnee Pagoda**, home to 500-year-old, gold-lacquered bamboo Buddha.
- ❖ Dinner at local restaurant.
- ❖ Overnight at your hotel.

Day 13: PINDAYA – TAUNG GYI -INLE (SHAN STATE)



- ❖ Breakfast at your hotel.
 - ❖ Visit to the **Yat Taw Mu Pagoda** contains a 33ft-high standing Buddha, constructed using donations from Japanese Buddhists.
 - ❖ Proceed to Taunggyi from Pindaya by car. Visitors can enjoy the lovely plain of farms filled with potatoes, onions and seasonal fruits.
 - ❖ Lunch at local restaurant
 - ❖ Sightseeing around the Taunggyi city, capital of the Shan State.
- ❖ Go to the Inle Lake by Boat.
 - ❖ Check in hotel.
 - ❖ Dinner at hotel restaurant.

- ❖ Overnight at your hotel.

Day 14: INLE LAKE



- ❖ Breakfast at the Hotel.
- ❖ Start to visit Inle Lake.
- ❖ **INLE LAKE**, 13.5 miles long and 7 miles wide but up close it's hard to tell where the lake finishes and the marshes start. Looking down over the lake from the Taunggyi road, Inle sits like a puddle on an enormous carpet of greenery. Dotted around the lake are the stilt-house villages and floating gardens of the Intha tribe. The Intha technique of leg rowing – where one leg is wrapped around the paddle to drive the blade through the water in a snake-like motion – is unique.

- ❖ Sightseeing around the Inle Lake. You will have a magnificent scenery and at the same time study the daily life style of locals who are mostly fishermen and plantation farmers. Take good photos of leg rowers of Intha (people from Inlay) who are unique and only place in the world. Tomatoes and other vegetable plantation will catch your eyes.
- ❖ Lunch at local restaurant.
- ❖ Free time for a rest.
- ❖ Visit to the **Indein** where you can see more of 8th Century ancient pagodas at Indein.
- ❖ Dinner at local restaurant.
- ❖ Overnight at the Hotel.



Day 15: INLE LAKE



- ❖ Breakfast at the Hotel.
- ❖ Sightseeing around the Inle Lake. And visit to the **Phaung Daw Oo**, the four revered golden Buddha images from the pagoda are ferried around the lake in a gilded barge shaped like a Hintha (the golden swan of Burmese legend) visiting all the pagodas in the area.
- ❖ Continue visit to the **Nga Hpe Kyaung (Jumping Cat Monastery)** where cats are trained to jump like a circus shows.

- ❖ Lunch at a local restaurant.
- ❖ Free time for a rest.
- ❖ And visit to the **Silver Smith Shops, Silk Weaving Workshops** and last not the least visit to **Lotus Weaving Workshop** which is one of the unique features of Inle Lake.



- ❖ Dinner at a local floating restaurant will give you a magnificent view and taste of Intha people cuisine.
- ❖ Overnight at the Hotel.

Day 16: INLE –YANGON



- ❖ Breakfast at your hotel.
- ❖ Free time for a rest.
- ❖ Sightseeing around the Inle lake.
- ❖ Lunch at local restaurant.
- ❖ Check out your hotel and airport transfer to go to **YANGON**.
- ❖ Check in hotel.
- ❖ Dinner at local restaurant.
- ❖ Overnight at your hotel.
- ❖

Day 17: YANGON - NGWE SAUNG BEACH



- ❖ Breakfast at your hotel
- ❖ Visit to the **NGWE SAUNG** beach six hours drive by coach, may have begun to show symptoms of bipolar disorder. These days the northern part end of the beach has the air of a weekend getaway destination for nouveau riche yangonites and is home to an uninterrupted, chain of walked, upscale resorts. Snorkeling, scuba diving and a short boat ride to a nearby island will be very nice.
- ❖ Sight seeing around the **NGWE SAUNG Beach**.
- ❖ Lunch at local restaurant.
- ❖ Free time for a rest. You can have the most unforgettable experience on the beach with various fresh seafood, traditional Myanmar massage (and SPA at some hotels) and warm hospitality of friendly local staffs.
- ❖ Dinner at local restaurant.
- ❖ Overnight at your hotel.

Day 18: NGWE SAUNG



- ❖ Breakfast at your hotel.
- ❖ Sightseeing around the NGWE SAUNG Beach and a boat trip out to Bird Island, just visible way out the horizon. Enjoy the fresh and reasonable priced sea food.
- ❖ Lunch at local restaurant.
- ❖ Free time for a rest.
- ❖ Dinner at local restaurant.



- ❖ Overnight at your hotel.

Day 19: NGWE SAUNG - YANGON



- ❖ Breakfast at your hotel.
- ❖ Sightseeing around the NGWE SAUNG Beach and visit to the Lover Island, a handsome strip of sand located at the southern end of the beach
- ❖ Lunch at local restaurant.
- ❖ Check out your hotel and airport transfer to go back to Yangon.
- ❖ Dinner at local restaurant.
- ❖ Check in hotel.
- ❖ Overnight at your hotel.

Day 20: YANGON AND YOUR DEPARTURE



- ❖ Breakfast at your hotel.
- ❖ If the time permit, you can buy various souvenirs, handicrafts and even gems and jewelry at Bogyoke Market.
- ❖ Free time for a rest
- ❖ We will transfer to the air port for your departure
- ❖ End of our service.

NOTE: The above itinerary is just for information to our clients and some of the time of flight hours can be changed depending on the season. Clients are welcome to customized according to your needs also.