





Cover photo courtesy of Jochen Steinhardt

WELCOME TO MYANMAR

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Photo: Clemens Walz

Introduction

About Myanmar

After decades of isolation Myanmar is now being discovered by world travelers. Here visitors will find an especially warm and friendly people, and a country that offers a wonderfully diverse travel experience which includes world class archaeological sites, mighty rivers, Himalayan mountains, precious gemstone mines, historic old colonial buildings, vast teakwood forests, and a large and diverse number of ethnic groups; all combining to give the country great scenic and cultural richness. Most visitors will arrive in Yangon via the airport hub of Bangkok, a mere one hour flight. And yet, though only an hour's flight and a 30 minute time zone away – a flight to Yangon is like traveling in a time machine, placing you somewhere in Asia's ancient and mystical past. Myanmar truly offers a unique opportunity to experience old style Asia, the way it was, and still is, in Myanmar.

About INDOCHINA TRAVEL

INDOCHINA Travel, founded in 1993, is celebrating nearly 20 years of operating tours for clients from more than 25 different countries. With our motivated, highly qualified staff and experienced managers, we have been able, through the years, to provide clients with some of their best travel experiences ever. We look forward to sharing this great Myanmar travel experience with many more visitors in the years to come.

What Indochina Travel offers

Best tour guides – it is no mistake that we list this first because we recognize how important the tour guide is to the success of the tour. That is why we work with only the best. And that includes guides for almost any language – (English, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, French, Thai etc.)

Reliability – tours that run smoothly put a smile on everybody's face. And with the best operations department in Myanmar, we can do just that.

Rapid response – we take pride in answering you quickly, usually within 24 hours.

Customized tours – we specialize in designing tours tailor-made for your clients.

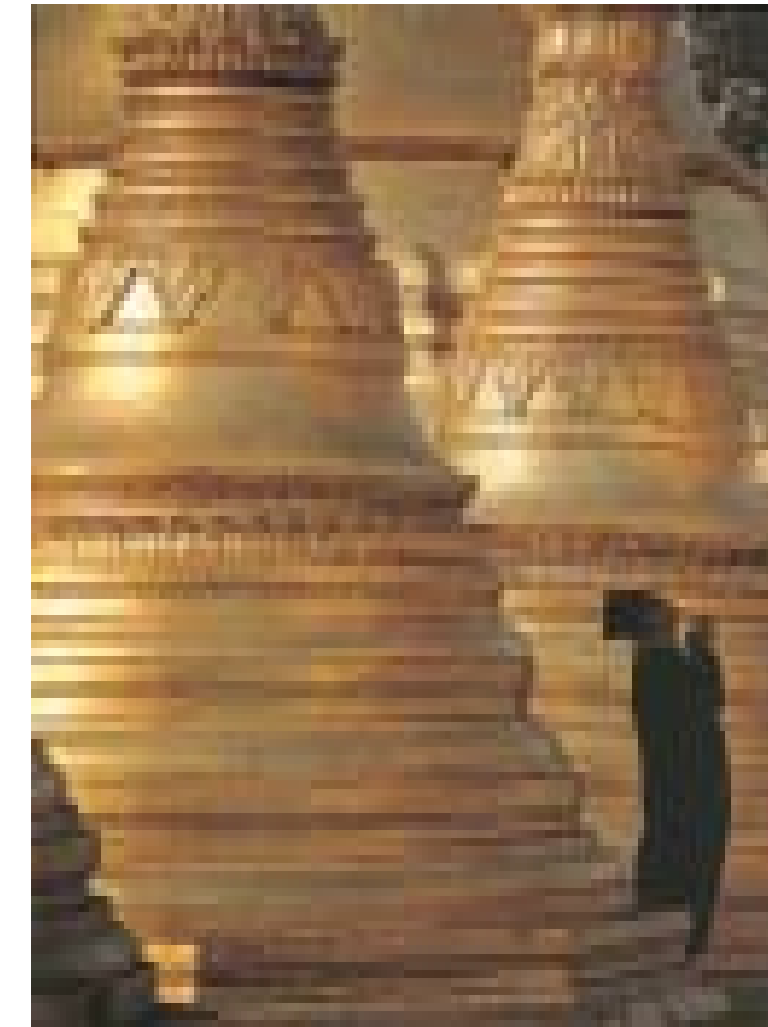
Unique Itineraries – our experienced staff can suggest the best tour suited to your needs. And while we may not always be the first to try a new route, we will be there when it is safe, and reliable.

Personalized service – we want you to feel like our most important customer - because you are.

24 -our service – in case of emergencies our staff may be reached at any time of the day.

Among the many kinds of tour programs we can offer:

Classic • Soft Adventure • Cultural • Incentive • Honeymoon packages • Historical • Family



"This is Burma, and it will be quite unlike any land you know about."

Rudyard Kipling
Letters from the East (1898)

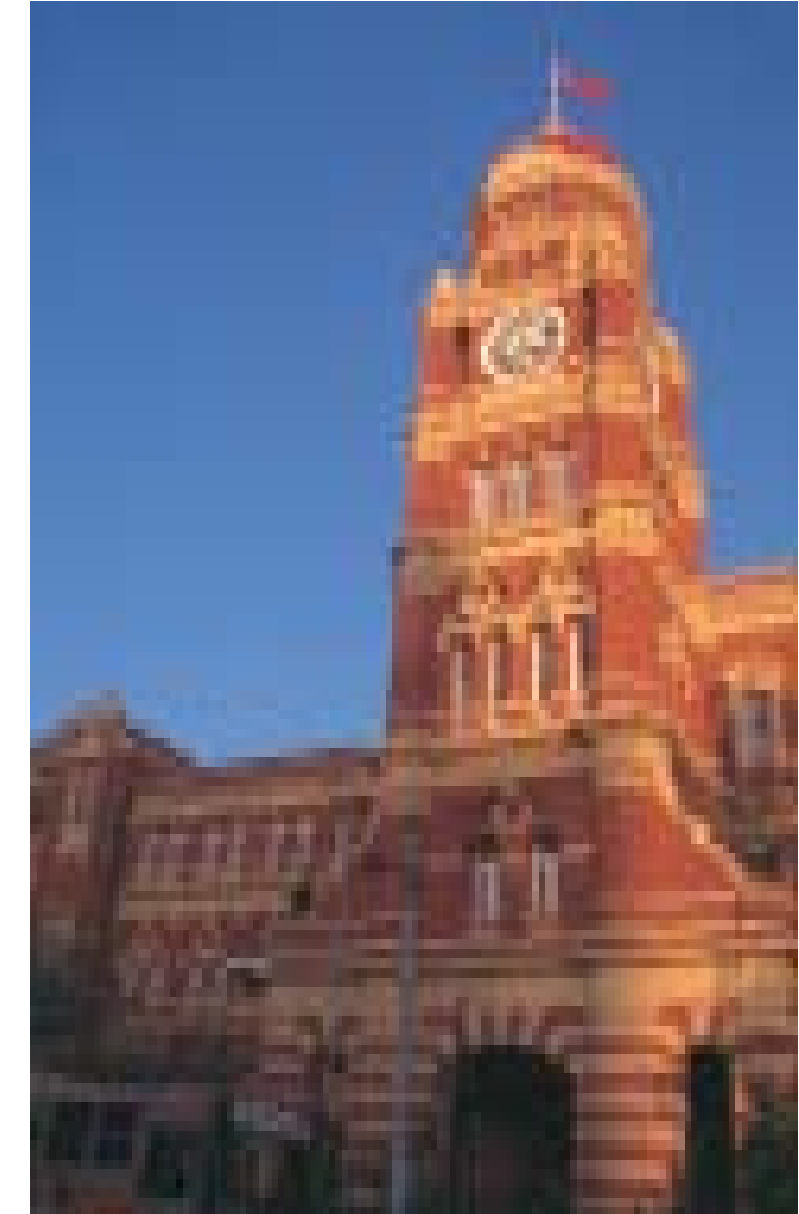


YANGON

At one time a simple Mon fishing village, Yangon rose to become the capital of Myanmar in 1885 after the British conquest of upper Myanmar. And today this city of some 4 million people still retains much of the charm of its colonial heritage. There are many fine examples of Victorian buildings and the wide city streets are lined with a great variety of beautiful old trees. In the center of town are bustling sidewalk markets, tea shops, street vendors, and trishaws and colorful 60 year old buses still used as local transport. The city has few tall buildings and sprawls out over many square kilometers, from its busy city center to leafy green suburbs. One central point is indelibly etched upon the landscape and that is the majestic 2500 year old Shwedagon pagoda which towers over everything, dominating the view and inspiring awe in Buddhist and non Buddhist alike. It is a unique reflection of Myanmar culture that in this major capitol city a pagoda is the tallest structure of all.



Shwedagon Pagoda



National High Court

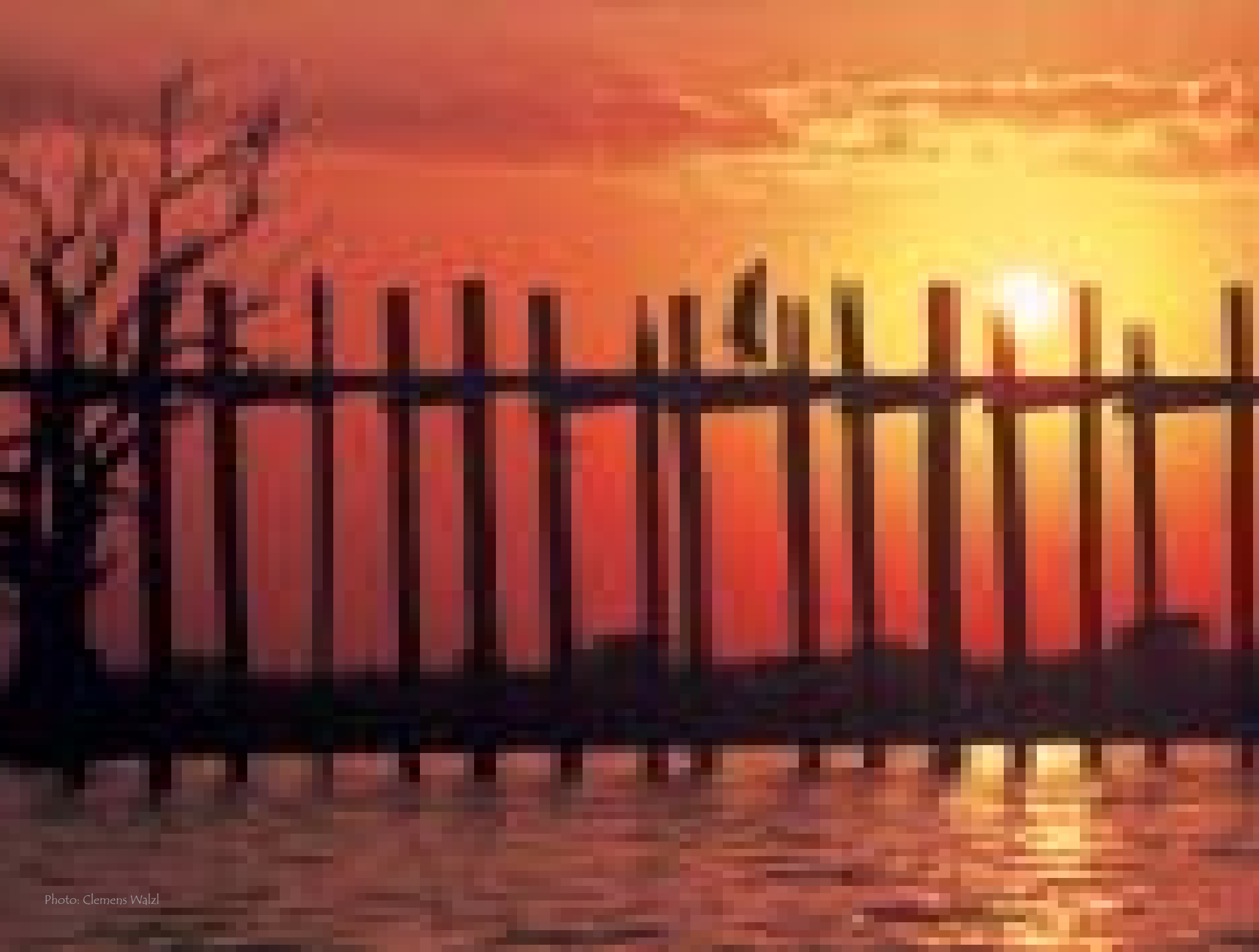


Photo: Clemens Walz

MANDALAY

Mandalay, the last royal capital of the Burmese kingdom, remains the spiritual heartland of the nation. Situated on the banks of the legendary Irrawaddy (now pronounced Ayeyarwaddy) river, the city neighbors the mountain regions of the Shan and Kachin people and acts as a gateway to the North. The nearby ancient royal cities make this one of Myanmar's most historical and culturally rich regions. Mandalay itself is home to many different forms of crafts as well as the world's largest book.



Sagaing Hill



Mandalay Palace

Photo: Clemens Walz

BAGAN

Bagan is one of the world's premier archaeological wonders. Founded in 849 AD on the flat plain overlooking the Ayeyarwaddy River, Bagan came into its prime when the Burman king Anawrahta rose to power in 1044. A prodigious period of temple building began and did not end until the invading armies of the Mongol Kublai Khan approached in 1287. Of the original 10,000 pagodas about 3,000 remain standing today, some small and graceful and some soaring toward the sky. Inside some temples, the original beautiful frescoes on the walls can still be seen and appreciated. One of the most beautiful sights in Myanmar is a panoramic view of the temples of Bagan at sunset and sunrise.



Photo: Clemens Walzl



Photo: Yin Nyo Tin



Photo: Yin Nyo Tin



View from
hot air balloon

INLE LAKE

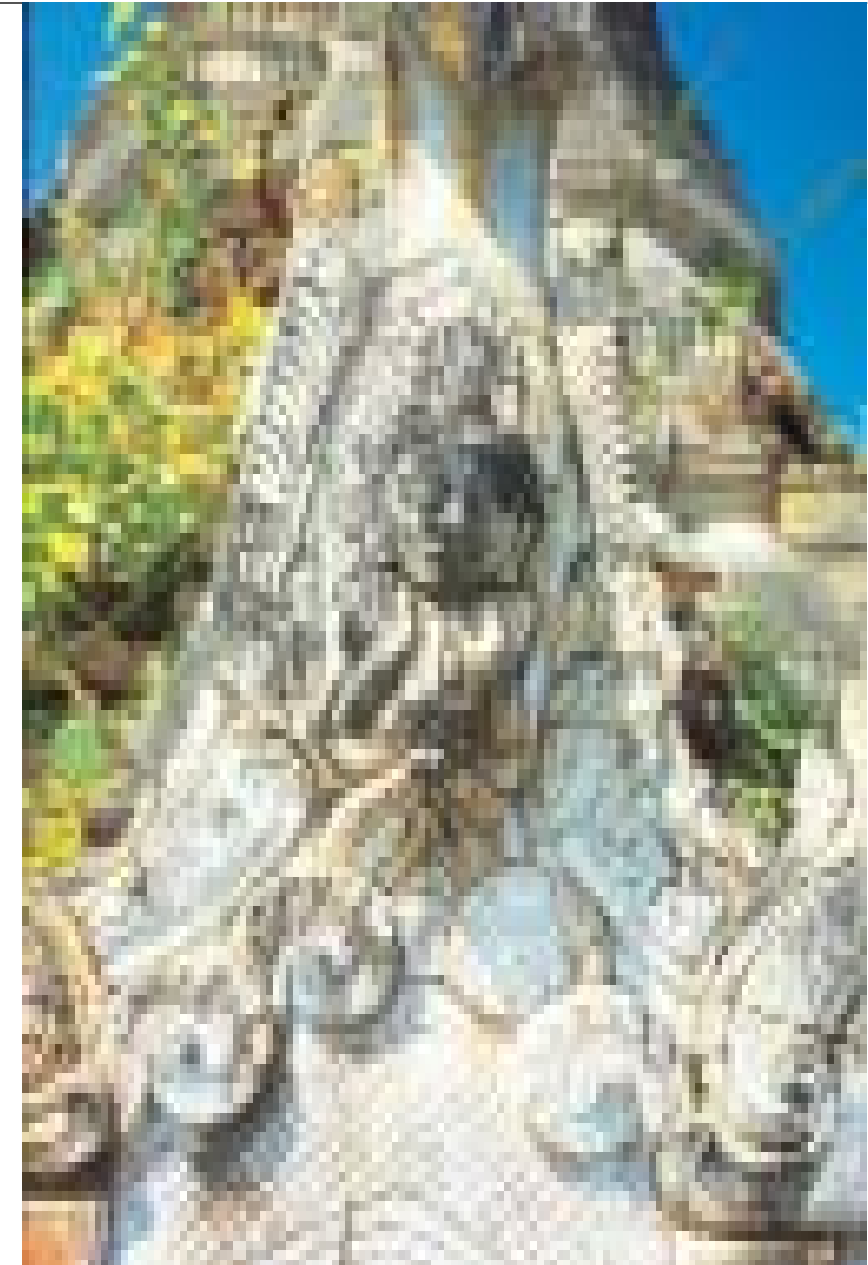
One of Myanmar's most popular and unique destinations is idyllic Inle Lake where the Intha people make their home. Here vegetable gardens float on the lake's surface, the fisherman row their slender boats with an innovative one-legged rowing style, and there is even a monastery where the monks have taught the resident cats to jump through small hoops. Surrounding the lake is a low range of mountains and it is possible to visit local villages by day treks. A wide range of bird species also inhabit the lake and its grasses adding to the beauty of this fascinating waterworld.



PaO ladies take a break from nearby market



Hotel at Inle Lake



Other Area of Interest

Myauk U

In the western Rakhine state just off the Bay of Bengal lie the remains of the last royal capital of the Rakhine dynasty, established in 1430 and lasting 350 years. This once almost invincible walled city was protected by a series of moats, canals and lakes and was an international trading port. Today it is a small quiet town surrounded by a few canals with the ruins of some 70 distinctive pagodas scattered in and about the town among scenic hilly terrain. A common sight is the women of Mrauk U going to the wells and ponds to fetch water with their aluminum pots balanced on their head or hips. And part of the adventure of Mrauk U is the getting there. After flying into the city of Sittwe north of Ngapali beach, you then must travel up the Kaladan river to reach Mrauk U. Although there is an express boat available, most people make the 5 to 7 hour trip using one of the older private boats for hire.



Mrauk-U

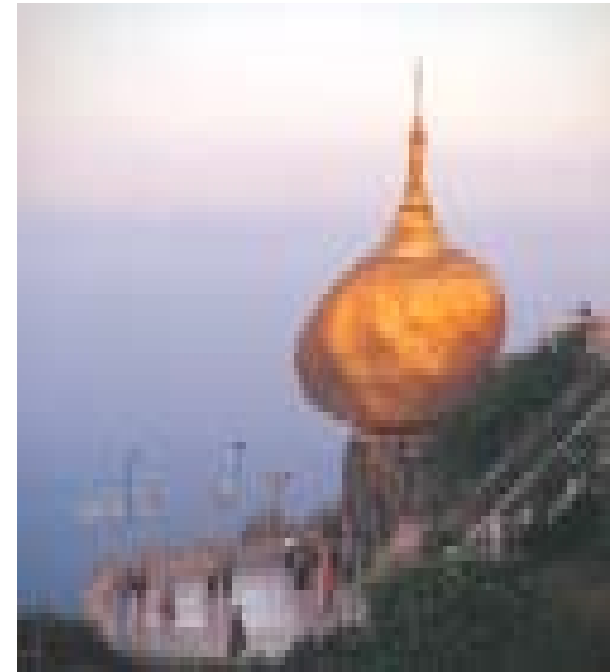


Akha lady

Photo: Yin Nyo Tin

c flights

from Heho. Located in the far eastern corner of the Shan State in the Golden Triangle, this remotely inhabited mountain valley is one of Myanmar's most scenic areas. And in addition to Kengtung's beauty and its cool, clean mountain air, diverse ethnic groups such as the Wa, Shan, Akha, Ann, and Lahu peoples are a main attraction for the few tourists who venture this way. Kengtung itself is built around a small lake and has some fine examples of colonial architecture and older Buddhist temples as well.



Golden Rock

Kyiakhtiyo (Golden Rock)

To reach Kyiakhtiyo one must drive north to Bago (Pegu) and then turn south and drive into the Mon state for another 4 hours. Kyiakhtiyo is one of the most revered Buddhist sites in Myanmar and is located high on a mountain. It is known as the 'balancing' or 'Golden Rock' and is supposedly held in place by a delicately placed hair of the Buddha. Vehicles are not permitted near the top where the Golden Rock sits so visitors must walk up the hill for about 45 minutes to reach the site.



Thanboddhay Pagoda

Monywa

This major agricultural trade center for the Chindwin valley is about 3 hours drive west of Mandalay and is located on the Chindwin river, one of the three major rivers in Myanmar. One of the prime attractions of Monywa is the very colorful Thanboddhay Pagoda which has 845 smaller stupas surrounding the richly decorated central stupa. It is very different from most other pagodas visitors will see in Myanmar. Also of interest are the Po Win Taung caves, located just across the river with their sandstone caves containing many Buddha images and interesting frescoes (paintings) on some of the cave walls.



NGAPALI BEACH

A short 40 minute flight from Yangon up Myanmar's west coast lies the beach resort of Ngapali beach. Here golden sand beaches, palm trees, and the clear green waters of the Bay of Bengal create an idyllic and relaxing environment. There are an increasing number of hotels in operation that offer attractive accommodations in all categories. And although 'quiet' is the watchword for Ngapali beach there are still a few windsurfers and sailboats for hire. Bicycles can also be rented to ride along the quiet roads and to visit nearby fishing villages. Or a small boat can take you just off shore where you can observe the local fisherman at work. In the evening, after the sun has slipped gracefully over the horizon, the beautiful night sky fills with bright stars and a romantic tropical moon. The perfect ending to the perfect Myanmar holiday.

Ngapali Beach



Bayview Resort



NGWE SAUNG BEACH

Ngwe Saung is located nearly directly west of Yangon and is also on the Bay of Bengal. The beach quality is similar to Ngapali beach and there are several hotels ranging from deluxe to standard. It can now be reached by flights with the new domestic carrier, Air Bagan, to the new airport at Patheingyi. From Patheingyi it is a one hour drive to the beach. It is also easily reached by car (about 5 hours drive from Yangon) and there is an overnight boat from Yangon two or three times a week in high season.



Myanmar Treasure Beach Resort

What's New in Myanmar

Qatar Airways flights

Since Jan of 2005, Qatar Airways has been flying four times weekly from Frankfurt, Germany to Yangon (via Doha).



Air Bagan

This season Air Bagan, a new domestic air carrier has begun service and now joins Air Mandalay and Yangon Airways as one of three private air carriers serving Myanmar domestic flight routes.

Spas

Spas are not exactly new in Myanmar but the increase in number and quality this year is worth noting. Visitors can enjoy top quality Spa services in Yangon, Bagan, Mandalay, Inle Lake and also at the beach resorts.



Lisu – white water rafting picture

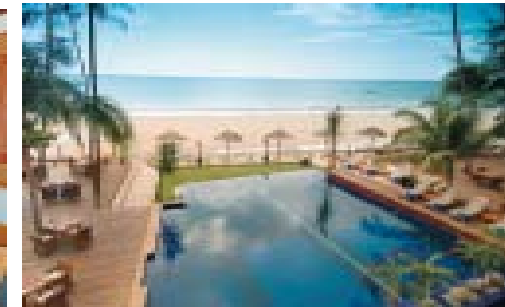
In the far north of Myanmar on the borders of Tibet and northern India lies one of the last great wilderness areas in the world. Here, in a beautiful natural setting, an exclusive lodge resort is being developed by the owners of Balloons Over Bagan. They will offer adventure tours including trekking, white water rafting and



mountain biking. A soft opening is scheduled for the first week of November 2005 with six bungalows due to be open. In all, ten luxury bungalows are planned along with a Spa

Asian Tourism Forum

The Asian Tourism Forum, one of the top travel shows for Asian destination tour operators and travel agents, was hosted in Yangon, Myanmar in 2006.



Hotels

New hotels have come up in the last year at all major destinations and a number of new hotel projects are also underway. One of the top hotels to open recently is the AMATA Resort and SPA at Ngpapali beach.



Photo: Clemens Walz

Some Popular Activities

Popular Cruises



Road To Mandalay
Operated by Eastern & Orient, this ship provides an international standard of luxury and service while cruising the fabled Ayeyarwaddy River between Mandalay and Bagan. Cruises also include land tours of Mandalay and Bagan. Longer cruises are also offered.

Pandaw 1947

This is the original Pandaw I ship, first operated by the IFC PANDAW company and now under the ownership of a new company. Built in 1947, it has been fully restored using teak and other hardwoods and is elegantly furnished with natural materials. Offering two and one night cruises between Mandalay and Bagan. Longer cruises are



not available. The IFC flotilla company, the originator of the Pandaw cruises, now operates with two elegantly finished river steamer replicas, the Pandaw II & IV, and will concentrate on only the longer expedition type cruises for the coming year. They will no longer offer the cruise between Mandalay and Bagan.

Trekking

The great natural beauty of Myanmar combined with numerous ethnic groups and great cultural richness makes Myanmar perfect for trekking. And such a tour can easily include all the main sightseeing highlights as well.



Photo: Yin Nyo Tin

Balloons Over Bagan

Ballooning has come a long way from the first flight in 1783 by the Montgolfier Brothers in Paris. Visitors to Myanmar can now enjoy the stunning view of Bagan's pagodas as they drift silently overhead in one of the three hot air balloons flown by Balloons Over Bagan. Flights are made at sunrise and sunset during the season (mid-Oct thru March) to maximize viewing pleasure. The balloons are manufactured in the UK and the operation follows strict UK guidelines.



Golf

Most people may not know very much about Myanmar and they may be surprised to learn that besides thousands of pagodas, Myanmar also has golf. In recent years the quality of golf courses in Yangon and Mandalay has improved such that Asian PGA events are now held there. In Bagan you can play on a course where the fairways meander between 1000 year old pagodas.

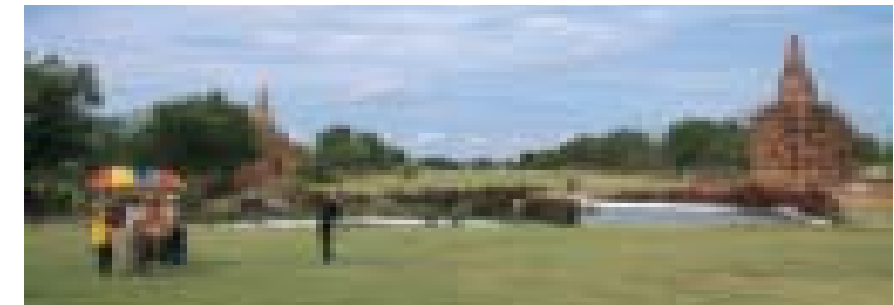




Photo: Clemens Wälzl

Itinerary Suggestions

- please contact us for custom-tailored made tours -

Yangon Stopover 4 days / 3 nights

For those with only a limited time, this program is a colorful introduction to the sights, sounds, and people of Myanmar -

Day 01 Yangon arrival (based on morning flight)

Transfer to the hotel and begin sightseeing including colorful downtown Yangon, Chaukhtatkyi, a colossal reclining Buddha; a scenic photo stop on beautiful Kandawgyi lake and the Shwedagon Pagoda, one of the world's most impressive golden stupas. O/N Yangon

Day 02 Yangon sightseeing

Continue Yangon sightseeing and highlights include the National Museum, which is filled with cultural exhibits from Myanmar's colorful past, and a visit to a family run cottage industry where glass is hand blown. Later visit Botahtaung Pagoda which is hollow and through which you can walk and see many ancient relics and artifacts. O/N Yangon

Day 03 Day at leisure (OR) optional excursion to Twante

(Twante excursion) - Today take a local early morning ferry up the Yangon river to the pottery making village of Twante. In addition to the local atmosphere on the ferryboat, enjoy this quiet village and see the interesting process of making clay pots. Return to Yangon by car and in the afternoon visit the famous Scott market, a sprawling 79 year old complex filled with handicrafts of Myanmar. O/N Yangon

Day 04 Yangon departure

At leisure until transfer to airport.

The Three Jewels 6 days / 5 nights



Day 01 Yangon arrival (based on morning flight)

Transfer to the hotel and begin sightseeing of colorful downtown Yangon, including Chaukhtatkyi, a colossal reclining Buddha; a scenic photo stop on beautiful Kandawgyi lake and the Shwedagon Pagoda, one of the world's most impressive golden stupas. O/N Yangon

Day 02 Yangon - Bagan (flight)

Morning flight to Bagan. Highlights of our visit include many of Bagan's distinctive pagodas and a local village. At sunset enjoy a panoramic view of the pagodas. O/N Bagan

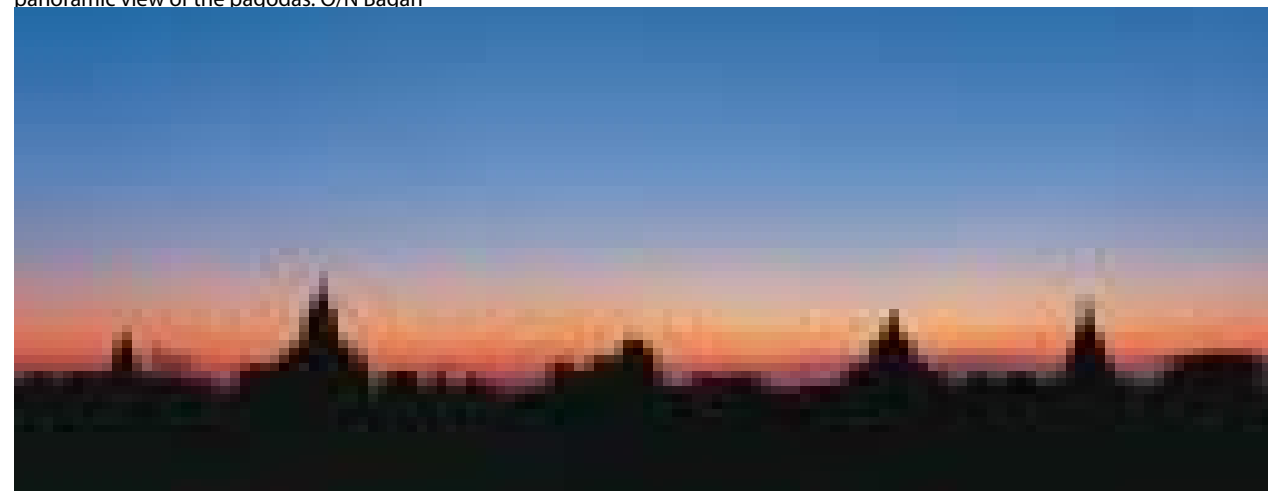


Photo: Clemens Wälzl

Day 03 Bagan

Continue sightseeing of Bagan's unique pagodas and temples, visit colorful Bagan market and also see Bagan's famous lacquerware being handcrafted. O/N Bagan

Day 04 Bagan - Mandalay (flight), Amarapura & Inwa sightseeing

Visit the former royal capital of Amarapura highlighted by a visit to U Bein's bridge, the world's longest teakwood structure. Then visit Inwa, another former royal capital, and travel by pony cart down tree lined paths to see old palace walls, wooden monasteries, and the 'leaning tower of Ava'. O/N Mandalay

Day 05 Mandalay sightseeing, Mandalay - Yangon (flight)

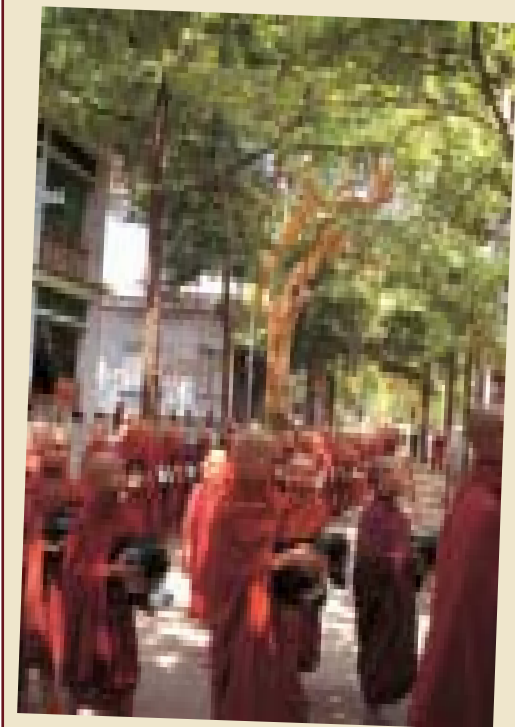
Sightseeing in Mandalay city, including the revered Mahamuni pagoda. Afternoon transfer to Mandalay airport for flight to Yangon. O/N Yangon

Day 06 Yangon

At leisure until departure transfer

Yangon - Bagan - Mandalay

The capitol city of Yangon, the culture and ancient royal capitals of Mandalay, and the archaeological wonders of Bagan in a well paced tour -



Yangon – Bagan – Pindaya – Inle Lake

A scenic and fascinating trip to the Shan State with a visit to the archaeological wonder of Bagan as well-



Photo: Yin Nyo Tin

The Shan Experience

7 days / 6 nights



Day 01 Yangon arrival (based on morning flight)

Transfer to the hotel and begin sightseeing including colorful downtown Yangon, Chaukhtatkyi, a colossal reclining Buddha; a scenic photo stop on beautiful Kandawgyi lake and the Shwedagon Pagoda, one of the world's most impressive golden stupas. O/N Yangon

Day 02 Yangon – Bagan (flight)

Morning flight to Bagan. Highlights of our visit include many of Bagan's distinctive pagodas and a visit to a local village. At sunset enjoy a panoramic view of the pagodas. O/N Bagan

Day 03 Bagan – Heho (flight), Pindaya

Fly to Heho in the Shan state and drive to Pindaya. Visit the fascinating Pindaya caves with their more than 8,000 Buddha images and see the interesting process of Shan umbrella making. O/N Pindaya or Kalaw

Day 04 Pindaya – Inle Lake (car)

Morning drive to Inle Lake and sightseeing by long tailed boat on this magical and unique shallow lake. Highlights include the boatmen with their 'one-legged' rowing style, the floating gardens, the 'jumping cats' monastery and more. O/N Inle Lake

Day 05 Inle Lake

Continue Inle Lake sightseeing today with a memorable visit to Indain village with its idyllic 16th century pagodas. We can also visit a local silk weaving 'factory' which sits on stilts on the lake. O/N Inle Lake

Day 06 Heho – Yangon (flight)

Afternoon visit to Botahtaung pagoda on the Yangon river and a chance for a last shopping spree at the sprawling 79 year old Bogyoke (Scott) Market, filled with a large collection of local hand-crafts and other items. O/N Yangon

Day 07 Yangon Departure

At leisure until airport transfer.



Essential Myanmar

9 days / 8 nights



Day 01 Yangon arrival & sightseeing

Arrival transfer and begin sightseeing, including colorful downtown Yangon, Chaukhtatkyi, a colossal reclining Buddha; a scenic photo stop on beautiful Kandawgyi Lake and the awe inspiring Shwedagon Pagoda. O/N Yangon

Day 02 Yangon – Mandalay (flight), excursion to Amarapura & Inwa

Morning arrival in Mandalay and sightseeing visit to the former royal capital of Amarapura, and see U Bein's Bridge, the world's longest teakwood structure. Then visit Inwa, another former royal capital, and travel by pony cart down tree-lined paths to see old palace walls, wooden monasteries, and the 'leaning tower of Ava'. O/N Mandalay

Day 03 Mandalay sightseeing

City sightseeing includes gold leaf hammering, Mahamuni pagoda, Shwenandaw Monastery, noted for its exquisite wood carvings; and Kuthodaw Pagoda, renowned as the world's largest book for its stone slabs of the entire Buddhist scriptures. End the day with a sunset view from Mandalay Hill. O/N Mandalay

Day 04 Mandalay – Bagan (Boat)

Early morning departure (0600) from Mandalay to Bagan by modern ferryboat service. A pleasant way to spend the day as you travel down the fabled Ayeyarwaddy River. Arrive in Bagan by late afternoon, in time for evening sightseeing. O/N Bagan

Day 05 Bagan sightseeing

In the morning continue sightseeing of one of Asia's premier archaeological sites. Highlights of our visit include many of Bagan's distinctive pagodas and the colorful local market as well. O/N Bagan

Day 06 Bagan – Heho (flight), Inle Lake

Fly to Heho and transfer to a hotel at Inle Lake. Begin sightseeing by long tailed boat of this magical and unique area. Highlights include the boatmen with their 'one-legged' rowing style, the floating gardens, the 'jumping cats' monastery and more. O/N Inle Lake

Day 07 Inle Lake

Continue Inle Lake sightseeing today with a memorable visit to Indain village with its idyllic 16th century pagodas. We can also visit a local silk weaving 'factory' which sits on stilts on the lake. O/N Inle Lake

Day 08 Heho – Yangon (flight)

Fly to Yangon and afternoon visit to Botahtaung pagoda on the Yangon river. For a last shopping spree go to the sprawling 79 year old Bogyoke (Scott) Market, filled with a large collection of local handicrafts and other items. O/N Yangon

Day 9 Yangon

At leisure until departure transfer

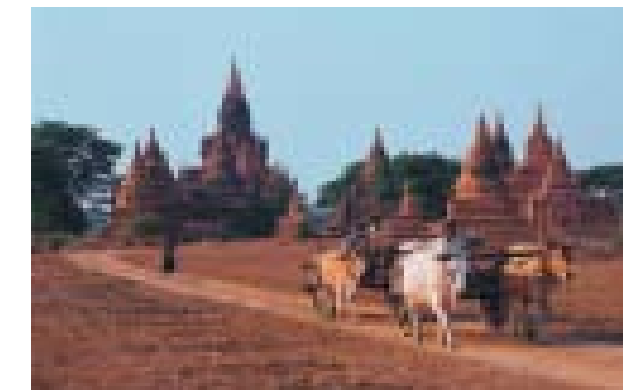
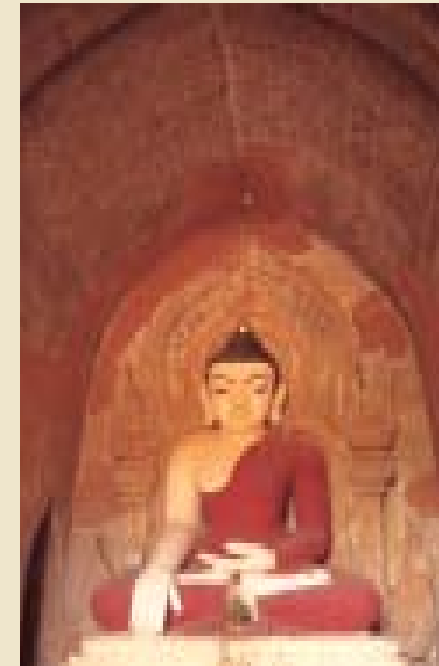


Photo: Clemens Walz

Yangon – Mandalay – Bagan – Inle Lake

Enjoy a varied and rewarding Myanmar experience with visits to the main historical destinations and a full day boat ride down the fabled Ayeyarwaddy River-





Classic Myanmar 10 days / 9 nights



Day 01 Yangon arrival (based on morning flight).
Transfer to the hotel and sightseeing including colorful downtown Yangon, Chaukhtatkyi pagoda, a colossal reclining Buddha; a scenic photo stop on beautiful Kandawgyi Lake and the Shwedagon Pagoda, one of the world's most impressive golden stupas. O/N Yangon

Day 02 Yangon – Bagan (flight)
Morning flight to Bagan. Highlights of our visit include many of Bagan's distinctive pagodas. At sunset enjoy a marvelous panoramic view of the pagodas. O/N Bagan

Day 03 Bagan, Salay & Mt. Popa excursion
Morning private boat ride downriver to Salay, a small quiet town with interesting monasteries and pagodas. Then drive to nearby Mt. Popa, an extinct volcano renowned as the home of the 'nats' (or spirits). Return to Bagan in the afternoon stopping to see a local toddy palm farm on the way. O/N Bagan

Day 04 Bagan–Mandalay (flight), Amarapura & Inwa
Visit the former royal capital of Amrapura highlighted by U Bein's Bridge, the world's longest teakwood bridge. Then visit Inwa, another former royal capital and travel by pony cart down tree-lined paths to see old palace walls, wooden monasteries and the 'leaning tower of Ava'. O/N Mandalay

Day 05 Mandalay city sightseeing and Mingun
In the morning travel by private riverboat upriver to the massive ruins of the Mingun pagoda and see the huge Mingun Bell.

Sightseeing in Mandalay includes Mahamuni Pagoda, gold leaf hammering, Shwe Inbin Monastery, and Shwenandaw Monastery, noted for its exquisite wood carvings. O/N Mandalay

Day 06 Mandalay – Heho (flight), Pindaya
Fly to the Shan state and drive to Pindaya. Visit the fascinating Pindaya caves with their more than 8,000 Buddha images and a Shan umbrella making cottage industry. O/N Pindaya

Day 07 Pindaya – Inle Lake (car)
Morning drive to beautiful Inle Lake and sightseeing highlights include the boatmen with their 'one-legged' rowing style, the floating gardens, the 'jumping cats' monastery and more. O/N Inle Lake

Day 08 Inle Lake
Continue Inle Lake sightseeing today with a memorable visit to Indain village with its idyllic 16th century pagodas. We can also visit a local silk weaving 'factory' which sits on stilts on the lake. O/N Inle Lake

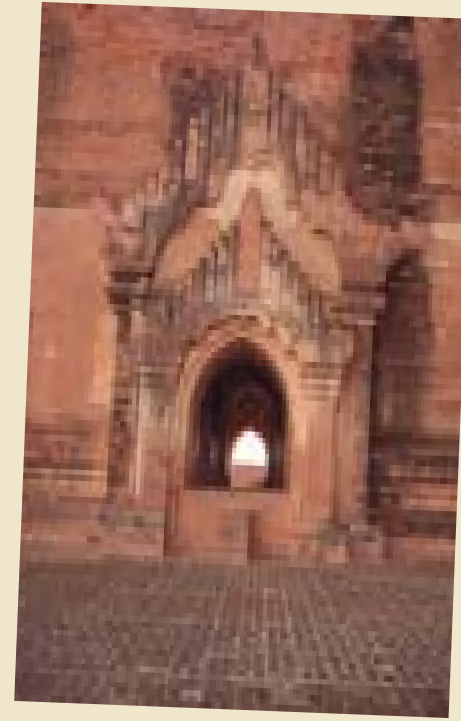
Day 09 Heho – Yangon (flight), Yangon sightseeing
Fly to Yangon and afternoon sightseeing including Botahtaung Pagoda and the sprawling 79 year old Scott market with its large collection of local handicrafts and other items. O/N Yangon

Day 10 Yangon
At leisure until departure transfer.



Yangon – Bagan – Mt. Popa – Salay – Mandalay – Pindaya – Inle Lake

A classic tour with all the main destinations plus Mt Popa, the fascinating caves of Pindaya, and the charming 'off the beaten path' town of Salay -



Yangon – Inle Lake
– Pindaya –
Mandalay – Maymyo-
Bagan – 1947 Pandaw

All the major destinations and featuring a cruise on the fabled Ayeyarwady River on board the elegant colonial steamer replica RV PANDAW -

Golden Myanmar

12 days / 11 nights



Day 01 Yangon arrival (based on morning flight).

Transfer to the hotel and begin our sightseeing including colorful downtown Yangon, Chaukhtatkyi, a colossal reclining Buddha; a scenic photo stop on beautiful Kandawgyi Lake and the Shwedagon Pagoda, arguably the world's most impressive golden stupa. O/N Yangon

Day 02 Yangon – Heho (flight), Inle Lake

Transfer to Inle Lake and begin sightseeing of this magical lake by private boat. Highlights include the boatmen with their unique 'one-legged' rowing style, the floating gardens, the 'jumping cats' monastery and more. O/N Inle Lake

Day 03 Inle Lake

Continue Inle Lake sightseeing today with a memorable visit to Indain village with its idyllic 16th century pagodas. We can also visit a local silk weaving 'factory' which sits on stilts on the lake. Afternoon drive to Pindaya. O/N Pindaya

Day 04 Pindaya, Heho – Mandalay (flight)

Morning visit to Pindaya caves, which contain more than 8,000 Buddha images. Sightseeing at the caves and then drive to Heho airport for afternoon flight to Mandalay. O/N Mandalay

Day 05 Mingun excursion & Mandalay sightseeing

Morning transfer to Mandalay jetty for a short and pleasant ride upriver to the massive ruins of the unfinished Mingun pagoda. Nearby we can also visit the Mingun Bell and Mingun village. Return to Mandalay and sightseeing includes Mahamuni Pagoda, gold leaf hammering, Shwe Inbin Monastery, and Shwenandaw Monastery, noted for its exquisite wood carvings.

O/N Mandalay

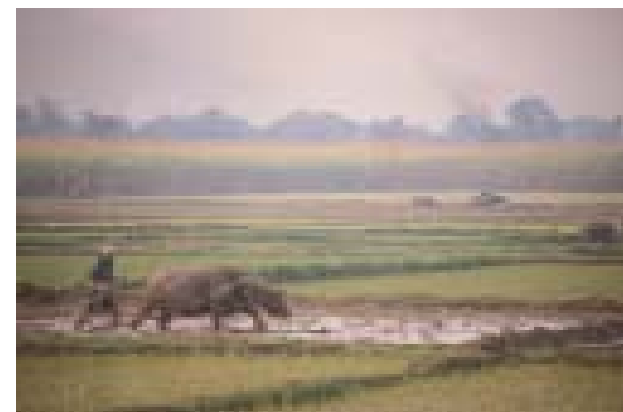
Day 06 Amarapura & Inwa

Sightseeing today includes visits to the former royal capitals of Amarapura and Inwa. At Amarapura visit U Bein's bridge, the world's longest teakwood bridge and then at Inwa travel by pony cart down tree lined paths to visit old palace walls, wooden monasteries and the 'leaning tower of Ava'. O/N Mandalay

Day 07 Mandalay – Maymyo (car)

Afternoon drive to the former British Hill Station of Maymyo and enjoy the cool temperatures and scenery. Sightseeing includes elegant old colonial houses, and the beautiful 237 acre botanical garden. There are many horse drawn carriages to enliven the scenery. O/N Maymyo.

Day 08 Mandalay – Bagan by 1947 PANDAW boat



Plowing rice field at Inle Lake



Embark the colonial style 1947 PANDAW river boat and morning departure for Bagan. O/N PANDAW

Day 09 On board the 1947PANDAW boat

Stop for early morning village walk at Sameikkon and evening stop for a visit to the tobacco trading town of Pakkoku. O/N PANDAW

Day 10 Bagan sightseeing

Morning arrival in Bagan and disembark the 1947 PANDAW. After transfer to the hotel begin our sightseeing of one of Asia's premier archaeological sites. Highlights of our visit will include many of Bagan's distinctive pagodas. At sunset enjoy a marvelous panoramic view of the pagodas. O/N Bagan

Day 11 Bagan sightseeing & Bagan –Yangon (flight)

Continue sightseeing of Bagan's unique pagodas, visit colorful Bagan market and also see some of Bagan's famous lacquerware being handcrafted. Transfer to airport for late day flight back to Yangon. O/N Yangon

Day 12 Yangon departure

At leisure until departure transfer.

Yangon – Kyiaktiyo – Pindaya – Inle Lake Mandalay – Monywa – Bagan – Mt. Popa

An all around tour that takes you from the Golden Rock at Kyiaktiyo in the south to the caves of Po Win Taung near Monywa. A boat trip down the legendary Ayeyarwaddy River is also part of this extended tour -



The Grand Tour

16 days / 15 nights



Day 01 Yangon arrival (based on morning flight).
Transfer to the hotel and begin sightseeing including colorful downtown Yangon, Chaukhtatkyi, a colossal reclining Buddha; a scenic photo stop on beautiful Kandawgyi Lake and the Shwedagon Pagoda, arguably the world's most impressive golden stupa. O/N Yangon

Day 02 Yangon-Kyiaktiyo(car)
Breakfast at the hotel before an early morning drive to Kyiaktiyo (about 5 hours), site of the famous 'Golden Rock'. It is a large boulder delicately balanced on the edge of a cliff near the top of a mountain and it is one of the most revered Buddhist shrines. O/N at Golden Rock.

Day 03 Kyiaktiyo-Bago-Yangon (car)
The morning sunrise at Kyiaktiyo is a memorable sight. After early morning sightseeing descend the mountain and drive back to Yangon. On the way to Yangon, we will visit some interesting pagodas as we pass through Bago, and also some nearby pottery making cottages. O/N in Yangon.

Day 04 Yangon-Heho(flight), Pindaya sightseeing
Breakfast at the hotel before transfer to Yangon airport to take the flight to Heho. After arrival proceed to Pindaya, noted for its extensive limestone caves filled with more than 8,000 Buddha images. See the interesting process of Shan umbrella making at

a family run umbrella business. O/N at Pindaya

Day 05 Pindaya-Inle(car), Inle sightseeing
Morning drive to magical Inle Lake, located about 1000 meters above sea level. Highlights include the fisherman rowing in their unique one-legged style and the floating gardens of grass and earth used for growing vegetables. Another attraction is a visit to the 'jumping cats' monastery, the Phaungdaw U Pagoda and the silk weaving looms. O/N Inle Lake

Day 06 Excursion to Sangha & Thakong Pagoda
After breakfast, travel by boat south for a journey to reach Sangha and Thakong at the far end of Inle Lake. This relaxing boat journey (about 3 hours one way) enables us to get off the beaten path and see unspoiled culture and the traditional life-styles of the ethnic groups living in the area. On our trip we will see beautiful landscapes, flowering trees and settlements dotting both sides of the canal. O/N Inle Lake

Day 07 Heho - Mandalay (flight), Mandalay sightseeing
Breakfast at the hotel before transfer to Heho airport to take the flight to Mandalay. Sightseeing in Mandalay includes Mahamuni Pagoda, gold leaf hammering, Shwe Inbin Monastery, and Shwenandaw Monastery, noted for its exquisite wood carvings. O/N Mandalay

Day 08 Excursion to Mingun & Mandalay sightseeing
Transfer to Mandalay jetty where we take a short and pleasant ride upriver to visit the massive ruins of Mingun, the site of what would have been the world's largest zedi had not King Bodawpaya died in 1819 thus halting all further work. Nearby we can also visit the Mingun Bell. Return to Mandalay and visit Kuthodaw Pagoda and then Mandalay Hill for sunset viewing. O/N Mandalay.

Day 09 Excursion to Inwa & Sagaing, Monywa(car)
Sightseeing today includes a visit to Inwa, which was founded in

1364 and lasted nearly 400 years as a royal capital, and to Sagaing, another former capital of the Shan kingdom. Then drive to Monywa, 135 km northwest of Mandalay and situated on the Chindwin River. En route visit colorful Thanboddhay Pagoda. O/N Monywa

Day 10 Monywa sightseeing, river boat to Bagan
Excursion across the Chindwin River to visit the fascinating Po Win Daung Caves and Shwe Ba Daung. Then take an afternoon cruise by boat down the river to Bagan. Late afternoon Bagan arrival and transfer to the hotel. O/N Bagan.

Day 11 Excursion to Mt. Popa
Morning drive to Mt. Popa which rose from the ground in a massive earthquake in 442 BC. Mt. Popa is famous as the abode of the Nats (Spirit Gods) and for its panoramic view of the local tropical region. On the way to Mt. Popa we visit a local farmer and see how toddy palm juice and sugar are produced. O/N Bagan.

Day 12 Bagan sightseeing
Today enjoy Bagan sightseeing. Highlights include visits to Nyaung Oo Market; and many of Bagan's distinctive pagodas. In the afternoon visit a lacquerware workshop and Dhammayangyi Pahto, a massive later period temple with the finest brickwork in Bagan. As the sun goes down we will be at one of the ideal viewing sites selected by our tour guide. O/N Bagan.

Day 13 Bagan - Yangon(flight), Yangon - Pyay(car)
Breakfast at the hotel before transfer to Bagan airport to take the flight to Yangon. Arrive in Yangon and drive to Pyay (Prome), which is about 5 driving hours and located on the bank of Ayeyarwaddy River. O/N Pyay

Day 14 Pyay sightseeing
Drive across the Ayeyarwaddy River to Htonbo village (about 2 hours drive) and take a short boat ride down the river to bring us to this unique mountain. On its cliff face are carved hundreds of Buddha images. Optional short but steep hike up to reach the top. Sightseeing highlights of Pyay include Shwesandaw pagoda. O/N Pyay

Day 15 Pyay - Yangon(car)
After breakfast drive back to Yangon, arriving late afternoon. O/N Yangon

Day 16 Yangon Departure
At leisure until departure transfer.



Yangon – Bagan – Mandalay

A Myanmar tour to combine with a Thailand tour program. This Myanmar program starts with the border crossing at Tachilek -



Photo: Clemens Walz



Myanmar Plus, (to add with a Thailand trip) 8 days / 7 nights



Day 01 Tachilek border crossing, and flight to Heho
Cross from Thailand into Myanmar at the town of Tachilek and after immigration processing transfer to airport for flight to Heho. Arrive at Heho, transfer to Inle Lake and check in to the hotel. O/N Inle Lake

Day 02 Inle Lake
Transfer to a hotel at Inle Lake and begin sightseeing by long tailed boat of this magical and unique area. Highlights include the boatmen with their 'one-legged' rowing style, the floating gardens, and a memorable visit to Indain village with its idyllic 16th century pagodas. We can also visit a local silk weaving 'factory' which sits on stilts on the lake. O/N Inle Lake

Day 03 Inle Lake, Heho – Mandalay (flight)
Morning sightseeing on the lake and afternoon transfer to Heho airport for flight to Mandalay. Transfer to hotel. O/N Mandalay

Day 04 Mandalay city sightseeing
In the morning travel upriver by private boat to the massive ruins of the Mingun pagoda. Also visit Mingun village and the Mingun Bell, the largest hanging uncracked bell in the world. Return to Mandalay and sightseeing includes Mahamuni

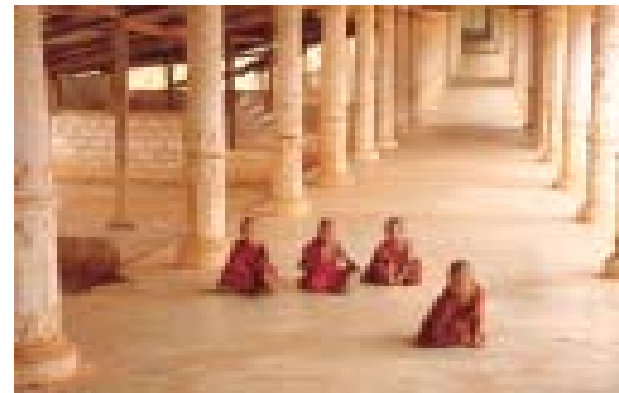
Pagoda, gold leaf hammering, and Shwenandaw Monastery, noted for its exquisite wood carvings. O/N Mandalay

Day 05 Mandalay – Bagan by ferry boat
Take a ride on the local ferry (private reserved seats) and enjoy a leisurely day traveling down the legendary Ayeyarwaddy River. Arrive in Bagan in time for evening sightseeing and enjoy the sunset view from one of the pagodas. O/N Bagan

Day 06 Bagan
After breakfast continue sightseeing of one of Asia's premier archaeological sites. Highlights of our visit include Bagan's distinctive pagodas, the colorful local market, and a visit to a local village. O/N Bagan

Day 07 Bagan – Yangon (flight)
Fly to Yangon by morning flight and Yangon sightseeing including Botahtaung Pagoda and the sprawling 79 year old Scott market with its large collection of local handicrafts and other items. O/N Yangon

Day 08 Yangon
At leisure until departure transfer



Yangon – Mandalay – Pandaw Cruise – Bagan – Inle Lake – Ngapali Beach

The perfect itinerary for a honeymoon; all the major destination combined with beautiful hotels and highlighted with a cruise on the Ayeyarwady river and a beach stay at the elegant Sandoway Resort -

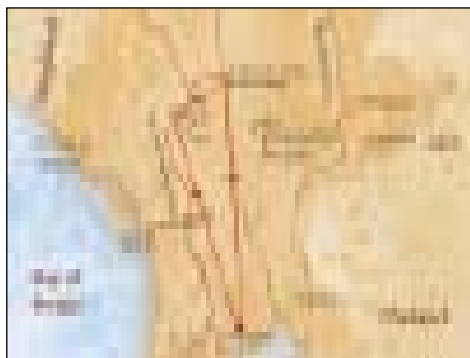


Governor's Residence (Pansea Hotel)



Inle Princess Resort

Honeymoon – Anniversary Myanmar 15 days / 14 nights



Day 01 Yangon arrival

Yangon arrival and check in to the deluxe Pansea hotel, a charming boutique hotel located in the embassy quarter and with 3 acres of attractively landscaped grounds. After lunch begin with Yangon sightseeing including Chaukhtatkyi, a colossal reclining Buddha, a tour of the downtown area with its many colonial era building still in use, and a visit to the awe-inspiring Shwedagon Pagoda. O/N at the Governor's Residence (formerly known as the Pansea)

Day 02 Yangon at leisure and sightseeing

Relaxing at the hotel (it has a lovely pool) and more Yangon sight-



Governor's Residence (Pansea Hotel)

seeing as desired. The car and guide will be standing by for your use. O/N at the Governor's Residence (Pansea hotel).

Day 03 Yangon – Mandalay (flight), sightseeing

Sightseeing of the former royal capital of Amarapura which we pass on our way to the hotel. Check in to the luxurious Sedona Mandalay Hotel Premier Suite with its own private balcony and great view over Mandalay Palace. Afternoon city sightseeing including silversmithing and gold leaf making workshops. Later a panoramic view from Mandalay Hill. O/N Mandalay Sedona hotel Premier Suite

Day 04 Inwa & Sagaing

After Breakfast we visit another former royal capital, Inwa. Travel by pony cart down tree-lined paths and see the ruins of old palaces, "the leaning tower of Ava", and the Ok Kaung Monastery, one of Myanmar's view remaining wooden monasteries. Then cross the river by the Ava bridge to visit Sagaing Hill. Formerly a royal capital of the Shan kingdom it is now primarily a religious center. From Sagaing Hill you have wonderful view of the Ayeyarwady River and looking back at Mandalay. O/N Mandalay Sedona hotel Premier Suite

Day 05 Pandaw River Cruise

In the morning embark on the 1947 PANDAW, an elegantly restored river steamer from the bygone Colonial era. Teakwood cabins and rattan furniture help provide an aura of relaxation and luxury. A two night cruise to Bagan on the legendary Ayeyarwady River with a couple of shore visits to local villages included. O/N Pandaw.

Day 06 Pandaw Cruise

Continue cruise and O/N Pandaw.

Day 07 Bagan arrival, disembark Pandaw

Morning arrival in Bagan and after Breakfast disembark at one of Asia's premier archaeological sights. Transfer to the lovely Thiripyitsay hotel on the banks of the river. Afternoon sightseeing of Bagan's distinctive temples and pagodas and then a sunset pony cart ride to a temple where we climb up for a panoramic view of the pagodas and the sunset. O/N Thiripyitsaya River Suite



Inle Princess Resort

Day 08 Bagan and Sunrise Hot Air Balloon flight

Early morning wake up call to transfer to the take off site of the hot air balloon. Take off before sunrise and see the sun come up as you drift slowly over the pagodas for about 50 minutes before landing and enjoying celebratory champagne. Return to the hotel in time for breakfast and enjoy the rest of day at leisure. O/N Thiripyitsaya River Suite

Day 09 Bagan – Heho by morning flight

Today fly to the Shan state for a visit to beautiful Inle Lake. Located at 900 meters elevation, and at 22 km long by 11 km wide, Inle Lake offers plenty to see and do and is also very relaxing. Transfer from Heho airport to Inle Lake then transfer by private long tailed boat to the romantic and beautiful Inle Princess Resort, nestled on the eastern shore of the lake. After check-in enjoy sightseeing on the lake of the floating gardens, the Inle boatmen with their unique one-legged rowing style and the semi-famous 'jumping cats monastery'. O/N at Inle Princess Resort Lakeview Chalet

Day 10 Inle Lake – Indein sightseeing

Take a scenic boat ride up a creek to reach the 16th century pagodas of Indain. Truly an 'Indiana Jones' type setting with the crumbling pagodas and underbrush. O/N at Inle Princess Resort Lakeview Chalet

Day 11 Heho – Ngapali beach by flight

Take leave of the beauty of Inle Lake and fly to another kind of beauty, the white sands of Ngapali beach. Arrive by afternoon flight and check into the romantic cottages of Sandoway Resort. Enjoy

the beach and the hotel which is elegantly furnished with natural woods, is beautiful landscaped and has great cuisine as well. O/N at Sandoway Resort Beachfront Cottage

Day 12 Ngapali beach

O/N at Sandoway Resort Beachfront Cottage

Day 13 Ngapali beach

O/N at Sandoway Resort Beachfront Cottage

Day 14 Ngapali beach – Yangon flight

Afternoon flight Ngapali beach to Yangon and transfer to Pansea Hotel. At leisure or sightseeing shopping. Car/driver and guide will be available. O/N at The Governor's Residence (Pansea hotel).

Day 15 Yangon

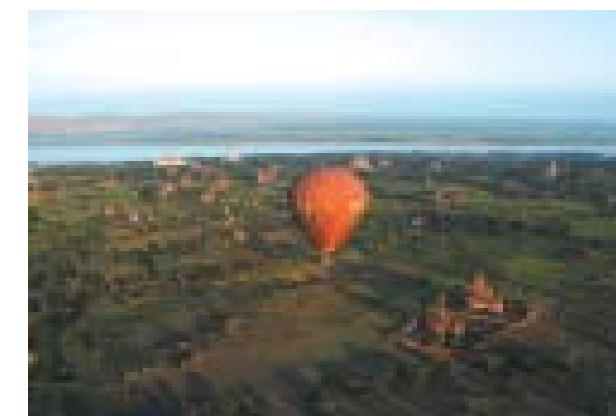
At leisure until Departure Transfer



Sandoway Resort



Sandoway Resort



Birdwatching 8 days / 7 nights



Day 01 Yangon arrival

Arrival transfer and begin our sightseeing, including colorful downtown Yangon, Chaukhtatkyi, a colossal reclining Buddha; a scenic photo stop on beautiful Kandawgyi Lake and the awe inspiring Shwedagon Pagoda. O/N Yangon

Day 02 Yangon drive to Moeyinghi, birdwatching

Early morning drive to Moeyinghi bird watching park just north of Bago (about 2 hours drive). Visit the water park refuge by boat and also use the observation stands. O/N at the unique hotel boat at the refuge

Day 03 Morning birdwatching and return to Yangon

Morning birdwatching at the refuge and after lunch drive back to Yangon. Sightseeing in Bago on the way to see temples and monasteries. O/N Yangon

Day 04 Yangon - Bagan (flight)

Morning flight to Bagan. Highlights of our visit include many of Bagan's distinctive pagodas. At sunset enjoy a panoramic view of the pagodas. O/N Bagan

Day 05 Bagan - Mt Popa (car), birdwatching

Drive to nearby Mt Popa which has an abundance of birdlife and butterflies. Trekking on the nature trails around the mountain. O/N at the luxurious Popa Mt. Resort

Day 06 Popa Mt. to Bagan

Morning bird watching on the mountain and return to Bagan. Afternoon at leisure. O/N Bagan

Day 07 Bagan - Heho (flight), Inle Lake sightseeing

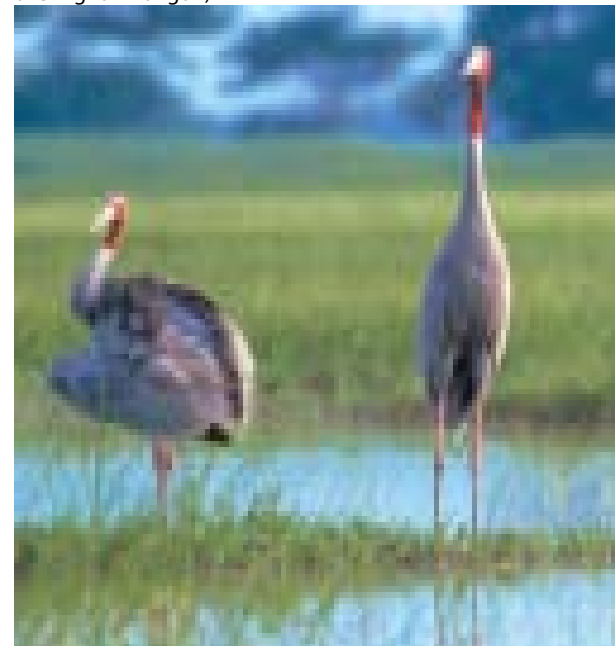
Morning flight to Heho and transfer to Inle Lake. Highlights include sightseeing of the floating gardens, the one-leg rowing boatman, and birdwatching. O/N Inle Lake

Day 07 Sightseeing & birdwatching on Inle Lake

Continue our sightseeing with a visit to the 16th century pagodas of Indein and birdwatching on the lake. O/N Inle Lake

Day 08 Heho - Yangon (flight), dep or O/N

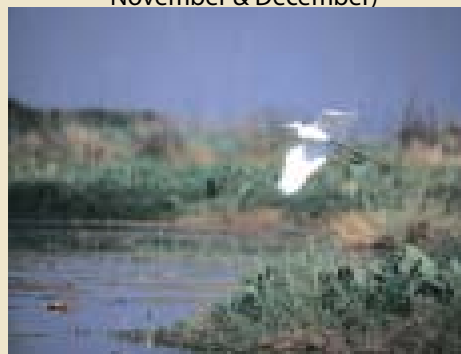
Morning flight to Yangon and connect to departure flight (or overnight in Yangon)



Yangon - Moeyinghi - Bagan - Mt. Popa - Inle Lake

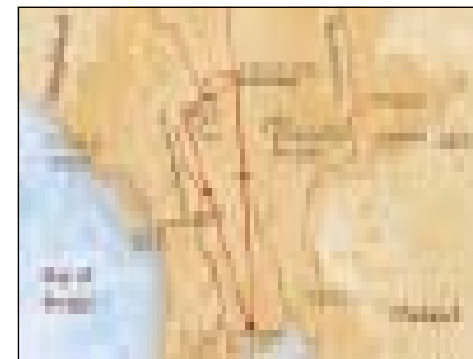
A tour which combines birdwatching with some of Myanmar's best sightseeing -

(Best time of year for birdwatching is November & December)



Trekking & Adventure

10 days / 9 nights



Day 01 Yangon arrival

Arrival transfer and begin sightseeing, including colorful downtown Yangon, Chaukhtatkyi, a colossal reclining Buddha; a scenic photo stop on beautiful Kandawgyi Lake and the awe inspiring Shwedagon Pagoda. O/N Yangon

Day 02 Yangon - Bagan (flight)

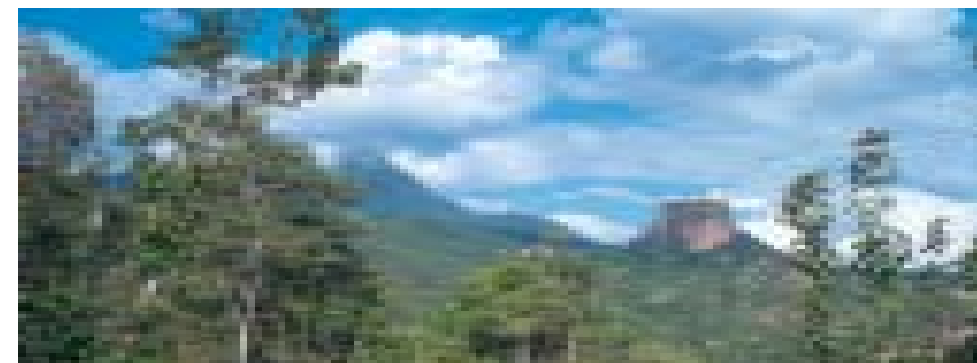
Morning flight to Bagan. Highlights of our visit include many of Bagan's distinctive pagodas and local villages. At sunset enjoy a panoramic view of the pagodas. O/N Bagan

Day 03 Bagan - Salay by boat, drive to Mt. Popa

A scenic private boat trip downriver (about 2-3 hours) to visit the small town of Salay with its charming array of temples and pagodas. After visit Salay drive to Popa Mountain Resort. O/N Popa Mt Resort

Day 04 Trekking, Mt. Popa

Trekking to the summit of Mount Popa (1,518m) offers magnificent scenery, cool mountain breeze, and rewarding sights of rare flora and fauna. O/N Popa Mt. Resort



Day 05 Mt. Popa - Pindaya (car)

Spend the day with a relaxing drive into the Shan State to the small town of Pindaya with its many Buddha statues hidden in every nook and cranny. O/N Pindaya

Day 06 Pindaya visit & trekking to monastery

Morning visit to Pindaya caves and then trek up the mountain to Yasakyi monastery for a visit and overnight stay. O/N Yasakyi monastery

Day 07 Drive to Inle Lake

Morning walk down to transportation and transfer to beautiful Inle lake. Sightseeing includes the floating gardens, silk weaving, and the unique one-legged rowing style of Inle boatmen. O/N Inle Lake

Day 08 Trekking at Inle Lake

Morning trekking on east hills of Inle Lake and visit local villages along the way. Enjoy a panoramic view down on to the lake. O/N Inle Lake

Day 09 Inle Lake sightseeing

A memorable visit today to Indain village with its idyllic 16th century pagodas semi-hidden in the brush. A real 'Indiana Jones' type experience. O/N Inle Lake

Day 10 Heho - Yangon (flight)

Heho to Yangon flight, connect to evening dep flight or overnight

Yangon - Bagan - Mt. Popa - Pindaya - Inle Lake

Enjoy the best of Myanmar nature with enjoyable hiking in 3 unique settings -



Village Street at Pindaya

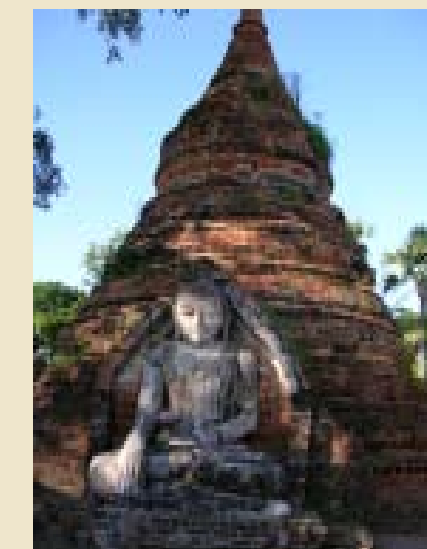
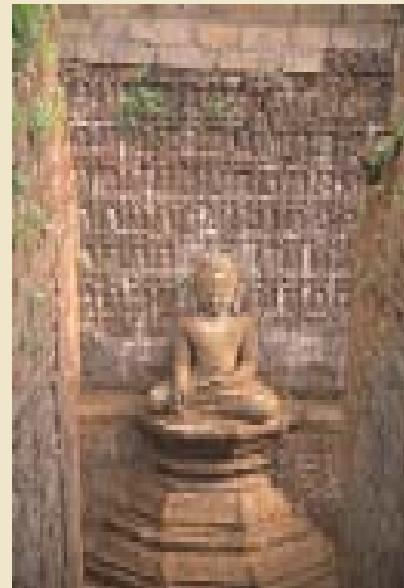


Photo: Yin Nyo Tin

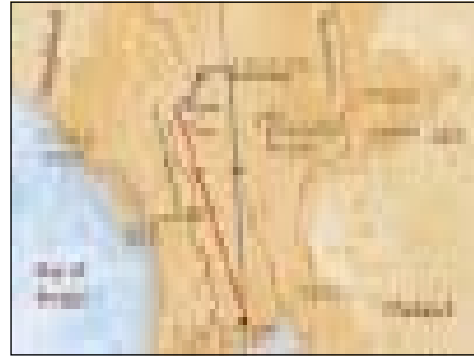
Yangon – Bagan – Mandalay

Enjoy great golf and great sightseeing,
all in one tour -



Golf & Sightseeing

9 days / 8 nights



Day 01 Yangon arrival

Arrival and after hotel check-in transfer to the Yangon Golf Club. Established in 1909, this is a fair but challenging course nicely laid out amidst the trees and rolling hills of northern Yangon. It is a regular stop on the Asian PGA tour. O/N Yangon

Day 02 Golf at YCDC course

There are two 18 hole courses to choose from, the Pondi Course and the Silvery Course. The Pondi course was established in 1996 and is a tight course requiring accuracy. The Silvery course is more wide open and suited to players of all abilities. O/N Yangon



Day 03 Yangon – Bagan (flight), Bagan sightseeing
Early morning flight Yangon to Bagan and after check-in begin sightseeing of one of Asia's most impressive archaeological sites. O/N Bagan

Day 04 Golf in Bagan

Golf at Bagan Golf Resort. Today it is back to golf and after studying the pagodas yesterday now we play among them. A fun golf course. O/N Bagan

Day 05 Bagan – Mandalay (flight), Mandalay sightseeing

Morning flight to Mandalay and sightseeing includes the former royal capitals of Amarapura and Inwa and a short boat ride to visit the massive ruins of the Mingun pagoda. O/N Mandalay

Day 06 Golf in Mandalay

Today play at the Mandalay Hill Golf Club, located at the foot of famous Mandalay Hill. This is another 18 hole course with interesting scenery. O/N Mandalay

Day 07 Mandalay – Yangon (flight), Yangon sightseeing

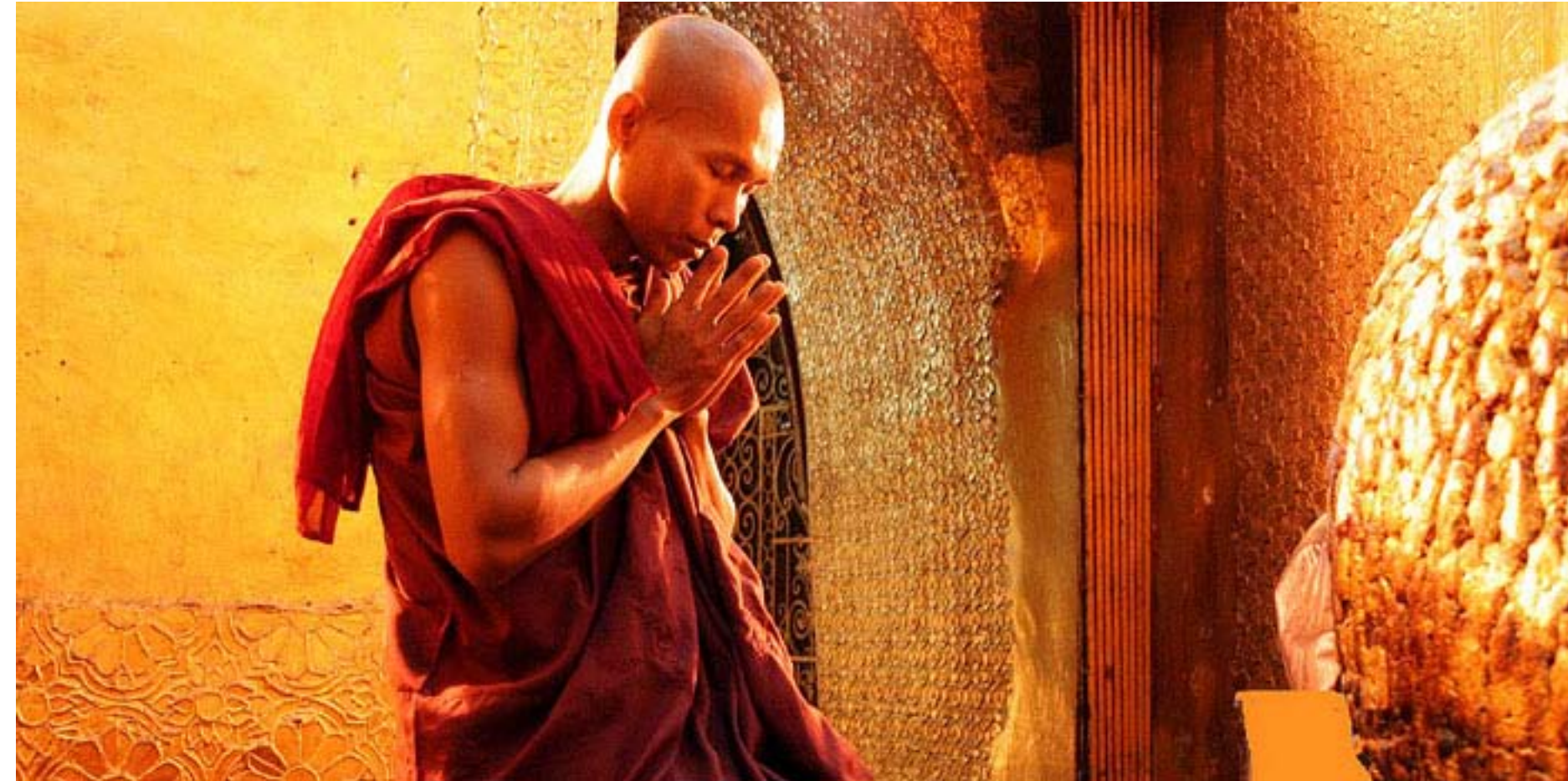
Morning flight Mandalay to Yangon and afternoon sightseeing including the awe inspiring Shwedagon pagoda, a visit to Chinatown and the famous Scott market which offers an excellent chance for a last shopping spree. O/N Yangon

Day 08 Golf in Yangon and dep transfer

Today play the beautiful Pan Hlaing Championship Golf course designed by Gary Player. Have lunch at the club and finish in time to check out from the hotel and transfer to the airport for evening dep flight to Bangkok.

Day 09 Yangon (optional)

* (alternative) stay overnight in Yangon with dep on Day 09



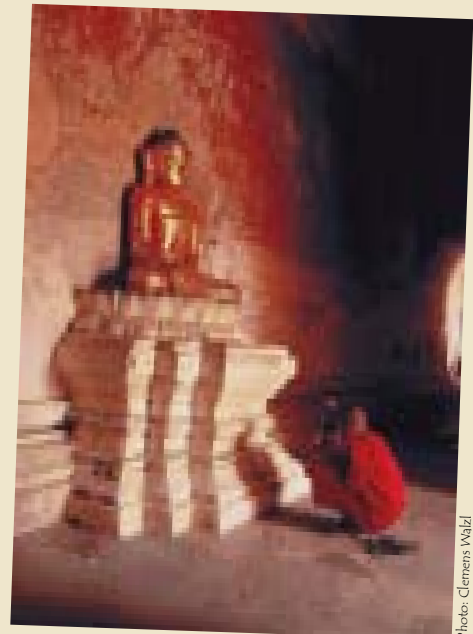


Photo: Clemens Walz

And More....

Tour Extensions and Add-on ideas to spice up your program.

Mogoke – about a seven hour drive north of Mandalay, Mogoke is famous for its beautiful rubies and sapphires which are mined there. Located at 1170 meters in picturesque natural surroundings.

Kyiaktiyo (Golden Rock) – previously mentioned.

Pyay (Prome) – Five hours drive northwest of Yangon and located on the Ayeyarwaddy River, Pyay was established as a trade center during the Bagan era. Some of the ancient Pyu civilization flourished here. You can also see nearby Akauk Mt., noteworthy for its hundreds of Buddha images carved in its cliff face.

Monywa – (previously mentioned)

Mawlaymine – Go further south into the Mon state from Kyiaktiyo and you will reach Mawlaymine, a former capital of British Burma and it is Myanmar's third largest city with a population of 300,000. Rich in decaying colonial architecture and still much used in coastal shipping.

Mrauk-U – (previously mentioned)

Patheingyi – Myanmar's fourth largest city is located in the south in the Ayeyarwaddy Delta. This agricultural region grows the best rice in Myanmar. There is a picturesque waterfront area, bustling markets, and the city is noted for its hand painted umbrellas.

Kengtung – (previously mentioned)

Mandalay/Bhamo boat trip – A soft adventure trip is to take the local boat (you can get private cabins) north on the Ayeyarwaddy river to reach Bhamo, passing through three defiles on the way.

Naga festival – It is possible to arrange a trip to visit the Naga, who live near the Bangladesh border. Former headhunters, a few who only reformed as recently as the 1950's, they wear colorful costumes at festival time, and can still look fierce.

Steam engine – It may take some effort but it can be done. For the serious train enthusiast, train trips, utilizing private coaches and steam engines at times, can be arranged.

Trekking – (previously mentioned)

Beach Resorts – (previously mentioned)

Excursion to Twante – Liven up your visit to Yangon with a short morning ride down the Yangon River to the local village of Twante where they make much of the pottery used in the Delta and Yangon area. It is about a 3 hour boat ride to Twante which you will share with Myanmar locals – a real Discovery Channel experience.

Bird watching – World class bird watching is available at Moyingyi Wetlands just 70 miles north of Yangon.

Meditation – There is no better country to come to for a serious study of meditation. And even if you are not that serious, you can come and do a combined meditation and leisure tour.

Golf tours (previously mentioned)

Historical tours – for those interested in history, it can be



possible to organize tours that highlight places of historical interest, e.g., sites along the river which were key in the wars between the British and the Burmans.

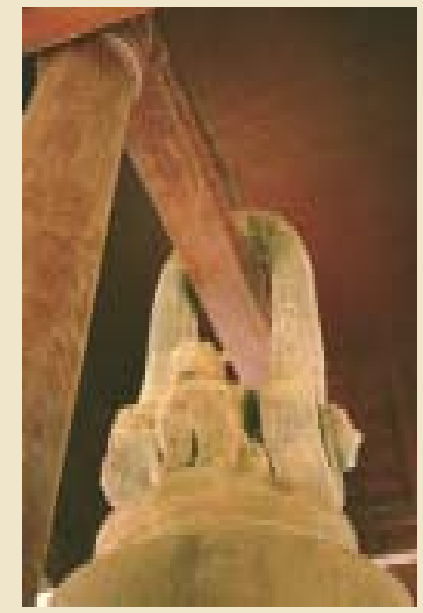
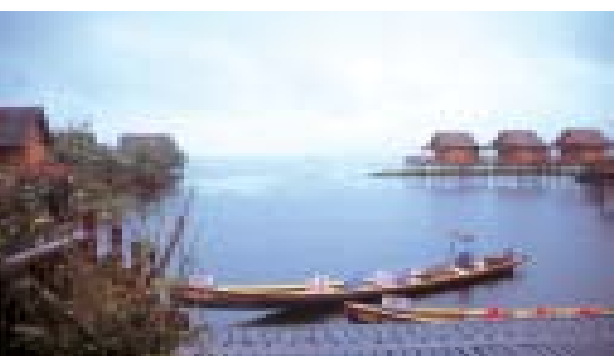
Inle Lake Festival tour – The Paungdaw Oo pagoda festival which takes place at Inle Lake in October (sometimes partly in September depending on the moon cycle) is one of the most colorful and popular festivals with visitors.

Balloons Over Bagan – (previously mentioned)

Honeymoon tour – Honeymooners would likely find anyplace romantic but Myanmar truly does mesmerize, from the incredibly exotic Honeymoon bungalows at Kandawgyi Palace hotel to the beauty of its beaches.

River expeditions – Several opportunities for river cruises exist. The previously mentioned IFC PANDAW, 1947 PANDAW, and the ROAD TO MANDALAY cruise boats both do extended trips at select dates. In addition the DELTA QUEEN boat offers overnight trips between Yangon and Patheingyi. From Patheingyi it is an hours drive to Ngwe Saung Beach. The boat is fairly modern and though cabins are small, they

are tidy and well kept. With Myanmar's vast river system there is great potential for river cruising.





The Strand



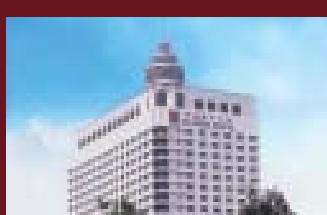
Savoy



Pansea



Kandawgyi



Traders

Hotel Descriptions

We make the following brief assessment for your general knowledge. The hotels we use are clean and of good standard (or in some few cases simply the best available). There are also many good budget hotels that we have not mentioned. Most hotel brochures are available on request.

Super Deluxe
The Strand Hotel - built in 1901 the Strand is recognized as a national landmark. Renovated and reopened in 1993, it is located on Strand Road just across from the shipping areas on the Yangon River. A lovely lobby and bar set below the two levels of very large and graciously appointed rooms make for an intimate and old style colonial experience. Food and service are first rate.
31 rooms tel: 95-1 281532/243377
fax: 95-1 289880/243393

Savoy Hotel - a small privately run boutique hotel in a classic colonial style. The hotel combines traditional European and Burmese finishings and antiques. Attractive teak wood is used throughout. Located about 15 minutes north of city center, it has good food, a cozy bar area, excellent wine selection and lots of nice 'nooks and crannies' for great atmosphere. The courtyard contains a swimming pool and garden area. Rooms are large, well appointed and have hardwood floors.
30 rooms tel: 95-1 526289/526306
fax: 95-1 524891/524892

PanSea Hotel (now called The Governor's Residence) - a boutique hotel restored from a Burmese teak mansion. A relaxing and serene setting on lovely grounds in the Embassy Quarter of Yangon about a 5 minute drive from downtown. Beautifully landscaped and has a scenic pond and large inviting swimming pool. Rooms are spacious, well appointed and have hardwood floors. A member of the PanSea group of hotels.
45 rooms tel: 95-1 229860/229861
fax: 95-1 228260

Deluxe
Hotel Nikko Royal Lake - this property is situated a little off the northeast edge of Kandawgyi Lake and about a 15 minute drive from downtown Yangon.

YANGON
The hotel features a large attractive grassy courtyard with many palm trees and a large and beautiful 'L' shaped swimming pool set below an artificial waterfall and bordered by statues. Fitness center. Rooms are pleasingly decorated and open on to a small balcony. A member of the Japanese Nikko chain of hotels.
256 rooms tel: 95-1 544500
fax: 95-1 544400

Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel - formerly the Sofitel, this hotel was taken over by the Parkroyal group in 2003, and now operates under its new name and management. It is conveniently located at the edge of town center and you can walk to the famous Scott Market. In the inner courtyard is a tennis court and swimming pool. There is also a large fitness center. Rooms are adequately sized with pleasing decor.
359 rooms tel: 95-1 250388/252474
fax: 95-1 252478/252475

Kandawgyi Palace Hotel - from the exterior a very impressive looking large teakwood hotel. The hotel is located so that many of the rooms have a splendid view on the nearby Shwedagon Pagoda. Rooms on the other side have a scenic view of Kandawgyi Lake. The rooms are nicely styled with teakwood floors. A swimming pool is set in the large tropical garden at the back of the hotel near the two 'honeymoon bungalows'. The grounds at the rear of the hotel are pleasingly landscaped down to the lakes edge.
208 rooms tel: 95-1 249255/249259
fax: 95-1 256184/280412

Traders Hotel - excellent downtown location for those who desire it, and a short walk from Scott Market. Large attractive lobby area and the rooms are modern and well appointed. Has a nice large swimming pool in the back on one of the upper levels with a nearby modern fitness center. Noteworthy
38

for their good service. A member of the Shangri-La Hotels group.
407 rooms tel: 95-1 242828
fax: 95-1 242800/242834

Inya Lake Hotel - set on 37 acres of landscaped ground next to Inya Lake and a few miles from city center, it offers a scenic and relaxing setting. Teakwood floors and a large and nicely designed lobby leading into an equally pleasing dining area are some of the pluses. There is a large outdoor swimming pool, tennis courts and a fitness center. Superior rooms are comfortable and pleasingly appointed while deluxe rooms are larger and with slightly better decor. All rooms have large balconies with a view on the lake or grounds.
216 rooms tel: 95-1 662866
fax: 95-1 665537

Sedona Hotel - a large and luxurious hotel with an impressive external appearance. Located across the road from Inya lake it has a nice large swimming pool with a 'swim up to' bar. Four different restaurants are available. Large well appointed lobby. Superior and deluxe rooms are similarly carpeted and nicely furnished with either a view on the swimming pool area to the back or Inya Lake to the front. Fitness center and lighted tennis courts available. A member of the Singaporean Sedona chain.
366 rooms tel: 95-1 666900/666972
fax: 95-1 666833/666356

Superior
Summit Parkview - located a few minutes away from the downtown area this hotel has a swimming pool, fitness center, business center and a few shops. Guest rooms are pleasantly furnished.
181 rooms tel: 95-1 211888/211904
fax: 95-1 227990~3

Seasons of Yangon - located directly across from the airport, it is too far out of town to be of use for most travelers but is perfectly located for those needing a dayroom or an overnight for an early morning flight connection. The hotel itself is attractively designed and has a spacious lobby, nice rooms, swimming pool, and fitness center.

120 rooms tel: 95-1 666337/666979
fax: 95-1 663575

Standard
Mya Yeik Nyo Royal - built on a grassy knoll with a nice view on the Shwedagon pagoda. About 10 - 15 minutes drive from downtown. It has tennis courts, golf driving range, a swimming pool, and fitness center. Rooms are spacious and well appointed with those in the front having an excellent view on the Shwedagon pagoda.
43 rooms tel: 95-1 548310/548317
fax: 95-1 548318/548319

Central Hotel - located right in the heart of downtown across from the famous Scott market. This is a standard level hotel with rooms which are spacious and well appointed.
72 rooms tel: 95-1 241007/250126
fax: 95-1 248003

Thamada Hotel - a small modern style hotel with nicely appointed rooms and hotel lobby. Does not have a swimming pool or fitness center. Location is close to downtown, just next to the Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel.
56 rooms tel: 95-1 271047/245001
fax: 95-1 243639/243640

Panda Hotel - this modern looking building has 117 rooms. Limited ground space but is located near the northwest corner of downtown. Rooms are clean and spacious.
91 rooms tel: 95-1 212850~1
fax: 95-1 228260

Eastern Hotel - a small modern hotel with good service and clean rooms. Located in the eastern part of downtown in a quiet area.
40 rooms tel: 95-1 293815/293168~9
fax: 95-1

294346
MANDALAY
Deluxe
Mandalay Hill Resort - formerly the Novotel, this hotel is situated at the foot of Mandalay Hill. It has a lovely swimming pool which can be used for culture shows or dinners, a large lobby and dining room, and well designed guestrooms. A well-equipped fitness center is also available. Located at the foot of Mandalay Hill.
128 rooms tel: 95-2 35638/35670
fax: 95-2 35671/241026

Sedona Mandalay - located opposite the southeast corner of Mandalay Palace. This partner hotel to the Yangon Sedona is only slightly smaller than its big brother and offers similar amenities. Lobby and grounds have a very nice ambiance. Large swimming pool and fitness center are available. Rooms are attractive and well furnished, similar to those of the Sedona Yangon.
247 rooms tel: 95-2 36903/36488
fax: 95-2 36499

Superior
Mandalay Swan - located right next to the Mandalay Sedona with large landscaped garden grounds and with a scenic swimming pool in the central courtyard. They also have a fitness center and lighted tennis court. This is a smaller two story hotel with a more intimate atmosphere. The standard rooms are smallish but comfortable and the superior and suite rooms are nicely appointed and reasonably sized.
100 rooms tel: 95-2 31601/31619
fax: 95-2 35677

Standard
Emerald Land Inn - Two double story buildings and six chalet type bungalows. Has a swimming pool and fairly well landscaped inner courtyard. Rooms are airy and adequately furnished. Location is slightly outside town center.
35 rooms tel: 95-2 35694/35645
fax: 95-2 35645

Myit Phyar Ayer Hotel - a small clean centrally located hotel with a nice small swimming pool on the roof from where you can get a good view over the city. Used for standard class or budget minded tours. Rooms are acceptably sized and furnished. Hardwood floors.
39 rooms tel: 95-2 27242
fax: 95-2 35646

Nadi Myanmar - Located east of city center this hotel has all rooms located in one building. The rooms have hardwood floors and are relatively well appointed with sitting chairs, mini bar and TV. Dining area is attractive.
60 rooms tel: 95-2 36147/38266

Mandalay City hotel - Just opened in Nov of 2004 it is a mid range hotel with a good location. Rooms are in a 3 story L shaped building near the Mandalay Palace.
67 rooms - 61 sup and 6 deluxe
tel 952 61700-4 fax 951 538 168

BAGAN
Deluxe
Thiripiytsaya - set on the banks of the Ayeyarwaddy river this bungalow style hotel has 24 acres of landscaped grounds and gardens and is located between old and new Bagan. Deluxe rooms are tastefully appointed and River Suite rooms are very spacious and elegant. A nice swimming pool has been added.
79 rooms tel: 95-62 70040/70290
fax: 95-62 70286/70394

Bagan Hotel (Jr. Suite rooms) - excellent location set on the banks of the Ayeyarwaddy right at the edge of the old archaeological zone - the large grassy lawn slopes right down toward the river and the hotel site is scenic and attractive with the garden setting and lawn contributing to the excellent ambiance. The suite rooms are spacious. The hotel is located slightly upriver from the Thiripiytsaya hotel. Now has an attractive swimming pool and larger deluxe suites by the river side.
tel: 95-62 70311/70313 fax: 95-62 70145~6



Nikko



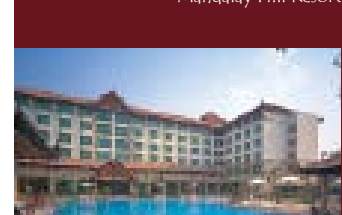
Grand Plaza Parkroyal



Inya Lake



Mandalay Hill Resort



Sedona Mandalay



Bagan Hotel



Bagan Golf Resort



Thiripyitsaya



Popa Mt. Resort



Inle Princess Resort

Bagan Golf Resort - built in 1998, this modern hotel with an Asian accent has a nice design which suits not only golfers, but other tourists as well. Located at the back of the archaeological zone, it has large ground space which is attractively landscaped. There is an excellent panoramic view of the pagodas from the third floor area on the west side. Rooms are attractively furnished, swimming pool.
58 rooms tel: 95-62 70187/70247
fax: 95-62 70411

Hotel at Tharaba Gate -- a large complex with spacious and attractively designed bungalow rooms with an Asian accent. Located near the Tharaba Gate entrance to old Bagan.
86 rooms tel: 95-2 67217 / 95-1 653012

Sup/Deluxe

Bagan Thande (the rooms on the river bank)
The hotel has an excellent location on the river bank (near the Bagan Hotel). The deluxe rooms on the slope of the riverbank are the choice rooms of this hotel. Nice veranda for sitting.
36 deluxe rooms tel: 95 62 70144
fax: 95 62 70143

Superior

Bagan Hotel (Superior rooms) - excellent location set on the banks of the Ayeyarwaddy right at the edge of the old archaeological zone - the large nicely landscaped grassy lawn slopes right down toward the river. The hotel site is very scenic and attractive. Rooms are not bungalow style but are set off open hallways in smaller brick buildings.
(88 superior rooms) tel: 95-62 70311/70313
fax: 95-62 70145~6

Bagan Thande Hotel (Superior rooms) - the hotel is located next to the Bagan hotel and has a variety of room types. Like the Bagan hotel, the setting is a lovely grass lawn with lots of trees.
20 superior rooms tel: 95-62 70143~4 fax: 95-62 70144

Arthawka Hotel - Rooms are in one rectangular building on two levels. Basic but nice accommoda-

tions. In the center is a courtyard with a swimming pool.
30 deluxe villas tel: 95-62 70140
fax: 95-62 70140

Thazin Garden Hotel - pleasantly styled bungalow with porch setting and well landscaped courtyard. The rooms are well sized and comfortable. Located only 20 min. from the airport. They have added a swimming pool and a span now. New building with 16 more deluxe rooms.
58 rooms tel: 95-62 70020
fax: 95-01 512715

Standard

Kumudra Hotel - another well styled bungalow set at the back of the archaeological zone. Good service and efficient staff.
50 rooms tel: 95-62 70080~1 fax: 95-01 297486

Than Te - Located in the town of Nyaung Oo (the small town which is next to the Bagan archaeological site), it has a pleasant enough location, bungalow rooms and landscaped courtyard. Near the Nyaung Oo market.

Kaytumadi - nice bungalow style with moderately large landscaped grounds. Location is further back from the archaeological zone then Kumudra.
34 rooms tel: 95-62 70123~4 fax: 95-62 70123

Ruby True - Modern bungalow style hotel with attractive landscaping. Located in the southeast part of Bagan.
48 rooms tel: 95-62 70263

MT. POPA

(a short excursion from Bagan)

Deluxe

Popa Mountain Resort - this fine hotel on a mountain features elegant bungalows interconnected by walkways amidst flowers and other tropical plant life. It has a scenic view of the entire region and also down the mountain to the old extinct volcanic 'plug' which has been the main tourist attraction in the region. They also offer riding horses, a 9 hole golf course, an herbal medicine garden, and hiking

trails for nature walks.
30 deluxe villas tel: 95-62 70140
fax: 95-62 70140

INLE LAKE

Deluxe

Inle Princess Resort - located at the lakeside on the eastern shore of Inle Lake. It offers a scenic location and attractive and large suite rooms decorated in traditional Asian styles. The bungalow style rooms, attractive main building, and idyllic setting, combine to give an aura of natural elegance. Access to the hotel is by boat.
42 chalets tel: 95-81 21347
fax: 95-81 23709

Lake View Resort - this property is located on the western edge of the lake and offers large spacious rooms with private balcony and good views on to the lake. Decorated with Burmese colonial style furniture. The lake is accessed by a long wooden walkway.
32 rooms tel: 95-81 23656 fax: 95-1 249457

Serentiy Inle - The Serenity Resort is a deluxe property which opened in October 2004 with 22 superior bungalows on the lake and 10 standard rooms in the back. It is located on the eastern shore of the lake.
22 bungalows - 10 standard rooms
Tel 951 511098 tel 9581 29266

Superior /Standard

Golden Island Cottages - these are attractive thatched bungalows sitting on stilts on the shallow lake and connected by walkways over the water. Transportation to cottages is by boat.
40 rooms tel: 95-81 23136 fax: 95-81 23970

Golden Island Cottages II - similar to GIC.

Hupin Hotel (Superior rooms) - this fairly modern appearing hotel provides superior rooms that are spacious, a friendly staff and good service. The hotel is not directly on the lake but is in the town of Nyaung Shwe, a few minutes drive from Inle Lake.
42 rooms tel: 95- 81 22291/22298 fax: 95-

81 21590

Khaung Daing Hotel - located at the edge of Inle Lake, Khaung Daing hotel is a scenic and restful accommodation with an excellent view on the lake. Spacious hardwood bungalows on stilts have been constructed in the water at the shoreline. The hotel can be reached by road or by boat.
43 rooms tel: 95- 81 22291/22298 fax: 95-81 21590

Paradise Hotel - on the eastern side of the lake, this hotel offers a large number of bungalow style rooms set on stilts on the water. Walkways over the water connect the buildings. Rooms are spacious with private balcony. Access is by boat.
50 rooms tel/fax: 95-81 23586/22009

Shwe Inn Tha - bungalows on stilts, walls are thatched and floors are hardwood. Basic but tastefully designed with a scenic location on the lake. Access only by boat.
37 rooms tel: 95-1 247646
fax: 95-1 543714

Standard

Hupin Hotel (Standard rooms) - standard rooms are moderately sized and adequately furnished. Friendly staff and good service. The hotel is located a few minutes drive from Inle Lake.
24 rooms tel: 95- 81 22291/22298
fax: 95-81 21590

Nandawun Hotel - Attractive looking bungalows with hardwood floor. Each room has its own verandah.
30 rooms tel: 95-81 22660
fax: 95-81 22660

November Hotel - near Hupin hotel and slightly newer. Offers similar quality.
65 rooms tel: 95- 81 22107/22621 fax: 95-81 23134

KALAW

Superior/Standard

Pine Hill Resort - is situated on the outskirts of the

scenic former British Hill Station of Kalaw at 4,290 feet elevation. Nice bungalow style rooms are spacious and airy.
32 rooms tel: 95-81 50079/50303~4 fax: 95-81 50078

Kalaw Hotel - for those looking for something with a colonial taste, this former British Hill Station hotel will provide it. Nice colonial garden ambience outside and there are some nice rooms in the main building and in the annex to the north. Rooms in the building to the south are less appealing. The hotel rooms and furnishings are solidly constructed.
45 rooms tel: 95-81 50191~2/50039 fax: 95-81 23134/22107

Hill Top Villa - located on the top of one of the hills surrounding the town of Kalaw. Brick exterior and wood paneling inside the rooms. Rooms are nicely furnished and there is a small veranda.
16 bungalows tel: 95-81 50346 tel/fax: 95-81 50347 tel/fax 95-1 502123 (Yangon)

Amara - old colonial house nicely renovated as a guest house. Fireplaces and cozy ambience.
4 bedrooms tel: 95-81 50331

Standard

New Shine Hotel - a small economy hotel with friendly staff and small but clean rooms.
30 rooms tel: 95-81 50188/50028

Dream Villa - another small economy hotel, friendly staff and small but clean rooms.
24 rooms tel: 95-81 50144/50364

PINDAYA

Superior

Conqueror Hotel - pleasant bungalow style near Pindaya lake and at the foot of Pindaya caves. Located in the town of Pindaya which is surrounded by small hills. Spacious rooms with private balcony.
44 rooms tel: 95-1 256623
fax: 95-1 283898

Inle Inn - a small hotel with pleasant thatched bamboo huts providing a very natural ambience. Located

on the eastern side of Lake Pindaya opposite the Conqueror hotel.
55 rooms tel: 95-81 21347
fax: 95-81 23709

Standard

Pindaya Hotel - recently renovated, located downtown in the small town of Pindaya. Rooms on the second level are nice.
33 rooms tel: 95-81 22621
fax: 95-81 23134

MAYMYO (PYIN OO LWIN)

Superior

Kandawgyi Lodge - located in the former British Hill station town of Pyin Oo Lwin (Maymyo). It is 3605 feet above sea level. Bungalows with a central colonial style building. Cool and comfortable, located next to the National Kandawgyi Gardens.
15 rooms tel: 95-1 202071/2/3 (Yangon)
fax: 95-1 202074/6

Standard

Royal Park View Hotel - It is pleasantly landscaped amidst scenic surroundings and the guestrooms are tastefully decorated.
18 rooms tel: 95-85 21616 fax: 95-85 21210

Nanmyaing Hotel - old colonial style bungalows. Basic accommodations.
16 rooms tel: 95-85 22118

Candacraig Hotel - famous old colonial hotel which has seen better days. Interesting for the ambience.
5 rooms

MONYWA

Monywa Hotel - a standard class hotel. Clean and adequate for food and is used as one of the two best available in Monywa. Low bungalow style rooms.
Tel 071 21549

Win Unity Resort Hotel - situated on reclaimed land at Kan-thar-yar lake, its exclusive location offers both natural and man-made beautiful garden landscapes that complement the serenity of the lake, where morning brings fresh air and a picturesque sunrise.



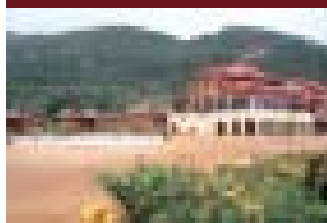
Lake View Resort



Hupin Kaung Daing



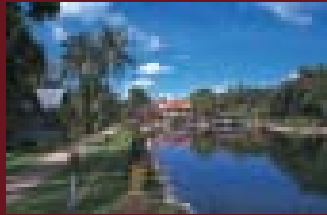
Inle Inn



Conqueror Hotel



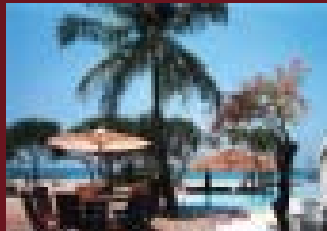
Pine Hill Resort



Mingalar Garden Hotel



Golden Rock Hotel



Palm Beach Resort



Bayview



Silver Beach

Each cottage has its own veranda.
Deluxe (Lake View) : 14 rooms
Deluxe (Garden View) : 14 rooms
tel : 95-71 22438, 22013

PYAY (PROME)

Standard

Mingalar Garden Resort - attractive looking bungalows set around a picturesque pond and garden setting. Rooms are adequate furnished.
24 rooms tel: 95-53 21018/22716

KYAIKTIYO

Superior

Golden Rock Hotel - it is a cleaner and more modern alternative than the older Kyaiktiyo Hotel at the top of the hill. From this hotel it is a 45 minute walk to the mountain top. Although located further down the mountain than Kyaiktiyo hotel, it still offer good views of the surrounding area.

32 rooms tel: 95-35 70174
fax: 95-1 527379

Standard

Kyaktiyo Hotel - located near the top on the ridge close by the Golden Rock. The hotels advantage is the good view of the surroundings and being located close by Golden Rock for sunset and sunrise. Room amenities are adequate but not exceptional.
65 rooms tel: 95-1 663351/663341
fax: 95-1 663667

MAWLAYMINE

Standard

Mawlaymine Hotel - a scenic setting as 24 rooms in 8 separate bungalows face to the Thanlwin river. Not always up to western standard for housekeeping but may be reasonable.
24 rooms tel: 95-32 24650~1

Ngwe Moe Hotel - on the bank of the Thanlwin river. Modestly decorated rooms in a large building. Carpeted floor.
34 rooms tel: 032 24703

Attran - a nice new standard hotel on the banks of the Thanlwin River close to the Mawlaymine bridge

20 superior rooms 8 suite rooms
tel: 95- 057 25764

NGAPALI BEACH

Deluxe

Bayview - the hotel has a nice beach front view, it's own swimming pool, satellite TV, air conditioning, mini bar and personal safe. Rooms are spacious, well designed and attractive; with private sunning porch with lounge chairs. Beach front dining with a view and a nice beach front bar.

32 rooms tel: 95-1 240244/541742 fax: 95-1 544559

Sandoway Resort - tastefully decorated with hardwood and with a scenic terrace and deck area for dining and sun bathing. The more expensive bungalows at the front have the good ocean view, while those behind have less. They have added a large swimming pool and large multi-function meeting hall. The hotel defines the word 'elegance'.

43 rooms tel: 294669

Amata Resort - a new deluxe hotel with several categories of rooms including deluxe Seaview Cabanas.
70 rooms tel: 95-4343233

Standard

Silver Beach Hotel - bungalows set around a nicely landscaped lawn. Scenic and good value for the money. Have added some new some new deluxe cottages.

18 rooms tel: 95-1 294587
fax: 95-1 298163

NGWE SAUNG BEACH (SILVER BEACH)

Deluxe

Palm Beach Resort - Elegantly designed with spacious rooms and excellent food. Nice large verandas ideal for relaxing. Tennis court and swimming pool.
31 rooms tel: 95-1 501937, 532255
fax: 95-1 504528

Sup/Deluxe

Myanmar Treasure Resort - another new hotel which has a nice setting on the beach. The grounds are well

landscaped and bungalows are appealing. Rooms are tastefully done. Has a swimming pool.

39 Deluxe rooms 24 Superior rooms
tel: 95-1 541794 fax: 95-1 545776

Standard/Deluxe

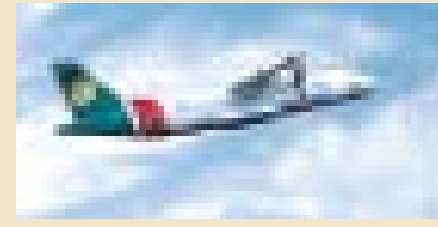
Sunny Paradise - a new hotel with beautiful country club type lawn and landscaping. Two levels of accommodation available, a few deluxe bungalows and standard rooms in the main building.

Deluxe Bungalow rooms 10
Standard rooms - 26
tel: 95-1 541794 fax: 95-1 545776

Transportation in Myanmar

Flights

ATR aircraft are used by Air Mandalay, Yangon Airways and Air Bagan (which also has a Fokker 100)



Train

Yangon central train station



Upper Class Coach

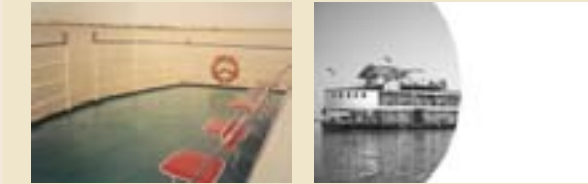


Tour Bus



Ferry

Offers a quick 9 hour trip from Mandalay to Bagan.



Oxcart - for travellers with lots of time!



Myanmar General Information



In General

Myanmar is a predominantly Buddhist country of some 676,000 sq. km. and is bordered by Thailand and Laos on the east, Bangladesh and the Bay of Bengal to the west, China and India to the north, with the Andaman Sea bordering the southwestern coast. For administrative purposes it is comprised of seven divisions (where Burmans are in the majority), and seven states with non-Burman majority; Shan, Kachin, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin, and Mon. The total population is around 50 million, of which more than four million reside in the capital city of Yangon. The second largest city is Mandalay, in central Myanmar, with a population of about one million. Officially the government recognizes 67 different ethnic groups but others count as many as 135.

Visa Requirements

A tourist VISA ON ARRIVAL for Myanmar can be arranged through Indochina Travel. Visas are valid for 28 days after entering Myanmar and can take from one day to two weeks or more to obtain, depending on the embassy involved and the current regulations. Visa extensions may be obtained in Myanmar. In the past, e-Visas (online visas) were available for individual travelers through the website www.visa.gov.mm This service is currently not allowed.

Money Matters

Currency – The Myanmar currency is known as the ‘kyat’ (pronounced ‘chaat’). The official rate is about 6 kyat to the dollar but the ‘real’ rate is much higher, (around 900 kyat to one USD as of Jan, 2005). Dollars or FEC (foreign exchange certificates) may be

changed into kyat at the local market rate. Major hotels and a few restaurants will charge in USD/FEC but most other expenses in Myanmar will be in kyats.

* CREDIT CARD & TRAVELERS CHECK ALERT!!

AMERICAN EXPRESS, VISA, MASTERCARD and DINERS CLUB are generally NOT accepted in Myanmar (only a couple of hotels, one being the Strand, are currently accepting any credit cards). It is safest to bring CASH only for expenses (USD cash is the easiest).

Health Issues

While no immunizations are formally required, malaria prophylaxis is often recommended by traveler’s personal physicians. Occasionally, typhoid, hepatitis, tetanus and Japanese encephalitis vaccinations are also recommended. Drink only bottled or boiled water and it is suggested that food not be purchased from sidewalk vendors. Insect repellent to prevent mosquito bites is recommended, especially up-country and in wooded areas.

International & Regional Flights

As of January 2005, thirteen airlines fly to Yangon:

Thai Airways (TG) – twice daily from Bangkok and four times weekly from Chiangmai

Silk Air (MI) – ten times a week from Singapore

Myanmar Airway International (MAI) – thirteen times per week from Bangkok, three times weekly from Kuala Lumpur, five times a week from Singapore, four times a week from Delhi and twice weekly from Hong Kong

Air China (CA) – three times a week from Kunming

Druk Air (KB) – twice weekly from Paro

Bangkok Airways – twice daily from Bangkok

Biman (BG) – twice weekly from Dhaka and twice weekly from Bangkok

Indian Airlines (IC) – from Calcutta to Yangon twice weekly.

Malaysian Airlines (MH) – three times weekly from Kuala Lumpur

Mandarin Airlines (AE) – four times weekly from Taipei

Qatar Airways (QR) – four times a week to Yangon from Frankfurt via Doha.

Air Mandalay (6T) – once a week from ChiangMai.

Phuket Air (9R) - daily from Bangkok

Arrival Procedures

After passports are checked at the immigration desk travelers proceed toward the baggage area. Since visitors are no longer required to change USD for FEC’s no money should be changed at the airport.

(There are two ‘authorized money changers’ counters but clients should be warned NOT to change money with them. They give about half of the actual market rate.) After collecting your checked luggage and clearing the customs inspection points (tourists’ bags are occasionally inspected), guests can then transfer to their hotel.

Customs Procedures

As a basic rule-of-thumb, all valuable items brought into the country such as expensive jewelry, notebook computers, etc. should be declared upon arrival and subsequently brought out of the country upon departure. All foreign currency in excess of \$2,000 is also supposed to be declared. Export of handicrafts considered to be antiques, or of artwork thought to have archaeological significance is prohibited. Export of gems and jewelry should be accompanied by an official dealer’s receipt.

Border Crossings

Border crossings are allowed for tourists with ‘package tour’ visas at Muse by the Chinese border and with Thailand at Tachileik and Kawthaung. In recent years strained relations between Thailand and Myanmar sometimes have led to closed borders. Therefore the border crossing at Muse has been most reliably used.

Traveling in Myanmar

The quickest and most comfortable mode of domestic travel is by flying. Modern ATR-72 and ATR-42 turboprop aircraft are used by Air Mandalay, Yangon Airways, and the new private carrier Air Bagan. Air Bagan is also currently using a Fokker 100 jet. Trains, ferryboats, cruiseships and coaches are also utilized for EPG tours. The cars and coaches used are best available and fully air-conditioned vehicles.

*Passports should be carried when traveling outside of Yangon (for example they may be checked on domestic flights).

Climate and Weather

Myanmar has three “seasons”: Hot Season - March to mid-May with average temperatures 25-38 C Rainy Season - mid-May to September with average temperatures 23-33 C. “Winter” Season - October to February with average temperatures 18-24 C. The main tourist season is during the Winter season, but it doesn’t rain much up country and the travel season is now virtually all year long. In fact many prefer the rainy season for its lack of crowds and the cool weather.

What to Wear

Warm weather clothing is quite adequate for Yangon and most tourist spots. However up-country around the Inle Lake area and other higher elevations the temperature may reach near freezing at night during the ‘winter’ season. Travelers should





bring appropriate cold weather clothing. In general, suggestive or revealing clothing is never a good idea in this conservative and largely Buddhist culture. When visiting religious shrines and temples, modest dress is required and easily removable footwear is recommended since such sacred grounds must be visited only in bare feet (no socks). Hats and sunglasses are usually appreciated, as is an umbrella for the rainy season.

Voltage

The voltage throughout Myanmar is 220-230 Volts AC. Because the voltage may be inconsistent, valuable or sensitive equipment like stereos and computers should have appropriate electronic protection. Most common sockets are two pronged, able to take round or blade style plugs but there are also some three prongs. Bringing an adaptor is a good idea.

Photography

Cameras, (still, video and digital) are permitted in Myanmar. Some good quality film is available in Yangon and in some larger hotels in Mandalay. However for professional quality film it is best to bring your own as the selection here is limited. Print film is generally available in all the main tourist areas. Restrictions on photography include military facilities and any structure considered strategic (including bridges and train stations).

Communications

Mobile phones from other countries will not work in Myanmar (unless you have an iridium phone) and charges for overseas calls and faxes at hotels may be expensive. Travelers should always check the rates before using IDD lines. Several of the better hotels in Yangon, Mandalay, Bagan and even Inle Lake are beginning to offer internet service. There are also a few internet cafes in Yangon and Mandalay.

Insurance

Hospitals with the standard of care most tourists are used to do not yet exist in Myanmar. There are a few private clinics at which reasonable emergency care can be obtained but if a traveler were

to become seriously ill or injured, the only alternative would be to medically evacuate that person to the nearest major medical facility, most likely in Singapore or Bangkok. We strongly recommend travelers purchase insurance which will provide medical- evacuation coverage should they require it.

Airport Departure Tax

There is a departure tax of \$10 (either \$ or FEC) payable on international flights. There are no taxes for domestic flights. (Related issue- you will need your passport with you when traveling up country on domestic flights.)

Foreign Missions in Myanmar

The following countries maintain embassies or consulates in Yangon:

Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, China, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Russia, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia.

Rules of the Road

In Myanmar cars, trucks and buses rank first on the roads with pedestrians a distant second. Since Myanmar drivers assume that pedestrians will make way for them, travelers should be alert when crossing streets, especially in busy downtown Yangon.

Festivals

Most of the Burmese festivals are religious festivals.

Some specific dates for 2005.

- 1) Thingyan (Water Festival) 13-16 April, 2005
- 2) Taungpyone Nats or Spirits festival: 12-19 August, 2005
- 3) Thadingyut Festival (festival of lights) - 17 Oct 05
- 4) Kyaukse elephant festival: (Mandalay) 16 Oct. 2005
- 5) Phaungdaw Oo Buddha image procession festival (Inle Lake): 03 - 20 Oct., 2005
- 6) Tazaungdaing Festival of Lights) - 15 Nov 05
- 7) Shwezigon pagoda festival (Yangon): 12 - 27 Nov. 2005

8) Taunggyi fire balloon festival: 10 - 15 Nov. 2005

9) Poe Win Taung pagoda festival (Monywa):
15-17 Nov.2005

Myanmar Embassies & Consulates

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In the case of changes in our suppliers policies, Indochina Travel reserves the right to alter the cancellation policy accordingly.

In the event that all cancellation fees are waived, a \$US100 administrative fee may apply.

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USA

Myowan spoke perfect English and his respectful demeanor made it a joy to see Myanmar with him. We ...have a friend in Myanmar and will come back next summer to keep enjoying his friendship and knowledge."

Padul - NY, New York, USA

GERMANY

"The organization of our tour was excellent in every way. down to the small details"

Mr. Dietrich Brewer – Germany

AUSTRALIA

Kyaw was a wonderful guide, thoughtful, considerate, knowledgeable and a very pleasant help at all times. The best we have ever had. We will always think of Burma as our "Land of Smiles"

J Beals - Milton, NSW, Australia

MEXICO

"ITC works with you very well before arrival. On tour, our guide was excellent. She answered all of our questions with patience and tried to please us in every way.

Teresa Paugairi - Mexico city, Mexico

DENMARK

"We have been absolutely content with you and our trip. You did an excellent job. THANK YOU!!!"

Mr. & Mrs. Thompson
Copenhagen, Denmark

USA

The trip, itinerary, schedule and pace were excellent. I believe I have gained knowledge and understanding of Myanmar, its history and people.

Thank You!

William Oakley - McLean, VA, USA

AUSTRIA

General Impression: Fantastic – we are really impressed from the friendliness of the people of Myanmar

Walter - Vienna , Austria

SWEDEN

"If you ask us if we would recommend this trip to others, the answer is yes! And we will also come back to Myanmar.

Angellica Fallberg and Anders Florek
Rydebach, Sweden

USA

It is my great fortune to have had such a seamless trip. Please understand what a fantastic crew you have.

Rick Chandler - Durham, N.C, USA

UK

– of all the guides we have ever had, in all the many countries that we have visited, Nyo is quite the BEST. She is a real credit to Indochina Travel and you should be very proud of her! Thank you Nyo!

Paul Hunle - London, UK



USA

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