

# Classic Myanmar

12 days | Starts/Ends: Yangon



Explore Myanmar, a country rich in ancient history and intriguing traditions, from the colonial history of Yangon to the last royal capital of Mandalay, the vast awe inspiring expanse of stupas in Bagan to the captivating fishing traditions of Inle Lake.

## HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

### Trip Highlights

- Yangon - Sule Pagoda, Botahtaung Pagoda, Bogyoke Market, Chaukhtatgyi Pagoda and Shwedagon Pagoda
- Mandalay - See the incredible golden Buddha of Mahamuni Paya and witness the spectacular sunsets from Mandalay Hill
- Amarapura - Ubein Bridge
- Bagan - Discover the temple filled plains, the golden Shwezigon Pagoda and the Manuha Temple
- Kalaw - Scenic trek through indigenous villages to Inle Lake
- Inle Lake – Local fishermen, floating gardens, stilted villages and Paungdaw Oo Pagoda

### What's Included

- Breakfast daily and 1 lunch

- 11 nights STANDARD hotels and 1 night monastery overnight stay. SUPERIOR and DELUXE hotel options are also available upon request. Accommodation rating – See Trip Notes for details
- 3 economy class flights: Yangon to Mandalay, Mandalay to Bagan and Heho to Yangon
- 2 day and 1 night trek from Kalaw to Inle Lake
- Guided sightseeing - Yangon, Mandalay and Bagan
- Inle Lake boat excursion and wine tasting at Red Mountain Estate
- Local English speaking specialist guides for all sightseeing
- Entrance fees for all included sightseeing
- An airport arrival transfer day 1 and a departure transfer day 12
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private air-conditioned vehicles

### What's Not Included

- International flights and visa
- Tipping - An entirely personal gesture

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Day 1 : Yangon

Welcome to Myanmar, upon arrival at Yangon Airport you'll be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure.

#### Overnight - Yangon

### Day 2 : Yangon City Tour



Today enjoy a fascinating guided tour of Yangon. First stop is Yangon City Hall before you continue to Sule Pagoda, located in the heart of the city. Nearby, you will visit the peaceful Maha Bandoola Park, which is encircled by a number of colonial and heritage buildings from Yangon's past. Conclude the morning at Botahtaung Pagoda, built around the same time as the Shwedagon Pagoda.

Lunch will be enjoyed at the Rangoon Tea House, which has been carefully restored and is reminiscent of the grand tea houses that were common in the British colonial era. Then you'll explore the Bogyoke (Scott) Market, a maze of colour, home to various stores selling wares ranging from art to gemstones. The final stop this afternoon is the Chaukhtatgyi Pagoda which houses a 70 metre long reclining Buddha. This Buddha is topped by a diamond encrusted crown.

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This evening visit the awe-inspiring Shwedagon Pagoda. The most important Buddhist temple in Myanmar. It's main Stupa, vibrantly covered in gold leaf and measuring 90 metres in height, dominates the Yangon skyline. **Overnight - Yangon (L)**

## Day 3 : Mandalay Sights

This morning transfer to the airport for a flight to Mandalay. Upon arrival in to Mandalay you'll be met by your local guide and will begin your sightseeing at the Zegyo Market, located in the heart of the city. Next you visit the Artisan Quarter, here you'll see examples of the fine craftsmanship dating back to the last kingdom of Myanmar.

This afternoon visit the highlights of Mandalay. First up is the sacred Mahamuni Pagoda, which holds one of the most significant Buddha statues found in Myanmar, and is encased in several tons of gold leaf. Close to Mahamuni are the Golden Palace Monastery, the only surviving Royal Palace building in Mandalay, here you'll see the original style and architecture of the Myanmar Royals.

Finish the day with a panoramic view over the city from Mandalay Hill at sunset, the highest point in the city. **Overnight - Mandalay (B)**

## Day 4 : Ubein Bridge



After breakfast today head out of Madalay to Inwa, the ancient capital of Shan and Burmese kingdoms for more than four centuries. You take a small ferry across the Myint Nge River before explore by horse cart and visit the Bagaya Teak Monastery, the Nanmyin Watch Tower and the Maha Aungmye Bonzan Monastery, which is over 300 years old.

Later continue to the Ancient Kingdom of Sagaing, from the hills you will have a stunning view of the numerous pagodas that are dotted along the riverside. You then pay a visit to a monastery to learn more about the life of Buddhist devotees.

The next stop in another ancient capital, Amarapura. Famous for its textile production, you'll learn traditional fabrics are woven at a local workshop. The final stop today is Ubein Bridge, a simple yet remarkable teak structure that spans 1.2km above the Taungtam Lake.

**Overnight - Mandalay (B)**

## Day 5 : Swezigon Stupa



This morning fly to Bagan, where you'll be met by your local guide. After making your way into the city you will first visit the busy local market before visiting the Dhamayazeka Zedi, which offers panoramic views of the temple scattered plains below. From here visit the Archeological museum and the gold gilded Swezigon Stupa, which is said to hold a holy tooth relic of Buddha. Close to this Stupa is Myingaba Gu Byaukyi Temple, with some of Bagan's best preserved mural paintings depicting the Buddha's Jataka re-incarnation.

Later visit Myingaba Village, where you'll learn how Bagan's famous lacquerware products are produced before ending the day at the beautifully symmetrical and majestic Anada Temple. This temple is home to four standing Buddha statues that gaze at the viewer with fixed serenity wherever you stand. **Overnight - Bagan (B)**

## Day 6 : Temples of Bagan

This morning there's the option to view the incredible ancient kingdom of Bagan from above on a sunrise hot air balloon ride.

Start your sightseeing today with a visit to the Manuha Temple, built in the 14th Century before we continue to the Thanaka Museum and a cigar work shop. Later visit the Nyaung U market, the largest market in the Bagan region. From here you'll get to see some of the cottage industries, such as brick making, that are carried out using traditional methods. Final stop of the day is to a monastic school, offering free primary level education to local children. **Overnight - Bagan (B)**

## Day 7 : Mount Popa



Today is spent exploring the countryside close to Bagan. Starting at the bottom, the 777 steps take you to the top of Mount Popa and reward you with breathtaking views of the surrounding plateau below.

This afternoon continue on towards Kalaw, passing through the lush surroundings of the Shan Plateau. **Overnight - Kalaw (B)**

## Day 8 : Hill Trek



Today enjoy a leisurely trek through the verdant greenery of Shan state. The first part of the journey takes you from Danu Village to Pawke. As you traverse this route you'll be rewarded with incredible scenery, passing through rice terraces, ginger farms and chili plantations. Stopping for lunch in Pawke village you then continue your trek

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through crab apple trees to Pattupak where you spend the night. **Overnight - Pattupak (B)**

## Day 9 : Inle Lake

This morning enjoy breakfast at a local monastery. After your ascent yesterday, today will be much more downhill as you walk onwards through the villages of Kyauksu and Nanyoke Village until you reach Inle Lake. After 5 hours hiking you'll make a stop at Tonele, on the western shores of Inle Lake, to enjoy lunch in a bamboo forest.

After lunch transfer to the jetty for your boat across Inle Lake. The one and half hour journey takes you across this impressive expanse of water to the town of Nyaung Shwe, in the North East of the lake. At 1000 metres above sea level, the lake is a living body in more ways than one, with stilt houses dotted close to the shore.

This afternoon a boat trip takes you to the western end of the lake and to Indaing. En route you'll pass through the busy village of Ywama. After a journey through a tree lined canal we'll disembark and visit the numerous pagoda ruins of Nyaung Ohak, dating from the 14th to 18th century. The pagodas have been left un-renovated giving the area an captivating atmosphere. Later travel back across the lake to your hotel for the night. **Overnight - Inle Lake (B)**

## Day 10 : Markets of Inle Lake



This morning explore one of the 5 rotating markets in the area (only open certain days). Here you'll gain a valuable insight into the lifestyle of the Pa-O, Danu and Intha people. You'll get to witness the famous leg rowers attempting their catch, whilst learning about these traditional methods of fishing.

This afternoon head to Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda, the holiest site in the Southern Shan State. Later continue by boat to visit Nga Phe Kyaung Monastery, housing Buddha statues at nearly 200 years old this is one of the oldest monasteries on Inle Lake. Return to your hotel as the sun sets across the lake. **Overnight - Inle Lake (B)**

## Day 11 : Red Mountain Estate Vineyard

Travel to Nyaung Shwe Town today and pay a visit to the Red Mountain Estate Vineyard. Whilst Myanmar is not traditionally known as a wine growing country, however, this estate started in 2002 and produced it's first wine in 2008. You'll have a chance to taste some of the wines they've produced and to explore the grounds.

Later continue to Heho Airport for your flight back to Yangon. Upon arrival in Yangon you'll be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. **Overnight - Yangon (B)**

## Day 12 : Yangon

Today marks the end of your amazing trip to Myanmar. A transfer will be provided to take you to the airport for your onward flight. (B)

## Accommodation ratings

On our Private trips, you can often choose your style of accommodation. The price quoted on our website is reflective of the included accommodation, please see the "included" section on the first page of this document for details. Should you opt for an alternative hotel category, this will be confirmed in writing with the respective price on your invoice.

For further details about the indicative hotels, please see the "hotels" tab on our website. Here we rank hotel's in their respective country (REGIONAL CATEGORY) - but we also tell you how it ranks by Western standards (OUR CATEGORY).

**STANDARD** - Equates to a Western 3-star standard, always featuring en-suite rooms and usually a restaurant.

**SUPERIOR** - Equates to a Western 4-star standard, featuring en-suite rooms and usually a restaurant and often a swimming pool and/or a fitness centre.

**DELUXE** - Equates to a Western 5-star standard, usually featuring spacious, en-suite rooms, a restaurant, swimming pool and fitness centre and an array of amenities, excellent service and customer care.

**LUXURY** - Equates to a Western 5-star plus standard - the creme de la creme. Featuring spacious, en-suite rooms, a restaurant, swimming pool and fitness centre and an array of amenities, this accommodation is a cut above the rest. Sheer opulence!

## What to pack

Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit [www.worldclimate.com](http://www.worldclimate.com) to get an idea of what the weather will be like on your holiday.

- Lightweight cotton garments. Ladies may need to have their shoulders and legs (to below the knee) covered when visiting certain sites, so please pack accordingly
- Comfortable walking shoes in addition to flip flogs/thongs
- DEET based mosquito repellent and antihistamine cream
- Electrical adaptors. A universal adaptor is best!
- Lightweight, fold up raincoat/poncho/umbrella
- Your Travel Voucher and two spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swimming costume and torch

## Tipping

Tipping is an essential part of the culture. For a job well done, we would suggest for your tour guide: USD\$3-6 per traveller, for each day of sightseeing.

For your driver and On The Go Representative we'd recommend USD\$2-3 per traveller for each day of service. Tipping is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

**KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**

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## Myanmar (burma) Country Guide

### Welcome to Myanmar - Arrival transfer

If your tour or short stay includes an airport arrival transfer (as indicated in the Inclusions section on page one of this document) the arrival procedure is as follows:

Arrive to Yangon International Airport - proceed through immigration then collect your luggage and proceed to the arrivals hall.

As you enter the arrivals hall, look for our On The Go representative. He/she will be holding a prominent on the go tours logo signboard. After meeting you will be escorted to our awaiting transportation and transferred to our tour start hotel.

**If, for any reason you have trouble locating our representative** (after waiting 20 minutes) or your flight is delayed, please call or send a text message (standard text message, not Messenger or WhatsApp) to the emergency contact number as stated on your Tour Voucher.

If arriving on day 1 of a holiday, that includes an airport arrival transfer (as indicated in the Inclusions section of these Trip Notes) we will be at the airport, ready to transfer you to your hotel. Further if you are booking pre-tour accommodation with us an airport arrival transfer will also be provided. If arriving prior to 9am on day 1 you should consider purchasing a night of pre-tour accommodation to save you waiting until standard hotel check in time, which is generally 2pm. If booking pre-tour accommodation with us an airport to hotel arrival transfer will be provided.

### Visa & passports

Visa requirements are subject to change and visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Myanmar.

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to

book all services. Please be advised visa requirements are subject to change, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. For information about visas, head to [www.onthegotours.com/Burma/Visas](http://www.onthegotours.com/Burma/Visas)

### What to expect in Myanmar

Please visit [www.onthegotours.com/Burma/Travel-tips-and-useful-info](http://www.onthegotours.com/Burma/Travel-tips-and-useful-info) for local customs, currency, WiFi and other helpful information to prepare you for an enjoyable holiday.

### Health requirements

You should seek medical advice for vaccinations and about medications before travelling.

#### Malaria in Myanmar

Areas with Malaria: Present in rural areas throughout the country with altitudes of 1000m or more. None in the cities of Mandalay and Yangon. Estimated relative risk of malaria for travellers is moderate.

#### Water

As tap water is not safe to drink in Myanmar, only drink bottled mineral water which is readily available in hotels, shops and restaurants. You should also avoid salads which may be washed in unhygienic water.

### Ballooning over Bagan Add-on

This Add-on can be added to our Meet Me in Myanmar, Best of Myanmar, and Best of Myanmar & Beach tours between 1 Oct - 31 Mar.

Take to the skies for a spectacular aerial view of Bagan's remarkable landscape, as you soar over hundreds of ancient stupas and temples on a majestic hot air ballooning adventure.

Rising early, you will be transferred from your hotel to the launch area, where some freshly brewed tea and coffee awaits, while you receive a safety briefing from your licensed pilot. After your balloon is inflated, you'll climb into the wicker basket and take off, as the sun rises. No two journeys are the same, floating where ever the wind may take you, on an unforgettable journey that

will take your breath away. Dependent upon wind conditions, the pilot can 'turn' the balloon using 'rotation venting' to achieve magical aerial views which are sure to provide memories for a lifetime. After disembarking, in aeronautical tradition, enjoy a chilled flute of sparkling wine before being transferred back to your hotel to continue on with your day's sightseeing.

**PAYABLE UPON ARRIVAL** - USD\$300 in cash only. Offered early morning (approx 5.30am) of either day 6 or 7 on our Meet Me in Myanmar, Best of Myanmar and Best of Myanmar & Beach tours.

Operational from 1 Oct - 31 Mar each year, subject to weather conditions.

**IMPORTANT:** Availability for the excursion is highly sort and it's very rare that positions are still available upon your arrival to Myanmar. The cost of the excursion is USD\$300 when paid locally. We are unable to take payment for this excursion prior to departure but are happy to confirm the booking on your behalf, then upon arrival (day 2) payment will need to be made in USD CASH. Please be sure you will undertake the excursion before booking with us, as once we've confirmed your booking this activity is 100% non-refundable. You are also most welcome to book this excursion independently online, though the cost is slightly higher and you would be subject to credit card fees.

Flight duration approximately 45 minutes.

Includes: Transfers to and from the hotel to the balloon take-off area. Light refreshments before take off and after landing, and flight certificate upon arrival.

Licensed balloon pilot and experienced balloon ground crew - your safety is paramount! Our balloon operators have satisfied our strict safety guidelines and provided copies of public passenger liability insurance and balloon pilot licenses.

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