

Yangon City Stay

5 Days | Starts/Ends: Yangon



Spend five days soaking up the colonial sights and vibrant atmosphere of Yangon, the spiritual capital of Myanmar. With one full day of guided sightseeing, learning the stories of the city from the local guide, and one day to explore the city as you wish, this is the perfect Myanmar city stay.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Guided sightseeing around Yangon, visiting Botahtaung Pagoda, Sule Pagoda, Maha Bandoola Park, Chaukhtatgyi Pagoda, Shwedagon Pagoda, Yangon Tea House & Bogyoke (Scott) Market
- Live it local day trip - ferry across the Yangon River, rickshaw ride and Yangon Circle Line train trip
- A full day to explore Yangon at leisure

What's Included

- 4 breakfasts and 1 lunch
- 4 nights 3-4 star hotel
- Airport arrival and departure transfers on days 1 and 5
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private air-conditioned vehicles
- Guided sightseeing in Yangon

- Escorted by an English speaking tour guide

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$10-15pp, paid in USD
- Entrance Fees: USD\$20-30pp, paid in USD
- International flights and visa
- Tip for your tour guides. We recommend you allow USD\$3 - 6 per day, per traveller. Tipping your guides is an entirely personal gesture

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Yangon

Welcome to Yangon, the commercial and spiritual centre of Myanmar. After your airport transfer to our hotel, the day is to spend as you wish, acquainting yourself with the bustling streets of downtown Yangon or adjusting to the time difference before the activities of the next day. In the evening there will be a welcome meeting from your tour guide.

Overnight - Yangon

Day 2 : Yangon pagodas, tea rooms & markets



Today we explore the fascinating city of Yangon and its famous religious monuments. In the heart of downtown we begin with a photo stop in front of Yangon City Hall, before visiting the Sule Pagoda, which is a peaceful place to retreat from the bustle of the city. The pagoda is near Maha Bandoola Park which is encircled by a host of colonial buildings and heritage sites, including Independence Monument and the High Court. We also see the hollow, golden Botahtaung Pagoda before lunch at the Yangon Tea House, which is reminiscent of the grand tea houses of colonial times and serves a delicious cup of traditional tea.

After lunch we take a stroll around the colourful Bogyoke (Scott) Market, which sells an array of goods, including gemstones, handicrafts and clothes. After some retail therapy we visit the giant 70 metre-long

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reclining Buddha of Chaukhtagyī Paya at Chaukhtagyī Pagoda, which has a crown encrusted in diamonds and other precious stones.

Later this evening we enjoy an excursion to the most revered Buddhist temple in Myanmar, the magnificent Shwedagon Pagoda. Standing at 90 metres tall, the gold leaf central stupa dominates the city's skyline and turns vivid hues of yellow, orange and red when the sun begins to set. **Overnight - Yangon (B, L)**

Day 3 : Yangon Circle Line Train Trip



This morning we drive to Pasondan Jetty, where we cross the Yangon River by local ferry arriving at Dala Village. The village is a striking contrast from bustling Yangon with a relaxed village feel. Sit back and relax as we take a trickshaw, (three-wheeled bicycle taxi) through the small lanes, market streets and friendly village neighborhoods with stops made at points of interest along the way. Returning to Yangon we take the Yangon Circle Line Train just as thousands of Burmese do each day and discover local life and character filled neighbourhood along along our journey. We end the day with a visit to the Gems Museum where precious stones and minerals, mined in the country are displayed. This evening offers free time.

Overnight - Yangon (B)

Day 4 : Yangon - your way



Spend today in Yangon as you wish, exploring the vibrant city at your own pace. Stop for drinks and barbeque in buzzing Chinatown, enjoying dishes of rice congee and grilled pork skewers, browse the stalls of Bogyoke Aung San market, walking through the rows of art, rare gems and jewellery, and visit Kandawgyi Park, a tranquil green park where there are many places to eat and drink along the lake. At the heart of Yangon is the downtown area, an easy to navigate centre full of colonial-era buildings and a historical charm. Ask your guide the day before for any suggestions and recommendations to ensure you spend your time here in the best way.

Overnight - Yangon (B)

Day 5 : Yangon

Today offers free time before hotel check out and included departure transfer to the airport.

HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.

Rose Garden Hotel

Located just a mile from the Shwedagon Pagoda and other attractions, the Rose Garden is an elegant hotel for your stay in Yangon. Enjoy the spacious superior rooms with locally-influenced decor, free Wi-Fi and a range of four-star amenities. The hotel's two restaurants and bar offer delicacies ranging from Burmese to Italian cuisine.

Perhaps the highlight of this 7-floor hotel is its 60 ft outdoor pool, perfect for a sunny

swim. A gift shop & gallery and 24-hour gym also feature among the hotel's services.



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Entrance Fees

Entrance fees to most sites are not included, although reasonably priced. The entrance fee amount is noted under exclusions on page one of this document and a breakdown of the entrance fees is provided upon arrival on the Welcome Letter.

For tours starting in Vietnam we collect entrance fees on Day 2 of the tour. All funds collected in Vietnam are payable in either US dollars (USD) or Vietnamese dong (VND).

Multi country tours starting in Laos - please note if you are travelling on our Laos to Vietnam, Inside Indochina or Indochina Discovery tour your entrance fees will be split into two separate payments. Entrance fees for Laos will be collected on day 2 of the tour in Vientiane and entrance fees for Vietnam/Cambodia/Thailand will be collected on day 8 in Hanoi.

Tipping Kitty

At the start of your tour, we take a small tipping kitty (the amount is noted under exclusions) from all tour participants to cover tips throughout your holiday. This saves you the hassle of knowing when and how much to tip bellhops, luggage handlers, bus drivers, train conductors and other support staff throughout the tour.

This amount does not include a tip for your tour guides. For a job well done, we would suggest USD \$3 - 6 per person per day. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

Multi country tours starting in Laos - please note if you are travelling on our Laos

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to Vietnam, Inside Indochina or Indochina Discovery tour your tipping kitty will be split into two separate payments. Tips for Laos will be collected on day 2 of the tour in Vientiane and tips for Vietnam/Cambodia/Thailand will be collected on day 8 in Hanoi.

Groups & Guides

The longest Signature Tour we offer in Southeast Asia is our Indochina Discovery 23 day tour. All other Signature Tours we offer (with the exception of the family tours) are sectors of this larger tour. The longest Budget Tour we offer in Southeast Asia is our Hanoi to Bangkok Tour 19 day tour, all other Budget Tours are sectors of this longer tour. As our tours are modular you may have travellers join you part way through your holiday (in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City or Phnom Penh on Signature Tours or in Ho Chi Minh City our Budget Tours). There will also be travellers who end their tour when you continue on.

Guides:

In Laos a Lao national guide escorts our tours from Vientiane through to Luang Prabang and in Vietnam a Vietnamese national guide escorts our tours from Hanoi through to Ho Chi Minh City.

In Cambodia our tours have two guides - a Cambodian national guide in Phnom Penh and a specialist regional guide in Siem Reap.

Our tours that end in Bangkok are not fully escorted for the Thailand sector. On our Signature Tours there is a local Thai guide for the Bangkok city tour. If you are travelling on a Budget Tour a local guide will meet you at the Cambodia border and escort you to our hotel, then you will be unescorted for the rest of your stay in Bangkok.

What to Pack

- 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 flops/ thongs
- DEET based mosquito repellent & antihistamine cream
- Electrical adaptors. A universal adaptor will cover all bases

- Lightweight, fold up raincoat/ poncho/ umbrella
- Two spare passport photos & a photocopy of your passport
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swimming costume and torch
- Sleep sheet if taking an overnight sleeper train in Vietnam. These also can be easily purchased in Hanoi at a cost of USD\$5
- An overnight bag, if your tour includes a night board a Junk boat in Halong Bay. As we will be returning to Hanoi it is not essential that you take your big bag/ suitcase with you.

Myanmar (burma) Country Guide

Entrance fees - payable in USD

Entrance fees to most sites are not included, although reasonably priced. In Myanmar, we collect entrance fees on Day 2 of the tour. Should you decide at any point upon tour that you do not wish to visit a site, please let your tour guide know in advance and the relevant entrance fee amount will be refunded to you. A breakdown of the entrance fee total is provided upon arrival.

Tipping Kitty - payable in USD

At the start of your tour, we take a small tipping kitty (the amount is noted under exclusions) from all tour participants to cover tips throughout your holiday. This saves you the hassle of knowing when and how much to tip bellhops, luggage handlers, bus drivers, train conductors and other support staff throughout the tour.

This amount does not include a tip for your tour guides. For a job well done, we would suggest USD \$3 - 6 per person per day. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

Ballooning over Bagan bolt-on

This Bolt-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 October - 31 March 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

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before take off & 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.

Health Requirements

You should seek medical advice before travelling to Myanmar from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Polio and Tetanus are strongly recommended.

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.

Groups & Guiding

Our longest tour in Myanmar is Best of Myanmar & Beach - 14 day tour. All other tours in Myanmar are sectors of this longer tour. All our Myanmar trips operate together from day 1 - day 7, then from day 7 some in your tour group may leave and others continue on. Our Yangon city stay travellers will also join our tour arrangements of day 1 and day 2.

Climate

Myanmar has a monsoon climate with three main seasons. The hottest period is between February and May, with little or no rain. Rainy season is generally from May to October, with dry, cooler weather from October to February.

Time & Voltage

The voltage in Myanmar is 220-240 Volts AC. Most of the international hotels have their own generators. Other places may experience power cuts and voltage fluctuation so it's best

to pack a voltage regulator or stabilizer to protect electrical items. In Myanmar there are 3 types of plugs are commonly accepted: 2 round pin European plug (type C), 2 fat round pins (type F) and the 3 fat round pin Indian plus (type D) plug. To cover all bases, it is best to pack an international travel adaptor!

Myanmar is 6.5 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

Currency

The official currency in Myanmar is the Myanmar Kyat.

Euro, British Pounds, US Dollars and other major currencies can be exchanged locally at the airport, bureau to changes and banks. However, the official rate is often very different to the market rate and some exchange booths (especially at the airport) offer a very poor rate. We recommend you wait until meeting our representative or your tour guide for advise on the best places to exchange. Alternatively ATMS can be found in all major towns and cities, allowing you to withdraw Myanmar Kyat.

If exchanging US dollars please note that any notes that are old, torn or marked will not be accepted. We recommend taking new US dollars bills. Pre-2006 dollar bills or ones with the letters AB and CB at the start of the serial number (at the top left corner of note) are unlikely to be accepted.

It's advisable to request bank notes in smaller denominations, as it can sometimes be hard to get change from large notes and smaller notes are handy for smaller purchases and gratuities. Traveller's Cheques are not recommended as they're often difficult to exchange and incur high fees.

Essential Packing

- Slip on, slip off shoes such as flip-flops or thongs essential visiting religious sites to avoid the hassle of sitting to fix buckles and laces.
- Lightweight cotton garments
- Comfortable walking shoes in addition to flip flogs/ thongs
- DEET based mosquito repellent & antihistamine cream

- Bring a 2 flat prong (type A) and a 2 round pin (type C) electrical adaptors. A universal adaptor will cover all bases
- Lightweight, fold up raincoat/ poncho
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swim costume and torch
- If travelling in winter bring warmer clothes (Nov – Feb) it's quite chill in the morning, particularly in Kalaw, Pindaya and Inle Lake

Arrival Transfers

If your tour or short stay includes an airport arrival transfer (as indicated in the Inclusions section of these Trip Notes) our 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 in the arrival hall) or your flight is delayed please call 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.

Visas

Please be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and that visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please also ensure that

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your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Myanmar.

Most travellers including Australian, New Zealand, American, British and Canadian passport holders require a tourist visa for visiting Myanmar. All other nationalities please check with your nearest Myanmar (Burmese) Embassy or Consulate or refer to Project Visa.

A regular Tourist e-Visa obtained in advance is valid for 28 days and allows for one single entry. The visa expires 90 days after issue so be sure not to apply for your visa too far in advance. After completing the e-visa application online, an approval letter will be forwarded to you within 3 working days.

To apply for an e-visa online go to: <http://evisa.moip.gov.mm/HowToApply.aspx>

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