

Highlights of Myanmar

8 days | Starts/Ends: Yangon



PRIVATE TOUR: From the ancient temples of Bagan to the tranquil shores of Inle Lake, this is the best of Myanmar. Discover local village life and majestic pagodas including Yangon's stunning Shwedagon Pagoda. Explore Salay, home to the intricately carved Yoke-Sone-Kyaung Monastery, mystical Mount Popa and Heho with its remarkable caves which contain over 9000 statues of Buddha.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Bagan - Temple filled plains, golden Shwezigon Pagoda and 13th century Wetkyi-in Gubyaukkyi Temple
- Salay Village - Active monasteries and mystical Mount Popa
- Mandalay - Incredible golden Buddha of Mahamuni Paya and spectacular sunset from Mandalay Hill
- Pindaya on the shores of Lake Pindaya and its caves containing over 9000 Buddha statues
- Boat trip on Inle Lake
- Indein Pagoda, Gaba Aye pagoda and Mahapasana Cave

What's Included

- Breakfast daily
- 7 nights STANDARD hotels. SUPERIOR and DELUXE hotel options are also available upon request. Accommodation rating – See Trip Notes for details
- 3 economy class flights: Yangon to Bagan, Bagan to Mandalay and Heho to Yangon
- Lake Inle boat trip
- Touring and excursions as per itinerary
- Local English speaking specialist guides for all sightseeing
- Entrance fees to all included sights
- An airport arrival transfer day 1 and a departure transfer day 8
- 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

Arrive Yangon Airport and after a warm welcome transfer to your hotel. Rest of the day at leisure. **Overnight - Yangon**

Day 2 : Bagan Temples & Shwezigon Pagoda



Fly to Bagan to explore its astounding temple filled plain. En route to your hotel visit the beautiful golden Shwezigon Pagoda and the 13th century Wetkyi-in Gubyaukkyi Temple with its lovely frescoes. Afternoon sightseeing includes key temples and a Burmese lacquerware factory before an evening excursion to Ananda, Bagan's finest and most revered temple. **Overnight - Bagan (B)**

Day 3 : Salay & Mount Popa



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Enjoy a day trip to the village of Salay and Mount Popa today. Salay is home to many active monasteries including the impressive Yoke-son Monastery and its famous wood carvings (closed Monday, Tuesday and Gazetted holidays). Mystical Mount Popa, is an extinct volcano which is believed to be the abode of spirits. 777 winding steps are carved into the side of the mountain, taking pilgrims up to the striking Popa Taungkalat monastery which sits atop the mountain. **Overnight - Bagan (B)**

Day 4 : Fly to Mandalay, Buddha of Mahamuni Paya

Fly to Mandalay, former capital of the Burmese Empire and spend the day exploring the city sights including the incredible golden Buddha of Mahamuni Paya. Then enjoy spectacular sunset views of the city from Mandalay Hill. **Overnight - Mandalay (B)**

Days 5-6 : Pindaya & Inle Lake



After a flight to Heho, transfer to picturesque Pindaya, located on the shores of Lake Pindaya to explore its remarkable caves which contain over 9000 Buddha statues before driving on to Nyaung Shwe. The following day discover the delights of beautiful Lake Inle on a boat trip. See the stilted houses and various cottage industries of the Intha people and visit the famous Paungdaw Oo Pagoda. **Overnight - Nyaung Shwe (B:2)**

Day 7 : Inlein Pagoda, Inle Lake



This morning visit Inlein Pagoda, an incredible collection of weathered stupas dating back to the 13th century before flying to Yangon. This evening we enjoy a visit to the magnificent Shwedagon pagoda, the landmark of Myanmar and one of the greatest wonders of the world. **Overnight - Yangon (B)**

Day 8 : Yangon city sights

On day 8 your Burmese adventure comes to an end after a final morning of sightseeing in Yangon including the Gaba Aye (World Peace) pagoda and Mahapasana Cave, a replica of the Satta Panni cave in India where the first Buddhist Synod (council) took place. The cave is 139 metres long and 110 metres wide.

Later, we bid farewell and transfer to the airport to meet 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 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

What to expect in Myanmar

Please visit 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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