

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. Embark on guided and independent sightseeing and learn captivating stories of the city. This really is the perfect Myanmar city stay.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Enjoy guided sightseeing around Yangon - visiting Yangon and take in the Botahtaung Pagoda, Sule Pagoda, Maha Bandoola Park, Chaukhtatgyi Pagoda, Shwedagon Pagoda, Yangon Tea House and Bogyoke (Scott) Market
- Yangon transport - Live it local day trip with a ferry across the Yangon River, a rickshaw ride and Yangon Circle Line train trip
- Yangon - Make the most of a full day exploring at your own leisure

What's Included

- Breakfast daily and 1 lunch
- 4 nights 3-4 star hotel
- Guided sightseeing - Yangon
- Escorted by an English speaking tour guide

- Airport arrival and departure transfers on days 1 and 5
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private air-conditioned vehicles

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 guide. We recommend you allow USD\$3-6 per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide 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 free 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 is 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 reclining Buddha of Chaukhtatgyi Paya at Chaukhtatgyi Pagoda, which has a crown

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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 Pasandan 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 a barbecue 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 in your Welcome Letter.

For tours starting in Vietnam and Myanmar we collect from all tour participants the 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 collect from all tour participants a small tipping kitty (the amount is noted under exclusions on page one of this document). This kitty covers tips throughout your holiday and 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 guide/s. For a job well done, we would suggest USD \$3-6 per traveller, 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 to Vietnam, Inside Indochina or Indochina Discovery tour your tipping kitty will be split into two separate payments. The tipping kitty for the Laos section of your tour will be collected on day 2 of the tour in Vientiane. Then, on day 8 in Hanoi the Vietnam/Cambodia/Thailand tipping kitty

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will be collected for these onward touring arrangements.

Groups & guides

The longest *Signature Range* tour we offer in Southeast Asia is our *Indochina Discovery 23 day tour*. All other *Signature Range* tours we offer (with the exception of the family tours) are sectors of this larger tour.

The longest *Essentials Range* tour we offer in Southeast Asia is our *Hanoi to Bangkok 19 day tour*, all other *Essentials Range* tours are sectors of this longer tour.

As our tours are modular, travellers may join you part way through your holiday, for example in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City or Phnom Penh on our *Signature Range* tours, or in Ho Chi Minh City our *Essentials Range* tours. There will also be travellers who end their tour when you continue on.

Myanmar:

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.

Guides:

In Laos, a Lao national guide escorts our tours from Vientiane through to Luang Prabang.

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 Range* tours there is a local Thai guide for the Bangkok city tour. If you are travelling on one of our *Essentials Range* tours, a local guide will meet you at the Cambodia border and escort you to the hotel, the remainder of your Bangkok stay is unescorted with free time to independently explore.

What to pack

Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit www.worldclimate.com

- 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 and antihistamine cream
- Universal travel adaptor
- Lightweight, fold up raincoat/poncho/umbrella
- Tour Voucher and a copy of your travel insurance policy, 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
- Sleep sheet if taking an overnight sleeper train in Vietnam. These also can be easily purchased in Hanoi at an approx. cost of USD \$5
- An overnight bag, if your tour includes a night aboard 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

It's not like home

Travel to far-flung corners of the earth involves lifestyles and conditions that are sometimes very different from what you are used to back home. You must come prepared to cope with unusual situations, local inadequacies and unpredictable events, as and when they occur. Foreign travel is definitely not suitable for people who expect or demand everything to go exactly as planned. With the greatest respect and in the interest of your ultimate enjoyment you must understand this. Things can and do change in foreign countries.

Shopping experiences on your tour

All shopping experiences on your tour have been noted in the itinerary and they been carefully selected based upon positive feedback from On The Go travellers. You

are under no obligation to partake in a listed shopping experience and you are most welcome to wait inside or outside the premises.

In the tourism industry it's common practice for commission to be offered in exchange for recommending particular shops or suppliers. This can become an issue when clients feel obliged to purchase goods. We do our best to avoid this by monitoring all shopping experiences offered.

Although we only visit reputable retailers, please note that we cannot explicitly guarantee the quality of their products. All purchases made whilst on holiday with us are at your own discretion. Please make sure that you are completely happy with your purchase. On The Go cannot be held responsible for any items that you buy if they fail to meet expectation, or any shipping arrangements. Proceed with caution.

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

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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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