



BURMA LAND OF THE GOLDEN PAGODA: SMALL GROUP TRIP | 12 DAYS



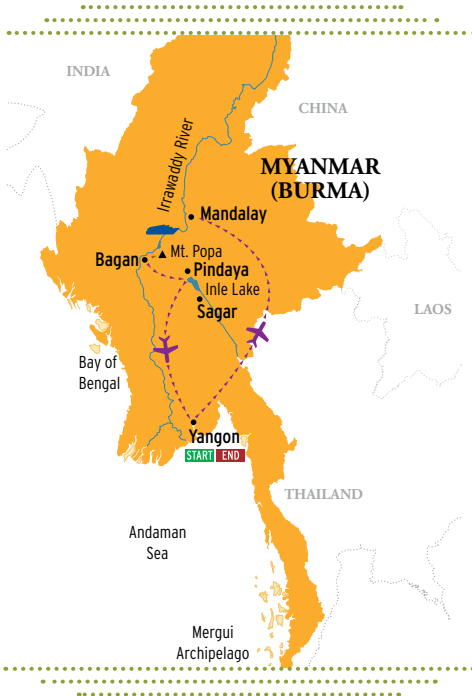
Stunning Shwedagon in Yangon is justifiably iconic

BUDDHIST CULTURE, STUNNING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES, AN OVERNIGHT RIVER CRUISE, TRIBAL PEOPLES, REMOTE VILLAGES, BEAUTIFUL BOUTIQUE HOTELS, COLORFUL MARKETS

Visiting Myanmar (Burma) is a chance to step outside the ordinary and visit a world far from your own. The tinkling of temple bells, the sight of young monks at prayer, a farmer and buffalo at field—there is something inexplicably magical about these scenes.

This journey begins in Yangon (Rangoon), a city in the midst of a metamorphosis—retaining its grit, charm and splendor yet embracing the 21st century with breakneck speed. Impervious to these changes, the fabulous golden Shwedagon Pagoda stands as a constant vigil over the city. Heading north, visit the numerous temples and local markets in the country's cultural center of Mandalay and in nearby Amarapura, a former capital. Board a luxurious boat for an overnight cruise on the Irrawaddy River—a fascinating journey offering access to charming villages along the shore. And, of course, wander the spectacular ruins of Bagan (Pagan), which some consider the most wondrous site in Asia.

Visit misty hill stations, traverse dense forests, watch locals tend their picturesque rice fields and admire the country's many golden temples. In the Shan Hills area, hike to traditional villages populated by Pa-O and Danu tribal people, spend a dreamy day afloat on Inle Lake and pay a visit to weaving village anchored via stilts in the water. And finally, explore the haunting ruins of Insein to discover its collection of ancient stupas and shrines dating back to the 16th century.



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JOURNEY BEYOND THE ORDINARY™

- Stay at traditional Burmese-style boutique hotels
- Attend a colorful Shan State tribal market
- Explore the haunting 16th-century ruins of Insein
- Marvel at the graceful Intha leg rowers on Inle Lake
- Explore Bagan's thousands of ancient temples by van, bike or horse cart
- Tour with an expert on Burmese history and culture
- Relax aboard a stylish barge on an overnight cruise on the Irrawaddy River



Other Questions? Call us at 800.642.2742



The Governors Residence's stylish rooms exude classical elegance, and modern amenities



Monks in traditional dress are a common sight

DAILY ITINERARY

Note: Initials B, L, D after each day's descriptions indicate which meals are included in the land cost of the trip.

DAY 1 YANGON (RANGOON)

Welcome to Burma. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to our hotel to meet our Tour Leader and fellow travelers, and enjoy a welcome dinner.

Overnight at The Belmond Governor's Residence (D). This fabulously stylish Burmese teak mansion stands amidst a lotus garden in the centrally located Embassy Quarter of Yangon. Rooms are luxuriously decorated in tropical cottons and silks, overlooking a free form pool.

DAY 2 YANGON

Today we will explore the capital, with its wide avenues, fine Victorian architecture, bustling markets and picturesque waterfront. Visit the National Museum, which houses interesting exhibits on Burmese history, culture and ethnic groups. The Lion Throne of King Thibaw, an extraordinary work that stands over twenty feet tall and is covered with carvings depicting scenes from Burmese mythology, is especially intriguing. There will then be time to browse the nearby market stalls in search of eclectic souvenirs, handcrafted jewelry or traditional sweets. At sunset, visit the Shwedagon Pagoda, the glistening golden stupa that towers over the capital and never fails to enchant visitors.

Dinner will be on your own tonight, offering opportunities to explore or relax.

Overnight at The Strand or The Governors Residence (B,L).

DAY 3 YANGON / MANDALAY / AMARAPURA

This morning, we will fly to Mandalay, arriving midday. Our first stop the cultural center has many interesting sites, including the Shwenandaw Kyaung Monastery, noted for its fine teak carvings,

and the Kuthodaw Pagoda with 729 marble slabs inscribed with the entire Buddhist canon. Then we will visit a gold-leaf factory and a shop selling woodcarvings, Burmese marionettes and richly-embroidered tapestries called *kalagas*. Time permitting; we will also prowl the Zegyo Market with its endless panoply of color, hustle and heady aromas. In the afternoon, the lovely countryside around Mandalay is a delight to explore: as is the fascinating old city of Amarapura. We will visit a weaver's workshop, beautiful pagodas, the ruins of the old palace, a Chinese joss house (temple) and shops specializing in cotton and silk *longyis* (the Burmese-style sarong). Catch sunset at U Bein Bridge before returning to our lodgings for dinner on your own tonight.

Overnight at the Mandalay Hill Resort (departures through Feb. 2016) or Hotel by the Red Canal (departures after Feb. 2016) (B,L). The Mandalay Hill Resort gazes up Mandalay Hill, featuring lavishly furnished rooms that look out on panoramic views of myriad pagodas and distinctive royal architecture. The Hotel By the Red Canal is a haven of beauty and tranquility in unostentatious style featuring rooms with high ceilings, luscious teak floors, and old-world grace.

DAY 4 MANDALAY / IRRAWADDY RIVER / RV PAUKAN

We will depart early this morning for a journey by bus and ferry to the charming town of Ava, which was the capital between the 14th and 19th centuries. An exploration by horse cart offers a glimpse into the Burma of old: farmers plowing their fields with oxen, ruined pagodas peaking out of the jungle and a marvelous wooden monastery where crimson-clad novices practice reciting Buddhist scripture. We will then make our way down to the jetty to board the RV Paukan and begin our trip down the Irrawaddy.

Overnight on board the RV Paukan (B,L,D). Wonderfully stylish, the RV Paukan is a charming boutique hotel on the river, beautifully furnished with a unique combination of modern and traditional motifs.

Other Questions? Call us at 800.642.2742



Tribal peoples and villagers buy and sell their wares at local tribal markets



Stilted chalets dot the edge of Inle Lake at the Inle Princess Resort

DAY 5 IRRAWADDY RIVER / RV PAUKAN

Today, as we float down the majestic Irrawaddy, stop to visit small riverside villages. Meet the locals, explore their quaint towns and beautiful pagodas. For many, encountering the warm, welcoming locals on these stops is one of highlights of the journey. We will also visit Sagaing Hills, a fascinating site of crumbling pagodas and many active shrines standing watch over the river. When Mandalay was Burma's capital, Sagaing was the "annex" town that housed hundreds of Buddhist monks.

Overnight on board the RV Paukan (B,L,D).

DAY 6 IRRAWADDY RIVER / RV PAUKAN / BAGAN

Today, we will continue our leisurely river journey, arriving in Bagan mid-morning. During its golden age in the 12th century, Bagan was known as "the city of four million pagodas." While Kublai Khan and several massive earthquakes have reduced that inflated number drastically, what remains is still incredible, and rightfully known as one of the greatest sites in Asia. Over the next two days, we will visit the principal pagodas, some rarely seen stupas, several small villages and the on-site museum. Our expert Tour Leader and knowledgeable local guides will provide insightful explanations of all we see.

This afternoon is free to relax or explore on your own. If you like, take a bicycle or horse cart and lose yourself amidst the crumbling spires. Dinner will be on your own tonight.

Overnight at the Aureum Palace Resort (B,L). The Aureum Palace Resort is a paragon of aesthetics and elegance in Bagan. Large wooden columns, Bagan-style red bricks and teak shingles define the structure, while cane and teak furniture continue the aesthetic inside.

DAY 7 BAGAN / CHAUK / SALAE / MT. POPA

This morning, we will drive south to the little town of Chauk to visit the colorful local market and then continue on to the little-visited hamlet of Salae, home to several working monasteries. Nearby Mt. Popa, an extinct 5,000-foot volcano beckons.

It is the traditional home of the Mahagiri *nats* (animistic spirits) and an important pilgrimage site. Everything about the place is dramatic—the lush vegetation on the mountain slopes, the petrified forest along the road and the complex of monasteries perched on unlikely crags. After lunch, we will return to Bagan for an afternoon of free time. This evening, we will reconvene for dinner at a favorite local restaurant, accompanied by a marionette performance.

Overnight at the Aureum Palace Resort (B,L,D).

DAY 8 BAGAN

Visit the spectacular Shwezigon Pagoda at first light. (Note: if you have pre-booked the optional Oriental Ballooning excursion, instead depart early this morning for this wondrous adventure.) Reconvene for lunch and then continue exploring with a visit to Ananda. Built in 1090, the whitewashed and gilded Ananda is an amazingly well-preserved temple. Tonight, we will enjoy a special private dinner party on the grounds of our hotel.

Overnight at the Aureum Palace Resort (B,L,D).

DAY 9 BAGAN / HEHO

This morning, we will fly to Heho and then travel overland to Inle Lake. Private boats will complete the transfer to our hotel. Dinner is on your own this evening.

Overnight at the Inle Princess Resort (or Aureum Inle Resort and Spa for Jan. 2016 departure only) (B,L). The delightful architecture and stylish interiors of the Inle Princess Resort draw on the history, tradition and culture of the Shan people. The Aureum Inle Resort and Spa features sumptuous contemporary Burmese villas with stunning lake views.

DAY 10 INLE LAKE / INDEIN

Today, we will visit a local tribal market, which rotate through villages in the region. These fascinating hodgepodes of brightly colored flowers, flopping fish and local goods, offer the opportunity for various tribal peoples and villagers to not only

Other Questions? Call us at 800.642.2742



A fisherman checks his netting for the catch of the day at Inle Lake



Local women walk daily in the market to shop and socialize

buy and sell their wares, but also catch up on the latest news. We will then board a boat for Indein, a 16th-century temple complex, and another spectacular piece of Burma's vast cultural wealth. Enjoy lunch at Nam Pan village and visit with local silk weavers, boat makers, cheroot makers and blacksmiths. The remainder of the afternoon will be spent exploring beautiful Inle Lake. We will see the famous Intha fishermen rowing their fishing boats with a swirling move of their leg, pass floating gardens (villagers actually grow tidy rows of vegetables on the lake's surface), stop at a weaving village and visit several Shan temples. We will also pay a visit to the Mine Thauk Orphanage, which we have been supporting for many years.

End the day with snacks and a wine tasting at the Red Mountain Estate Vineyard and Winery. Since its founding in 2002, French wine maker, Francois Raynal, has imported over 400,000 vines from Spain and France along with the best European equipment and is producing exciting, young wines from Burma. His wines are the first ever made in the country.

Overnight at the Inle Princess Resort (or Aureum Inle Resort and Spa for Jan. 2016 departure only) (B,L,D).

DAY 11 INLE LAKE

Today, continue exploring the lake region with activities of your choosing. Hop on a bicycle and ride to a local market, savor the tranquility of our lakeside lodgings or take a leisurely walk along the foothills to access more local flavor and natural landscapes. Tonight, we will reconvene for a farewell dinner.

Overnight at the Inle Princess Resort (or Aureum Inle Resort and Spa for Jan. 2016 departure only) (B,L,D).

DAY 12 INLE LAKE / YANGON / HOME OR EXTEND

This morning, we will transfer to Heho and fly to Yangon. After lunch at the Strand Hotel, you will be transferred to the airport for your flights home or to begin a private extension. (B,L).

TOUR LEADERS



GORDON MARSH has been leading educational tours worldwide since 1983 for some of America's top institutions. He holds degrees in German and Chinese from the University of Hamburg and Leeds University. He is fluent in German, Mandarin and Cantonese, and speaks French, Italian and Arabic. He possesses an academic, polished demeanor which belies a dry British wit.



DAVIES STAMM is a native New Yorker and graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. He fell in love with Southeast Asia in late 1970's, when he moved to Bangkok, where he worked as a writer and editor. In his free time, Davies continues to explore Asia in search of remote areas far from the modern world. With his great charm, extensive knowledge of the region's history and art, and his wicked sense of humor, Davies is a top-notch cultural interpreter.



KYAW KYAW ZIN (KENNETH) was born and raised in Shan state, in remote eastern Myanmar. He earned a BA in International Relations from University of Rangoon and studied Hospitality Management in Hong Kong Baptist College. He then worked as a linguistic interpreter for both English and Japanese before dedicating himself full-time to tour leading. An accomplished and experienced guide, Kenneth is an expert on the traditional arts of Myanmar, and possesses keen insights into its history and culinary traditions. Travelers rave about his deep knowledge and natural warmth.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. WHERE DO WE STAY?

This trip features stunning boutique hotels in traditional style, and colonial-era masterpieces. Local architectural influences combine with modern amenities and lush gardens to dazzling effect. The sailing barge is a classic, refurbished in boutique Burmese style. Please note that due to limited space and availability, room types and room locations may differ in all locations.

Please note that lodgings that we choose are best available in each area. However, due to the influx of visitors, we may or may not be able to guarantee the aforementioned hotels for each departure. Please check with your Travel Specialist as to which hotels are confirmed for your desired departure date.

2. WHAT IS THE GROUP SIZE?

We travel in small groups, between 6 and 18 participants. We strive to provide the best possible travel experience and believe large groups preclude an intimate cultural experience. Please note that we reserve the right to add special guests to any departure, including those with the maximum number of participants. If a group falls below 6 participants, your Travel Specialist will contact you to discuss your options—either converting the itinerary to a Custom Journey or transferring your booking to another Small Group Departure. Per our Terms & Conditions, we cannot be held responsible for additional expenses (air ticket changes and fees, visa fees, medical expenses, etc.) incurred by group members whose trip is cancelled or re-scheduled for any reason. We strongly advise against the purchase of non-changeable and/or non-refundable airfares and urge you to purchase comprehensive travel insurance.

3. HOW DIFFICULT IS THIS TRIP?

Expect easy to moderate touring, with moderate amounts of walking and optional day hikes. Be prepared for hot, humid conditions at times.

4. WHAT ABOUT THE WEATHER?

At this time of year, expect little rainfall, plenty of sunshine and temperatures ranging from 30-60°F at night and around 85°F during the day. Please note that temperatures can dip to freezing in the higher altitudes and at Inle Lake—be sure to pack a warm jacket and hat.

5. SHOULD I EXERCISE BEFORE THE TRIP?

Most healthy people will have no problem completing the activities in this program. But the answer is yes. It is always good to begin a journey in good physical condition. It will contribute to your general well-being and enjoyment of the trip. More important than your physical condition, though, is a flexible attitude.

6. WHAT IS THE OPTIONAL ORIENTAL BALLOONING EXCURSION?

This is a hot-air balloon adventure over Bagan that affords an incredible bird's eye view of this magnificent temple-studded plain. Please note that while every safety precaution is taken, hot air balloon rides can be turbulent by nature and landings can be rough. Hot air balloon rides are not suitable for anyone who is pregnant or has impaired mobility, back or neck pain or general health issues. This option must be arranged with your Travel Specialist at the time of booking at an additional cost.

Please note that this option may not be available for all departures due to seasonal weather changes.

7. WHAT ABOUT SHOPPING IN MYANMAR?

Keep an eye out for high-quality textiles, clothes, lacquer ware, jewelry and other handicrafts. Please buy cautiously: gemstones or antiques may not be authentic. And please refrain from buying products derived from endangered species. Please note that US travelers are prohibited from importing Burmese jadeite, rubies, or jewelry made from these gems.

8. WHAT ABOUT THE POLITICAL SITUATION?

It appears that Burma is now on a path to greater political freedom and economic openness. We feel strongly that a return to isolation could be devastating, and that compassionate, well-informed travelers can have a positive impact on the future of this proud nation.

9. WHY TRAVEL TO MYANMAR WITH US?

We work directly with private guides and privately owned hotels and restaurants to deepen our insightful, authentic connection to Myanmar's people and ensure our trip costs directly benefit the local economy. Furthermore, our commitment to the country is such that the Asia Transpacific Foundation, our charitable arm, operates a factory that produces simple, ceramic water filters that are dramatically reducing waterborne illness in local villages. See the Giving Back section of our web site for more details.

EXPERIENCE COUNTS

We have cultivated connections and friendships in Burma for nearly three decades. Our expertise runs deep, which is why we are the tour operator of choice in Burma for the Harvard Museum of Natural History as well as discerning individuals.

Other Questions? Call us at 800.642.2742

INCLUSIONS

Guaranteed departures for all group trips with a minimum of 6 passengers.

Twin-sharing accommodations. In the unlikely event that specified hotels are not available for a given departure, we reserve the right to make suitable same-class substitutions without notice.

Single Supplement: A single supplement must be paid under the following conditions: 1. If single accommodations are requested, (once requested, single supplement changes are not allowed without prior approval, or penalties may apply) or: 2. If we cannot match you with a same gender roommate, or: 3. If you reject your roommate either before or during the trip (a room of your own is not guaranteed in this instance, and is subject to availability).

Meals as designated on the itinerary, when taken with the group. Non-alcoholic beverages, bottled water and local beer included with all group meals. Bottled water included during all touring.

Airport transfers for group flights; all transfers to and from hotels for group activities and sightseeing tours unless you separate from the group after the completion of the group activity.

All tips for ground staff, drivers, and hotel porters, etc. Members requiring special or additional services from ground staff should plan to tip accordingly.

Entrance fees, camera fees, visa fees, domestic and international airport departure taxes for group flights, domestic permits.

Pre-departure materials, including a customized Travel Guide with background information, packing list, cultural primer, medical information and reading list.

A \$200,000 Emergency Medical Evacuation policy, and a \$5,000 Emergency Medical Insurance and Assistance policy.

EXCLUSIONS

All airfare. Estimates do not include current taxes and surcharges and are subject to change without notice.

All snacks, extra personal beverages & bottled water, etc. other than during designated group meals.

Passport, video fees, excess baggage fees, laundry, medical and evacuation expenses and any other items of a personal nature not specifically included above.

Tips for your tour leader are not included but are greatly appreciated. We suggest as a guideline the figure of \$20 per person per day.

ADDITIONAL INSURANCE OF ANY KIND, including trip cancellation/interruption/delay, additional medical, and lost baggage insurance. (We highly recommend that you purchase these items!)

Any and all expenses resulting from delays arising beyond our direct control due to bad weather, trail, river, sea, and/or road conditions; sickness; government action; and any other transportation delays for any reason beyond our direct control. Sufficient funds should be carried for this possibility. Credits may not be available for group arrangements missed for the above reasons.

Optional activities, free-day activities, including any additional stopover arrangements not specifically included in the group itinerary. We can of course make additional arrangements for you. Extra charges will apply.

Note: Prices subject to change. Itinerary and all terms & conditions subject to change without notice, either before departure or after commencement of the program. Due to frequent changes in air schedules and the complex nature of this itinerary, the possibility does exist that the order of events may change from what is reflected herein. All programs are subject to the 'Terms and Conditions' and 'Responsibilities' sections of our sign-up packet.

TRIP AT A GLANCE

DEPARTURE DATE	LAND COST	INTERNAL AIR	SINGLE SUPPLEMENT	ORIENTAL BALLOONING (IN BAGAN)
Oct 20-31, 2016	\$9,865	\$585	\$2,535	\$370
Nov 10-21, 2016	\$9,865	\$585	\$2,535	\$370
Jan 12-23, 2017*	\$9,865	\$585	\$2,535	\$370

*DATES TENTATIVE, CALL FOR DETAILS

Note: The optional Oriental Ballooning excursion in Bagan may not be available for all departures due to seasonality and availability. Please check with your Travel Specialist.

INTERNAL AIR

Prices are approximate and subject to change until ticketed.

INTERNATIONAL AIR

Please call our in-house air department for a current quote.

DESTINATIONS

Yangon, Mandalay, Amarapura, Irrawaddy River, Bagan, Chauk, Salae, Mt. Popa, Heho, Inle Lake, Indein

CUSTOMIZE IT

This itinerary can be made into a private, custom journey tailored to your dates and preferences. Or add on a private pre-trip or post-trip extension.

TRAVEL SOLO

Visit www.asiatrangepacific.com/solo-travel to learn about our progressive policies for solo travelers joining our Small Group Trips.

HOW TO SIGN UP

Just call us at 800.642.2742. We'll happily discuss the trip with you in detail, and if we decide together that it is the trip for you, please submit a \$1,000 per person deposit to reserve your space.