

**Classic Myanmar
6 days – 5 nights
Yangon, Heho, Nyaung Shwe, Inle Lake, Indein, Bagan
Adventure, Discovery, Culture, History**

Yangon is the main gateway and former capital city of Myanmar. With what can only be described as one of the most striking religious monuments in South-East Asia, the Shwedagon Pagoda, plus a wealth of colonial architecture and lots more besides, Yangon is a city of amazing contrasts and a delight to explore.

Day 1: Yangon

On arrival at Yangon Airport, you will be met by your local Destination Asia tour guide and transfer to downtown for sightseeing. Today explore Bogyoke Aung San Market, still commonly known by its old British name of Scott Market. Undoubtedly offering the largest selection of handicrafts in Myanmar, the market is a great place to discover a bargain and have fun haggling with the local traders. You will meet your tailor to create a unique traditional Myanmar dress that will be ready on the departure day. A short walk through the market (closed on Mondays) onto a wooden bridge will lead you to a popular Shan noodle shop in the bustling neighborhood of Yawmingyi, the perfect lunch stop on a street lined with small restaurants and cafés that attracts foodies from across the city. Transfer to your hotel for check-in and time to rest. Late afternoon (4:30 PM), transfer to Shwedagon Pagoda. Undoubtedly the best time to visit the pagoda is in the early evening as the sun begins to fall over the city of Yangon. The historic Shwedagon pagoda towers almost 98 meters (326 feet) above the green cityscape of Yangon. One of the wonders of the religious world, the Shwedagon Pagoda is believed to have been built more than 2500 years ago. Testament to the faith of the Burmese, the Shwedagon is covered with hundreds of gold plates; the top of the Stupa is encrusted with 4531 diamonds; the largest of which is a single 72 carat Diamond! In Myanmar apart from the twelve Zodiac signs which correspond to the ones used in the West, every day of the week is symbolized by an animal. The signs are the Galon or Giant Bird for Sunday, Tiger for Monday, Lion for Tuesday, Mouse for Thursday, Hamster for Friday and Naga or Dragon for Saturday. There is an extra one for Wednesday afternoon, which is an elephant without tusks while Wednesday morning is a tusked one. There are shrines with the animals symbolizing each day of the week around the base of the Shwedagon pagoda. Guests will be provided with flowers and bowls with water. Each guest has the possibility to donate the flowers to the shrine of their birth sign. It is believed that pouring water over the Buddha in the shrine will provide good luck in future (one bowl of water per year of age). Afterwards clients will together light up hundreds of candles as a lighting festival to offer Shwedagon Pagodas. This evening's dinner will be at a Designer's private mansion; Mrs. Claudia Saw Lwin, a Burmese artist and interior designer who lives in a beautiful old mansion in Yangon. She now employs skilled craftsmen specialized in producing exclusive indoor and outdoor custom-made furniture, crafts and objets d'art for home decoration, gourmet restaurants and luxury hotels. Using a multitude of resources such as teak and other hardwoods, bamboo and cane, sea shells and metals such as brass, copper, gold and silver leaf, Mrs. Claudia Saw Lwin Robert undertakes continuous research and experimentation to improve finishing, general quality and originality of ideas. [L/D]

Note: *Yangon and Bagan Transportation by Elephant Coach.*

All transportation in Yangon and Bagan will be provided with the Elephant Coach (except airport transfer and specified otherwise, e.g. jeep in Bagan) a step back in time, to grasp the Oriental magic of yesteryear. Discover the heritage of mystic Myanmar, its beautiful people and its rich history in the luxurious comfort of this handcrafted masterpiece. This is a unique way of traveling in Myanmar with the lavishly restored antique post-Colonial Chevrolet 6-seater passenger's bus. A coach attendant will be with the clients at all times providing them refreshing towels and complimentary drinks on board: fresh Evian mineral water and Badoit sparkling water.

Note: *Sightseeing is contingent on your arrival time.*

Day 2: Yangon, Heho, Inle Lake

This morning at about 6:45am you will be transferred to the airport in order to connect with your flight to Heho. (Estimate departure and arrival time of the flight: 8.45am - 10.05am). Shan state's prime attraction, Inle lake is literally dotted with interesting villages and floating gardens and is one of the most picturesque locations in all of Myanmar. The lake and the surrounding area are also home to a number of tribes, mainly Intha but also Shan, Kayah and Danaw to name a few and there are fantastic opportunities for browsing at local markets and interacting with the local population. Nyaung Shwe is the gateway to the lake and upon arrival at Heho airport you will be met and transferred to this small, but attractive town. After a brief visit to Shwe Yan Pyay Monastery, which is famed for its unique oval windows, transfer to your private boat and venture onto the lake. Enjoy a memorable dining experience unlike any ever experienced before with the Exotic boat lunch on Inle Lake. We have transformed a rice carrier boat into a fully equipped restaurant. Our on-board chef prepares your gourmet lunch on the boat while you take in the breathtaking scenery and enjoy exquisite dining, an experience you will never forget. After lunch, visit the five-ancient-gold-covered Buddha images at Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda, the holiest monastery on the lake. There will also be the opportunity to visit a floating garden in the afternoon. Dinner will be at your hotel. [B/L/D]

Note: *Inle Transportation by In Devi luxury wooden boats*

For luxury comfort, you will be cruising on high end boats for sightseeing on the lake. The premier boats have been developed to specifically cater for the needs of the discerning traveler. The only purposed built boats of Inle Lake provide superior comfort and quality, enhanced safety, quiet engines, trained crew and drinks services. Each seat has cushions together with sun shade umbrellas and blankets to ensure day & night comfort. The boat crew is trained to ensure that language skills are appropriate and that the consideration of customers experience and safety are given paramount importance. By careful design and testing the engine noise has been reduced significantly, hence a more tranquil atmosphere is achieved.

Day 3: Inle Lake

Depart from hotel at about 6.45 am and transfer by boat. The local 5-Day Market rotates between towns in the Inle Lake region. The market is a great place to observe local life with many of the ethnic minorities attending to buy and sell their goods. After exploring the market and perhaps buying the odd local handicraft or two, it is time to continue to the ruined stupas and temples at the lake-side village of Indein. A covered walkway leads to the main Shwe Inn Thein Paya, from where (weather permitting) there are great views across the lake. Our guests can enjoy a traditional meal at a wonderful authentic Intha house at an island village on Inle Lake. The village is hidden from regular tourist routes. After the meal, a walk can be arranged through a luxuriant bamboo forest next to a clear water stream. The path eventually joins a small canal where boats are waiting to take guests back on their Inle journey. After lunch, there will be the opportunity to visit Nampan village to see local cigar (cheroot) making and then continue to Inn Paw Khone, a small village that specializes in silk weaving. [B/L/D]

Note: *Please note that, if necessary, the order of sightseeing will be changed according to 5-day market rotation. On some occasions there may not be a market at all and in this case the guide will make alternative sightseeing plans.*

Day 4: Inle Lake, Heho, Bagan

Early morning about 8.00am transfer to the airport for your flight to Bagan. (Estimate departure and arrival time of the flight: 10.20am – 11.00am). Bagan is one of the richest archaeological sites in Asia and with over 2000 pagodas, temples and monasteries to explore, there is certainly plenty to keep one occupied. But there is more to this enchanting destination; rural village life, interesting markets and artisan workshops to name but a few. The temples at Bagan can only be described as amazing and enchanting, a place still largely unaffected by the 21st century where nobody leaves disappointed. The rest of the day will be dedicated to exploring the temples and the surrounding area. Sightseeing will include Gubyaukgyi with its excellent stucco carvings, the impressive Htilominlo Pahto and Ananda Pahto which is one the best-preserved temples in the archeological zone. Bagan is not only

famous for its temples and pagodas but also for its artistic handicrafts and lacquer ware and after a break for lunch at a local restaurant, there will be the opportunity to visit a local workshop where the process of making these interesting items can be seen. A local horse cart will be at disposal this afternoon for clients who wish to experience the local way of transportation. The only way to truly appreciate the scale of the site is atop one of the temples and early evening presents the perfect opportunity to watch the sunset and take in the enormity of the surrounding area. This evening, enjoy a unique dinner served against the breathtaking backdrop of Bagan's enchanting skyline dotted with temples and stupas. The specially prepared dinner will be served in an atmospheric setting. [B/L/D]

Day 5: Bagan

Option: *Balloon flight over Bagan (available from October to March)*

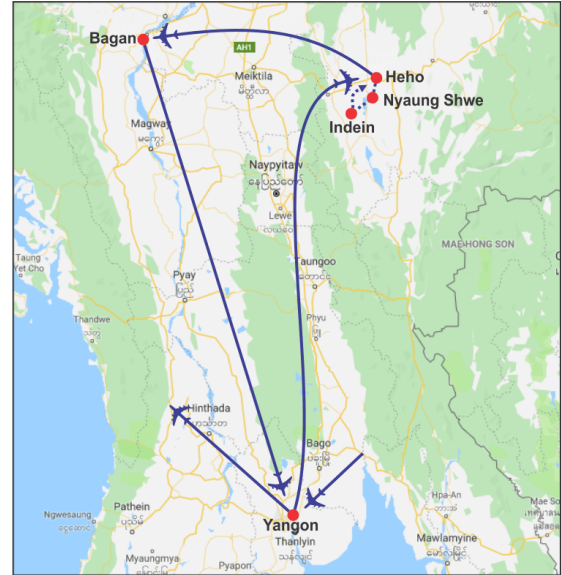
Depart from hotel at about 5.00am and transfer by car. There is no better or more spectacular view of the ancient kingdom of Bagan than from a hot air balloon. This world-famous archaeological site of more than a thousand Buddhist temples scattered over a plain is at its best when seen from a bird's eye vantage, as the sun comes up gently over the Ayeyarwady River. You will be collected from your hotel and provided with a light breakfast and safety briefing while the balloons inflate, before enjoying a dawn flight lasting just under one hour. Flights operate daily from October through March. Oriental Ballooning is operated by qualified pilots and technicians. After the flight, return to the hotel to freshen up.

Begin the morning at about 9.00am and transfer by car with a visit to nearby Phwar Saw Village, which afford the opportunity to witness rural Burmese life. En route you will be able to stop at the interesting market at Nyaung Oo to see the variety of fresh produce for sale and gain an insight into the bustling market atmosphere in Bagan. Food Donation Ceremony to participate to a merit making experience at Zaytawon Monastery, one of the most auspicious moments one can hope to experience in this Mystical land. In his lifetime a Myanmar male is expected to spend some of his life serving as a Monk to learn the ways of Buddhism. Each morning Myanmar is scattered with thousands of Monks roaming the streets collecting Alms for their meals. According to Buddhist beliefs Monks only eat twice a day, early morning and mid-morning. On occasions a family will donate to the Monastery, as they make the donation they are able to serve the Monks their food in order to gain merit. We'll donate on the client's behalf to allow guests on this tour to participate in the morning ceremony and help feed the Monks their final meal of the day. After the food donation, it is an opportunity to dine 'Burmese' style as you enjoy the company of a local family and have lunch at their house. You will be invited into the kitchen to see how the meal is prepared before adjourning to the dining room (or garden if the weather permits) to enjoy freshly prepared local specialties. After lunch, enjoy a half day tour exploring the west bank of the Irrawaddy! Your guide will meet you and take you to the jetty from where a traditional, wooden motor boat will take you to the other side of the Irrawaddy River. When you reach the opposite bank of the river you will change your mode of transportation to a local car. You will be able to visit numerous rural villages specializing in various cottage industries such as Thezin village, where you can see cane weaving and Htan Taw Kyauk village where villagers weave baskets from palm tree leaves. After seeing the rural side of Bagan, the car will take you to Taunt Kyi Taung pagoda which is perched on a hill, with great views of the river. The pagoda was built by the King Anawrahta in 11th Century, and you will have time to walk around the complex and admire the sweeping views across the Irrawaddy and the temples of Pagan on the other shore. Leaving the pagoda, you travel back to the waterfront to rejoin your boat and sail back down to the jetty where your vehicle will be waiting for you to take you to your hotel for dinner and overnight. [B/L/D]

Day 6: Bagan, Yangon

This morning at about 8.00am you will be transferred back to Bagan airport in order to connect with your return flight to Yangon. (Estimate departure and arrival time of the flight: 9.15am – 10.35am). Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to Yangon Heritage Trust office for private tour (YHT's trained tour guides will lead you into the heart of old Yangon with stories and anecdotes from its colorful and layered history from its earliest beginnings to the modern day. Find out what makes the city unique) and the tour starting at YHT's office on lower Pansodan Road, this route ends at bustling night market in Chinatown. It passes through top sites in the central part of the city and Indian quarter, including

Sule Pagoda, City Hall, the High Court, and the Jewish Musmeah Yeshua Synagogue, the only synagogue in Myanmar. Lunch today will be at Burma Bistro Restaurant. Tucked between Shwe Bon Thar and Merchant road downtown, the unassuming entrance will have you wondering if you'll end up in a local family's apartment but after the first flight of stairs, instead a very spacious bar and restaurant are a welcome respite from the business of the city. This beautifully renovated brick colonial building exudes an Old-World charm with overgrown plants and vintage paint chipping from the façade, while high ceilings and traditional Chin hand-woven textiles adding an elegant touch to the interior. The food served here draws inspiration from both Burmese classic and ethnic dishes from all over the country, from the Chin farmer soup to the Shan style rice or Burmese curries there is something to please everyone. In the late afternoon, transfer to the airport to connect your departure flight. [B/L]



Note: Time required between domestic arrival and International departure is minimum 3 hours.

[B/L] = Breakfast and Lunch | [B/D] = Breakfast and Dinner | [B/L/D] = Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Your Tour includes:

- Domestic flights in economy class
- Private arrival and departure transfers
- 5 nights' accommodation
 - Yangon 1 night
 - Inle Lake 2 nights
 - Bagan 2 nights
- Meals
 - Breakfast daily
 - 3 lunches
 - 1 traditional Lunch at an authentic Intha house
 - 1 local home lunch in Bagan
 - 1 exotic boat lunch on Inle Lake
 - 5 dinners
- Visits:
 - Bogyoke Aung San Market
 - Shwedagon Pagoda
 - Intha tribe and house
 - Shwe Yan Pyay Monastery
 - Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda
 - 5-Day Market
 - Lake-side village of Indein
 - Nampan village to see local cigar making
 - Inn Paw Khone silk weaving
 - Gubyaukgyi stucco carvings
 - Htilominlo Pahto and Ananda Pahto temples
 - Zaytawon Monastery
 - Htan Taw Kyauk village
 - Taunt Kyi Taung pagoda

- Sightseeing tour of Yangon
- Entrance fees for sites visited
- English-speaking guide While touring
- A/C vehicles for tours and transfers
- Private boats for included excursion on Inle Lake
- Private Horse Cart for Bagan sightseeing
- Lighting up hundreds of candles at Shwedagon Pagoda
- Food Donation Ceremony in Bagan
- Bottle water and cool towel provided on transfers and sightseeing

Tour does not include:

- International or Domestic airfares
 - Any taxes and surcharges relating to airfares
 - Travel insurance
 - Entry Visa and visa fees
 - Wi-Fi at hotels except as indicated
 - All alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks except as indicated
 - Other meals not mentioned in the itinerary
 - Extras and gratuities
 - Early check-in, late check-out (Most hotels begin check-in around 2:00pm).
 - Expenses of personal nature
 - Porterage at airport and hotels
 - Optional tours and activities
- Any service not specifically listed under "included"

Hotels in your Tour:

| City | Hotel Name | Room Type | Tripadvisor |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------|
| First Class | | | |
| Yangon | The Strand Hotel | Superior Suite | 4.5 |
| Inle Lake | Villa Inle | Garden | 4.5 |
| Bagan | Aureum Bagan | Deluxe | 4 |
| Deluxe | | | |
| Yangon | Sule Shangrila | Deluxe | 4.5 |
| Inle Lake | Sofitel Inle | Luxury Room | 5 |
| Bagan | Hotel Tharabargate | Deluxe | 4.5 |

Hotels will be confirmed at time of booking

Tour Prices:

| Season | 2-3 pax | 4-5 pax | 6-9 pax | Single Suppl. |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------------|
| First Class | | | | |
| Janurary – March '20 | \$2,925 | \$2,399 | \$2,109 | \$499 |
| Deluxe | | | | |
| January - March '20 | \$3,229 | \$2,705 | \$2,415 | \$785 |

Prices are per person and may change without notice

Options:

| Description | Price |
|---|-------|
| Oriental Ballooning over Bagan Supplement - Premium | \$385 |

Price is per person and may change without notice

Tour Code: MY03RGN20TE