

Burma (Myanmar) – The Golden Land

Tour Code BU

This extraordinary journey discovers the rich cultural heritage of this diverse country and its peoples, beginning in the capital city of Rangoon (Yangon) with its glorious array of architectural wonders including the famous Shwedagon Pagoda. Known today as *Suvanabhomi*, the Golden Land, Burma is a land of beauty and inspiration and the Burmese are a gentle and serene people with a deep-rooted belief in Buddhism and spirit worship, which is reflected in the thousands of beautiful pagodas in ancient Bagan and the monasteries of Mandalay, highlights of our trip. The tour finishes at the beautiful Inle Lake, famous for its floating villages and gardens and the leg-rowers of the Intha tribe



The shimmering Shwedagon Pagoda at sunset, Rangoon © www.syderimages.com

ITINERARY

Day 1 Fly to Rangoon (Yangon)

Fly from London to Rangoon (Yangon). Various flight options via Asia

Day 2 Arrive Rangoon (Yangon)

Arrive Rangoon (Yangon) and transfer to the Hotel Chatrium for two nights

Day 3 In Rangoon (Yangon)

We begin the day at Chauk Htat Gyi to view the colossal 68 m long Reclining Buddha before exploring Rangoon downtown area with a fabulous architectural mix of colonial heritage and ancient pagodas. This afternoon we take a trishaw ride along the Strand Road to the riverfront to visit the stunning Shwedagon Pagoda. Welcome dinner at a traditional restaurant (B,L,D)

Day 4 Fly to Mandalay. City Tour

Early morning flight to Mandalay, famous for its old monasteries, the city is a showcase for Burmese art and architecture of the 19th century. We drive the short distance to Amarapura to visit Burma's longest wooden bridge, built of teak and the Mahagandayon Monastery to see monks receiving alms. This afternoon our city tour includes the famous Mahamuni Pagoda and Shwe Kyaung (Golden Palace) Monastery before we ascend Mandalay Hill to view the city. Two nights at the Mandalay Hill Resort with dinner (B,L,D)

Day 5 Visit Pyin Oo Lwin

We have a full day excursion to Pyin Oo Lwin, a former British hill station. We visit the nearby Pwe Kauk Falls and the local food market run by the Shan people who live in the surrounding villages. before taking a horse drawn cart to see the grand colonial heritage of the town and its nearby plantations. In the afternoon we visit the National Kandawgyi Botanical Gardens (B,L,D)

Day 6 Visit Sagaing Buddhist centre. Fly to Bagan

Sagaing is considered to be the living centre of the Buddhist faith in Burma and the complex of monasteries reverberate with the echoes of cymbals, gongs and pagoda bells. We get an insight into the lifestyle of the monks and nuns who live here. Late afternoon flight to Bagan, one of the richest archaeological sites in Asia. Three nights at the Bagan Thande Hotel with dinner (B,L,D)

Day 7 In Bagan

We spend the morning among the serene landscape of ancient pagodas and temples that date from the 11th century, during the time Bagan was the capital of the First Burmese Empire. There are over 2,000 in the region and we visit the most culturally significant and best preserved among them including the Shwezigon, Gubyaukgyi, Htilo Minlo and the amazing Ananda temple. In the late afternoon we return to truly appreciate the beauty of Bagan from the top of a Pagoda to see the panoramic view of the temples (B,L,D)

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Day 8 In Bagan

We continue our tour of the majestic site this morning with visits to the Lawkawand Pagoda, Payathonazu Temple and Apyeyardara. Later we visit one of the Bagan village homes to meet a local family and gain an insight into their way of life here. This afternoon we return to the site of the temples and are taken by horse drawn cart to explore the area from a different perspective. As a climax to our visit, this evening we take a sunset cruise along the Irrawaddy River to experience the ancient temples for the final time. Evening puppet show with dinner (B,L,D)

Day 9 Visit Inle Lake

This morning we fly to Heho, to spend time along the shores of the Inle Lake, famous for its Inthas (native lake-dwellers) with a unique way of rowing with their legs. After enjoying an authentic lunch at an Intha family home we are able to visit the Lake villages to gain an insight into their traditional skills of canoe making and silk weaving. We also visit a floating farm to see how the farmers make their produce in the middle of the Lake. Two nights at the Golden Island Cottages with dinner (B,L,D)

Day 10 Visit Innsein Temples, Inle Lake area

We visit a colourful market with a variety of ethnic minorities dressed in their traditional costumes buying and selling produce before continuing to the beautiful temples of Innsein, wonderfully situated overlooking the tranquility of Inle Lake. These temples are unusually similar to Khmer in style and date back to 17th century Shan period. In the late afternoon we are able to take a canoe ride to the floating villages and photograph some of the fishermen on the lake (B,L,D)

Day 11 Return to Rangoon (Yangon)

Morning flight to Rangoon (Yangon) to spend the afternoon at leisure or visiting the famous Bogyoke Aung San Market where find a whole variety of interesting Burmese souvenirs, from lacquer ware to gems and jewellery (which are available at reasonable prices), make sure you bargain at the stores to fully experience the Burmese market atmosphere! Our farewell dinner tonight is at Le Planteur Restaurant, the finest French Indochinese restaurant in Burma, and former historical ministerial residence built in 1932 (B,L,D)

Day 12 In Rangoon (Yangon). Fly London

This morning we visit the Kalaywa Monastery which is home to one thousand monks. In his lifetime a Burmese male is expected to spend some of his life serving as a Monk to learn the ways of Buddhism. We will be able to observe the morning procession to collect alms and learn about the monks' way of life. In the afternoon we transfer to the international airport for our various flight options via Asia to London Heathrow (B)

Day 13 Arrive London

Cost £1595.00 per person in a twin room (excluding international flight) Single supplement cost £240.00

PLEASE NOTE: Pro-democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, now considers that tourism should be encouraged to Burma, as long as it is run through private companies. As a result I have chosen to work with a local Burmese partner without connection to the government and who supports projects that help local communities in Burma and promote sustainable development



Htilo Minlo Temple, Bagan
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Price includes –

- ▶ Tour accompanied from London by Patrick Syder
- ▶ Burmese guide for the duration of the tour
- ▶ Four domestic flights with Yangon Airways
- ▶ All transportation by bus, boat, trishaw and horsecart
- ▶ Full sightseeing programme including entrance fees
- ▶ Luxury four star privately owned accommodation
- ▶ Full board meals in hotel or local privately owned restaurants
- ▶ Airport transfers
- ▶ Bottled water daily
- ▶ Porter, hotel and restaurant staff gratuities

Not included – travel insurance, visa fees, alcoholic drinks, guide and driver gratuities, international flights

(for current price check Opodo →)

