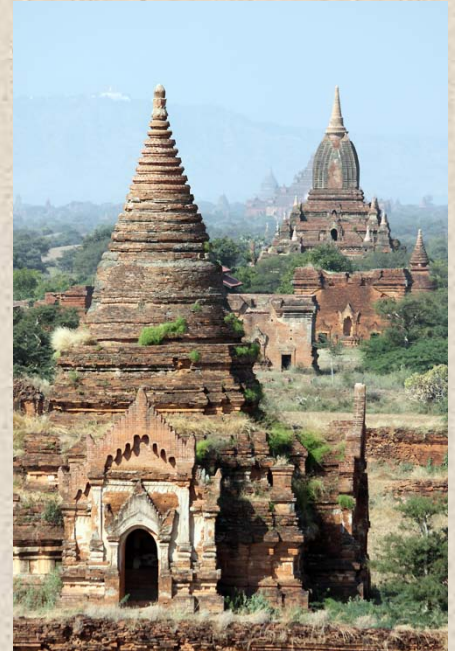


# Burma (Myanmar) – Along the Irrawaddy

Tour Code BUC

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. A fascinating two night cruise along the Irrawaddy provides a wonderful insight into the traditional way of life and scenery on the river banks. The tour includes time at the beautiful Inle Lake, famous for its floating villages and gardens and the leg-rowers of the Intha tribe

Ancient pagodas of Bagan  
© 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 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 late afternoon we visit the stunning Shwedagon Pagoda., a perfect time of day to experience the atmosphere of the place! Welcome dinner at a traditional restaurant (B,L,D)

### Day 4 Fly to Heho. 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. 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 Myanmar Treasure Resort with dinner (B,L,D)

### Day 5 Visit Inndein 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 Inndein, 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 (B,L,D)

### Day 6 Fly to Bagan. Visit ancient Bagan

Early morning flight to Bagan, one of the richest archaeological sites in Asia. 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 shimmering Shwezigon temple, the frescoed Gubyaukgyi temple, Htilominlo and Tayoke Paya pagodas. Two nights at the Bagan Thande Hotel with dinner (B,L,D)

### Day 7 In Bagan

We continue our tour of the majestic site this morning with visits to two or three more of the best preserved examples including the amazing Ananda temple, the largest at Bagan . We will also visit a colourful farmers market in a nearby town and learn about the art of laquerware crafting. 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 and to truly appreciate the beauty of Bagan from a pagoda rooftop to see the panoramic view of the temples at sunset. Evening puppet show with dinner (B,L,D)

**Patrick Syder Travel**

Escorted Cultural Tours – Zenobia House, 23 Bowmans Close, Steyning, West Sussex BN44 3SR  
Tel/Fax: +44 (0)1903 879737 email: info@sydertravel.com www.sydertravel.com

### Day 8 River Cruise to Mandalay

After a leisurely breakfast we depart our hotel at mid morning and board the RV Paukan; a luxury cruise boat built in 2007, beautifully furnished and still intimate with a full capacity of only 55 passengers. The RV Paukan has the ability to dock anywhere along the journey enabling guests to explore villages well off the beaten track. After setting sail from Bagan we visit Thein Gone, a typical Burmese village, with rich farmlands, traditional crafts, friendly inhabitants and a small monastery. Lunch and Dinner is provided on board (B,L,D)

### Day 9 River Cruise to Mandalay

Spend more time relaxing on board the Pandaw as it sails down the Irrawaddy, there is plenty of activity on the river banks as locals go about their everyday lives. After lunch on board visit Yandabo, this is a rarely visited small village with no road access to the world. Dependant on the riverside economy this village is famous for the production of terracotta pottery made from riverbank mud. We see the pottery making process at various stages. We are invited into people's homes and visit the local monastery. Yandabo is famous in Burmese history as the place where the Treaty of Yandabo was signed in 1855 between the Burmese king and the British; it is now a center of pot production. Lunch and Dinner is provided on board (B,L,D)

### Day 10 Arrive Mandalay. Drive to Pyin Oo Lwin Hill station

We disembark the RV Paukan and drive 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 and the colonial hotel at Candacraig, George Orwell's residence whilst writing *Burmese Days*. Overnight at the Aureum Palace Resort with dinner (B,L,D)

### Day 11 In Mandalay. City Tour

We drive 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. Overnight at the Mandalay Hill Resort with dinner (B,L,D)

### Day 12 In Mandalay. Fly to Rangoon

We visit Sagaing Monastery, close to Mandalay, this morning, 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 Rangoon. Overnight at the Chatrium Hotel. 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 13 In Rangoon. Fly London

Morning at leisure perhaps to visit the famous Bogyoke Aung San Market where find a whole variety of interesting Burmese souvenirs, from lacquer ware to gems and jewelry or enjoy a cup of tea in the lounge of the famous Strand Hotel, the capitals oldest colonial landmark. Afternoon transfer to the international airport for our journey home to London (B).

**Cost £1895.00** per person in a twin room (excluding international flight)      Single supplement cost £300.00

*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*



Novice Monks, Kalaywa Monastery  
© www.syderimages.com

#### Price includes –

- ▶ Tour accompanied from London by Patrick Syder
- ▶ Burmese guide for the duration of the tour
- ▶ Three domestic flights with privately owned Bagan Air
- ▶ Two night Irrawaddy luxury cruise aboard RV.Paukan
- ▶ All transportation by bus, boat, trishaw and horse cart
- ▶ Full sightseeing programme including entrance fees
- ▶ Luxury four star privately owned accommodation
- ▶ Full board meals in hotel, boat 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 →)

