

# QUINTESSENTIAL TRAVEL

## 15 DAYS/13 NTS. IN MYANMAR

**YANGON – BAGAN – POPA – KYAUK KU U MIN TEMPLE – BAGAN – MANDALAY – SAGAING – AMARAPURA – MINGUN – MANDALAY – HEHO – PINDAYA – INLE LAKE – INDEIN – HEHO – THANDWE – NGAPALI BEACH – YANGON**

**DAY 01:** Depart London on your overnight flight to Yangon.

### **DAY 02 YANGON / ARRIVAL**

Arrive at Yangon Airport. Welcome by our local guide and transfer to your hotel. In the afternoon, sightseeing of Yangon starts with Sule Pagoda, dating back over 2000 years. It is also a good place to make the pictures of City Hall and other colonial buildings with busy streets. From City Hall, walk to General Post office. On the way you will pass Pansodan Street with Old Colonial Buildings. You will also notice beautiful building of Port Authority, which is the head office building of Irrawaddy Floatila Company in their golden colonial days. Wide streets, orderly town planning and neglected public buildings revive visions of British rule; while busy streets scenes and shimmering pagodas, bursting through a leafy canopy, hint at the rich local culture. Skyscrapers and glaring neon billboards have yet to overtake the capital. After that, drive to Mawtin Jetty to try a short Burmese style rickshaw ride.

Late in the afternoon, visit the Shwedagon Pagoda described by Somerset Maugham: "The Shwedagon rose superb, glistening with its gold, like a sudden hope in the dark night of the soul of which the mystics write, glistening against the fog and smoke of the thriving city." This massive bell-shaped stupa rises nearly 100 meters above its hill-top surroundings. Wander through this magnificent structure and its courtyards, stupas, bells, Temples, and Buddha images, and see religious and secular visitors from all parts of the globe. Shwedagon has become the symbol of Myanmar. Overnight : Yangon.

### **Day 03 –YANGON-BAGO-YANGON**

This morning drive to visit an ancient capital, Bago. Bago is an ancient capital of the Mon Kingdom in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. It is situated 80 km from Yangon and was reputedly founded by Two Mon princes in 573 AD.

On the way to Bago, visit Htauk Kyant War Memorial Cemetery, where 2,700 stone-graves of Commonwealth and Allied Forces Fallen Soldiers in the Myanmar campaign of World War Two are honourably kept.

Arrive Bago, first visit will be the highest pagoda in Myanmar (114m) the Shwemawdaw Pagoda; it is said to be over 1000 years old and was built by two merchants "Taphussa" and "Bhillika", but has been repeatedly damaged and rebuilt in its history due to earthquakes and natural disasters.

The glittering golden top of the Stupa reaches 14 m higher than the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon and with its shady trees around the base makes it a pleasant place to stroll or to simply sit and ponder.

Next visit will be Kanbawza Thadi, the famous palace of King Bayinnaung (1551-1581 A.D.) is being extensively excavated and some buildings are being rebuilt. King Bayinnaung was the founder of the Second Myanmar Empire.

His palace Kambawza Thardi has been reconstructed to its exact replica.

Lunch will be at local restaurant in Bago. After lunch, visit the Shwethalyaung Pagoda, a huge reclining Buddha, reckoned to be one of the largest Reclining Buddha's in the world, and one of the most life-like of all. The Buddha image measures 55 m long and 16 m high. On the return journey to Yangon visit the Pottery Village.

There are over fifty pottery works and this craft has been handed down from generation to generation and is still carried on in the time-honoured tradition. Overnight: Yangon

### **DAY 04 YANGON – BAGAN ( 07:00 – 08:20)**

Morning take a flight to Bagan. Full day sightseeing tour of Bagan with a diverse selection of the most important pagodas and temples, such as Shwezigon Pagoda, built by King Anawrahta in the early 11th century as a religious shrine; the Gu Byauk Gyi Temple (Wetkyi-in), a temple with exquisite murals of Jataka scenes; the Ananda Temple, with four huge standing Buddha images and numerous seated figures in niches around the galleried interior and the Shwe Gu Gyi Temple, noted for its fine stucco carvings and panoramic views of the area's many monuments. In the afternoon visit to Mya Thitsa Workshop to see the various stages of the technique-s of lacquer production. It's amazing to watch 50 artists using many processes and this tradition of producing lacquer ware is recorded 170 years ago... and continue sightseeing of Bagan including Manuha Temple built in Mon style from 1059; Nanphaya Temple, said to have once been the residence of King Manuha and Gu Byauk Gyi Temple (Myinkabar), which has very nice frescoes inside. Enjoy a Horse & cart ride and sunset over terraces of the Shwesandaw Pagoda. Overnight : Bagan.

## **DAY 05 BAGAN – POPA – BAGAN**

After breakfast drive to Mt.Popa and visit the great extinct volcano. Rising out of the shimmering heat, the solitary volcanic crag of Mt. Popa is home to Myanmar's most powerful "nats". Visit the Nat Museum with its life-sized statues of the 37 Nat Gods. Walk up the steps to the stupas and shrines that top the hill above the museum, seeing many pilgrims along the way. In the afternoon, drive back to Bagan (appr. 1 hr). On the way visit some villages and watch the collection of juice from the palm trees, and its conversion into palm sugar. Overnight: Bagan.

## **DAY 06 BAGAN – KYAUK KU U MIN TEMPLE – BAGAN**

Today enjoy a boat tour in the mighty Ayeyarwaddy River. The boat will take you Kyaung-ku Oo Min Temple, one of the earliest temples in Bagan. The walls and the door jambs are decorated with beautiful stone carving ornaments. On the way, you will also see ways of life along the river. In the afternoon in Bagan, drive to the south most part of the Bagan's pagodas region. You will visit to Sisanagyi Stupa which architecture is similar to those in Srilanka. You will find the square box "Hamica" between its umbrella and hemisphere shaped dome. Though this pagoda has the square based platform, which is decorated with 39 elephants figures. You can also proceed to Lawkanandar nature sanctuary to see Burmese species of star tortoise. Overnight : Bagan.

## **DAY 07 BAGAN – MANDALAY – AMARAPURA – SAGAING – MANDALAY**

**( 08:40 – 09:10)**

Take a flight to Mandalay. On arrival, drive to Sagaing, 21 km southwest of Mandalay. Visit Kaunghmudaw, an enormous dome shape Pagoda and after a short visit to the silversmith home industry proceed to Sagaing Hills, a retreat for Buddhist devotees with numerous Pagodas, monasteries and nunneries. In the afternoon, proceeds to Amarapura the "City of Immortals". Amarapura was the capital of upper Burma until 1850. As was the custom, most of the important wooden palaces and monasteries were taken down and transported to the new capital in Mandalay. On the way, visit Bagayar monastery, in which variety of Buddha images from 16th to 20th century are displayed. You can also visit to a library, where they stored the old palm leaf books on which Buddha scriptures were written. Then also visit to a house of hand weaving looms, where, they produce silk and cotton textiles. Amarapura's silk has a very unique pattern, sometimes; some patterns even take 3 months to finish a longyi. Then have a leisure walk at U Bein teak wood bridge, which is over 150 years old. Overnight: Mandalay.

## **DAY 08 MANDALAY – MINGUN – MANDALAY**

After breakfast, drive up to Mandalay Hill, a vantage-point for panoramic view of the city. One famous song in Myanmar said "if you want to live long, you have to go Mandalay Hill". Then visit the Shwenandaw Monastery, noted for its exquisite wood carvings, Atumashi Monastery, the "Incomparable Monastery", and the Kuthodaw Pagoda, known as the world's Biggest Book for its stone slabs of Buddhist scriptures. Then proceed to Mahamuni Pagoda, with its spectacular Buddha image covered in thick layers of gold leaf. In the afternoon, drive to Kywezon jetty to watch the busy riverside activity and take a local riverboat to the ancient capital of Mingun (appr. 1 hour per way). Visit the Settawya Pagoda, with a footprint of the Buddha, walk to the huge Mingun Bell, see the nearby unfinished Mingun Pagoda, built to be the world's biggest pagoda and visit the Hsinbyume Pagoda, a reproduction of the mythological Mt. Meru. Then come back to Mandalay. Overnight : Mandalay.

## **DAY 09 MANDALAY – HEHO –PINDAYA - INLE LAKE ( 09:30 – 10:05)**

Take the morning flight to Heho. Upon your arrival , drive to Pindaya (appr. 2 hours drive), a charming village with its paper umbrella cottage industry. Visit the Pindaya cave, famous for its thousands of Buddha images and the paper umbrella cottage industry. Then continue drive to Nyaung Shwe (appr. 3 hrs. drive), and visit Shwe Yan Pyay Monastery, which is more than 150 years old. This monastery is a favourite of photographers because of its unusual oval shaped windows. You should also not miss the Shwe Yan Pyay Pagoda just beside the monastery. There is cave like corridor around the stupa and the walls are decorated with amazing glass mosaic and also have Buddhas in the niches. From Nyaung Shwe, take an Inthar style outboard to Inle Lake. Overnight : Inle Lake.

## **DAY 10 INLE LAKE**

Full day excursion on Inle Lake (25 km) famous for its unique one-leg rowers, typical floating gardens, local methods of fishing and village life and the Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda housing five sacred and almost shapeless Buddha images, contorted because of the quantity of applied gold leaf, gifts from the believers. The Buddha images are purported to have come here in the 12th Century. In the afternoon, proceed to the silk weaving village of In Phaw Khon and visit Nga Phe Chaung (the biggest and oldest monastery around Inle Lake). Overnight : Inle Lake.

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## **DAY 11 INLE – HEHO – THANDWE – NGAPALI BEACH (08:45-09:45)**

After breakfast, drive to airport to take the flight to Thandwe. Upon the arrival, transfer to Ngapali beach. The lush tropical coconut palm trees and ground adjacent to the beach create a peaceful, luxurious and exotic atmosphere. Overnight : Ngapali Beach.

## **DAY 12 NGAPALI BEACH**

Enjoy your stay at Ngapali Beach. Backed by swaying palms and casuarinas the Ngapali area is a good place to relax. The beach reaches 3 kilometers. You also can visit the near by fishing villages, where you can find the fishermen begin setting and drawing drift nets before dawn and continue into the late morning, when they load their catches in baskets. Women carry the baskets of fish on foot, then return with lunch for the men. Overnight : Ngapali Beach.

## **DAY 13 NGAPALI BEACH**

Relax , Relax , Relax .....

## **DAY 14 NGAPALI BEACH – YANGON (10:00 – 10:50)**

After breakfast , transfer to the airport for your flight to Yangon. In the afternoon you have enough time to wander around the sprawling Bogyoke Market and through fascinating local neighborhoods. Evening at Leisure. Overnight: Yangon

## **DAY 15 YANGON / DEPARTURE**

After breakfast transfer to the Yangon International Airport for the departure flight.

### **FIRST CLASS**

**Yangon:** Summit Park View Hotel/ Deluxe

[www.summityangon.com](http://www.summityangon.com)

**Bagan:** Bagan Thande Hotel/ Deluxe

[www.hotelbaganthande.com](http://www.hotelbaganthande.com)

**Mandalay:** Mandalay Swan Hotel/ Junior Suite

[www.mandalayswanhotel.com](http://www.mandalayswanhotel.com)

**Inle Lake:** Inle Resort/ Duplex

[www.inleresrot.com](http://www.inleresrot.com)

**Ngpali Beach:** Amata Resort and Spa/ Deluxe

[www.amataresort.com](http://www.amataresort.com)

### **SERVICE INCLUDED:**

Twin/double sharing room, daily breakfast plus all lunch and dinners.

Domestic flights by Air Mandalay, Air Bagan or Asian Wings, Air KBZ, boat to Kyauk Ku U Min temple and Inle lake, air - con car/van/bus throughout the tour, Horse & Cart ride in Bagan. English speaking guide station or throughout the tour, entrance fees as indicated in our itinerary, porter fees at the airports and jetties. Passengers service charges at each domestic airport.

### **NOT INCLUDED:**

Visa fees, Intl. airport tax of US \$ 10 per person, early check-in and late check-out , porter fees at the hotels, tips, beverage, bank handling fees, balloon over Bagan, etc. Travel insurance & personal expenses. Meals not included in above itinerary.