

MYANMAR ITINERARY: JANUARY 26 – FEBRUARY 7, 2013

YANGON ARRIVAL

(-/-/D)

26 Jan 13 Meet on arrival at Yangon International Airport and transfer to hotel. **Balance of the Saturday** **day is at leisure.**

Meet with Ma Theingi at hotel for general information about Myanmar, religion, people, economy, social, and politics **(45 minutes only)**

Accommodation at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel, Superior room.

Meals included: Dinner at hotel

YANGON – BAGAN

(B/L/D)

27 Jan 13 Transfer to Yangon Airport for domestic flight to **Bagan**. Scattered around a 26 sq Sunday km plain surrounding the Ayeyarwady River are the magnificent red brick temples and pagodas left from the religious fervor of the Kings of Bagan during the period 1057-1287 AD. In addition to the impressive architecture, inside are colourful murals and exquisite Buddha statues, and from the summit, awesome views showing the immense expanse of the Bagan era temples.

Upon arrival in Bagan, proceed on a sightseeing tour, starting with the busy local market and continuing with visits to a diverse selection of the most important pagodas and temples such as **Shwezi Gon Pagoda**, built by King Anawrahta in the early 11th century. See 13th Century frescoes adorning the corridors of **Kyansittha** 'Cave' Temple. Continue to **Gubyaukgyi** (Wetkyi In village), another 'cave' temple with fine frescoes of the 'Jataka Tales'. Next stop is **Htilominlo**, the last Bamar style temple built in Bagan, with old murals and friezes.

In the afternoon, visit the **Archaeological Museum**. Continue to **Ananda** Temple, a whitewashed masterpiece of Mon architecture with four standing Buddhas, and the adjacent brick monastery from the early Bagan era with well-preserved murals. Make a photo stop at the tallest temple measuring 61 meters - **Thatbyinnyu** known as 'temple of omniscience' and dating from 1144. Enjoy sunset at one of the monuments along the Ayeyarwady River.

Accommodation at Tharabar Gate Hotel, Superior room.

Meals included: Breakfast at hotel
Lunch at Sunset Garden Restaurant
Dinner at hotel

BAGAN**(B/L/D)****28 Jan 13
Monday****Optional morning program (Approx \$300 pp):**

Early this morning, enjoy a balloon flight over the Bagan temples. Around 0530 hours the **Balloons over Bagan** shuttle bus will pick you up at your hotel. You will drive to the departure ground of the Balloons. While the team makes the Balloon ready to go, you enjoy some refreshments, but you can also take great pictures of this event. Then, depending on the wind, you will over fly Bagan for about one hour, and enjoy spectacular views of the ancient Kingdom of Bagan in your hot air balloon! The tour ends.....where ever the wind has brought you. A glass of sparkling wine ends this fantastic event.....and the shuttle bus then brings you back to your hotel.

This morning we have time to explore the **Myinkaba village** area either by **bicycle** or by **horse cart**. First we visit **Gubyaukgyi Temple** admiring the fine stuccowork. We continue to **Nanpaya** temple, built in the Mon style with intricate stone carvings, and said to have been Manuha's residence. See the four Buddha images in **Manuha** Pagoda and later stop at **Myazedi** stupa to see Myanmar's "Rosetta Stone", bearing inscriptions written in four languages. Lunch at The Beach Restaurant.

In the afternoon, visit Moe Moe **Lacquer ware** factory to watch craftsmen skilfully making this most famous of Bagan handicrafts. After that a visit to **Abeyadana** Temple with frescoes representing Bodhisattvas and the gods of Indian mythology. Continue to **Dhammayangyi**, a massive-looking temple dating from 1170 that is famous for its interlocking mortarless brickwork. Next, visit **Sulamani**, one of Bagan's great two-storied Bamar style temples, which has 4-seated Buddha images. Observe a sunset in the vicinity of Bagan's ancient monuments.

Accommodation at Tharabar Gate Hotel, Superior room.

Meals included: Breakfast at hotel
Lunch at The Beach Restaurant
Dinner followed by puppet show at Nanda Restaurant.

BAGAN – RV PAUKAN CRUISE TO MANDALAY**(B/L/D)****29 Jan 13
Tuesday**

Early start by **horse-cart** (when available) to a temple to see the sunrise. Return to the hotel for breakfast. The embarkation is 11.30 hrs at Bagan Aye Yar jetty. Welcome Cocktail in the Saloon. The Cast off time is at 12 noon. Lunch will be served at 13.00. In the late afternoon, stop in a typical river village.

Accommodation on board, main or upper deck cabin.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner on board cruise ship

RV PAUKAN CRUISE

(B/L/D)

30 Jan 13
Wednesday Cruise all day with stop enroute in the morning to visit **Yandabo**, a typical river village specialize in Pot-Making, where the peace treaty of the First Anglo-Burmese war was signed on Feb. 24, 1826. Moor overnight nearby a village (Ywar Thit Gyi or Pauk Myaing Pauk Taw) few miles away from **Ava Bridge**.

Accommodation on board, main or upper deck cabin.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner on board cruise ship

MANDALAY - SAGAING

(B/L/D)

31 Jan 13
Thursday After an early breakfast, the passengers will disembark at Sagaing Jetty at around 09.30hrs. Although Mandalay has a few highlights such as Kuthodaw Pagoda and Mandalay Hill, it is the ancient capitals, battered stupas and sights outside of the city which are the main attraction. After disembarking, drive to **Sagaing Hills**, a retreat for Buddhist devotees, to enjoy a magnificent view over the surrounding area. Visit nunnery school for a **short chat with the nuns**. Lunch at Sagaing Hill Restaurant.

In the afternoon, proceed to **Amarapura**, famous for silk weaving, 15 km from Mandalay. Visit **Bagaya Monastery** with its superb collection of Buddha statues. Continue to 150-year-old **U Bein** teak bridge, built in 1851 when Amarapura was the royal capital.

Accommodation at Mandalay Hill Resort, Superior Room.

Meals included: Breakfast on board
Lunch at Sagaing Hill Restaurant
Dinner at hotel

MANDALAY

(B/L/D)

01 Feb 13
Friday Our sightseeing tour of Mandalay includes **Mahamuni Pagoda**, with its spectacular Buddha image covered with thick layers of gold leaves. Stop to see **stone carvings** and, later, **gold leaf** being beaten into wafer thin pieces. Next on to a craftsman's workshop for **Kalaga** tapestries. Lunch at Ko's Kitchen Restaurant.

In the afternoon, visit the renovated **Mandalay Palace** to see the old palace walls, the city gates with their crowning wooden pavilions and the surrounding moat which still present an impressive scene. Also visit the **Cultural Museum** where you will see remains of the last Myanmar throne inside the palace grounds.

Continue on to **Shwenandaw Monastery**, an ancient wooden building with intricate carvings, which was once King Mindon's home. Next visit the 'world's largest book', the Buddhist Scriptures inscribed on marble slabs, at **Kuthodaw** Pagoda. Enjoy spectacular views at sunset from **Mandalay Hill**, from its glass-studded temples.

Accommodation at Mandalay Hill Resort, Superior room.

Meals included: Breakfast at hotel
Lunch at Ko's Kitchen Restaurant
Dinner at A Little Bit of Mandalay Restaurant

MANDALAY – HEHO – INLE LAKE

(B/L/D)

**02 Feb 13
Saturday**

Transfer to Mandalay Airport for domestic flight (Approx. 0840 – 0910 hrs.) to **Heho**. Upon arrival in Heho, Transfer from Heho airport down into the valley to Nyaungshwe on the edge of **Inle Lake** and board your own local boat to take you to your hotel. Lunch at your hotel.

During today's excursion by boat on picturesque Inle Lake we will see the famous leg rowers, typical floating gardens, local methods of fishing and village life. Next visit **Phaung Daw Oo** Pagoda, the holiest religious site in southern Shan State then on to the boat construction workshop at Nampan village. Pass endless **floating gardens**, where fruit and vegetables are grown. See traditional handicrafts - silk **weaving** on wooden handlooms, the umbrella workshop and a **blacksmith** shop. Continue by boat to **Nga Phe Kyaung** Monastery, one of the oldest monasteries on the lake where we will see ancient Buddha statues which are more than 200 years old. The beauty of sunset over Inle Lake enchants all visitors.

Accommodation at Myanmar Treasure Resort, 2nd row Deluxe Lake View room

Meals included: Breakfast at hotel
Lunch at a local restaurant
Dinner at hotel

INLE LAKE – LEISURE DAY

(B/-/D)

**03 Feb 13
Sunday**

Full day is at leisure to enjoy your stay at the resort.

Optional program:

Inle - Thalee Oo 2.30 hour walk (Flat walk with optional uphill for 30 mins)

A short 25 minute boat trip brings us to the village of **Thalee Oo**, which is similar to several lakeside villages with both water and land-based sections each with its own monastery. Navigating through the houses on stilts, we disembark at a jetty to begin our walk on a flat and shady bullock cart road through the heart of the village. Thalee Oo is an **Intha** village whose population lives mainly off the land growing peanuts, tomatoes, garlic, sugarcane, rice and vegetables. The walk is extremely pretty with traditional bamboo houses on either side and adjacent to a clean stream used for daily washing. It also has good views across cultivated fields to Inle Lake and the Shan Hills beyond. Stop and chat with some of the friendly Intha families while observing their daily life. After 45 minutes we stop at a local wooden rice mill to see the process of separating grain, husk and bran. Climbing uphill for 30 minutes through a Monastery, we reach the small **PaO** village of **Ywa Thit** renowned for its bamboo basket weaving. The PaO ladies still wear traditional black tops and brightly colored checkered towels as turbans. After admiring the stunning view of Inle Lake and the Shan Hills from our vantage point, we descend for 30 minutes before continuing along a flat path through the village of **Alae Myaung** back to the lakeshore and our boat.

Accommodation at Myanmar Treasure Resort, 2nd row Deluxe Lake View room

Meals included: Breakfast
Dinner at hotel

INLE LAKE – SAGAR – INLE LAKE**(B/L/D)**

**04 Feb 13
Monday**

Travel from your hotel by boat via Nampan to **Sagar (approximately 2h 30m to 3 hrs)** and **Thakong**, an area south of Inle Lake which is rarely visited. Explore the 5-day market (on market day only) at **Kyauktaing** and a Shan village where earthenware pottery is produced. At **Kyainkhan** (near Kyauktaing) visit a family, producing robes (**Phongyi** clothes) made from fabrics of thousands of lotus stems. Observe local methods of producing a highly intoxicating drink fermented and extracted from bran rice. Lunch at local restaurant near **Thakong Pagoda**.

After lunch you will see the unspoiled culture and traditional life-style of the ethnic **Pa-O** and **Intha** inhabitants around **Sagar** and **Hmawbi**. Enjoy the beautiful landscape, flowering trees and numerous settlements dotting both sides of the canal. Late afternoon return to the hotel at Inle Lake.

Accommodation at Myanmar Treasure Resort, 2nd row Deluxe Lake View room.

Meals included: Breakfast at hotel
Lunch at local restaurant
Dinner at hotel

Note: During today's tour, you will be exposed to a lot of sun, do carry a hat and bring along sun screen. Ear plugs are recommended if you are sensitive to the noise of a long tailed boat or prefer a quieter journey!

INLE LAKE – INDAING – HEHO – YANGON**(B/L/D)**

**05 Feb 13
Tuesday**

This morning, we enjoy a boat tour to **Indaing**, at the western end of the Lake. The boat takes you through a long channel where you watch the farmers cultivate their produce. This ride is one of the most scenic boat tours on Lake Inle. To visit the temple Complex, follow a stair path lined up with magnificent columns to the top. Return to the boat jetty with a leisurely 'nature walk'. Lunch at Green Chili Restaurant in Nyaung Shwe.

In the afternoon transfer to Heho Airport for a domestic flight to **Yangon**. Arrival Yangon and transfer to hotel.

Accommodation at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel, Superior room.

Meals included: Breakfast
Lunch at Green Chilli Restaurant.
Dinner at hotel

YANGON

(B/L/D)

06 Feb 13 Morning sightseeing tour includes the old colonial-style city center and the gilded **Sule Pagoda**, dating back over 2,000 years. We then drive through the colonial style buildings downtown, the **Chinatown area** and **the Indian quarter**. Lunch at Monsoon Restaurant.

Wednesday

In the afternoon, a visit to **Bogyoke Market** (closed on Mondays and Public Holidays) gives you the opportunity to see Myanmar's wide range of handicrafts. The tour continues to **Chauk Htat Kyi**, a huge reclining Buddha image, followed by a photo stop at the **Karaweik Hall** royal floating barge. Then visit to **Gem Museum** (closed on Monday and public holiday) to see precious stone and jewels. Then we drive to **Shwedagon Pagoda**, one of the world's most spectacular religious monuments, which will conclude the tour of this picturesque Garden City. The golden dome of the Shwedagon Pagoda rises 98 meters above its base and is covered with 60 tons of pure gold.

Accommodation at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel, Deluxe room.

Meals included: Breakfast at hotel
Lunch at Monsoon Restaurant
Dinner at Padoma Restaurant

YANGON DEPARTURE

(B/-/-)

07 Feb 13 This morning, transfer to Yangon International Airport for your departure flight.

Thursday

Meals included: Breakfast at hotel