



THE VERY BEST OF MYANMAR 15 DAY/13 NIGHTS

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 Thai Airways (via Bangkok) or MALAYSIAN AIRLINES (via Kuala Lumpur)

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. Later, drive to Mawtin Jetty for a short Burmese style rickshaw ride. Overnight in Yangon.

DAY 03: YANGON – BAGAN (07:00 – 08:20)

Morning 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. In the afternoon visit to Mya Thitsa Workshop to see the various stages of the technique-s of lacquer production. Enjoy sunset over terraces of the Shwesandaw Pagoda. Overnight in Bagan.

DAY 04: 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. In the afternoon, drive back to Bagan (appx. 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 in Bagan.

DAY 05: BAGAN – KYAUK KU U MIN TEMPLE – BAGAN

Today enjoy a boat tour on the Ayeyarwaddy River. The boat will take you Kyaung-ku Oo Min Temple, one of the earliest temples in Bagan. 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 Sri Lanka which is decorated with 39 elephant's figures. Also proceed to Lawkanandar nature sanctuary to see Burmese species of star tortoise. Overnight in Bagan.

DAY 06: 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 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". 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 visit a house of hand weaving looms, where, they produce silk and cotton textiles. Followed by leisurely walk on U Bein teak wood bridge, which is over 150 years old. Overnight in Mandalay.

DAY 07: MANDALAY – MINGUN – MANDALAY

After breakfast, drive up to Mandalay Hill, a vantage-point for panoramic view of the city. 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 (appx. 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 return back to Mandalay. Overnight in Mandalay.

DAY 08: MANDALAY – HEHO – PINDAYA – INLE LAKE (09:30 – 10:05)

Take the morning flight to Heho. Upon your arrival, drive to Pindaya (appx. 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. Continue drive to Nyaung Shwe (appx. 3 hrs. drive), and visit Shwe Yan Pyay Monastery, which is more than 150 years old. This monastery is a favorite 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 Buddha's in the niches. From Nyaung Shwe, take an Inthar style outboard to Inle Lake. Overnight in Inle Lake.

DAY 09: 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. 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 at Inle Lake.

DAY 10: INLE – INDEIN – INLE

Early morning, visit one of the colorful markets in Inle Lake Area. Here in Inle Lake, the markets are not everyday. They are rotating on 5 days basics. Proceed by boat to Indein (appx. 1 ½ hour drive) to see the ancient Bagan + Shan style pagodas, built during Bagan Period, passing the beautiful scenery with tall grasses and little water steps. The ruin pagodas, hidden in the bushes will give you an impression that you were in the 12th - 13th century. Back to hotel and overnight in Inle.

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 the hotel at Ngapali beach. The lush tropical coconut palm trees and ground adjacent to the beach create a peaceful, luxurious and exotic atmosphere. Overnight at 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 when they load their catches in baskets. Overnight at 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. Sightseeing includes Chaukhtatkyi Pagoda (a huge reclining Buddha) and Karaweik Hall, a Royal floating barge on the Royal Lake Late in the afternoon, visit the Shwedagon Pagoda. 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. Enjoy the sunset over the Pagoda. Overnight in Yangon.

DAY 15: YANGON / DEPARTURE

After breakfast continue sightseeing of Yangon: the splendid National Museum, including the gem-studded royal regalia and the Lion Throne of King Mindon and King Thibaw, the last kings of the Myanmar Kingdom.** In the afternoon you have enough time to wander around the sprawling Bogyoke Market through fascinating local neighborhoods. Transfer to the Yangon International Airport for the departure flight. (**subject to flight departure times)

HOTELS**FIRST CLASS**

Yangon: Summit Park View Hotel/ Deluxe

www.summityangon.com

Bagan: Bagan Thande Hotel/ Deluxe

www.hotelbaganthande.com

Mandalay: Mandalay Swan Hotel/ Junior Suite

www.mandalayswanhotel.com

Inle Lake: Inle Resort/ Duplex

www.inleresort.com

Ngapali Beach: Amata Resort and Spa/ Deluxe

www.amataresort.com

INCLUDED:

All meals, Hotel in twin/double sharing room, domestic flights by Air Mandalay, Air Bagan Asian Wings, Yangon Airways boat to Kyauk Ku U Min temple and Inle lake, air -con car/van/bus throughout the tour, 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:

Myanmar 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.

INSURANCE:

We recommend travel insurance to cover accidents, theft or cancellation.

CHANGE OF TOUR PROGRAM

Quintessential Travel Ltd. reserves the right to alter the program if necessary due to reasons beyond our control or in the interest of our clients. In this case Quintessential Travel Ltd. will undertake to offer sufficient and satisfactory alternatives.

DEPARTURE DATES IN 2012:

OCTOBER 02nd

NOVEMBER 06th

NOVEMBER 20th

DECEMBER 08th

PRICE: £2195.00 pp. (October & November) £2295.00 pp. (December) single supplement £335