



Best of Burma

- *Please note that this proposed itinerary is subject to availability. We will only proceed with all reservations upon receiving your written confirmation. We recommend your confirmation as early as possible.*
- *Myanmar hotels are very busy at the moment and while we will try to get your first preference of hotels confirmed, we will need to remain flexible with either a later travel date or accept what we can confirm. Myanmar hotels are very busy at the moment and while we will try to get your first preference of hotels confirmed, we will need to remain flexible with either a later travel date or accept what we can confirm.*
- *All flight times are local.*
- *Flight times and the daily order of sightseeing are subject to change.*
- *Transfer times are approximate and subject to local conditions at the time of travel.*
- *BUDDHA IMAGES IN MYANMAR: Myanmar government has recently become strict about the import/export of Buddha statues and images and also the use of images of the Buddha as tattoos or other decoration. We would like to inform all travelers in Myanmar to exercise caution with regards to displaying the Buddha image and not to openly display a tattoo of the Buddha or any clothing with the Buddha image. Likewise, do not attempt to take antique Buddha images out of the country without proper documentation and permission.*
- *Early check-in / late check-out is exclusive and subject to availability.*

ITINERARY



Day 1: Arrival in Yangon (Own tickets)

On arrival at Yangon Airport, our guide will meet you and privately transfer you to the Governor's Residence. The remainder of the day is free but in the evening our guide will give a welcome meeting and discuss the itinerary and important information for the trip including what to expect throughout the week in the Golden Land. After the welcome meeting you will explore the mouth-watering eye opening streets around China Town, where you can taste some of Myanmar's mouth-watering street eats. Late evening we will do 100 Oil Lamp ceremony at one of the world wonder Shwedagon Pagoda.

Meal: None

Accommodation: Belmond Governor's Residence / Deluxe

Address: 35 Taw Win Road, Dagon Township

Tel: (95-1) 229 860. Fax: (95-1) 228 260

www.belmond.com/governors-residence-yangon

Day 2: Yangon

An early start as we embark on the infamous 'Revolution Road', beginning at the spiritual heart of Myanmar, Shwedagon pagoda. Delve deeper into the surrounding area with a visit to the tombs of some of the country's most influential leaders, including U Thant and General Aung San. Five minutes walking distance you will see **U Thant Mausoleum** (Note: Open on Tue & Thursday - 09:00 to 15:00, Sat & Sunday - 11:00 – 17:00, the rest of the day can see the only outside area). Next to **Su Phayar Latt Mausoleum** (Wife of the last Burmese King Hsibaw), **Daw Khin Kyi Mausoleum** (Wife of General Aung San) and Tha Khin Ko Taw Hmine Mausoleum. Just another 5 minutes walking distance to see Bahadur Shah Mausoleum, Emperor of Delhi (Popularly known as Zafar Shah) who died at Yangon 7th November 1868 and his wife Zinath Mahal died at Yangon 17 July 1886. The last tomb is **Bogyoke Aung San Mausoleum**. Next to Aung San Old House, the former residence of General Aung San. The home now houses Myanmar's most fascinating memorabilia of the former independence leader. **Lunch at House Of Memories Restaurant** to delicious Burmese cuisine served in a historic colonial home filled with relics from Myanmar's history.

After lunch visit the former **U.N. Secretary General's, U Thant house**, who brought Myanmar to the world's conscious during his tenure. Next, head to Yangon University's convocation hall, where the history of bloody student and monk protest contrast with Obama's historic address in November 2012. After years of being closed Yangon University has reopened to students so clients can only visit the building's exterior. Make a photo-stop at **Aung Sun Su Kyi's house**. Known as The Lady, Aung Sun Su Kyi has become the symbol for Myanmar's march towards democracy. End the day with a visit to the National League of Democracy headquarters, the political party that furiously fought for civil liberties for all citizens. Afterwards you have the option of discussing Myanmar's past, present and future at **She Ya Tha tea shop**. **Dinner** this evening will be at the **Governors** including **traditional music performance** and meeting with **Ma Thengi** one of Myanmar's leading scholars and historians.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: Belmond Governor's Residence / Deluxe

Address: 35 Taw Win Road, Dagon Township

Tel: (95-1) 229 860. Fax: (95-1) 228 260

www.belmond.com/governors-residence-yangon

Day 3: Yangon

Today we **explore the heritage or colonial quarter** of Yangon, formerly known as Rangoon. Travel past faded colonial buildings, busy street markets, and glittering temples. Stop by a **local tea shop** to live like the local life as tea shops are central to life in Yangon. To get a taste of local life with a ride on **Yangon's Circle Train**. Transfer to the Railway station with your guide and board the **local circular train** which loops through the outskirts of the city. The slow-traveling train gives you the unique opportunity to observe the colourful life of rural Myanmar. After 45 minutes, disembark at **Insein market** where vendors gather daily to sell a wide range of items, both food and dry goods. Enjoy exploring the market and meeting the friendly locals before returning by road to Yangon. Next we explore the **colourful countryside** surrounding the busy city of Yangon. Travel by ferry across the Yangon River to the town of **Dhala** where a trishaw ride exposes the natural beauty and local customs of this rural town. Although close to Yangon, the pace of life is dramatically different. Stop at the local monastery to learn about the cultural and spiritual beliefs of the Burmese before **returning to Yangon around 2pm** for **afternoon tea** at the architecturally beautiful former British Government owned **Strand Hotel** in Yangon.

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Accommodation: Belmond Governor's Residence / Deluxe

Address: 35 Taw Win Road, Dagon Township

Tel: (95-1) 229 860. Fax: (95-1) 228 260

www.belmond.com/governors-residence-yangon



Day 4: Yangon / Heho (Air) – Inle

An early start as we transfer to the **airport for a 1 hour flight to Heho** home of Inle Lake. On arrival, we take a scenic **one-hour drive to Nyaung Shwe**, the gateway village to Inle Lake. Along the way, we stop at the **wooden Shwe Yan Pyay Monastery** with beautiful carvings and Buddha images. We have an included **lunch at a local restaurant**, before boarding a private motorboat on Inle Lake, one of Myanmar's most spectacular sights. We pass villages built on stilts over the lake, inhabited by the local Intha people, observe the leg-rowing fishermen and see their floating gardens. We visit **Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda**, the lake's main sanctuary, which contains five sacred Buddha images covered in gold leaf. We take time to **explore the local crafts of Inle Lake**, the **weaving village of Inpawkhone** home of traditional handmade longyi, where we watch aged old techniques on wooden looms including the opportunity to try you had at weaving using traditional techniques and seeing how the longyi included in your tour was made, as well as meeting the lady who made it by hand. And also visit to a **cheroot factory**, where the typical Burmese cigars are made by hand. We stay tonight at the beautiful **Inle Princess Hotel set** amongst the stunning lake and marshes, home to amazing **golden** sunsets and 100 species of protected birds in the protected nature zone, where we will be for two nights

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Accommodation: Inle Princess Resort / Lake Front View Chalet

Address: Magyizin Village, Inle Lake

Tel: 081 209364. Fax:

www.inleprincessresort.net

Day 5: Inle

Today is all about nature and culture as we travel to **Pindaya** home to many of Myanmar's indigenous peoples including the **colourful Pa'O, Paluang and Lisu**. Journeying through the villages we will be **met by a local indigenous guide**, who will discuss ways of life for the various indigenous peoples in the region. It is a slower pace of life here and a totally different world to other parts of Myanmar. Spend time at a gentle pace learning about the traditional ways of life and see first-hand how these communities interact with a Myanmar that is ever changing, yet they manage to successfully keep their traditions and lifestyles. **This is not a tourist village that we pass through but a local village we support by assisting in the mountain schools with stationary supplies, well building and house renovating projects and is a perfect opportunity to see how travel changes lives and how we are working with the locals to keep their traditions alive.** You will have the opportunity to **interact with the villagers** as well as **learn traditional methods** they use for agriculture as well as take photographs and pop into the village school that we support. If you would like to donate to this school, they always welcome stationary and toys which can be brought in Inle region, but please refrain from giving sweets and medicines as dentists and modern medicines are rarely used in this part of the world and can create issues for the locals. Late evening return back to hotel.

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Accommodation: Inle Princess Resort / Lake Front View Chalet

Address: Magyizin Village, Inle Lake

Tel: 081 209364. Fax:

www.inleprincessresort.net



Day 6: Inle – Heho (Land) / Mandalay (Air)

Today we **fly to Mandalay** home to much of Myanmar's rich history and culture and some of the most prolific events in Myanmar and War history in the region. From the British colonising the infamous **Mandalay Palace** and the Japanese Occupation of it, the great fire which destroyed most of the city in the 1800s and the infamous '**Moustache Brothers**' famed for their seven year arrest and hard labour during Myanmar's dark times during the Saffron Revolution. Today only foreigners are allowed to watch their show on political satire in their home. It is a basic house but home to some of Mandalay's brutal history. We take you on a private show and a one on one discussion with one of the brother. On arrival we will visit **Mandalay Palace** and **Mandalay Hill** before checking into your hotel the **Sedona Mandalay**, a stunning hotel **opposite the former Royal Palace**. In the afternoon we venture out to the **world's largest book** we also visit some interesting and authentic **gold and teak work shops** where by hand local artisans are still producing some of the most stunning local crafts and making gold in ways that have stayed the same for hundreds of years.

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Accommodation: Sedona Mandalay Hotel / Club Room

Address: No. 1 Junction of 26th and 66th st., Chanayetharzan Township

Tel: (95-2) 36 488. Fax: (95-2) 36 499

<http://www.sedonahotels.com>

Day 7: Mandalay

Today we take to the water casting off early to travel to **Mingun**, where, what would have been the largest stupa, exists in its incomplete form. For fear he would die upon completion as suggested by an astrologer -the King did not allow the Mingun Temple to be finished. He also had a gigantic bell cast, to complement the stupa, and today it is the largest ringing bell in the world. We return to boat around lunchtime and eat on board before heading up river to **Kyauk-Myaung (Nwe Nyein Village)**, an area famous for the manufacture of large glazed earthenware pots. As we return downstream, the pagodas and monasteries scattered upon the hills of Sagaing are a sight to behold before sailing back to Mandalay.

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Accommodation: Sedona Mandalay Hotel / Club Room

Address: No. 1 Junction of 26th and 66th st., Chanayetharzan Township

Tel: (95-2) 36 488. Fax: (95-2) 36 499

<http://www.sedonahotels.com>

Day 8: Mandalay

An **early local market tour** before we take a morning excursion to the picturesque **Sagaing Hills** with its many hermitages and nunneries. After an afternoon visit to the ruined city of **Ava (or Inwa)**, we explore the former capital of Myanmar, **Amarapura**, by private transport and then by local boat. The 200-year-old **U Bein Bridge** is the world's longest teak span and we cross this, to see some temple paintings.

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Accommodation: Sedona Mandalay Hotel / Club Room

Address: No. 1 Junction of 26th and 66th st., Chanayetharzan Township

Tel: (95-2) 36 488. Fax: (95-2) 36 499

<http://www.sedonahotels.com>



Day 9: Mandalay / Bagan (Air)

Today we board a **flight to Bagan** home to 4000 ancient Pagodas. Reaching Bagan in the afternoon we visit **Pakkoku**, a lively riverine town with many collegiate monasteries. Between the 11th and 13th century the kings of the Pagan Dynasty ruled the country and ordered thousands of pagodas and temples to be built, meaning Bagan is now one of the richest archaeological sites in the world. Tonight we stay at the **Aureum Bagan hotel**.

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Accommodation: Aureum Palace Hotel/ Orchid Villa

Address: Near Bagan Viewing Tower, Min Nanthu Village, Nyaung Oo

Tel: 95 61 60046. Fax:

<http://www.aureumpalacehotel.com/>

Day 10: Bagan

Local **horse cart** is a method of transportation that has been in Bagan for hundreds of years and was once the only way to travel around the country before the days of planes, trains and cars. More than 4000 Pagodas are spread across 26 kms known as the 'archaeological zone'. We will explore a selection of these pagodas, some with beautiful ornamental design and all with a fascinating history before stopping for lunch in a local village near the **Pagoda complex**. In the afternoon we continue on the tour and **watch the sunset from above one of the most stunning view points** in Bagan. We end the day with a special dinner outside in the heart of the archaeological zone in our 'dining under the star experience'

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Accommodation: Aureum Palace Hotel/ Orchid Villa

Address: Near Bagan Viewing Tower, Min Nanthu Village, Nyaung Oo

Tel: 95 61 60046. Fax:

<http://www.aureumpalacehotel.com/>

Day 11: Bagan / Yangon (Air) – Departure (Own tickets)

Transfer to the airport with guide for flight back to Yangon. Upon arrival, make own arrangement of the connection to your departure flight.

Meal: Breakfast

End of services!

TOUR COST

This itinerary is provided for example only.

For full details including pricing, please contact us at info@toiinternational.com.