

Itinerary for our trip to Myanmar

Friday 20th October 2017

Depart 21.15 from Manchester Airport Terminal 1 Emirates Flight EK0020 to Dubai (7 hours 10 mins) arrive Dubai International Terminal 3 at 07.25.

Saturday 21st October 2017

Depart 09.15 Dubai Terminal 3 Emirates Flight EK0388 to Yangon (5 hours 40 mins) arrive 17.25 Terminal 1. Pick up from Tour Mandalay (tel +95 (0) 1545516) taken to Best Western Chinatown Hotel. (127/137, Anawrahta Road, Corner of Lanmadaw Street and, Anawrahta Road, Downtown Area, Latha Township, Yangon 11131)

2 nights booked B&B one triple room, one double executive



Sunday 22nd October 2017

Breakfast at hotel and then a driver/guide will take us downtown to visit Sule Pagoda, built 2,600 years ago. Next we will visit the Mahabandoola Park to see Myanmar's Independence Monument and some of the grand colonial buildings, the City Hall, the Supreme Court and the Baptist Church. From here we will continue to the Pansodan Street which will take us to the Pansodan Jetty and walk along the river to see more colonial buildings such as the Custom House, The British Embassy and the General Post Office, the Strand Hotel, a Victorian-style hotel built in 1896. Visit Begyoke Aung San Market full of antiques, handicrafts, jewellery shops, art galleries and clothing stores.



After lunch we go to Yangon's Central Railway Station to board the circular train – this slow train rides in a circle around various Yangon neighbourhoods on the outskirts of the city, it's a great way of seeing the local life. After a few stations we get off to visit Chaukhtatkyi Pagoda featuring an

image of a reclining Buddha 216ft long! Finally we visit the 99 metres (325ft) gilded Shwedagon Pagoda, the most sacred Buddhist pagoda for the Myanmar people with relics of the past four Buddhas enshrined within.



Monday 23rd October 2017

Early breakfast at hotel and then picked up to transfer to the airport to take 07am flight to Mandalay with Yangon Airways YH909. (1 hour 25 mins). Dress modestly today because we are visiting lots of monasteries and pagodas!

After arriving at the airport a car and guide will pick us up and we will travel to the ancient royal capital of Amarapura. Here we will visit Mahagandayon monastery which is a school for young monks and stop by at a traditional silk and cotton weaving workshop before continuing on to Ava. Ava is another former royal capital founded in 1364 and lasted about 400 years as a royal capital. Highlights include the leaning tower of Ava, Maha Aungmye Bonzan, a brick and stucco monastery and the elegant teakwood monastery Bagaya Kyaung.



The visit to Sagaing, covered with 600 white-painted pagodas and monasteries, Sagaing Hill is recognised as the religious centre of Myanmar and is home to 3,000 monks and 100 meditation centres. We finish the day with a visit to U Bein, the famous bridge, more than two centuries old and at 1.2km is the longest teakwood span in the world.

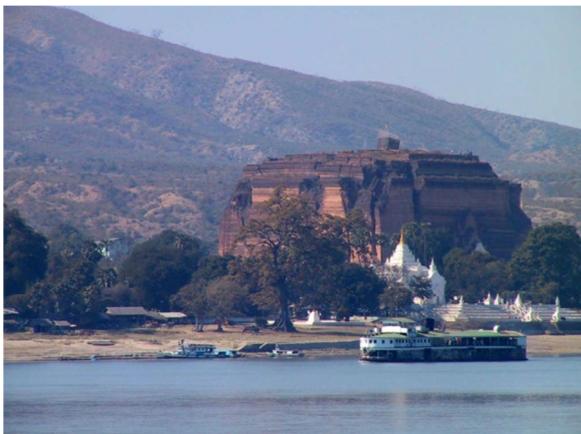


Two nights stay at Hotel Yadanarbon (1 double and 1 triple booked deluxe and grand deluxe with breakfast).



Tuesday 24th October 2017

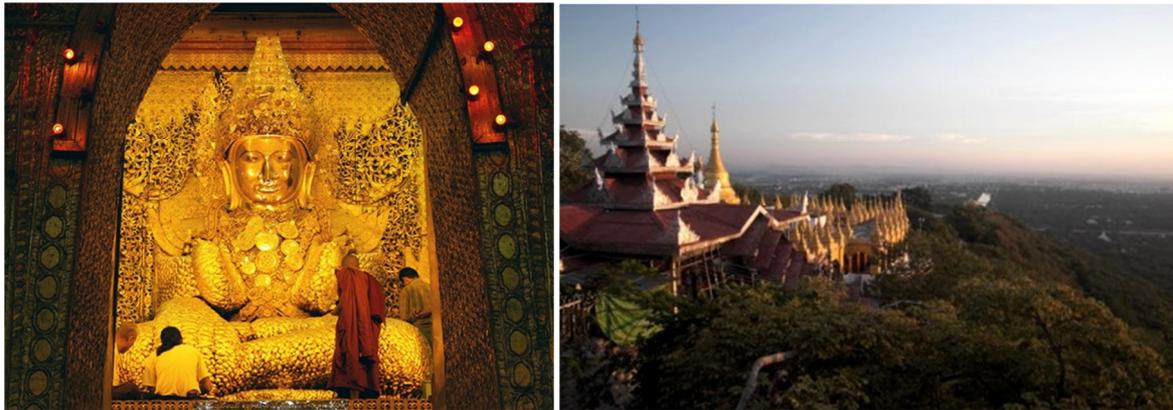
After breakfast our guide will take us to the jetty where we will board a boat for a peaceful cruise towards Mingun (which will take about an hour). We will see the simple local life on the banks of the river. On arrival we will cross the grounds of whitewashed Set Taw Yar pagoda built in 1790 by the King Bodawpaya. We will stop here for a while to see a footprint of Buddha made of marble. We will walk through the village to see grand Pathodawgyi pagoda known otherwise as the unfinished pagoda. We will visit the Mingun Bell (the heaviest functioning bell in the world) and the Sin Phyu Me Stupa (whitewashed stupa resembling mythical Hindu Mt. Meru). On the way back we will walk to Mingun village to experience some local life.



In the afternoon we will visit Mahamuni Pagoda, the holiest pilgrimage site in Mandalay. The pagoda is famous for its venerable statue of Buddha which is believed to be cast in front of Buddha himself.

We will explore local artisans' workshops in the area and look at hand-woven embroidery in silk and cotton and the process of making gold leaves, bronze casting, wood and stone carving and puppet making. And then visit the rest of highlights of Mandalay including Shwenandaw Golden Palace monastery with incredible woodcarvings, Atumashi Monastery, originally built by King Mindon in 1857 as one of the biggest religious projects and Kuthodaw Pagoda featuring the world's largest book. It contains 729 marble slabs with inscription of text from tipitaka (a set of Buddhist scriptures). We will go to the top of Mandalay hill to enjoy panoramic views of the city, the palace walls and Ayeyarwaddy River.

Options mandalay lashio train over Gokteik bridge



Wednesday 25th October

Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to the airport to take the 08.55 flight to Bagan with Yangon Airways HY918. Arrive at 9.25 am Nyaung U airport and we'll be met by our driver/guide and taken to our hotel Bawga Theiddhi Hotel for two nights (one double and one triple deluxe B&B).



Then we will explore Bagan with the 12th century Shwezigon Pagoda, the 13th century cave temple of Gubyaukyi Pagoda in Wetkyi-In village with fine frescoes of scenes from Jataka – the stories about the previous lives of the Buddha, in both human and animal form. We will drive further southwest to visit Htilominlo Temple built during the reign of King Htilominlo in 1211. [Nyaung U market?](#)



In the afternoon we will visit Ananda Okkyaug from the early Bagan period and Ananda Pagoda, the best preserved masterpiece of the Mon Architecture. Then Thatbyinnyu temple built in the mid 12th century during the reign of King Alaungsithu. Thatbyinnyu temple, recorded as the tallest temple in Bagan is shaped like a cross but is not symmetrical. The last temple for today is Dhammayangyi, the largest of all the temples in Bagan. We will enjoy a horse cart ride around the temples before heading to the Ayeyarwaddy River jetty to board a boat for a sunset cruise.



Thursday 26th October

After breakfast we drive to Myinkaba village to see the process of making traditional lacquerware, one of the best known Myanmar handicrafts and a speciality of Bagan. We then visit Myinkaba Gubyaukkyi temple built in 1113 by Kyanzittha's son Rajakumar on his father's death. The temple features spectacular wall paintings preserved by Unesco. We also visit Manuha Temple built by captive mon King Manuha in 1067, a rectangular building of two storeys and contains images of seated Buddhas , it is one of the oldest temples in Bagan.



In the afternoon we enjoy a trip out into the countryside to see the village of Minnanthuas as well as famous temples of the area, TayokPye, Payathonzu (a complex of three interconnected shrines, Nandaminnya with its fine frescoes and KyetKan Cave Monastery, a famous meditation centre in Bagan.

Options hot air balloon ride above Bagan

Friday 27th October

After breakfast we will transfer to the airport to take the 09.05am flight to Heho Yangon Airways YH935 (45 mins). At Heho we will drive to Pindaya. Pindaya is noted for its extensive limestone caves filled with 8,000 Buddha statues filled in every nook and cranny. Driving there we will pass through the PaO and Danu villages and endless fields of dry cultivated mountain rice and potato.



Then we drive to Kalaw about 50km from Pindaya caves. Kalaw sits high on the Western edge of the Shan Plateau and was a popular hill station in the British era. It is still a peaceful and quiet place with an atmosphere remnant of the colonial times. Sightseeing in Kalaw includes the old church, the old railway station and Nee Paya a gold lacquered bamboo Buddha.



Overnight for just one night at Hill Top Villa in superior rooms (1 double and 1 triple B&B).

Saturday 28th October

After breakfast early visit to the local market in Kalaw and then drive to the Green Hill Valley (Magway) Elephant Camp, a sanctuary where they care for about a dozen elephants about 45 mins drive away. We'll be introduced to the mahouts and their families who care for the elephants and then we'll be able to help them prepare their food and feed the elephants. We can walk with them down to the river where we can join in the washing of the elephants. We will be able to touch them but there is no riding of elephants here, this is all very much about taking care of the elephants not for show. Lunch will be served back at the main camp. There will then be time to find out more about elephants and about the forest around you. We can also go and see butterflies, birds and the orchids in this conservation area on our own. We can also help with the forest recovery efforts by planting a regional tree.



Next we will drive to Nyaung Shwe, the gateway to Inle Lake. We can stop on the way for photos and to visit Shwe Yan Pyay Monastery, a charming teak monastery that was built in the early 19th

century. Then we transfer to our hotel for the next three nights at Amata Garden Resort (two rooms, 1 double 1 triple with lake side/mountain views B&B).



Sunday 29th October

After breakfast we enjoy a tour of Inle Lake by private boat to see the leg-rowing fishermen and the floating gardens built up from the strips of water hyacinth and mud, anchored to the bottom with bamboo poles. We visit Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda right in the middle of the lake, the weaving village of Inn Paw Khone to see cheroot making factories, gold and silver smiths, lotus weaving, lacquered making and the Nga Phe Kyaung Monastery with beautiful antique Buddha statues.





Monday 30th October

After breakfast at the hotel, visit Indein in the south of the lake by motorboat. From the middle 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 the Lake Inle. After a walk around the village, passing a local school, take the covered stairway to the beautiful Alaung Sitthu area where ancient stupas are partly covered by vegetation. From here there is a magnificent view over the lake. In the afternoon we can visit the endless floating gardens, the lake's downtown or back to relax at the pool.



Tuesday 31st October

After breakfast we are transferred to the airport for our flight at 10.05am to Thandwe airport for Ngapali (Yangon Airways YH935 35 mins). Once we reach Ngapali and our hotel at Bawga Theiddhi/BT Bay Hotel, we can spend the next five nights at leisure here, bed and breakfast 1 double and 1 triple rooms (suite).



Wednesday 1st November – Saturday 4th November

B&B and at leisure in Ngapali.



Sunday 5th November

After breakfast transfer to the airport by hotel's shuttle to the airport for flight to Yangon at 11.20am on the Yangon Airways flight YH935. Arrive Yangon at 12.10 and transfer to Avenue 64 Hotel (airport hotel). Relax for the rest of the day by the pool or take the ferry to Dhala to explore for the afternoon.



Transferred to the airport late at night.

Monday 6th November

Depart for Emirates flight EK0389 from Yangon Terminal 1 to Dubai International Terminal 3 at 02.10. Arrive Dubai 06.05 (6 hours 25). Depart Dubai Terminal 3 at 07.15 on Emirates EK0017 to Manchester Terminal 1 (8 hours 5 mins). Arrive 11.20am.