

MYANMAR & SINGAPORE 9 days

Itinerary:

Day 1 : Arrive Yangon (L)

Upon your arrival at Yangon International Airport transfer to your hotel. Alaungapaya, the founder of the last line of Burmese kings, made Yangon his capital in 1753 and so it remained until 2005 when the capital was moved to Napyidaw. After check in and refresh begin a sightseeing tour of this picturesque garden city that includes the old colonial-style city centre and gilded Sule Pagoda, dating back over 2,000 years followed a visit to Chauk Htat Kyi, a huge reclining Buddha image, Bogyoke Market (Scott's Market) and a photo stop at the Karaweik Hall royal floating barge. The highlight of every visit, Shwedagon Pagoda, one of the world's most spectacular religious monuments is saved until late afternoon when the light is at its most magical. The golden dome of the Shwedagon Pagoda rises 98 meters above its base, is covered with 60 tons of pure gold and is the very heart and soul of Buddhist Myanmar. Make sure to spend time here watching the Burmese come to pray and make offerings, it is an unforgettable experience.

Meals: Lunch **Lodging:** Park Royal Hotel



Day 2 : Yangon - Bagan (B / L)

After breakfast early morning transfer to Yangon airport for domestic flight to Bagan. Scattered around a 26 sq 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 colorful murals and exquisite Buddha statues and from the summit, awesome views showing the immense expanse of the Bagan era temples. Upon arrival in Bagan, start your tour at the busy local market continuing with visits to the most important pagodas and temples in Bagan. These include Shwezigon Pagoda, a huge gilded zedi built by King Anawrahta in the early 11th century, Gu Byauk Gyi, a 13th century temple with exquisite murals of Jataka scenes, and the immediately recognizable Ananda Temple, one of the largest temples with its 170 ft gold spire and four huge standing-Buddha images. Later visit the lacquer craftsman's workshop in nearby Myingaba village. The sightseeing continues with visits to Manuha Temple, built in Mon style in 1059, Nanbaya Temple, a unique sandstone monument that is said to have been the palace of King Manuha and Myingaba Gu Byuk Kyi Temple. Experience a breathtaking sunset in the vicinity of Bagan's ancient monuments.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch **Lodging:** Tharabar Gate Hotel



Day 3 : Bagan (B / L)

After breakfast optional morning program:

Early this morning enjoy a balloon flight over the Bagan temples. Around 5.30 am the Balloon over Bagan shuttle bus will pick you up at your hotel. Drive to the departure ground of the Balloons. While the team makes the Balloon ready to go you enjoy some refreshments. Depending on the wind, you fly over Bagan for about one hour having a 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 even. The shuttle bus then brings you back to the hotel.

This morning visit Min Nan Thu Village area by horse-cart. See the Tayokepyay Temple, Phaya Thone Zu and Nandamanya Temples noted for exquisite 13th century murals and Kyat Kan Cave monastery, a famous meditation center in Bagan. Later visit farming villages around Bagan. In the afternoon, an excursion to the nostalgic Nat Htaung Kyaung, a monastery famous for woodcarvings, built in 1781 by a group of monks, awaits you. Admire the monastery's collection of ancient Buddha statues and lacquer boxes. Later in the afternoon you enjoy the sunset on a river cruise.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, **Lodging:** Tharabar Gate Hotel



Day 4 : Bagan - Heho - Inle Lake (B / L)

After breakfast transfer to Bagan airport for domestic flight to Heho. Upon arrival transfer to the valley to Nyaungshwe on the edge of Inle Lake to board your own local boat to take you to your hotel. Inle Lake is magical, located at 1000 meters, its calm waters are dotted with Intha stilt house villages, floating vegetable gardens and fishing canoes against the backdrop of the beautiful Shan hills. In the afternoon, take a long-tailed boat across the lake to Indaing at the western end of Inle for one of the most scenic trips on the Lake. Passing through the busy village of Yawama enter a canal towards Indaing Jetty with farmers cultivating their land on either side under the backdrop of the Shan Hills. After disembarking walk through Indaing village to reach the 14-18th century pagoda ruins of Nyaung Ohak. Many pagodas here remain charmingly un-renovated with plants and even small trees growing out of them making it very atmospheric. A covered walkway leads up to Shwe Inn Thein Paya, a complex of weather beaten zedi. The views from the top make it worth the ascent. Returning to the river jetty you take our long-tailed boat back along the canal to the Lake.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch **Lodging:** Pristine Lotus Resort



Day 5 : Inle Lake (B / L)

After breakfast explore one of the 5-day markets and get insight into the life-style of the ethnic Pa-O, Danu and Intha inhabitants who came to these markets to sell their goods. During today's

excursion by boat on the picturesque Inle Lake you can see the famous leg rowers, the typical floating gardens where fruit and vegetables are grown, local methods of fishing and village life. A highlight is the visit to the traditional village of Paukpar, with its neat rows of bamboo houses, you might be able to stop and visit a family for Shan tea. In the afternoon see Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda, the holiest religious site in southern Shan State. Next is the boat construction workshop at Nampan village and traditional handicrafts like silk weaving on wooden handlooms in Inpawkon village, a cheroot workshop and a blacksmith shop. Continue by boat to visit the Nga Phe Kyaung Monastery, one of the oldest monasteries on the lake with its large wooden meditation hall and over 200 year old ancient Buddha statues. On the way back the beauty of sunset over Inle Lake enchants you.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch **Lodging:** Pristine Lotus Resort



Day 6 : Inle Lake - Heho - Yangon (B / L)

After breakfast leave your hotel by boat to Nyaungshwe and from there by car to Heho airport for return flight to Yangon, upon arrival transfer to your hotel. In the afternoon visit the Bogyoke market which gives you the opportunity to see Myanmar's wide range of handicrafts and a selection of art galleries and antiques shops. There is a surprisingly high amount of very talented painters and artists in Myanmar, some of them known internationally. Their accomplishments can be admired in numerous galleries and showrooms. Continue to the jetty along Strand Road and walk along the Yangon river to see the busy harbour area from where ferries leave for Patheingyi in the Delta and for upcountry towns along the Ayeyarwady River.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch **Lodging:** Park Royal Hotel



Day 7 : Yangon - Singapore (B)

After breakfast transfer to Yangon airport for departure flight to Singapore, upon arrival in Singapore transfer from the airport to your hotel. Enjoy the afternoon to relax.

Meals: Breakfast **Lodging:** Royal at Queens Hotel

Day 8 : Singapore - City Tour (B)

After breakfast experience the history, culture and lifestyle of Singapore during your city tour. While passing through the different districts you see the old and new, the blend of east and west in modern Singapore. Highlights are the Colonial district with a view of Padang and the Esplanade Theatre, the Raffles Landing site and the Merlion, Singapore's mystical half-lion, half-mermaid. Later drive into the vibrant streets of bustling activity at Chinatown, a place rich

with the traditions and the great culture of China. Last is a visit to the Orchid Garden at the Botanical Garden a beautiful display of exotic flowers. That is Singapore truly a city with many faces.

Meals: Breakfast **Lodging:** Royal at Queens Hotel



Day 9 : Singapore - Departure (B)

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your international return flight.

Meals: Breakfast