

IRREGULAR TOURS

GAY GROUP TRAVEL TO THE WORLD

presents

MYANMAR

A truly exotic and amazing destination

1 4 DAY ALL INCLUSIVE GAY TOUR

\$3500 TWIN SHARE

\$1245 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Myanmar is one of the most interesting countries to explore in Asia. In every sense, travel to Myanmar is not only a voyage into a different geographic region, but also traveling back in time.





A great way to see the major tourist sites of Myanmar in a relaxed and varied manner with a group of international gays. Discover a country of mythical landscapes, ancient possessions and some of the friendliest folk you will ever meet. From golden-gilded Pagodas in Yangon and the multitude of temples in Bagan to the tranquility of Inle Lake, Burma will

excite, impress and intrigue you. See the craft filled city of Mandalay for shopping and tranquil,



untouched Ngapali Beach for relaxing and chilling out. A visit to Burma is to experience the South-East Asia of twenty years ago, full of rarely seen sights and generations of stories just waiting to be told. Welcome and farewell parties are just part of the tour and the group itself offers companionship, fun and new friendships.

Destination Information

Yangon, the capital city, is the main gateway to Myanmar. It is evergreen and cool with lush tropical trees, shady parks and beautiful lakes. Yangon has earned the name of the Garden City of the East. Yangon was founded by King Alaungpaya on the site of a small village called Dagon when he conquered Lower Myanmar in 1755. The name Yangon means "End of Strife" which was anglicized to Rangoon. The present day Yangon covers over 350 sq.km. and has a population of over 5 millions.

Bagan was the capital of the first unified Empire of Anawrahta founded in 849 AD, and flourished from 1044 to the 13th century. Within an area of 42 km, thousands of pagodas were built. The inventory of Bagan pagodas as documented by the Archaeological Department listed the standing pagodas as 2217. In spite of inclement

weather of a thousand year, whatever survived to this day can still thrill the beholders. Bagan is just 193 km south of Mandalay in Upper Myanmar. It is on the eastern bank of the Ayeyarwaddy River. Some 50 km southeast of Bagan, **Mount Popa**, 1,500 metres high, is an extinct volcano. It is the legendary home of the 'nats' or spirits. The Mount Popa area has also been designated as a National Park, a perfect place for eco-tourism.

Mandalay, the capital city of the last reigning dynasty of Konbaung Kings, is situated on the eastern bank of the Ayeyarwaddy River in central Myanmar. To the east, there are the blue Shan mountain ranges, which give the city a physical dignity. To the west, there is Myanmar's life stream, the mighty Ayeyarwaddy, flowing by. It is now the second capital and centre of Myanmar's arts, culture and Buddhist learn-

ing. The exquisite tapestry works, stone sculpture, the traditional art of gold leaf home industry are worth a visit. Mandalay was at its peak during the reign of the benevolent King Mindon in 1857.

Lake Inle is a vast picturesque lake 900 meters above sea level and is one of the main tourist attractions in Myanmar. The lake, 22 km long and 10 km across, has a population of some 150,000, many of whom live on floating islands of vegetation. Inle Lake, natural and unpolluted, is famous for its scenic beauty and the unique leg rowing of the Inthas, the native lake dwellers

Located on the Rakhine Coast near Thandwe (Sandoway), **Ngapali** is one of the beautiful beaches in Myanmar. This unspoilt beach is 35 minute flight from Yangon. A fabulous place to chill out and relax.

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Day 1 Saturday D

Yangon: Hotel Panorama ★★ ★

Arrive Yangon International Airport. Meet and greet. Transfer to hotel and check-in. Refresh and rest. Late afternoon city tour followed by welcome drinks and dinner at Karaweik Palace, overlooking to the Royal Lake and Shwedagon tower. The dinner is served with fine Burmese food and an amazing cultural show.

Day 2 Sunday B,L,D

Yangon: Hotel Panorama ★★ ★

Buffet breakfast at hotel. After breakfast, drive to Chaukhtathgyi Pagoda. It is the fourth largest colossal reclining Buddha in Myanmar and 67m long. Then Bogoke Aung San Market (Scott Market) which has many traditional goods and jewelries. Lunch at restaurant. Then sightseeing to "Shwedagon Pagoda" before the sun set and enjoy the beautiful stupa while it changes colours of the shining of gold in different tones according to the radiant of the setting sun. Dinner at restaurant.

Day 3 Monday B,L,D

Bagan: Shwe Yee Pwint Hotel ★★ ★

Buffet breakfast at hotel. Depending on the flight time, transfer to the airport for domestic flight to Bagan. Transfer to hotel and check-in. Afternoon tour to include Nyaung Oo Local market, Shwezigon Pagoda (the prototype for later Myanmar Stupa), Wetkyi Inn Gubyaukgyi Temple which is famous for the wall-paintings of 13th century and Htilominlo, one of the biggest Temple. Then Khay Min Ga Temple noted for its panoramic view of the area's numerous temples and Htilominlo, the last Burma style temple built in Bagan. Enjoy the amazing sunset from the second highest pagoda of Bagan, the "Shwe Sandaw Pagoda". Return to hotel. Dinner.



Day 4 Tuesday B,L,D

Bagan: Shwe Yee Pwint Hotel ★★ ★

Buffet breakfast at hotel. After breakfast, drive to Mt. Popa, an extinct volcano with its shrines dedicated to animist spirits known as "Nats". For the energetic, there is time to climb up the 777 steps to the shrine at the top of the volcanic plug. Return to Bagan. Dinner.

Day 5 Wednesday B,L,D

Bagan: Shwe Yee Pwint Hotel ★★ ★

Buffet breakfast at hotel. Then drive to Mahabodhi Temple, inspired by the Mahabodhi at Bodhi Gaya in India, this temple was built during the reign of King Nantaungmya (1211 – 1234). Temples of this nature only appeared during the Late Bagan period and the Mahabodhi is the only one of this style in Bagan. Passing through Tharabar Gateway you arrive into Old Bagan proper. Lunch at restaurant. Continue to Ananda Temple, with four standing Buddha images. Thatbyinnyu Pagoda, famous for its height, Sulamani Temple built in 12th century and Dhammayangyi Temple (the most massive). Enjoy sunset at Bu Pagoda on the river bank. Dinner.

After breakfast, take an excursion by boat on Inle Lake to SAGAR - full day boat trip. Samkar (also spelt Sargar or Sankar) village is located in the Deep South, around 3-hours boat drive from Nyaungshwe. Sagar has been a thriving town of yet another Shan Sao Bwa (hereditary prince), and hardly explored by tourists. The boat journey to Sagar is simply enjoyable for those who love nature with hazy Blue Mountains, dotted floating farms and different kinds of indigenous and migratory birds. Visit several villages of Inthars, ever happy and content people. The impressive ruins of Sagar, welcoming Pa O villagers, and pleasant boat journey will make a rewarding day excursion away from the tourist crowd and the usual sights of Inle Lake. Transfer to hotel in town of Nyaung Shwe.

Day 6 Thursday B,L,D

Mandalay: Shwe Ingyinn Hotel ★★ ★

Early departure from hotel. Transfer to port for Ayeyarwaddy River cruise to Mandalay. Embark on boat at 0600, continental breakfast served on departure. Sit back, relax and see another aspect of Myanmar with this fascinating all day journey. There are two short stops (10 minutes each) at the villages of Myin Mu and Pakokku along the river. Arrive in Mandalay at approximately 1800 and transfer to hotel. Check-in, then dinner at restaurant.

Day 7 Friday B,L,D

Mandalay: Shwe Ingyinn Hotel ★★ ★

Buffet breakfast at hotel, then excursion to Mingun by boat. Afterwards excursion by coach to the former Royal Capital of Innwa [Ava], taking a small boat for a few minutes to Maha Aungmye Bonzan Monastery, ruins of ancient Ava Watch Tower, fort walls and brick causeway, and Bargaya Teak wood Monastery. Then proceed to Sagaing by driving across the 1 kilometer long bridge over the Ayeyarwaddy River to Sagaing Hills, with numerous Pagodas and monasteries and a retreat for Buddhist devotees. After sightseeing return to Mandalay. Dinner in restaurant.

Day 8 Saturday B,L,D

Lake Inle: Inle Resort ★★ ★

Buffet breakfast at hotel. Transfer to the airport for domestic flight to Heho. On arrival drive to the Nyaung Shwe jetty then take boat on Inle Lake to resort hotel and check-in. Lunch. Afternoon sightseeing to Phaungdawoo Pagoda, the main attraction that houses five small Buddha images. Follow by Nga Phe Chaung Monastery, an attractive wooden monastery built on stilts over the lake at the end of the 1850s and where you can see the popular jumping cats leap through hoops. Silversmith ateliers and silk or Lotus weaving cottage industries are among the most fascinating attractions in the area. Return to resort. Dinner.

Day 9 Sunday B,L,D

Lake Inle: Inle Resort ★★ ★

After buffet breakfast at resort, enjoy a boat tour to Indeinn at the western end of the Lake where you can watch the farmers cultivate their products. Visit the 16th century pagoda complex of Indeinn. Lunch at restaurant. Observe the life style of the lake dwelling, leg-rowing Intha people. The net they use to cast down for fishing in shallow water is also something interesting to attract the tourists. Return to resort and dinner.

Day 10 Monday B,L,D

Nyaung Shwe: (Lake Inle) Hotel ★★ ★

After breakfast, take an excursion by boat on

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Day 11 Tuesday B,L,D

Ngapali Beach Pleasant View Resort ★★ ★

Buffet breakfast at hotel. Then transfer to the airport for domestic flight to Thandwe. Transfer to resort at Ngapali beach and check-in. Lunch. Enjoy your stay at Ngapali Beach. Dinner at resort.

Day 12 Wednesday B,L,D

Ngapali Beach: Pleasant View Resort ★★ ★

Buffet breakfast at hotel. Full day free time for swimming, relaxing, shopping, individual sightseeing, massage etc. Lunch and dinner at resort.

Day 13 Thursday B,L,D

Ngapali Beach: Pleasant View Resort ★★ ★

Buffet breakfast at hotel. Full day free time for swimming, relaxing, shopping, individual sightseeing, massage etc. Lunch and dinner at resort.

Day 14 Friday B,L,D

Yangon: Hotel Panorama ★★ ★

Buffet breakfast at hotel. After breakfast, transfer to the airport for domestic flight to Yangon. Transfer to hotel and check-in. Free time for shopping, individual sightseeing, massage etc. Farewell dinner at restaurant.

Day 15 Saturday B,L

Departure.

Buffet breakfast at hotel. Morning free time for shopping etc. Early lunch then transfer to Yangon International Airport for departing flight.

End of service.

Highlights

- 3 days exploring Lake Inle
- 3 days relaxing and enjoying at beautiful Ngapali beach
- Explore the magnificent temples of Bagan
- Admire Yangon's golden Shwedagon Pagoda
- Relax on a riverboat cruise to from Bagan to Mandalay



Included:

- 14 nights' accommodation based on half twin sharing rooms with daily breakfast
- All transfers and excursions with private air-conditioned vehicles with drivers
- English speaking guide service throughout in sightseeing days (Except Ngapali Beach)
- Domestic flight tickets for Yangon – Bagan, Mandalay – Heho – Thandwe – Yangon, including taxes
- Boat fees for Inle, Mingun
- Day boat cruise on Ayeyarwaddy River from Bagan to Mandalay
- Entrance fee and Zone fee
- Meals (Lunch + Dinner) as per itinerary
- All government tax and service charges
- Experienced gay tour manager

Not Included

- International airfares
- Travel insurance
- Tips, laundry, any soft or hard drinks.

Passports and Visas

All travellers require a tourist visa to enter Myanmar. These are available from the Myanmar Embassy in Canberra. All passports must have a minimum validity of six months.

Booking this tour

To make a reservation for this tour we require:

- Completed reservation form
- A copy of the information page of your passport
- The required deposit.

Irregular Tours
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For further information or to make your reservation, contact:

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