



From
\$4,720 USD

Single Room
 \$5,241 USD

Twin Room
 \$4,720 USD

Prices valid until
 30th December 2023

days
 Duration

Myanmar (Burma)
 Destination

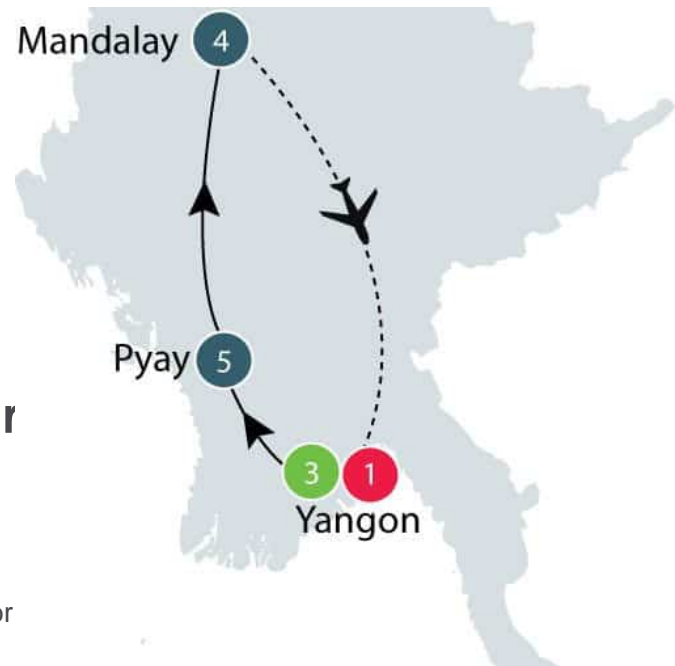
Level 2 - Moderate
 Activity

Myanmar's Art and Archaeology | Small Group Tour

Feb 05 2024 to Feb 18 2024

Myanmar Art Tour | Small Group Tour

Visitors to Myanmar find a country that is fascinating and full of old world charm. Travellers on this small group tour will enjoy the culture, beautiful scenic destinations and some of the warmest and most welcoming people anywhere in the world. It is designed for the senior or



mature-aged couple or solo traveller seeking to learn as they travel.

This small group tour of Myanmar is focused on a detailed study of the country's art and archaeology. The itinerary is designed to take you chronologically through Myanmar's history. There are also plenty of general sightseeing activities included to avoid 'pagoda fatigue', such as visits to local markets and villages as well as a boat trip up the Ayeyarwady River (Irrawaddy River).

Myanmar Art Tour Itinerary

Get a glimpse of the tour itinerary on this small group educational tour of Myanmar. It is a round tour starting and ending in Yangon. The days are reasonably paced to allow you time to learn and explore.

Yangon to Sri Ksetra

Our fully escorted tour commences in Yangon. A talk on Buddhism as practised in Myanmar sets the stage at the beginning of the tour. During your first few days on the tour, we have included visits to the Chauktatgyi and Ngadatgyi pagodas, the National Museum and the famous Shwedagon stupa.

Your tour also includes a day trip to the 14th-16th century capital, Bago, to see the giant reclining Buddha, the Kanbawzathadi Palace and the archaeology museum. From Yangon you travel to the first millennium Pyu city of Sri Ksetra, near Pyay. Sri Ksetra is one of the three ancient cities of the Pyu civilisation. This city is on UNESCO's World Heritage List. In Sri Ksetra you learn about Myanmar's ancient civilisations.

This section of the tour starts with a visit to the Sri Ksetra Museum. During your time in Sri Ksetra you explore this city by tuk tuk, taking in the ancient palace walls, stupas and burial sites. That evening you can watch the sunset at Pyay's beautiful Shwesandaw pagoda.

Sri Ksetra to Yangon

From Sri Ksetra you then continue to travel on to the 11th- to 13th-century capital of Bagan. There are over 3,000 monuments, including temples, stupas, and monasteries here. These 3,000 monuments are scattered over a vast plain, a fascinating sight to see. Over the next two days this small group tour visits the most interesting temples of Bagan. During your visit you will learn about Bagan's art, archaeology and its controversial restoration program. We'll also take in a lacquerware workshop and visit a local village practising traditional artisan skills.

From Bagan you travel to Mandalay to see some of the last temples and monasteries built under royal patronage before the demise of the monarchy in 1885. You also visit several workshops in the city, watching artisans creating marble Buddha images, casting statues in metal, weaving and woodcarving. In these workshops you will learn about the traditional techniques still in use today. On your return to Yangon you take a guided walk through old colonial Yangon with the Yangon Heritage Trust. You also have time to visit contemporary art galleries to take in Myanmar's exciting modern art scene.

You can learn more about Myanmar with our country profile where other tour departures are listed as well. For more details, click the 'Top 5' or 'Itinerary' buttons above! If you're interested in this small group and educational travel style and are keen to experience this tour, please call or send an email. Or, to book, simply fill in the form on the right hand side of this page.

Tour Notes

- Group size is limited to 16.
- Tour will include walking up to 1 kilometre a day at a leisurely pace with stairs, uneven surfaces, and boarding of long boats from piers.

Highlights

1. Visit the UNESCO world heritage listed city of Sri Ksetra and its highlights
2. Spend over two days exploring the best of Bagan's Buddhist monuments
3. Visit a range of artisan workshops in Myanmar's last royal capital, Mandalay
4. Explore Yangon's fascinating colonial heritage on a guided tour by the Yangon Heritage Trust
5. Hear captivating talks on Myanmar's art, archaeology, heritage and local customs from your Odyssey program leader, an art historian specialising in Myanmar.

Itinerary

Day 1

Locations: Yangon

Overview:

After arriving in Yangon, we make our way to the Bahosi Hotel for an introductory session and welcome dinner.

Accommodation:

Hotel Bahosi or similar.

Day 2

Locations: Yangon

Overview:

Our first day is spent discovering two of Yangon's loveliest pagodas, the Chauktatgyi and the Ngatatgyi and the downtown riverfront.

After lunch we take in Myanmar's National Museum, founded in 1952 and housing a vast collection of ancient artifacts, ornaments, works of

art, inscriptions and historic memorabilia. Afterwards, we view the Shwedagon pagoda and have dinner at one of Yangon's many fine restaurants

Accommodation:

Hotel Bahosi or similar.

Day 3**Locations:** Yangon**Overview:**

Today we take a day trip to Bago. On the way, we stop to visit the War Cemetery. We also visit Kanbawzathadi Palace (which was originally built in 1556 but was rebuilt in 1992 after being destroyed by a fire) and the Archaeology Museum. After lunch, we take in the Shwemawdaw and Kyaikpun pagodas. We then return to the hotel for dinner.

Accommodation:

Hotel Bahosi or similar.

Day 4**Locations:** Pyay**Overview:**

Today we take a bus to Pyay, with several stops en route. We view the extraordinary Shwe Nat Taung (Golden Spirit Mountain) as well as the Shwe Myat Hman pagoda ("Spectacled Buddha). Upon arrival to the city, we check into the Lucky Dragon hotel, where we enjoy a group dinner and hear a talk on Myanmar's archaeology.

Accommodation:

Lucky Dragon Hotel or similar.

Day 5

Locations: Pyay

Overview:

Today we tour the first millennium walled city of Sri Ksetra via tuk tuks and visit the Sri Ksetra Museum. This museum tells the story of the ancient Pyu cities, which including some of the earliest Buddhist monuments in the world. After lunch, we visit the wonderful Shwe Hpone Pwint Museum, before taking in an extraordinary sunset at the Shwesandaw Pagoda overlooking Pyay.

Accommodation:

Lucky Dragon Hotel or similar.

Day 6

Locations: Pyay

Overview:

This morning we take the bus to Bagan, stopping for a local lunch en route. After checking into our new hotel, we enjoy another unforgettable sunset at the Lokananda Temple, before coming together for a group dinner and a talk on Bagan's history, archaeology, and the controversial restoration of the site.

Accommodation:

Bawga Theiddi Hotel or similar.

Day 7

Locations: Pyay

Overview:

Today we begin our sightseeing in Bagan, taking in the southern monuments, including the East and West Hpetleik, the Nagayon, the Abeyadana, and the Nanpaya. After lunch, we visit Kubaukgyi (Myinkaba), and its wonderful frescos. The rest of the afternoon is free, and we remain at liberty in the evening to discover a local restaurant to

eat at.

Today we tour Bagan, taking in the Southern Pagodas, which include the East and West Hpetleik, Nagayon, Abeyadana, and Nanpaya. After lunch, we visit Kubaukgyi (myinkaba), a Buddhist temple built in 1113 AD by Prince Yazakumar, shortly after the death of his father. The rest of the afternoon is free, and we remain at liberty in the evening to discover a local restaurant to eat at.

Accommodation:

Bawga Theiddi Hotel or similar.

Day 8

Locations: Pyay

Overview:

This morning we head north to visit the Nyaung-Oo market, before visiting Upali Thein, an elaborate ordination hall constructed in the mid-13th century. We then visit the marvellous Shwezigon pagoda, and choose one of the local restaurants on Yarkinnthar St, aka “Restaurant Row”, for lunch. After wards we’ll visit the Tharaba Gate, the Ananda Temple, the Ananda Ok-Kyaung, Kyanzittha’s Palace site, and Bagan’s wonderful Archaeology Museum. In the evening, we come together for another group dinner, including one of Myanmar’s oldest traditional artforms – a puppet show.

Accommodation:

Bawga Theiddi Hotel or similar.

Day 9

Locations: Mandalay

Overview:

This morning we have the option of taking a morning balloon flight (for an additional fee) or enjoying free time instead. We leave the hotel soon after lunch, and catch the bus to Mandalay, where we check into

the Hotel Yadarnabon and enjoy a group dinner.

Accommodation:

Hotel Yadarnabon or similar.

Day 10

Locations: Mandalay

Overview:

This morning, we take a boat trip up the Ayeyarwaddy River to visit the enormous Mingun pagoda, its famous bell and the Mya Thein Tan pagoda. Our lecture program today includes a talk on Myanmar's last royal dynasty and the beginning of the Colonial era. We then return to Mandalay for a group lunch by the river, before setting off to visit Shwe Nandaw Kyaung (The Golden Monastery). We also visit the Kuthodaw and Mandalay Hill, an important pilgrimage site for Buddhists with a fabulous view over Mandalay Palace, before enjoying a group dinner.

Accommodation:

Hotel Yadarnabon or similar.

Day 11

Locations: Mandalay

Overview:

After breakfast, we head south of Mandalay to the Paleik Pagodas and Hmwe (snake) temple to see the bathing of the resident pythons, an unforgettable experience. After lunch, we explore Inwa by pony cart and stop to see a silk weaving workshop at Amarapura. We experience yet another spectacular Myanmar sunset this evening — this time from the historic U Bein's Bridge — before enjoying a group dinner.

Accommodation:

Hotel Yadarnabon or similar.

Day 12

Locations: Mandalay

Overview:

This morning, we visit the famous Mahamuni Pagoda, a major pilgrimage site, before visiting a range of Mandalay workshops to learn about the traditional practices of carving, lacquer decoration, bronze casting and gold leaf making. In the late afternoon, we visit the spectacular Shwe Inbin Kyaung teak monastery, before enjoying dinner together.

Accommodation:

Hotel Yadarnabon or similar.

Day 13

Locations: Yangon

Overview:

After flying to Yangon, we check into our new hotel and enjoy a local lunch together. We then explore the Nawaday Thalar Gallery, Pansodan Gallery, and the River Gallery, all part of Yangon's thriving modern art scene. In the late afternoon, we enjoy free time and have the chance to explore some of the restaurants in the local area.

Accommodation:

Strand Hotel or similar.

Day 14

Locations: Yangon

Overview:

This morning we enjoy a guided walk of Yangon's colonial heritage with an expert from the Yangon Heritage Trust. We then enjoy lunch at a local restaurant that trains disadvantaged young people from the area, giving them the skills necessary to start their careers. Afterwards, we

explore Bogyoke Market and enjoy some free time to explore the city. We reconvene in the evening for our final group dinner before the tour concludes at breakfast the following morning.

Accommodation:

Strand Hotel or similar.

Day 15

Locations: Yangon

Overview:

After breakfast, we say our farewells and the tour draws to a close.

Inclusions / Exclusions

What's included in our Tour

- 15 nights hotel accommodation
- 15 breakfasts, 11 lunches, and 12 dinners.
- Transport and excursions as indicated.
- All sightseeing including entrance fees and boat trip to Mingun
- 1 internal flight as detailed in the itinerary.
- Odyssey program leader for the duration of the tour, an art historian specialising in Myanmar
- Services of an English speaking local guide.
- Detailed tour information booklet.

What's not included in our Tour

- International airfares and taxes.
- Items of a personal nature, such as telephone calls and laundry.
- Comprehensive travel insurance.

Level 2 - Moderate

Participants must be able to carry their own luggage, climb and descend stairs, be in good health, mobile and able to participate in 3-5 hours of physical activity per day, the equivalent of walking/hiking up to 8 kilometres on uneven ground.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any requests for further information about this tour or any others offered by Odyssey Travel.