

# GOLDEN MYANMAR (BURMA) 9 DAYS

## YANGON-BAGAN-MANDALAY-INLE LAKE-YANGON

Tour Code: GM 9-YBMI

**Duration** : 09 Days / 08 Nights  
**Places** : Yangon-Bagan-Mandalay-Taunggyi-Inle Lake-Pindaya-Yangon

### Day 01: Arrival Airport: RGN (Yangon) (D)

#### Arrival Day:



Welcome to the Garden City Yangon ! Upon arrival, welcome by local guide with welcome present: postcard, and Map of Myanmar. Then transfer to Hotel for check in. The rest of the day is free at leisure after long tedious flight. In the evening, go out to enjoy the dinner at the restaurant. Overnight at the hotel in Yangon.

Breakfast: by own  
 Lunch: by own

Dinner: at outside local restaurant

(Yangon is with a population of over five million people, Yangon is the bustling former capital of Myanmar. The city boasts verdant parks, beautiful colonial buildings and the famous Shwedagon Pagoda. Yangon was declared the capital of Myanmar in the late 19th Century by the British. They rebuilt the town after a fire destroyed it in 1841, hence the colonial influences in the architecture. The British renamed the city Rangoon, however it has been restored to its original Burmese name of Yangon since 1989 when the country was also renamed Myanmar (replacing the British name of Burma).

### Day 02 : Yangon-city tour (B/L/D)

Today Yangon city tour includes: **Kandawagyi Royal Park** where you can see the glittering Karaweik barge, a replica of the royal barge, **Chaukhtatkyi Pagoda**, houses the fourth largest colossal reclining Buddha, **Bogyoke Aung San Museum** which was established in 1962. 15 years after the assassination of Bogyoke. Bogyoke in Myanmar is a term used for General. The museum was the home of the General before he was assassinated. And he is Father's of Aung San Su Kyi who led the National League for Democracy (NLD) to a majority win in Myanmar's first openly contested election in 25 years in November 2015 and now her position is A State Counsellor for the new government then shopping in the **Bogyoke market** formerly "Scott market", where you can get a wide range of Myanmar handicraft, jewelries, fabrics, lacquer wares and so on. (note: this market is closed on Mondays.) then lunch break.



In the late afternoon, photo stop at the heart of Yangon: **Sule Pagoda, Maha Bandoola Park** with Independence Monument, City Hall, High Court and many colonial style buildings then start walking along the street Pansodan, in which he will find the beautiful buildings of Post office, the Senate, the beautiful colonial buildings as the House of the Culture while it happens for religious pagodas and elegant parks and end at the **little china town**. Along the road, you see local experience in ways that the different architectural features, second hand bookstalls, old

Government telegram office to the bustling and vibrant life of this large city. And you guide show you a great evening of food throughout the city and got a chance to taste them if you want as there are so many shops for Shan cuisine (Shan noodles, a Shan soup and pennywort salad), a delicious fried tilapia from a street vendor, an assortment of Burmese curries and salads (tea leaf salad was phenomenal) and traditional Myanmar desserts.

In the evening enjoy the sunset at the magnificent **Shwedagon Pagoda** located on top of Singuttara Hill, where many locals and Buddhists come to worship to enjoy the sunset. This



famous pagoda is thought to have been built between the 6th and 10th Centuries; however it has been rebuilt many times. It is here that eight strands of Buddha's hair are said to be kept. The pagoda is covered in gold and contains diamonds, rubies and emeralds.

Overnight at the hotel in Yangon.

Breakfast: at the hotel

Lunch: at outside local restaurant

Dinner: at outside local restaurant

**Day 03 : Yangon-Bagan (by morning flight) (B/L/D)**



Morning fly to Bagan. Welcome to the Ancient City Bagan ! Upon arrival, welcome by local guide with welcome board then transfer to the hotel for check in.

Full day Bagan sightseeing tour with a visit to **Nyaung U local market & Myinkabar colorful market** where you can close to observe the ways of local people and road side sellers, then the golden pagoda of **Shwezigon pagoda**, which is Pagan's most important reliquary shrine look out for images of 37 "Nats" housed in a small hall. See 12th century frescoes adorning the corridors

of **Kyansitta "Cave" temple**. Continue to **Gubyaukgyi**, another "cave" temple with fine frescoes of "jataka tales", **Htilominlo**, the last Bamar style temple built in Bagan, with old murals and friezes. Pass through Tharaba Gateway into Old Bagan. Then lunch break.

Continue visit in the late afternoon, to **Manuha Temple** with gigantic Buddha images, a captive king's impression of life in prison; Nanpaya, an Early-style temple with the finest stone carvings, **Ananda temple**, a whitewashed masterpiece of Mon architecture with four standing Buddhas, and the adjacent brick monastery from the early Bagan era with well-preserved murals. Making a photo stop at the tallest temple measuring 61 meters **Thatbunmyu** known as "temple of omniscience" and dating from 1091, **Dhamayangyi**, a massive-looking temple dating from end of 12th century which is famous for its interlocking mortar less brickwork. Continue to **Mingalarzedi**, the last of the large pagodas built in the 13th century, representing the pinnacle of Bamar pagoda architecture. Then, visit **local lacquer workshop** to watch craftsmen skillfully making this most famous of Bagan handicrafts.

At the sunset time, we enjoy and relax at the beautiful sunset from **Bupyar** where located on the bank of the Ayeyarwaddy River. Overnight at the hotel in Bagan.

Breakfast: at the hotel

Lunch: at outside local restaurant

Dinner: at outside local restaurant



*(Bagan with the advent of the 11th century and till the end of the 13th century, kings, generals and dignitaries spared no effort to have brick put upon brick, to build temples and pagodas one after the other with the solitary aim of favourably influencing their re-incarnation. It is believed as many as 12,000 temples and stupas once stood in the area; however, invasions, war and natural disasters have reduced most of these to rubble. Despite this, Bagan is home to more than 2,200 standing ancient temples today and as such, is Myanmar's greatest architectural site. As there are more than 2000 temples & stupas. Indeed it is difficult to cover all temples within limited time. Therefore we have carefully selected only some major temples for you in order to avoid hectic tourism. But if you want to see more temples, just let your guide or driver knows. They can show you as much temples as possible within your stay.)*

**Day 04 : Bagan and Taung Bi village & Horse cart (B/L/D)**



As Bagan is not only the site of thousand year old temples and pagodas, but also home to many villages scattered around the surrounding plains. In the late afternoon, leave for along dusty lanes and tree shaded roads past temples and monasteries to **Taung Bi village**. Then continue to explore by ox cart in the village for traditional family businesses including blacksmiths, brick makers, dry snack 'factories' and bamboo roof producers, where the skills and trade have been passed on for generations and you can see real Burma life.

Then enjoy lunch and take a leisure at the hotel.

Continue your Bagan exploration with a mix of villages, pagodas and landscapes. Start at a vibrant local market to catch a glimpse of daily life before driving to the countryside to visit some lesser-known religious structures tucked amid villages and farms. Excursion by **horse cart** this afternoon through the temple plains, stopping for photos or more temple exploration, and catch the sunset from Bu Payar where located on the bank of the Ayeyarwaddy River.

Overnight at the hotel in Bagan.

Breakfast: at the hotel

Lunch: at outside local restaurant

Dinner: at outside local restaurant

Optional tour: Hot Air Balloon riding for sunrise.



This morning we can make Hot Air Ballooning tour to enjoy beautiful sunrise. It takes about 45 minutes. Balloon Office will pick you up at 06:30 AM at your staying hotel by their old bus. The exciting thing about ballooning is that you just don't know. You will see Bagan waking up in the morning. You will see many temples in the distance and get a spectacular aerial view of Bagan. Sometimes you may fly over villages and see people on their early morning rounds, feeding their animals; or going to market. It is an amazing and interactive experience. Then back to the hotel. (Noted it is available only the period from October to March every year and surcharge amount is USD 290 per person except the period from 20<sup>th</sup> Dec to 05<sup>th</sup> Jan is USD 300 per person.)

**Day 05 : Bagan-Mandalay (by morning flight) (B/L/D)**

Morning fly to Mandalay. Welcome to the Royal City Mandalay ! Upon arrival, direct visit to an ancient city of Amarapura meaning the 'City of Immortality'. Make a visit to **Mahar Myat Muni Buddha Image** the most ancient Buddha image castled in bronze in Myanmar and head your way to the **handicraft workshops** such as bronze sculpture, **Mahagandaryone Monastery** the largest teaching monastery in Myanmar. Each day at around 10:30 close to 700 monks queue up for their morning meal ritual.



From the monastery continue to **U Bein Bridge** for a walk along this 200 year-old teak bridge. The bridge was constructed of 984 teak posts that were once part of the deserted Inwa Palace and it is 1.2 kilometers in length making it the world's longest teak span. Enjoy a stroll along the bridge and the fabulous views of the surrounding farms and streams.

This afternoon visit **Mya Nan San Kyaw Palace** (Royal Palace). This golden palace represents Myanmar's Sovereignty and independence and can arouse a national patriotic spirit amongst the people of Myanmar. The Royal Palace was destroyed by a British forces air raid in March 1945 but was finally renovated and restored faithfully into its original structure in September 1996. The 89 main halls were re-built with reference to the original photographs, pictures, palm-leaf manuscripts and a miniature model.



Later head to **Shwenandaw Monastery**, once part of the palace complex until it was dismantled and reassembled on its present site in 1880 as a monastery. This wooden structure is carved all over with beautiful motifs and mythical creatures. Originally the building was entirely covered in thick gold, today only the interior gold remains due to harshness of the tropical weather, continue to **Kuthodaw Pagoda**, often called the world's largest book (a set of 729 huge stone slabs on which the Buddhist scriptures are inscribed). Finish the day with a visit to **Mandalay Hill** to watch sunset over the city plains.

Overnight at Hotel in Mandalay.

Breakfast: at the hotel

Lunch: at outside local restaurant

Dinner: at outside local restaurant

*(Mandalay is located 668 km north from Yangon and the last capital of the Burmese Kingdom. Mandalay embodies all the elements of Myanmar's ancient educational, social and cultural system yet the city is also heavily influenced by the Chinese who have relocated here since the Burma foreign trade restrictions were eased.)*

**Day 06 : Mandalay-Heho-Taunggyi-Inle Lake (by morning flight) (B/L/D)**

Morning fly to Heho airport where gate way to Taunggyi and Inle lake. Welcome to the Wild Nature of Myanmar Shan State ! Upon arrival, welcome by local guide then direct drive to the Taunggyi city, where situated in the southern Shan State and is the capital town of Shan States. It is 4.712 feet above the sea level and has a moderate climate and on a high plateau surrounded by high mountains. Tour highlight includes: **Central market, Sulamuni Lawkachanthar Pagoda.**



Then drive back for Inle Lake and you have to take a scenic route to Nyaung Shwe Jetty by traveling the uphill and winding road over the Shan Plateau. Then transfer to the hotel by boat and hotel check in. Overnight at the Hotel in Inle.  
 Breakfast: at the hotel  
 Lunch: at outside local restaurant  
 Dinner: at the hotel

*(Inle Lake is a freshwater lake is the second largest lake in Myanmar with an estimated surface area of 44.9 square miles, and one of the highest at an elevation of 2,900 feet. Inle Lake radiates the calm serenity of the Shan state, with persuasive still waters and colorful brush strokes of floating vegetation and slow moving fishing canoes most visitors never want to leave this picturesque haven. Rolling high hills hug the lake on all sides as the lake's shore and islands host 17 villages on stilts, mostly inhabited by the Intha people. Enjoy the awe inspiring scenery and meditate on the one of a kind skill of the local fisherman who uses their legs in this unique rowing technique to glide themselves peacefully around the lake.)*

Optional tour: Kakku Pagoda visit on the way from Taunggyi to Inle Lake



Kakku is located in in the territory of Pa-Oh people and drive about 2:30 hrs from Taunggyi. There are over 2000 stupas packed closely together in ranks and covering an area perhaps a square kilometer. As it is in Pa-Oh region, we have to pick up a Pa'O guide in Taunggyi who tells you about the history and importance of the site to the culture. Surcharge amount is to be advised.)

Optional tour: Taunggyi Hot Air Balloon Festival

Taunggyi Hot Air Balloon is held only once a year after the end of the Buddhist Lent. Traditionally it is a festival to pay homage to the Sulamani Pagoda in heaven by sending up decorated balloons. The paper balloons are 15-20 feet tall, decorated on the outside with colored cellophane lanterns. The lantern contain candles, forming different designs. A flame heats the air in the balloon which quickly ascend, carrying a 10-15 foot long tail, filled with various types of firecrackers, that continuously light as the balloons ascend. Watch the making of the small children's balloons, in the shapes of various animals and mythical creatures (if not there you can see this in ANY city in Myanmar!) and of course the Competition between individual villages for best decorated and high flying balloons. This year festival dates is from 09 to 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016. As this festival is very popular and crowed with local peoples and tourists, we really need to pre reservation at least 6 months ahead as there is very limit for hotels.



**Day 07 : Inle Lake –sightseeing (B/L/D)**

Morning enjoy a boat ride on Inle Lake for the whole day. Your sightseeing will start with a visit the **Phaungdawoo Pagoda**, houses five small Buddha images. The next must see stop is **Nga Phe Chung 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 the hoops. Your tour would be completed with a visit to local **handicraft workshop** such as Silk and Lotus weaving workshop, blacksmith workshop, cheroot making and traditional boat making factory, etc.



Thereafter, travel by boat to the western shore of the lake to a stairway and walk roughly for 10 minutes to the hidden **Indien Temple Complex** of decaying wooden stupas surrounded and overtaken by huge banyan trees offers an evocative and contemplative scene reminiscent of the Khmer temples at Angkor Wat. In the region of Indein village there are two ancient groups of

pagodas, **Nyaung Ohak** and **Shwe Inn Thein**. The first one near the boat landing is Nyaung Ohak, means “group of banyan trees”. Most of the pagodas have not been restored but some are well preserved, while others have plants and trees growing out of them. Many pagodas are decorated with sculptors of celestial beings or mythological animals as Naga serpents and Chintes. Some enshrine images of the Buddha. **Shwe Inn Thein pagodas** From Nyaung Ohak a climb leads to the second group of pagodas named Shwe Inn Thein located on top of a hill. A 700 meter covered walkway leads up to the pagodas. The walkway is lined with stalls where vendors sell Shan shoulder bags, longyis, shirts and other items. The site is believed to date back to the days of the Indian emperor Ashoka, who sent monks in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC across Asia to spread Buddhism. Centuries later, two kings of the Bagan Empire, Narapatisithu and Anawrahta built pagodas at the site. The site contains hundreds of pagodas, known as Shwe Inn Thein pagodas. Most are from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century; the earliest one with an inscription dates to the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The hti, a top element shaped like an ornamental umbrella is missing at many of the un-restored stupas. A number of stupas have been restored by donors, both Burmese and foreign. At the center of the Shwe Inn Thein group is the shrine of the Inn Thein Buddha image. The shrine, believed to have been built by King Ashoka houses a golden Buddha image in the meditation mudra. From the top of the hill there is a magnificent view of Indein village and the surrounding area.



You will see some **“Padaung People”** known as the “Long Neck Karen Hill Tribe.” On the way back to the boat, walk through a bamboo forest at the riverside, where you will observe local people bathing in the river. Overnight at the hotel in Yangon.

Breakfast: at the hotel  
Lunch: at outside local restaurant  
Dinner: at the hotel



**Morning visit to 5 days rotational market (1 hour) if we coincide**

This rotating market changes locations every five days and is where the local tribal peoples come to buy and sell their goods. Items range from hand-made crafts to produce grown on the floating gardens. Take notice and enjoy of the colourful clothes worn by the different hill tribes as they barter in this lively setting.

**Day 08 : Inle Lake-Pindaya-Heho-Yangon (by evening flight) (B/L/D)**



Morning after breakfast, continue drive about 1:30 hrs to small charming town, **Pindaya**. On the way stop for photo opportunities at **Shwe Yan Pyay Monastery** which it is a charming red painted teak monastery, built in the early 19th Century. The monastery is not decorated with carvings like the royal monasteries and pagodas in Mandalay. It is dedicated for regional poor boys to live. Otherwise, it also provides them an education and meals more than they will have at their home. The monks live in a dormitory, where each has his own space. Monks, who live here, have meals, take baths and wash their clothes together. The dormitory’s area is a half of the monastery building.

Then continue to Pindaya, which is famous for its many Banyan trees, many of which are around 250 years old. You will have a short stop at a [mulberry paper making factory](#) and a [bamboo hat making factory](#), [Pindaya Cave](#) is a Buddhist pilgrimage site and house thousands of Buddha images carved out of limestone.

Then fly back to Yangon and overnight at the hotel in Yangon.

Breakfast: at the hotel

Lunch: at outside local restaurant

Dinner: at outside local restaurant



**Day 09 : Yangon Departure (by PM flight) (B)**

Morning free at leisure until transfer to International airport for your departure or onwards flight.

Breakfast: at the hotel

Lunch: by own



\*\*\*\*\* End of Tour \*\*\*\*\*

**HOTELS LISTS (subject to availability): Below hotels or similar ones of same category:**

Cities	Luxury hotels (4*)	
<b>Yangon</b>	Kandawgyi Palace hotel <a href="http://www.kandawgyipalace-hotel.com">www.kandawgyipalace-hotel.com</a> located on the Royal Lake within 20 minutes drive from downtown	
<b>Mandalay</b>	Sedona Hotel <a href="http://www.sedonahotels.com.sg">www.sedonahotels.com.sg</a> located just in front of the Mandalay Palace, 1 hr & 20 min drives from the airport	
<b>Inle Lake</b>	Myanmar Treasure Resort <a href="http://www.myanmar-treasure-resorts.com">www.myanmar-treasure-resorts.com</a> Located on the lake	
<b>Bagan</b>	Tharabar Gate Hotel (deluxe room) <a href="http://www.tharabargate.com">www.tharabargate.com</a> Located in old Bagan within 3 min walk to Anandar Temple and 10 mins drive from the airport	

