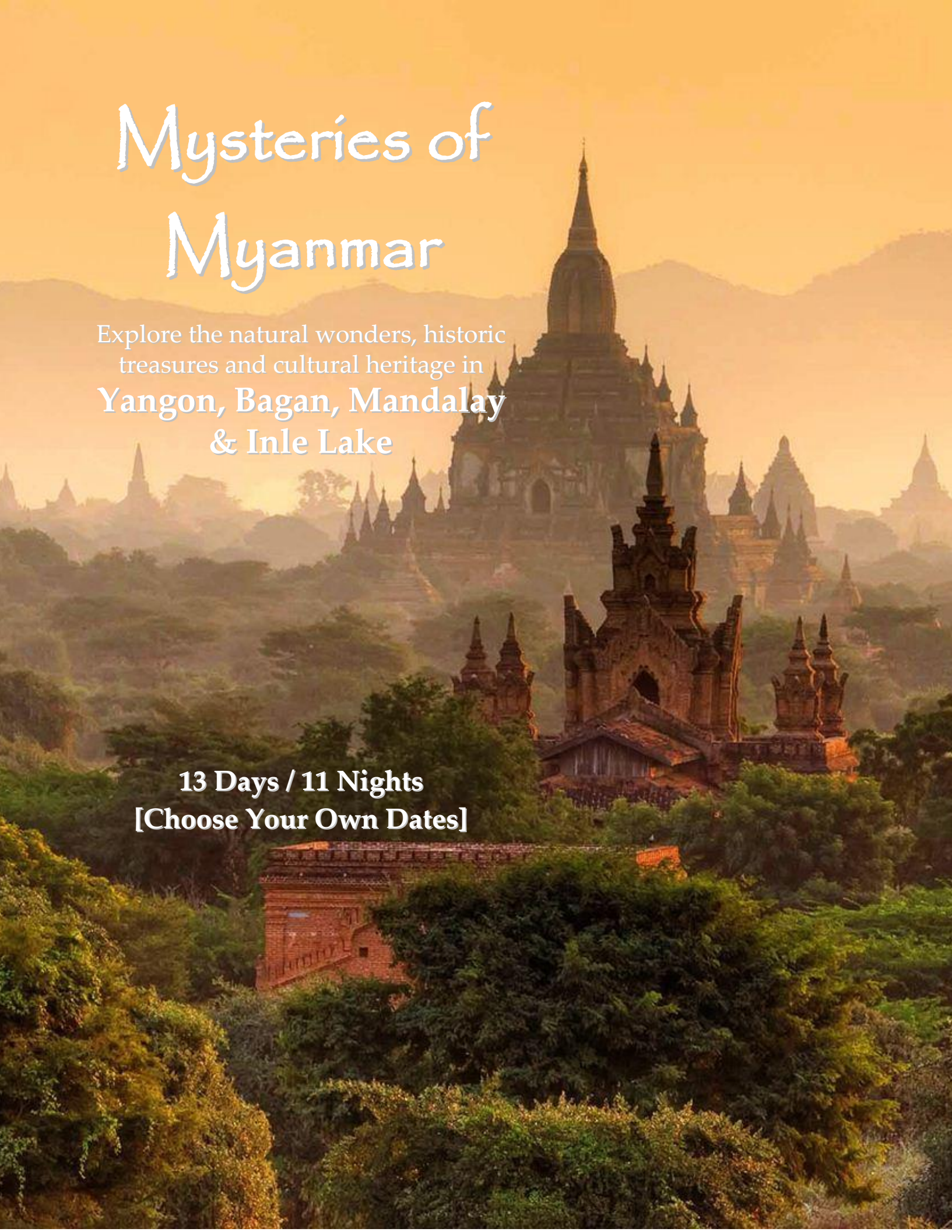


# Mysteries of Myanmar

Explore the natural wonders, historic  
treasures and cultural heritage in  
**Yangon, Bagan, Mandalay  
& Inle Lake**

**13 Days / 11 Nights**  
**[Choose Your Own Dates]**



## Tour Program Summary

**Myanmar** is Asia at its best. More than any other Asian countries, Myanmar has preserved its cultures and traditions. A certain kind of magic shrouds the land with its tropical plains, its Himalayan foothills, teak-filled jungles and the Ayeyarwady River.

The country is a deeply religious Buddhist country and is well known by travelers for its abundance of sights and sounds, interesting cultures, diversity of nature and most of all for its charming and friendly people.

Begin our adventure in **Yangon**, former capital and the largest city of Myanmar. Yangon lies in the fertile delta of southern Myanmar, on the wide Yangon River. The city is filled with tree-shaded boulevards, while shimmering stupas float above the treetops. The city became the capital only in 1885, when the British completed the conquest of Upper Myanmar and Mandalay's brief period as capital of the last Burmese kingdom ended.

By air travel northward to **Bagan**, a city located in a spectacular plain stretching away from the Ayeyarwady River and dotted with thousands of 800-year old temple ruins. Although human habitation at Bagan dates back almost to the beginning of the Christian era, Bagan only entered its golden period with the conquest of Thaton in 1057 AD.



Fly to our next destination, the last capital of royal Burma. **Mandalay** is still one of the largest cities in Myanmar, and a cultural and spiritual center for its people. Neighboring Sagaing is home to over sixty percent of the country's monks, while the artisans of Mandalay continue to turn out the country's finest crafts. An excursion to Pyin Oo Lwin offers an refreshing experience.

A short flight takes us to Heho, and we travel by vehicle to **Inle Lake**, located in Shan State. The lake is beautiful, with very calm waters dotted with patches of floating vegetation and fishing canoes. High hills rim the lake on all sides. The lake's shore and islands bear 17 villages on stilts, mostly inhabited by the Intha people who are very creative in agriculture and religious architecture.

Our Myanmar adventure ends in Yangon, from where you will fly home or to your next destination in Asia for more exciting adventures.



# Tour Daily Itinerary

Day 01    ✈️ depart    fly from North America to Yangon, Myanmar via an Asian gateway city

Day 02    **Yangon**    Welcome to Myanmar! You arrive by air in the largest city and former capital of Myanmar - Yangon today. You will be met by our ground staff and transferred to your comfortable hotel to relax and to recuperate. This evening, enjoy a **Welcome Reception & Dinner** at the *Monsoon Restaurant*. [Belmond Governor's Residence Yangon \(deluxe room\)](#). <D>

Day 03    **Yangon**    Enjoy your breakfast in hotel. After breakfast, you will join your guide for a full-day sightseeing in Yangon, which include a visit to Downtown Yangon with its colonial style buildings and the Victory Monument in the city center. Start the day at the Sule Pagoda, a gleaming octagonal pagoda that stands squarely at the centre point of the city. Then, a visit to the Nanthida Jetty at the Yangon River and the neighboring Botataung Pagoda, which is one of the few pagodas in Myanmar which can be entered and visited inside.



Enjoy **lunch** in a *local restaurant*. Our afternoon tours include a visit to the National Museum (with several interesting exhibits, especially the 8 meter high Sihasana Lion Throne, used by King Thibaw Min, the last Burmese king, and returned to Burma in 1908 by Lord Mounbatten), a trip around the Kandawgyi Lake and its park, a drive-by of Aung San Suu Kyi's residence, and finally, the highlight of today's sightseeing - the visit to the famous Shwedagon Pagoda during sunset. Towering over the city, this pagoda is the most sacred spot in the country, built to house eight hair relics of the Buddha.

Transfer back to hotel and after refreshing, enjoy **Myanmar Cuisine Dinner** in a *Padoma Restaurant*. <B-L-D>

Day 04    ✈️ **Bagan**    Breakfast in hotel. Transfer to the airport in the morning and take a morning **flight** from Yangon to Nyaung Oo (Bagan). While the luggage stays in the bus, you will start with some sightseeing in Nyaung Oo. Visit the local market as well as the Shwezigon Pagoda in the area. Afterwards, proceed to the hotel for check-in and **lunch** in a *hotel restaurant* followed by some rest.

Bagan is on a spectacular plain stretching from the Ayeyarwaddy River, dotted with thousands of 800-year old temple ruins. Although human habitation at Bagan dates back almost to the beginning of the Christian era, Bagan only entered its golden period with the conquest of Thaton in 1057 AD.

In the afternoon, you will proceed with sightseeing to some of the most

important temples and pagodas in Bagan, such as the largest Ananda Temple, Gubyaukgyi Temple with well-preserved stuccos and the brickwork master piece Dhammayangyi Temple.

Enjoy **dinner** at the *Sunset Garden Restaurant* before transferring back to hotel Aureum Palace Resort Bagan (deluxe room). <B-L-D>



Day 05 **Bagan**

IF you wish, arise early this morning for an unforgettable Hot Air Balloon Ride (optional) over Bagan's temple fields for a magnificent view during the sunrise. After the balloon ride, we go back to the hotel for a proper breakfast.

After breakfast in hotel, take an excursion to Mount Popa (one and a half hours driving time) and **lunch** at the *Popa Mountain Resort*. Stop at a village on the way and observe the production of local Toddy Palm Liquor including tasting, of course.

Back to Bagan in the afternoon, and rest of the day is time for your leisure at the pool of your hotel. <B-L>

Day 06 **Bagan**

Breakfast in hotel. Take a half-day excursion touring in & around Bagan including Min Nan Thu Village - see the village mural temple, visit a local school and a local family. Visit a laquerware workshop: the villages around Bagan are known for producing the finest laquerware in Myanmar.

Stop by one of the workshops and learn about the painstaking process of laquerware making and decoration. Enjoy **lunch** in a good *local restaurant*.

Afternoon stay in hotel for your own relaxation. Depending on the weather, you will follow your guide through the pagoda field during sunset for a cruise on Ayeyarwady (*Irrawaddy*) River including cocktails at sandbank. Enjoy **dinner** in hotel restaurant. <B-L-D>



Day 07 ➔ **Mandalay**

Breakfast in hotel. Morning transfer to the airport and take a **flight** from Nyaung Oo to Mandalay. After the arrival in Mandalay, met and transfer to hotel for check-in, refreshing and your own lunch in hotel restaurant.

Enjoy an afternoon exploration in Mandalay visiting the Mahamuni Paya. The Mahamuni image enshrined here is perhaps the most venerated image in Myanmar, covered in gold leaf. Worshippers flock daily to the shrine

at four in the morning to observe the unique face-washing ceremony.

Afterwards, head to the Golden Teak Monastery. Built entirely of golden teak, this intricately carved wooden monastery was once part of the Mandalay Palace, used as private apartments by King Mindon and his chief queen. Continue to Kuthodaw Paya, known also as "the world's biggest book". Around the central stupa are miniature pavilions, each housing a slab of marble numbering altogether 729, these slabs are inscribed with the entire Tripitkata, or Buddhist scriptures.

Stop by the Jade Market for a browse and enjoy tonight's **dinner** at the *Green Elephant Restaurant*; Rupar Mandalay Resort (premier suite). <B-D>



## Day 08 Mandalay

Breakfast in hotel. Take a day trip to the former British Hill Station of Pyin Oo Lwin, which is located about 2 hours driving time north-east of Mandalay.

The journey runs across the plains, then up the twisting road into the hills. At the halfway mark, enjoy spectacular views as your vehicle winds up the hills. The place was originally a Shan Danu village. A legacy of the influx of South Asians during the British colonial era is that Pyin Oo Lwin is home to around 5,000 Nepalis and 10,000 Indians. For many years it was a British hill station as due to the altitude, even at the height of the hot season, it is pleasantly cool and the air is fresh.

Visit Church of the Immaculate Conception: a 100-year-old church south of the central area which features a large brick sanctuary with a bell tower and cruciform floor plan. The vaulted wooden ceilings and well appointed interior are impressive. Next visit Peikchin Caves, a large Hindu-Buddhist shrine cave was developed by local Nepalis and is adorned with modern Buddha images and models of Myanmar's most famous pagodas.



Have **lunch** in *Club Terrace Food Lounge*. Also visit the market, the city center with the Purcell Tower and colonial style horse carts, the waterfalls and the beautiful Botanical Garden, enjoy a coffee at the *Golden Triangle Coffee Shop* before heading back to Mandalay.

Finally, stop by Amarapura, to end the day at the iconic U Bein Bridge, a picturesque teak bridge which extends over one kilometer across the



Taungthaman Lake. At dusk, the bridge teems with monks and local people as they stroll home or linger to enjoy the colours of the sunset.

Transfer back to hotel and have **dinner** at *hotel restaurant*. <B-L-D>

Day 09    ➔ **Inle Lake**

Breakfast in hotel. Transfer to the airport in the morning and take a morning **flight** from Mandalay to Heho. Upon arrival, met and travel by vehicle from Heho to Pindaya to visit the incredible Buddhist Caves which contains almost ten thousand Buddha statues. Have **lunch** in a local restaurant.

Afternoon transfer by vehicle to Nyaung Shwe Jetty and by motor boat arrive at your charming hotel right on the shore of Inle Lake. Check in and enjoy **dinner** in the *hotel restaurant*. Stay for three nights in Inle Princess Resort Inle Lake (lake or pond view chalet). <B-L-D>



Day 10    **Inle Lake**

Breakfast in hotel. Enjoy a full-day sightseeing by boat around Inle Lake. 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 hills and high mountains hug the lake on all sides as the lake's shore and islands host 17 villages on stilts, mostly inhabited by the Intha people.

While cruising on the lake, enjoy the awe inspiring scenery and meditate on the one of a kind skill of the local fisherman who make use of their legs in this unique rowing technique to glide themselves peacefully around the lake.

Morning visit includes the 5-Day-Market - 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 colorful clothes worn by the different hill tribes as they barter in this lively setting.



Our day tour also includes the famous Paung Daw Oo Pagoda. We will also visit local villages of the Intha People with their houses built on stilts and observe the daily life on the floating gardens. Visit the Lotus and Silk Weaving Workshops in Innpawkhon Village and local silver smiths.

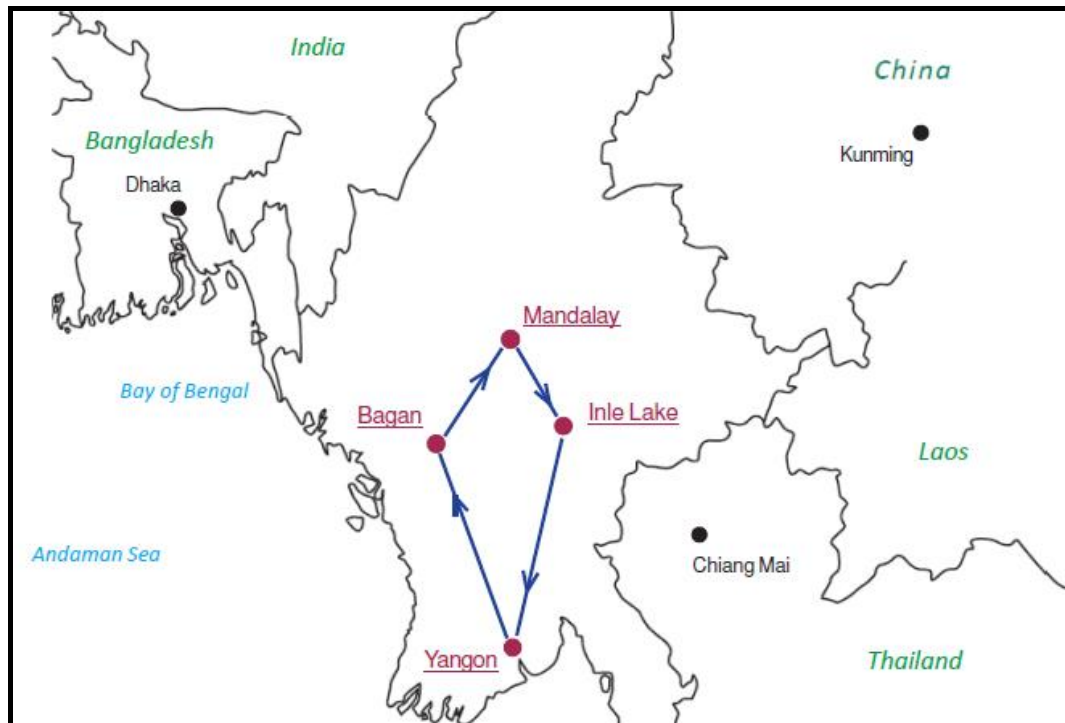
Have **lunch** at one of the local restaurants *Golden Kite*, followed by a

boat trip upstream to the Old Pagoda Complex at Indein. Return to resort late afternoon and enjoy dinner in *hotel restaurant*. <B-L-D>

- Day 11    **Inle Lake**    Enjoy a relaxing breakfast in hotel. Then, follow your guide to the foothills and enjoy a pleasant hiking through forest and small local villages.  
Next, transfer by vehicle to Nyaung Shwe and visit Red Mountain Winery and enjoy some wine tasting with a beautiful view over the northern part of the Inle Lake.  
Enjoy **lunch** in another hotel restaurant. Transfer back to hotel and the balance of the day is for your own exploration or relaxation. Tonight's dinner is on your own. <B-L>
- Day 12    ➔ **Yangon**    After breakfast in hotel, transfer by vehicle back to the airport in Heho for a late morning **flight** back to Yangon. Upon arrival, met and transfer to the hotel Sule Shangri-la (deluxe room) for check-in and own lunch.  
Afternoon optional tour to Scott Market for souvenir shopping and exploration. This evening, enjoy a **Farewell Dinner** at *The Strand Hotel*. <B-D>
- Day 13    ➔ **return**    After breakfast in hotel. Check out and bid farewell to charming Myanmar. Transfer to the airport for your homebound flight. Service ends. <B>

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**Changes to Itinerary:** Access Asia Tours has made all possible attempts to ensure the accuracy of tour itineraries. Circumstances beyond our control may occur. We reserve the right to change itineraries, sightseeing activities, and common carriers, and to substitute hotels when necessary. Service of a similar category and standard will be maintained if such changes are made. The Service Voucher in your last pre-departure packet will provide the operational itinerary summary, final transport and hotel information.



## Luxury or Deluxe Hotels & Resorts Selected for Your Tour



Belmond Governor's Residence Yangon



Aureum Palace Resort Bagan



Rupar Mandalay Resort Mandalay



Inle Princess Resort Inle Lake



Sule Shangri-la Yangon



## Tour Land Price Inclusions & Exclusions

**Tour Land Costs:**               **\$4,970 USD** per person double occupancy (for a group of 2-5 travelers)  
   **\$4,880 USD** per person double occupancy (for a group of 6-9 travelers)  
   **\$4,690 USD** per person double occupancy (for a group of 10-16 travelers)

**Single Supplement Cost:** **\$1,990 USD** for single occupancy in hotels throughout the tour

### **What's Included in 'Tour Land Costs'**

- Luxury and deluxe category hotel double occupancy accommodations with breakfast
- Coach class Myanmar domestic air tickets and ground transportation
- All tour related Myanmar domestic taxes
- Arrival and departure transfers on tour dates
- Transfers and luggage (1 piece of 45 pounds per person for domestic flights) handling
- Pre-departure information packets
- All sightseeing, visits, cultural events, and activities listed in the itinerary
- All meals (*all breakfasts, 8 lunches, and 9 dinners*) as specified in the itinerary
- Service of a private English-speaking National Guide/Escort (*for a group of 6 or more travelers*)
- Service of a private English-speaking local guide in each city/region where needed
- Private, clean, and newer motor vehicle with air-conditioning and a professional driver
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers (*for a group of 6 or more travelers*)

### **What's Not Included in 'Tour Land Costs'**

- International air tickets ( *will quote separately if requested*)
- Myanmar tourist visa processing (<http://evisa.moip.gov.mm/index.aspx>)
- Trip cancellation, baggage, accident, and medical insurance
- Meals not indicated as included and optional activities and events
- Gratuities to your National Guide/Escort; tipping for local guides and drivers (*for 2-5 travelers*)
- Items not listed and/or specified as included in the itinerary

**Cancellation Policy:** **20% of trip cost deposit per person is required at sign-up.** All cancellation notices must be received in writing and will become effective as of the date of receipt by *Access Asia Tours*. We assess cancellation fees of all tours according to the following schedule:

90 days or more prior to departure \* ..... 10% of Total Tour Price  
89 to 60 days prior to departure \* ..... 30% of Total Tour Price  
59 to 30 days prior to departure \* ..... 50% of Total Tour Price  
29 to 15 days prior to departure \* ..... 70% of Total Tour Price

\* Plus any charges assessed by government agencies, land suppliers, cruise companies and airlines.

Within 14 days of departure .....100% forfeiture of the tour price per person

*Access Asia Tours* will not grant partial refunds for any unused trip arrangements after the trip has commenced or any refunds to participants who do not complete any portion of the itinerary. Any airline tickets issued are subject to the carrier's refund and cancellation policy. **We strongly recommend you purchase trip cancellation/interruption insurance to protect your travel investment.** If a tour is forced to be cancelled due to government's travel warnings, declared or undeclared wars, hostilities, civil disturbances, strike, riot, epidemic, and quarantines, *Access Asia Tours* will refund all participants' payment less any irretrievable expenses and loss (visa fees, airline penalties, communication cost, and non-refundable booking cost, etc.). However, *Access Asia Tours* will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by tour participants (e.g., non-refundable "advance purchase" air tickets, insurance & medical expenses, passport and visa expenses, etc.).