

# BURMA'S MYSTICAL HIGHLIGHTS



## TRIP OVERVIEW

From the cultural centre of Mandalay to the ancient city of Bagan, our tour offers a unique opportunity to discover the many hidden treasures of this stunning country. Take a scenic river cruise alongside green fertile plains, discover Mahamuni Pagoda's gilded Buddha statue, explore the traditional floating villages of Inle Lake and marvel at one of the world's most spectacular religious monuments, the glittering golden Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon.

## ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Burma. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important information such as airline and hotel details and visa requirements.

### Your included meal guide:

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

#### DAY 1: UK to Yangon

Depart London on your scheduled overnight flight to Yangon, via Bangkok.

#### DAY 2: Yangon D

Upon arrival in Yangon, visit the Shwedagon Pagoda, Southeast Asia's most stunning spiritual monument.

#### DAY 3: Yangon B/L/D

Today, enjoy a full-day city tour of Yangon, a city of market-lined streets defined by a skyline of high-rises, towering Buddhist pagodas and evocative colonial architecture.

#### DAY 4: Yangon to Mandalay B/L/D

Fly to Mandalay where you will be transferred to your hotel. Later, explore the delicately carved interior of Shwe Nandaw Monastery then visit Kuthodaw Pagoda, known as the 'World's Biggest Book' for the hundreds of Buddhist teachings inscribed on its marble slabs. Take in the gilded Buddha statue at Mahamuni Pagoda before returning to your hotel.

#### DAY 5: Mandalay B/L/D

Travel to Amarapura to visit the famous U-Bein bridge, the oldest and longest teakwood bridge in the world, before returning to Mandalay. The rest of your day is at leisure.

#### DAY 6: Mandalay B/L/D

Today, visit the town of Pyin Oo Lwin. Founded by the British in 1896, it soon became the summer capital and many colonial buildings still remain. Wander around the beautiful botanical gardens before heading back to Mandalay and retiring to your hotel.

#### DAY 7: Mandalay to Bagan B/L/D

Early this morning, depart Mandalay on your cruise bound for Bagan. During your cruise, stop at the village of Latkka set on a bamboo plantation, where you will get an insight into local village life. On arrival in Bagan, you will be met by a local guide and transferred to your hotel.

Please note: for departures on the 14/05/19 your transfer from Mandalay to Bagan will be by coach. En route you will visit Ta Mike Thar Village to replace the

visit to the Latkka Village. The Ta Mike Thar Village is very similar to the Latkka Village, it is a small village located near Bagan where you can observe local people weaving bamboo baskets and get a sense of everyday village life.

#### DAY 8: Bagan B/L/D

This morning, enjoy far-reaching views from the banks of the Ayeyarwaddy River before driving to the largest temple in Bagan and on to Mount Popa to visit a volcanic peak dedicated to the legendary 'Nat' spirits.

#### DAY 9: Bagan B/L/D

After breakfast, explore the busy Nyaung Oo Market where locals gather to sell traditional goods. Here, you can buy local Burmese food in preparation for your cooking class. The rest of your afternoon will be at leisure. Enjoy a sunset cruise in the Ayeyarwady River this evening.

#### DAY 10: Bagan to Inle Lake B/L

Located in the heart of the Shan Plateau, the stunning Inle Lake is home to the indigenous Intha people, renowned for their unique 'leg rowing' used to steer traditional boats. Fly to Heho and board a boat to your hotel before visiting Paw Khon village to observe the locals weaving silk and creating their handicrafts.

#### DAY 11: Inle Lake B/D

Enjoy a day at leisure to relax or further explore the Indein villages on the mainland with their bamboo and teak stilted houses and pagodas.

#### DAY 12: Inle Lake to UK or extension B

Following breakfast, fly to Yangon for your connecting flight to the UK, via Bangkok, or continue on to your chosen extension.



## ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

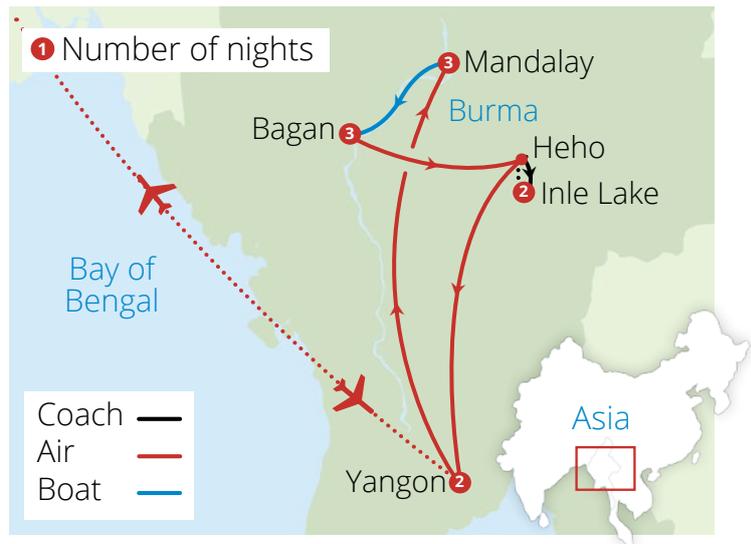
### Hotel information

**Yangon** (2 nights): 4★+ Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake Yangon  
40 Nat Mauk St, Yangon, Myanmar  
Contact number: 0095 1 544 500

**Mandalay** (3 nights): 4★ Mandalay Hill Resort  
No. 9, Kwin (416 B) 10th Street, Northern Mandalay, Mandalay  
Contact number: 0095 2 35638

**Bagan** (3 nights): 4★ Ayar River View Resort  
Near Bu Pagoda Old Bagan, Mandalay Division  
Contact number: 0095 6 160 352

**Inle Lake** (2 nights): 4★ Amata Garden Resort  
44 Ingyingone Village, NyaungShwe Township, Shan State,  
Eastern Inle Lake, Inle Lake  
Contact number: 0095 1 665 126



### Accommodation

All accommodation is 4★ and features an en suite bathroom, heating/air-conditioning, TV and tea/coffee making facilities.

Mercury Holidays has visited and inspected all of the hotels to ensure that they meet the high standards of service which we require for our clients. If the hotels detailed are not available, alternatives will be used of a similar standard.

**Please note: the hotels listed are provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.**

## ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Yangon you will be met by a representative from our local agent, Golden Orbit, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/Golden Orbit representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your guide will be able to answer any queries, however if you need to contact Golden Orbit during your stay the details are:

### Golden Orbit Tours

29(A), KhineShwe War Street, Kamayut Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar

## WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

### Visas

UK passport holders are currently required to obtain a visa prior to travel. We work closely with The Travel Visa Company who will be able to arrange the visa on your behalf. Please call them on 01270 250 590 and quote "Mercury Holidays". The cost of the visa is approximately £85 and your passport must be valid for at least 6 months from the date you intend to leave Burma. Alternatively, if you wish to apply for your visa online, please visit <https://www.myanmarvisa.com/evisa.php>. We recommend that you allow one month for an online visa to be processed. This will cost you USD \$50. Further visa advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries. We strongly advise you to check with your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy for the most up-to-date guidelines regarding required passport validity.

### Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call **0800 781 4237** and quote **'WK830'** for preferential rates. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

### Tipping

Tipping is not compulsory and is at your discretion. Should you wish to tip, this will be collected by your guide either during your tour or at the end of your tour for your convenience. We would recommend approximately 2 USD (£1.50) per person per day, the tips will be split between the driver and the guide.

### Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning. Lunch and dinner will always be taken at local restaurants except from the nights you are in Inle Lake where dinner will be at your hotel. Meals are a mixture of local Burmese, Chinese and Thai Cuisines.

### Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for **Golden Orbit Tours**

**Contact:** OhnmarOo

Office: 0095 945 001 9555

Mobile: 0095 9 250 150150

### Health and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check any health and vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk), [www.travelhealthpro.org.uk](http://www.travelhealthpro.org.uk), [www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk), your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

### Tour Guides

This is an escorted tour, meaning the you will have the services of an English speaking guide during each excursion ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

### Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with a good level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves full days of sightseeing, often on foot and includes some hiking, climbing of stairs and getting on and off of coaches and boats. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties.

### Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 10, and the maximum will be 35. If in the unlikely event there are less than 10 people booked on your tour date, we will endeavour to reduce any disruption to your holiday and try to operate your tour with lower passenger numbers. If we are not able to operate your departure date then you may be asked to change to a different date and a full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

### Currency Exchange

Before arriving in Burma it is very important that you budget carefully and ensure you have the right form of currency. The currency in Burma is the Kyat, known

as MMK but this is a closed currency meaning you will not be able to purchase it outside of the country. The US dollar is the only foreign currency that is readily exchanged and/or accepted as payment for goods and services. You will need to make sure that the US dollars you take with you are in pristine condition and be issued no earlier than 2006. It is important they have no folds, stamps, stains, writing marks or tears as they will not be accepted unless they are in perfect condition. It is useful to have a combination of US dollar bills, ensuring you have some smaller bills. Some hotels and larger shops will now accept payment by visa or credit cards however please bear in mind that this is not guaranteed.

### Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, and extra drinks and snacks. Approximately £200 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour.

## WHAT TO PACK

- Sunglasses, sunscreen and hat in summer
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera and charger/spare batteries
- Binoculars
- Mosquito Repellent
- Anti-bacterial hand gel
- Swimwear
- Waterproof lightweight jacket

### Credit Card Information

Most hotels will only accept cash (USD or MMK) for any extras charged to your room. Some hotels and larger shops will now accept payment by visa or credit cards however this is not guaranteed so please ensure you bring enough cash in USD (notes issued post 2006 in pristine condition) with you for the duration of your trip.

### Itinerary Changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction and/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

## FLIGHT INFORMATION

Your initial flight is to **Yangon International Airport** with **Thai Airways (TG)**, via **Bangkok** departing from **London Heathrow Terminal 2**.

**IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.**

### Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking, lounges or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extra Tel. 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

### Baggage Allowance

Each passenger is entitled to 30kg of hold luggage.

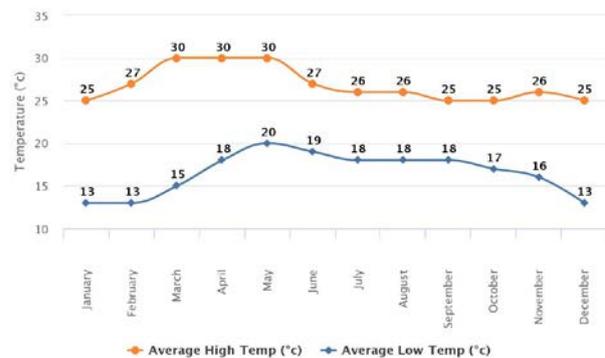
Hand luggage: The maximum permissible size of hand luggage must not exceed 56x45x25cm. The maximum size of each piece of hand luggage must not exceed 115 cm as a sum of three dimensions (including wheels, handles and side pockets). Weight restrictions will be finalized on E-ticket receipt. Should you wish to take additional luggage you will need to pay extra at check-in. Check-In should be at least 3 hours before departure.

## WEATHER AND CLIMATE

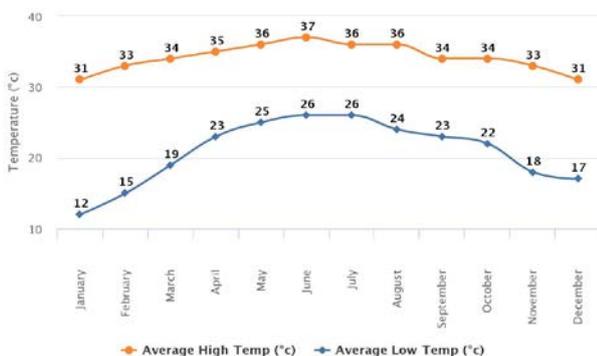
Average Temperature (°C) Graph for Yangon



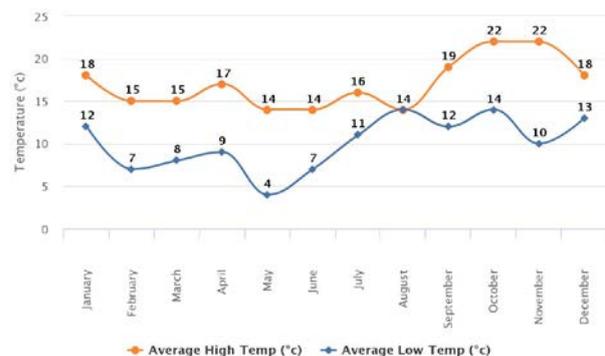
Average Temperature (°C) Graph for Bagan



Average Temperature (°C) Graph for Mandalay



Average Temperature (°C) Graph for Inle



# NGWE SAUNG BEACH STAY

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so, please contact 0843 224 0723



## TRIP OVERVIEW

Located approximately 5 hours drive from Yangon, Ngwe Saung boasts 15 kilometres of unspoilt silvery sands along the Bay of Bengal. Relax and recharge in the beautiful surroundings or take a boat trip out to some of the nearby islands where you can enjoy snorkelling and swimming.

## ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your extension to Ngwe Saung.

### Hotel

Your stay will take place at the 4★ Bay of Bengal Resort and Spa on Bed & Breakfast. Offering an outdoor pool and a restaurant as well as a private beach, the accommodation will provide you with FREE Wi-Fi and air-conditioning. There is also an electric kettle. Featuring a shower, the private bathroom also comes with a hairdryer and bathrobes. Extras include a minibar, a seating area and satellite channels.

### Hotel information

No 1 Qtr, Zee Maw village Track, Ngwesauung, Myanmar (Burma)  
Contact number: 0095-1 667024

Any alternative hotels or board basis will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure.

### Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover personal purchases, laundry service, souvenirs, lunch and dinner as well as drinks.

### Tour Guides

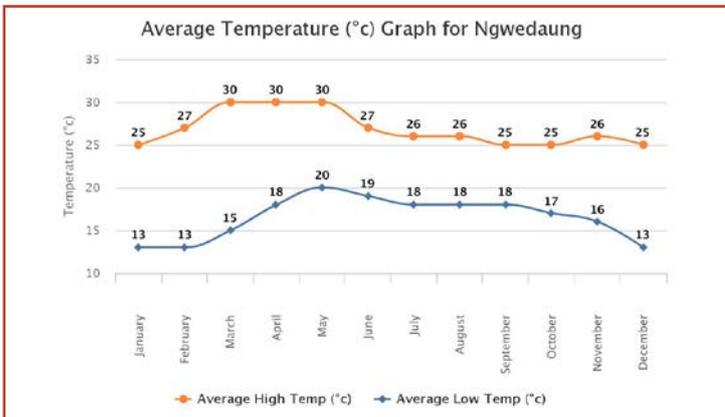
Your stay in Ngwe Saung is not escorted by a tour guide. All internal transfers are included.

### Please note

This extension takes place after your main tour.

## WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.



Bay of Bengal Resort & Spa

## FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on 0843 224 0723