

Burma - the Golden Land

Visiting: Burma
Code: PABG

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Burma - the Golden Land Trip Notes

At Imaginative Traveller we always aim to provide accurate information for our travellers. Unfortunately information such as the price of optional activities is occasionally subject to change, and this means that we are constantly revising our trip notes. In order to ensure that you have the most up to date information for your trip we suggest that you check the trip notes for your tour around one month before departure.

[pabg-burma-the-golden-land.jpg](#)

Trip code: PABG

Trip valid from: 01/08/2012

Trip valid until: 30/06/2014

Trip length: 17

Trip starts in: Rangoon

Trip ends in: Rangoon

Maximum group size: maximum 15

Highlights

Mingun's World's Largest Pagoda And Unbroken Bell

Ngwesaung's Beach

Maymyo Hill Station

Pagan's Thousands Of Temples

The Golden Rock Of Kyaiktiyo

U-bien Bridge Of Mandalay

Pegu - Ancient Centre Of The Mon Kingdom

The glories of this ancient land (now known as Myanmar) are revealed to travellers in this comprehensive landmark journey. Travelling by road, by air and on water, we discover why the country is often dubbed the Golden Land. We start in Rangoon, a city crowned by the magnificent Shwedagon Pagoda, then fly to Mandalay, before journeying on the Irrawaddy River down to the fabled 11th century capital, Pagan. The Inle Lake region exudes tranquillity and enables us to sample the hospitality of the Shan people. Kyaiktiyo is home to the fabled Golden Rock, whilst Bago was once the centre of an ancient Mon kingdom and contains one of the largest reclining Buddhas in the world. You end your journey by relaxing on a coastal resort on the Indian Ocean, enjoying the unspoilt and almost deserted beach with pure white sands and crystal-clear tropical waters.

[Read our statement on ethical travel to Burma/Myanmar](#)

Itinerary

Day Rangoon (Yangon)

(Sun) Arrive in Rangoon to a warm welcome and transfer to your hotel.

Day Rangoon (Yangon) - Mandalay

Morning city tour with a visit to Kipling's fascination, the golden Shwedagon Pagoda. Then fly to Mandalay. (B)

Day Mandalay

Cruise on the Irrawaddy River to the rural village of Mingun (home, curiously, to the largest ringing bell in the world). Watch the sunset over the amazing U Bein Bridge, 1.2 kilometres of handbuilt teak stretching across Taungthaman Lake (B)

Day Mandalay

Morning trip to the hill station of Maymyo (Pyin U Lwin), the summer capital of colonial British Burma. Then in the afternoon we discover Mandalay's pagodas and historic Mandalay Hill. (B)

Day Pagan (Bagan)

Boat on Irrawaddy River to Pagan and a visit to the colourful Nyaung U Market. Tour the ruins at Pagan, a spectacular archaeological site with more than 4000 Buddhist temples. (B)

Day Pagan (Bagan)

A short drive to Burma's famous volcano Mount Popa, where we drop into a local village. Free afternoon to explore or shop for souvenirs. (B)

Day Pagan (Bagan)

We fly to Heho this morning then drive to Inle Lake, a fantastic landscape of floating villages, tumbling mountains and the famous Intha leg-rowers. (B)

Day Inle Lake

The Intha leg-rowers navigate their long narrow craft by standing on the stern with one leg, and wrapping the other around the oar. Study their technique as we cruise around the lake. (B)

Day Inle Lake

Trek to ethnic minority villages on the Shan Plateau, home of Burma's renowned sapphires and rubies. Return to Inle Lake resort for a traditional Shan feast. (B)

Day Trekking - Inle Lake

Fly to Rangoon. Then a drive to Kimpun base camp, truck to Rathedaung and short trek to the Kyaiktiyo pagoda, perched on a gold-leaved boulder teetering precariously on the edge of a hill (as it has for centuries). (B, D)

Day Kyaiktiyo

Drive to Pegu (Bago) and pay respects to the city's enormous 10th century Reclining Buddha. Drive to Rangoon and on to the unspoilt silver sands of Ngwesaung Beach. (B)

Day

Pegu (Bago) - Rangoon (Yangon)

Free time at this pristine beach resort, the perfect remedy for any 'pagoda fatigue'. Optional boat trip, snorkelling or visit to local fishing villages. (B)

Day Bassein (Patheingyi) - Ngwesaung

We visit the local elephant camp before driving to Rangoon. Free afternoon. (B)

Day Ngwesaung

Trip ends in Rangoon this morning (Tue). (2B)

Itinerary Variation

While the information presented here details our planned itinerary, including routes taken, activities included, accommodation and meeting times, please accept that unforeseen changes may occur. We are constantly on the lookout to improve our program and further enhance your experience. Naturally, we will keep you up to date with any last minute amendments to your tour.

About The Imaginative Traveller

Our aim has always been to provide exceptional travel experiences. We believe that adventure travel should be stimulating, and that it should give you an authentic experience of a place. We want our travellers to relish the amazing diversity of countries and cultures the world has to offer. Our focus is on innovation, not imitation.

Obsessed with quality

One of our strengths has been our obsession with quality. We've always believed that our commitment to you doesn't end as soon as you've paid for your holiday. On the contrary, it is just beginning. Whilst most operators simply get a local company to handle the day to day operation of their tours, we do it all ourselves. We have managers for each of our **key destinations** around the world and all our small groups are escorted by our own leaders. Our local teams include guides, drivers, administration staff and contacts in the local community who help us ensure that our adventures are active and involving.

For comparability, all prices in this dossier are quoted in one currency. We use the US Dollar since that is familiar to most. However, once on tour you will need to pay for all goods and services in the local currency. See your Country Dossier for details of exchange rates.

Trip Grade

Culture

The greatest cities in the world and the richest historic sights; the finest regional food and the must-see spectacles. Museums and markets, medinas and mosques – from Hobart to Hong Kong, Cairo to Caracas, get under the skin of local life and explore what your destination means to its own people. Dive headlong into exotic metropolitan buzz – the souks of Marrakech, La Paz's markets – or adventure to remote African hills to explore ancient and mysterious rock art. Take in cutting edge art at Bilbao's dazzling Guggenheim, or soak up timeless rhythms sitting under a balanzan tree in Mali listening to Tuareg musicians. Whatever it is, wherever you are, there's no greater adventure than learning how another culture ticks.

Included

- The services of Peregrine's expert English-speaking local tour leader throughout the tour, and local guides at some sites. - Sightseeing (including entrance fees where applicable): Rangoon - Shwedagon Pagoda and Karaweik Hall; Mandalay - Kuthodaw Pagoda and walk up Mandalay Hill; Amarapura; Maymyo hill station; archaeological site at Pagan; Mount Popa - home to 'nats' (local deities); ancient centre of the Mon kingdom – Pegu; Shwemawdaw Pagoda; Shwethalyaung Buddha; and port city of Bassein. - Local flights by private airline piloted mostly by expats: Rangoon to Mandalay, Pagan to Heho, and Heho to Rangoon. - Boat trip to Mingun - the site of the world's largest pagoda and unbroken bell. - Day boat cruise down the Irrawaddy River from Mandalay to Pagan to discover rural Burma. - Three nights at a lakeside resort with a full day discovering Inle Lake. - Traditional long tail boat ride and trek to ethnic minority villages on Shan Plateau. - Traditional Shan dinner. - Trek to the summit of Kyaiktiyo to visit Golden Rock (Kyaiktiyo Pagoda) and spend the night. - Three day stay at Ngwesaung Beach. - Free time to explore Rangoon, Mandalay and Pagan. - Arrival transfer.

Not included

International flights, departure taxes, visas, other meals, insurance, tips, any additional optional tours or activities, and spending of a personal nature, including drinks, laundry, souvenirs.

Meals

16 breakfasts, , 1 dinner

Accommodation

Comfortable hotel

Single room supplement

Most of our travellers like the thought of travelling with a few like-minded souls. There are NO compulsory single supplements on most tours as we simply arrange twin shared accommodation for you and another tour member of the same sex. But don't worry if that doesn't appeal. We do understand there are times when you just want a bit of privacy and 'me' time so we are more than happy to arrange a private room upon request when you book.

Transport

Ferry,Plane,Private vehicle,Truck

Passport

Well before travelling, please ensure that you have a current passport, with an accurate photo, that is valid for at least six months after your scheduled return home. Also check that your airline tickets are in exactly the same name as your passport. Some countries may require that you have a return air ticket, or have sufficient funds to purchase such a ticket.

Insurance

You are required to have travel insurance before heading off on a Peregrine trip. Insurance can be organised by your Peregrine representative or your travel agent.

Visas

Burma - Please note that visa requirements can and do change. It is essential that you confirm requirements with the nearest relevant embassy or check with your travel agent before you travel. At the time of writing, a visa is required by most travellers visiting Burma (Myanmar) including Australians, New Zealanders, Americans, British and Canadians. All other nationalities should check with the Myanmar (Burmese) Embassy or Consulate in their country for up-to-date visa information. Visas CANNOT be

obtained on arrival in Yangon and Mandalay International Airport. The Visa must be obtained in advance of travel from your nearest Burmese Embassy prior to arriving in Burma. A letter of invitation is required when applying for your visa and this is supplied by our local operator. In order for us to arrange this letter you must provide your full passport details at time of booking.

It is your responsibility to ensure you have all required visas for your trip. Rules and regulations governing the issuance of visas are constantly changing, and vary for different nationalities and you should check visa requirements with your travel agent or relevant consular authority well before travel.

Vaccinations

Vaccinations may be required for this trip. Talk to your doctor about the up-to-date information for this region.

The itinerary and supplementary information has been compiled with care and provided in good faith. However it may be subject to change, and does not form part of a contract between the client and The Imaginative Traveller.

Responsible Travel - Travellers' Guidelines

At Imaginative Traveller we love helping our clients experience the beauty and cultures of the destinations we visit. However, hand in hand with this we have always been aware that we have a responsibility to minimise any negative impacts that tourism can bring.

Responsible Travel is twofold. It's about taking people to the places they want to go in a safe and responsible manner but also about respecting and maintaining the natural and often delicate balance of the destination. Economic gain from tourism is often fundamental to a country, but should never be at the expense of its culture or the environment.

Our Aims

It is our aim to provide journeys that have minimal negative and maximum positive impact on the places we visit.

We do not believe that, as visitors, we should impose our own cultures on others; rather that we should experience foreign cultures and appreciate them for what they are.

Whilst it is our aim to show destinations and cultures in a positive light, we do not believe in papering over the cracks or shielding visitors from the realities of life. This does not mean, however, that we condone or endorse certain situations or regimes that may be in place.

Our guidelines are meant not as rigid instructions but rather as suggestions to make our holidays more enjoyable – for everybody. As cultural and environmental sensitivities vary from country to country more specific guidelines can be found in our individual country and trip dossiers.

Travellers' Guidelines

- ✓ Before you depart try to spend some time familiarising yourself with the destination you will be travelling to – their culture and customs. The country dossiers on our website offer detailed information about all the regions we visit. They also include some useful phrases in the local language for you to use on your trip! A few words of the local language can open up many more opportunities for you to interact with the people you will meet.
- ✓ Although it is tempting to give out pens, sweets and money to people begging, and particularly tempting to give to children, we feel that this encourages a begging mentality and has a long-term negative impact on communities. If someone begging earns more than someone in the same community who works this can discourage local employment. If children regularly bring home money it may discourage their parents from sending them to school. It is of course your own personal choice but you could consider giving to registered charities or contributing to our Responsible Travel fund instead. Money donated through our fund to our worldwide projects is matched pound for pound by Imaginative Traveller and used to help local grassroots projects.
- ✓ Always ask permission to photograph local people and respect their decision if they would prefer not to have their picture taken.
- ✓ Respect local dress codes, especially at religious sites. Our tour leaders are always on hand to give you advice about this.
- ✓ In many of the countries we visit you might see examples of animal cruelty (for example dancing bears, performing monkeys and snake charmers). Please do not take photographs of this or offer money as it encourages the activity.
- ✓ Respect the environment you are in. It sounds obvious but do not throw litter, take it with you or use rubbish bins! You may see locals throwing rubbish on the street but do not follow their example!
- ✓ When shopping in countries where haggling is the norm – enjoy it and only pay what you feel is a fair price for the goods you are purchasing. However, remember that the shopkeeper does have to make a living so do stop once you have reached a price you are happy with. Bargaining should be fun but always remember that a small amount can mean much more to the vendor than to you.
- ✓ Endeavor to take home souvenirs made locally; the money you spend can be very important to the local communities. However, do use your common sense and don't buy anything that you think might be made out of endangered animals or plants.
- ✓ To help keep as much money as possible in the host country - try to eat in locally owned restaurants and order local drinks and produce rather than international brands.
- ✓ In hotels do be conscious of how much water you are using. Many of the areas we visit regularly have shortages; try not to have hour long showers! Don't leave lights, air conditioners or fans on when you leave the room – you wouldn't at home!

- ✓ Respect the environment you are in, especially when in national parks or reserves. Pay attention to rules about keeping on paths, keeping a distance from animals and not removing any of the natural habitat.
- ✓ Relax and immerse yourself in the differences of the culture you are in – you'll be back home in the familiar soon enough (and wishing you were still on holiday!). These cultural differences are part of what makes your experience special.

If you would like to offset the carbon dioxide that will be produced on your flights you can do this on our website ([on our Responsible travel page](#)). We work with climatecare, who will reduce the equivalent amount of carbon dioxide that you produce in another part of the World through their emission reduction projects. These projects are low carbon efficient technologies in developing countries and not only serve to reduce emissions but also help to spread the adoption of low carbon technologies and improve the quality of life for local communities. Details of climatecare's projects can be [found on their website](#).



If you would like to contribute to our Worldwide projects, helping communities all over the World, you can also do this on our website or with a sales consultant. Please refer to our [responsible travel page](#) on the website for details of our current projects. Any donation you make will be matched £ for £ by Imaginative Traveller (up to a maximum of £1000).

Have a great trip!

Please do let us know if you have any comments about responsible travel at rto@imtrav.net

The Imaginative Traveller & Peregrine Adventures This trip is operated by our partner company, Peregrine Adventures. Peregrine is an Australia based company with more than 30 years experience in adventure travel and they share our ethos for offering unique holiday adventures. As this is a codeshared departure you can expect there to be both Imaginative Traveller and Peregrine travellers on your trip.

Last updated: 28/11/2012