

Bagan Temple Marathon 2015 - 6-day package

Day 1 - 25 November 2015: Welcome to Myanmar

Arrive in Yangon International Airport and make your way to the hotel for check-in. Transportation from the airport is not provided, but there are plenty of taxis and the distance is not far. If assistance is needed a Meet and greet guide will be present after customs have been cleared.

At the hotel your tour leader and local guide will assist with the check in and give information about the coming days. The rest of the day is free to explore Yangon on your own.

Day 2 - 26 November 2015: Yangon sightseeing and flight to Bagan

The day will begin with a city tour of Yangon in an air-conditioned coach. Our first stop will be one of the most iconic symbols of Yangon, the Shwedagon Pagoda which is considered by many to be the 'heart of Myanmar'. The pagoda is believed to be more than 2,500 years old and the central stupa is surrounded by dozens of intricately decorated buildings and statues. Next we'll pay a visit to the Chauk Htat Gyi Pagoda to see the magnificent reclining Buddha. From here we go to the floating Karaweik Royal Barge and enjoy the quiet settings around the lake. We'll enjoy lunch at a nearby restaurant where you'll taste the exquisite Myanmar cuisine.

After lunch, we'll head to the airport to catch our flight to Bagan. Flight time is approximately one hour and twenty minutes and via a short stopover in Mandalay we will arrive at Nyaung U Airport just outside the Bagan Archeological Zone. After checking into the hotel, the rest of the day is free for you to become acquainted with the magnificent landscape of Bagan.

Day 3 - 27 November 2015: Bagan sightseeing and Pasta Party

Today we'll explore the ancient area of Bagan. We'll start with a visit to Old Bagan, the centre of the ancient kingdom. Here we take a closer look at the Bupaya pagoda, which offers great views to the Ayeyarwaddy River and nearby mountains. We continue to the Shwezigon pagoda, built in the 11th century by King Anawratha. Still an active place of worship it stands today as one of the most astonishing and well kept pagodas in all of Bagan. We finish our sightseeing with a visit to the lesser visited pagodas at Tayok Pyi Paya and the village of Minnanthu, both part of the running course tomorrow.

Back at the hotel the rest of the afternoon is free to relax and prepare for tomorrow's race before we drive to Amata Restaurant in the evening to load up on carbs at the pasta party. Start number pick up will take place during the evening and a race briefing by the race organizers will provide final information for tomorrow's run.

Day 4 - 28 November 2015 Bagan Temple Marathon Race Day

Today's the big day! After an early breakfast at the hotel, we hop on a coach to Hti Lo Min Lo Temple where the marathon, half marathon and 10K race start and end. Running amid the pagoda-studded landscape, we'll experience Bagan in all its glory and pass by small picturesque villages and farmland. After the race, we'll enjoy a packed lunch on the steps of the iconic Hti Lo Min Lo Temple. Shuttle busses will take all participants (runners and spectators) back to the hotel where the rest of the day and evening can be enjoyed as you prefer.

For more information about the race, look here: bagan-temple-marathon.com/race-info

Day 5 - 29 November 2015: Bagan on your own, sunset tour and Celebration Dinner

Today is free to relax, enjoy and explore at your own pace. Whether you want to relax at the hotel with a cold drink or rent a bike and explore more of Bagan is up to you. If your legs can carry you why not pay a visit to Ananda Temple, a whitewashed masterpiece of Mon architecture. With its four standing Buddhas and adjacent brick monastery with well-preserved 18th century murals, this temple is one of Bagan's most significant. Close by is also the Thatbinnyu Temple dating from 1144, also known as the temple of omniscience. Or why not pay a visit to one of the local villages or follow the running course to the majestic Dhammayangyi Temple for a closer look.

In the late afternoon we'll meet for a sunset excursion to one of the temples and enjoy another magical moment reveling in the stunning beauty of the area as the sun casts its dusky glow over the gilded plains.

After this golden moment the evening is dedicated to celebrating our achievements of yesterday. A festive dinner and awards ceremony will lead up to an all-night party.

Day 6 - 30 November 2015: Flight to Yangon – End of tour

After an early breakfast and checkout, we head to the airport for our morning flight back to Yangon. Flying time is approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes and arrival in Yangon is estimated before noon. However, flight times are not yet confirmed and delays do occur, so it is NOT recommended to book your onward flight out of Yangon earlier than 15:00 today!

You can also choose to extend your stay in Myanmar and book the tour to the idyllic Inle Lake or go to the perfect beach retreat at Ngapali beach? Or, now that you came all this way, why not combine them both and get the full Myanmar experience?