

Bagan Temple Marathon 2015 - 7-day package

Day 1 - 24 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 taxis are plenty-full and the distance is not long. 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 - 25 November 2015: Morning flight to Mandalay

After an early breakfast and check out, we'll head to Yangon airport for the morning flight to Mandalay. The flight time is approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes including a short stopover at Nyaung U (Bagan) airport.

From Mandalay airport we drive to the river jetty and embark a boat that will take us to the monumental Mingun temple. Built by orders from King Bodawpaya, the enormous stupa was never completed as an astrologer claimed the king would die when the temple was finished. Yet, it still stands as an impressive testimony of the power and dedication of its time. Close by the Mingun bell, the worlds largest uncracked ringing bell weighing 90 tons, can be seen.

We sail back for lunch at a local restaurant where there will be ample opportunities to sample the delicious Burmese cuisine.

Once we've checked into the hotel, the rest of the day is free for you to explore Mandalay.

Day 3 - 26 November 2015: Royal capital of Amarapura, U Bein Bridge and flight to Bagan

After breakfast we head off for more exploration of Mandalay and its surroundings. Starting at the ancient royal capital of Amarapura we are heading to the world's longest wooden bridge built in 1782, the U Bein Bridge which spans 1.2km. We continue to the highly revered Mahamuni Pagoda where we will also see the work of local craftsmen. We will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant followed by a visit to what is known as the world's largest 'book'; the Kuthodaw Pagoda which houses the entire collection of Buddhist scriptures.

In the late afternoon we drive to the airport to catch our flight to Bagan. Flight time is approximately 30 minutes to Nyaung U Airport. After checking into the hotel, the rest of the evening is free for you to explore Bagan.

Day 4 - 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 organisers will provide some final information for tomorrow's run.

Day 5 - 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 6 - 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 7 - 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 this day!

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 are at it and have come all this way, why not combine them both and get the full Myanmar experience?