

3 Days / 2 Nights

Mandalay Highlights



See the world largest book in Mandalay



Indulge in the quietness beauty Mingun and Ava villages

Walk on U Bein - 1.2 km wooden footbridge

Gaze at the former capital from Mandalay hill



Day 1: Mandalay

Day 2: Mandalay – Mingun & Ava

Day 3: Mandalay – Pyin Oo Lwin – Mandalay

Itinerary

Day 1: Mingun village – Mandalay (-/-/-)

- Welcome to **Mandalay**, the last Royal city of Myanmar.
- After breakfast, transfer to jetty to take a boat trip on the **Ayeyarwaddy River to Mingun**, 11 km upriver from Mandalay. Visit **Mingun Bell**, which weighs 90 tons and is one of the world's largest bells; the beautiful **Hsinbyume Paya** (also known as Myatheintan Pagoda) was modelled after the mythical **Mount Meru**. The Mingun Paya, intended to be the world's biggest pagoda, is an overwhelmingly massive structure even though it remains unfinished.
- Visit **Mahamuni Pagoda** which houses one of Myanmar's most sacred Buddha images covered with thick layers of gold leaf. Continue to **Shwenandaw Monastery**, noted for its exquisite wood carvings which are mostly done on teak wood; the renovated Atumashi Monastery which is referred as incomparable monastery and billed as the 'world's largest book', **Kuthodaw Pagoda** houses the Buddhist Scriptures inscribed on marble slabs. Climb to the top of **Mandalay Hill**, a vantage point for panoramic views of the city and spectacular sunsets.
- Overnight in Mandalay

Day 2: Ava – Sagaing – Amarapura (B/-/-)

- Take the local ferry to the former capital of **Inwa (Ava)**, located on an island between the Ayeyarwaddy and the Myitnge Rivers, 21km south of Mandalay. Have horse cart ride through the ancient city walls to visit **Maha Aungmye Bonzan** – a unique brick and stucco monastery. Climb up the top of **Nanmyin Watchtower** to take in some lovely views over the river. Continue to the impressive wooden monastery of **Bagaya Kyaung**, formerly the "monastic college" for the royals. If time permits, visit some local handicraft workshops of silk weaving, mats and alms bowls
- Drive to Sagaing, 20km southwest of Mandalay. The picturesque **Sagaing Hill**, widely regarded as Myanmar's living centre of Buddhism, is the site of numerous pagodas and monasteries. Visit the glittering **Swan Oo Pon Nya Shin** and **U Min Thonze Pagoda**.
- Continue to Amarapura via the Ava Bridge, built by British engineers. Visit a weaving workshop and walk over the **U Bein Bridge** – the world's longest teak bridge stretching 1.2 km, to enjoy fabulous views of the countryside and encounter the friendly locals.
- Overnight in Mandalay

Day 3: Mandalay – Pyin Oo Lwin – Mandalay (B/-/-)

- A scenic, 2 hour drive brings you up to **Pyin Oo Lwin**, formerly Maymyo, a British Hill Station on a plateau 1,070m above sea level. Here you will visit the colorful local market near the Purcell Clock Tower and take a horse drawn carriage through the streets to see the unique brick and **timber British colonial houses**.
- In the afternoon, you'll explore the **National Kandawgyi Botanical Gardens**, 177 hectares of flowers, forests and a lake perfect for a relaxing nature walk. You will then visit the **Candacraig Hotel**, built in 1905 in the style of an English country house, with time for an optional coffee or tea break and the chance to photograph this classic place before returning to Mandalay.
- End of service.