

Jewels of the Ayeyarwady

(Mandalay - Bagan)

Itinerary Overview

Day	Destinations/Activities	Meals
Day 1	Mandalay arrival	-
Day 2	Mandalay – Mingun – City tour	B
Day 3	Mandalay Embarkation – Sagain - Ava	D
Day 4	Ava – Yangobo - Pakokku	B/L/D
Day 5	Pakokku – Bagan Disembarkation - Temples	B/L
Day 6	Bagan departure	

Note*: B: Breakfast / L: Lunch / D: Dinner

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1 Mandalay – Arrival

Upon arrival at Mandalay International Airport, you will be welcomed by your tour guide and transferred to your hotel for check in. Enjoy free time to relax after long flight.

Note*: The hotel room will be available at 2:00pm, and in case that you would like to secure an early-check in, an additional charge will be applied.

Meals: Dinner

Accommodation: hotel in Mandalay

Day 2

Mandalay – Mingun – City Tour

After breakfast, you will be transfer for Jetty for a private boat across the river Ayeywarwaddy to visit Mingun. The dedications of King Bodawpaya such as the unfinished Pathodawgyi Pagoda a brick counterpart of pyramid in Egypt and the Mingun Bell, the second largest bell in the world are the most prominent religious heritages. Then visiting the Myatheintan Pagoda, the best representation of the Universe, will refresh your tiredness and fatigue. Return to Mandalay and then you will take a sightseeing tour of Mandalay which includes Mahamuni Pagoda, a life like Buddha image. Mandalay is the last capital of Myanmar and that make her to be the best place to see all the traditional arts and crafts. Start visiting gold leaf making work-place and see how the gold leaf is being made by hand in a traditional way. Continue visit the Old Palace grounds; Kuthodaw Pagoda, known as the world's largest book for its 729 marble slabs inscribed with the Buddha's Doctrine; Golden Palace Monastery, noted for its exquisite wood carvings and enjoy the panoramic view of the city from Mandalay Hill.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Mandalay

Day 3

Mandalay – Sagain - Ava

Pickup at the hotel. Transfer to the jetty for your cruise package.

We welcome you to your cruise on the Ayeyarwady River from Mandalay downstream to Bagan. As the luxurious Anawrahta sets sail, take a last look back at enchanting Mandalay. After some refreshments, move into your 'home' for the next days and settle in. Take a rest on the plush bed or take in the picturesque river scenery as it changes from cityscape to wide open countryside fields and gently rolling hills. To while away the time on board, have a drink at the outdoor Kipling's Bar or on the sun deck as the ship sets sail towards Sagaing, one of the ancient capitals of Myanmar.

We disembark to discover the highlights of Sagaing and the former royal capital of Ava, two cities which are connected by the famous 16-span cantilever 'Ava bridge', built in 1934 by the British. Ava (also called Innwa) was the main metropolis of the Burmese kingdom between the 14th to the 19th century. A horse-drawn carriage takes you around this unique area, which is dotted with distinguished ancient monasteries, namely the Bagaya Kyaung, a jaw-dropping teak monastery built in 1834 which operates as a monastic school today. The Maha Aung Mye Bonzan Monastery and the Nanmyint Watch Tower both also exhibit unique designs and architecture. It is Ava's peace and tranquility which sets the tone during a laid-back teatime picnic at a secret spot in the middle of this sacred place.

Back on board, learn more about some of the long-lasting traditions of Myanmar from our expert guide. Our staff demonstrates how to wear the traditional Longyi, a wrap-around skirt worn by

Burmese men and women on a daily basis. You also get to apply Thanaka paste to your face and learn how it helps to keep your skin beautiful and blemish-free, even under Burma's hot sun. A fascinating presentation about the history and culture of Myanmar follows afterwards to give you an even deeper understanding of the country's traditions and cultures and how they shape life here today.

Before dinner, you are warmly invited to a cocktail gathering at the Kipling's Bar. Get to know your fellow travelers while taking in the sweeping views of the countryside and enjoying our bartender's delicious concoctions. With such a setting, you wouldn't be the first of our guests to form new, lifelong friendships aboard Anawrahta.

Meals: Dinner

Accommodation: Anawrahta Cruise

Day 4

Ava – Yangobo - Pakokku

For early morning risers, we offer a daily yoga session on the sun deck. Strengthen your muscles and ease your mind by merging your movements with the languid flow of the Ayeyarwady. Settle into your body and release tensions to the stunning backdrops of Myanmar's riverscape. Today, you have some time to relax while we cruise towards Yandabo in the morning. To set the right tone for our voyage and prepare you for the amazing sights you're about to see, join an eye-opening lecture about Bagan's history in the Mandalay Lounge after breakfast. If you prefer to bask in the sun, find a spot on the sun deck and gaze at the riverbanks of this eternal stream. For complete relaxation, book a treatment at the beautiful Thazin Spa.

Right after lunch, we arrive at the quiet riverside village of Yandabo. It is here in this unique and fascinating gem of a village that the King of Ava signed the Treaty of Yandabo in 1826 and brought about the end of the First Anglo-Burmese war. Today the town is known for manufacturing a kind of water pot which is reputed to keep water cooler than pots from anywhere else in the country. We explore the village on foot, so you get the chance to meet and engage with the friendly locals. They are known to be charming and open for chitchats, a fact which will make for many unforgettable memories and fun encounters. You have an opportunity to try your hand at making the famous Yandabo pot as an artisan guides you.

After this adventure, an exquisite afternoon tea awaits you back aboard the Anawrahta. Enjoy the fancy treats and exchange impressions with newfound friends as we set sail for Pakokku while passing the confluence of the Ayeyarwady and its greatest tributary, the Chindwin River. As the evening approaches and the Burmese sun immerses everything in a golden light, a special event takes place at the Kipling's Bar. Dress up in style and send 'a toast to the past' during a British Club where gents smoke cigars and ladies sip on tasty gin and tonics. As you look around, the present moment seems like a scene from an old photo album dating back to a bygone era.

For a low-key end to a beautiful day, come to our open-air cinema under the stars on the sun deck. Our timeless classics go perfectly with the atmosphere on board.

Meals: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Accommodation: Anawrahta Cruise

Day 5

Pakokku – Bagan Disembarkation/ Temples Tour

On the way south towards Pakokku and Bagan, delight in a rich breakfast and marvel at the luscious landscapes passing by. The next stop, Pakokku is an old trading town on the eastern riverbank of the Ayeyarwady and known for its port (the country's third largest after Yangon and Mandalay), bustling with local trading ships bringing goods to and from all corners of Myanmar. Just before we arrive at the town, we pass Pakokku Bridge, the longest of its kind in Myanmar.

On shore, you get to explore some of the small industries in this area such as a cheroot-rolling factory and the workshop of 'Burmese slippers' ("flip-flops"). Learn how local handicraft vendors make their living from this trade and take the chance to buy a few authentic souvenirs for your loved ones back home. Later, a visit to the thriving market gives you insights into local goods and trading practices. You'll see countless fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs as well as all kinds of other household goods and livestock being traded in this bustling center of Pakokku's daily life. Pakokku is also famous for its production of tobacco. If you would like to buy some Burmese cigars, this is the place. After the busy market, we change the scene for an excursion to the serene Shwegu Temple. This temple features intricate carvings made from the rare Yamanei wood and also houses a unique image of Buddha seated on a lotus throne. Settle in for a moment of quiet contemplation and let today's impressions sink in.

Back on board, lunch is served and Anawrahta continues southwards. We arrive at Bagan in the early afternoon (approx. 2 o'clock).

Upon arrival, your stay on your floating, luxury home comes to an end. Disembarkation. We will keep visiting Bagan with Ananda temple, an architectural masterpiece of the early-style temple with two original standing Buddha images show facial expression change depending on the distance the statue is viewed from. The Ananda Okkyaung is one of the few surviving brick monasteries from the early Bagan period and the next temple to be visited, Thatbyinnyu, is the highest in Bagan, rising to 61 meters. End the day with a horse and carriage tour among the temples passing by the traditional village of Taungbi, Sulamani Temple and the massive Dhammayangyi Temple noted for its remarkable brickwork. End the day with a enjoy sunset at some nice area where available places, one of the ancient temples in Bagan or at view mount area. After sunset return to hotel.

Meals: Breakfast/Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Bagan

Day 6

Bagan Departure

After Breakfast at hotel, you will transfer to airport for your departure flight. On the way, we stop for visiting the colourful Nyaung Oo Market. Trip end at the airport.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: n/a

Inclusions & Exclusions

Inclusions

- 2 nights on luxury Anawrahta Cruise / 3 nights at 5* hotels in Bagan & Mandalay
- Private pre/post cruise tours in Bagan/Mandalay
- Daily (group) shore-excursions & entrance fees
- Sightseeing and transfers during the cruise
- Transfers from/to meeting point to/from the Luxury Anawrahta Cruise
- English speaking tour guiding on-and offshore
- Entertainment/activities during the cruise as mentioned in the program
- Meals as mentioned in the program
- Welcome drink
- Complimentary beverage package
- Passenger liability insurance
- Internet on the ship (subject to cellular network signal)
- Complimentary usage of ship facilities (exclusive of spa treatments)
- Port or anchorage fees
- River pilots
- Fuel & taxes

Exclusions

- Crew and guide gratuities
- Visa fees
- Private transfers
- Personal expenses
- Other beverages than those stated under inclusion
- Medical services
- Spa treatments
- Port and anchorage fees
- All other services or items not listed under inclusions