

Jewels of the Ayeyarwady

(Bagan – Mandalay)

Itinerary Overview

Day	Destinations/Activities	Meals
Day 1	Bagan Arrival	B
Day 2	Bagan – Embarkation – Pakokku	B/D
Day 3	Pakokku – Yangobo	B/L/D
Day 4	Yangobo – Mandalay – Disembarkation – Mingun	B/L
Day 5	Mandalay – Amarapura – Ava – Sagaing	B
Day 6	Mandalay departure	B

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

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1 Bagan - Arrival

Arrive Bagan airport in the morning. Upon arrival, you will drive to Bagan stop on the way to visit village. Today sightseeing features the colourful Nyaung Oo Market, the Shwezigon Pagoda and its magnificent golden stupa, Wetkyi-Inn, a cave temple with exquisite jatakas murals paintings and the elegant Htilominlo Temple noted for its fine plaster carvings and glazed sandstone decorations. In the afternoon, visit Ananda, 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 Okkyauung 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. Enjoy wellcome dinner at the hotel.

Meals: Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel in Bagan

Day 2

Bagan – Embarkation - Pakokku

Pickup at the hotel. Transfer to the jetty for your cruise on the Ayeyarwady River from Bagan upstream to Mandalay. As the luxurious Anawrahta sets sail, take a last look back at enchanting Bagan. Enjoy a leisurely lunch as the ship sails towards Pakokku, 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 booming 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. The city 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 Yamane 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 the cruise northwards on the Ayeyarwady. 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 to send 'a toast to the past' during our famous British Club, a time where gents smoke cigars and ladies sip on tasty gin and tonics (bring your respective attire to make this night unforgettable). As you look around, the moment seems like a scene from an old photograph dating back to a bygone era. Sometimes we need just that – to stop the ticking of the clock.

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

Meals: Dinner

Accommodation: Anawrahta Cruise

Day 3 Pakokku – Yangobo

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 tension to the stunning backdrops of Myanmar's riverscape. We leave in the morning from Pakokku for Yandabo. While indulging in a rich breakfast, enjoy the view when the ship passes the confluence of the Ayeyarwady and its greatest tributary, the Chindwin River. After a short while cruising, we arrive at the quiet riverside village of Yandabo. It is here in this unique 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.

As we continue our journey further north, we have some time to relax. Now is the time to find a spot on the sun deck and gaze at the river banks of this eternal stream. In the afternoon we learn more about some of the long-lasting traditions of Myanmar from our local 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 is served, you may want to book a treatment at the Thazin Spa.

Meals: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Accommodation: Anawrahta Cruise

Day 4 Yangobo – Mandalay / Disembarkation - Mingun

As Anawrahta makes its way north along the Ayeyarwady, delight in a rich breakfast and marvel at the luscious landscapes passing by. In Ava, we disembark for a wonderful discovery of the highlights of this former royal capital. 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, lunch is served and Anawrahta continues the cruise northwards, eventually arriving at the ultimate destination and famed city, Mandalay. Along the way, enjoy the amazing backdrop – the beautiful Sagaing Hill with its innumerable scattered pagodas. We arrive at Mandalay in the early afternoon (approx. 2 o'clock).

Upon arrival, your stay on your floating, luxury home comes to an end. Disembark the Anawrahta cruise, get on small boat to visit Mingun. Here, you will visit 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.

Meals: Breakfast/Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Mandalay

Day 5

Mandalay – Amarapura – Ava - Sagaing

After breakfast at hotel, the day begins with a visit to the 18th century capital, Amarapura. Attend the daily meal of over thousand monks at the country's largest monastery; Mahagandayon. Visit a silk weaving workshop, the craft specialty of Amarapura. Then continue south of the city to Ava, the capital from 14th to 18th centuries, where a short ferry ride will take us across the river to where our horse and carriage are waiting. Visit the old wooden Bagaya Monastery and the remains of the Royal Palace and Fort. There are many small villages located amid Ava's ruins and as you travel by horse and cart you'll get a glimpse of local life in the Burmese countryside.

In the afternoon cross the bridge over the Irrawaddy River and continue to Sagaing. Covered with 600 white-painted pagodas and monasteries, Sagaing Hill is widely regarded as the religious centre of Myanmar. It is home to 3,000 monks and 100 meditation centers and you will visit pagodas such as Swan Oo Pon Nya Shin and U Min Thone Sae. Finish the day return toward the Mandalay city and stop at Amarapura, continue to U Bein Bridge for a walk along this 200 year-old teak bridge. The bridge was constructed of 984 teak posts that were once part of the deserted Inwa Palace and it is 1.2 kilometers in length making it the world's longest teak span. Enjoy a stroll along the bridge and the fabulous views of the surrounding farms and streams. Overnight in Mandalay.

Meals: Breakfast/Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Mandalay

Day 6

Mandalay Departure

Today, you are free to explore Mandalay before airport transfer for the next destination. Trip ends.

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