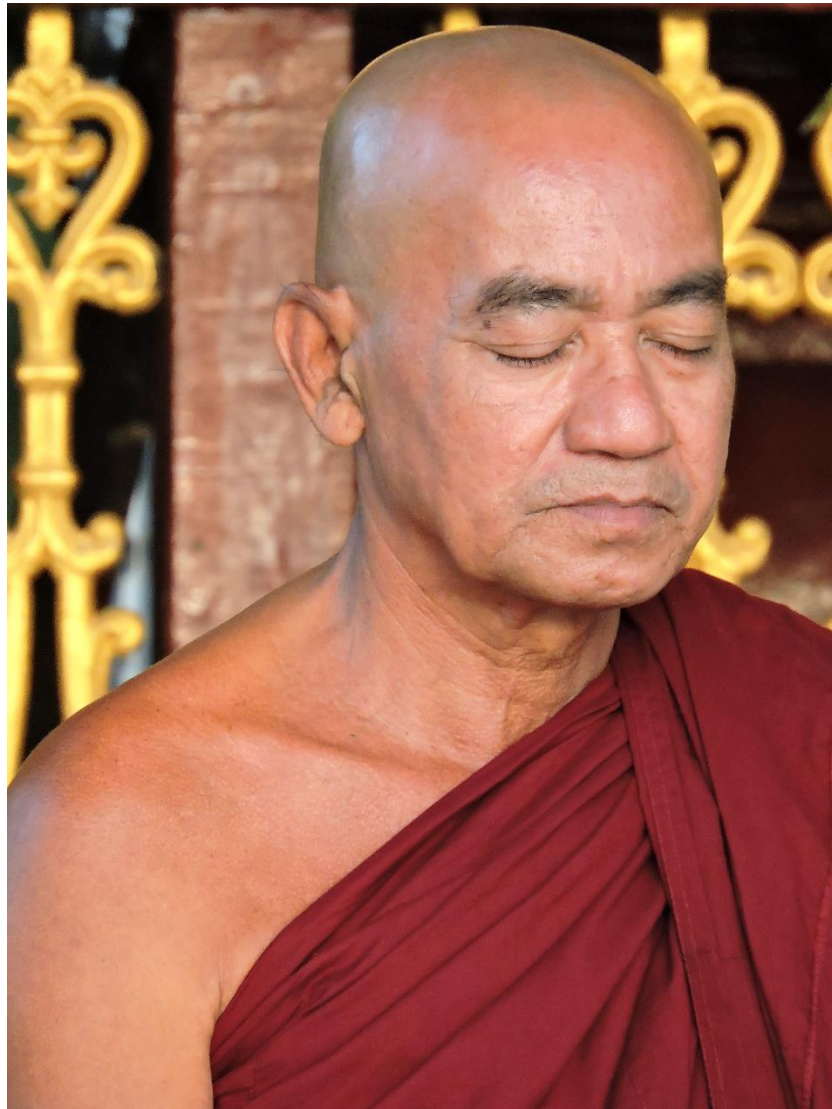


Adventures with Kit

# Myanmar

February 2021

Max 12 people



Day 1

Tour starts today. Good travelling practice says it's worthwhile coming a day or two ahead—gives you a chance to get over jet-lag, gives your bags a chance to catch up with you—that sort of thing.

Once you get off the plane you'll pass through immigration. There is an online Visa that you need to have applied for in advance and you'll need to present a hard copy of the approval letter they sent you. It's a relatively painless process.

<https://evisa.moip.gov.mm/>

Then once you have your bag you can head out into the Arrivals Hall. You'll find your transfer driver standing there with a sign with your name on it.

“Mingalabar!” (emphasis on the first syllable) is the appropriate greeting. You're in Myanmar. And it's 30 degrees and humid!

It's about an hour to the city centre and the hotel. You MIGHT want to pick up a local sim card for your phone at the airport before you leave if you don't want to be out of touch but there is wifi all over, we can keep in touch through whatsapp if there's wifi.

<https://www.whatsapp.com/>

I'll be at the hotel when you get there and we'll get you into your room.

Later this afternoon we'll meet up with the rest of the group and head out to dinner.

Lunch and dinner are on our own account.

<http://hotel-alamanda.com/overview.php> or similar

## **Breakfast**

### **Day 2**

Exploring.. Yangon is a bustling busy city. I've arranged a city tour that will give you a good overview of the old (Rangoon when the British were here) and the new modern part. We'll make our way through some of the old colonial buildings—the Post/Telegraph office is a great example. The British left in 1948 and the office appears to be frozen in time.



We'll find a place to grab lunch and maybe hit some of the markets the afternoon. Scott market is busting at the seams, the spice market is a highlight and if we're lucky we might get a glimpse of the gem trade. Once a week the gem dealers gather in the street, conversations in low voices and producing thousand of dollars worth of jade and rubies from jeans pockets wrapped in Kleenex. It's wholesale, so you can't buy, it's totally legal but definitely has the feel of a black market deal going down!

Finally at the end of the day we'll make our way to Shwedagon Pagoda for sunset and the lighting of 1000 oil lamps ceremony. Definitely a highlight. Take as much time as you like to find your peace before we head back to our hotel.

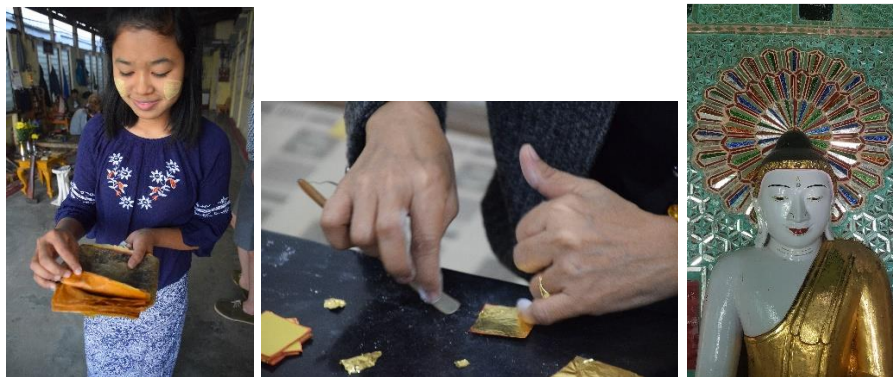


Lunch and dinner are on our own account.

### **Breakfast**

## **Day 3**

After breakfast we'll head to the airport and catch an hour and 20 minute flight to Mandalay. Myanmar is primarily a Buddhist country and you'll see this featured in every aspect of daily life. The faithful head to their local Pagoda or temple to pay respects at least once a day and often the offering is gold leaf which is applied to the Buddha in question. Someone has to make it/them so let's go find out how. We'll visit some of the workshops and maybe you can try your hand.



After lunch we'll head off to the hotel to check in and give you the rest of the afternoon to chill or wander on your own. Maybe you're up for a walk to the market?

Around 4 we'll get together for a trip up Mandalay Hill—just in time for sunset! Then we'll find a place a bit of dinner followed by a treat.



Marrionettes! Since the 11<sup>th</sup> century Marrionettes have been an important part of the culture. It's a dying art and quite a special thing to see the creation stories and local history brought to life in this 1 hour performance.

Lunch and dinner are on our own account.

### **Breakfast**

<http://mama-guesthouse.com/> or similar

## **Day 4**

Today you'll get a chance to fully immerse yourself in the ancient culture of Myanmar. We'll make a visit to the Mahagandayon Monastery for a glimpse into monastic life. Then to Sagaing—the second of the three ancient cities. We'll be ready for a bit of lunch I think so let's do that before we grab the ferry to Inwar.



On the other side of the river we'll grab a horse cart and make our way around the countryside to see some of the teak temples and a bit of daily life in this agricultural burg. On return we'll head to the infamous U Bein Bridge where you'll hop into your second boat of the day to see this beautiful 100 year old teak bridge by sunset. Back to the hotel—I know this great vegetarian restaurant if you're up for it. Indian food!

Own account for dinner today.

### **Breakfast, Lunch**

## **Day 5**

Early call this morning. We'll have a breakfast box from the hotel. We're off to the pier on the Aerawaddy River. For years it was literally the road to Mandalay. Read Rudyard Kipling's poem

[On the Road to Mandalay](#)

We'll board the MV Panorama for the 12 hour downstream journey to Bagan. Your second breakfast is here if you're not snoozing in your seat! Lots to see and do along the way. We'll make a village stop at some point for a stretch and for you to see some of local life.



We pull into the port for Bagan around 1730hrs, make a stop for your ‘temples ticket’ (included) as we leave and then in ½ hour we’ll be in your hotel in New Bagan.

There’s a restaurant at the hotel for dinner.

Dinner is on our own account

<http://rubytruebagan.com/>

(or similar)

### **Breakfast, Lunch**

## **Day 6**

Have a bit of a lie-in this morning. Or you can take an ebike for a bit of an explore? **We’ll be coming back to this hotel after the village visit so you might want to pack an over (2) nights bag to take with you and store your main bag at the hotel.**

This afternoon we’ll be heading to the town of Myiang and our stop at the Community Based Tourism project. This is a 2 night lodge stay and a unique chance to get up-close-and-personal with local life and culture. What actually happens here completely depends on what the villages involved have going on at the time. Somehow or other over the 2 days we manage to fit in all the meals, visits to 4 villages either on foot or by bike (short 20-30 minute rides) When I was there this past year there was a wedding—but you can never be sure what’s on offer) Whatever happens, it is it’s going to be fun.!

If you don’t think you can manage the bike rides or the walks, we can arrange a tuk tuk ride for you instead (extra cost but likely not a lot). You can decide onsite.

Lunch is on our own account.

### **Breakfast, Dinner**

## **Day 7**

Activities at Myiang Community Based Tourism project



### **Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

## Day 8

Drive Back to Bagan with some stops along the way, On arrival you might want to chill by the pool for a bit.

Later this afternoon, we're off to a guided tour of the temples by horse and carriage.

Lunch and dinner are on our own account

<http://rubytruebagan.com/>

(or similar)

### Breakfast

## Day 9

If you're one of the ones who has booked a balloon ride, we'll be up at the crack of dawn to meet the transport taking us out to the launch site. Breakfast will happen when you get back, so have a cup of tea in your room before you go. This is an optional extra and will need to be booked in advance to ensure availability.



Bagan is famous for its lacquerware and a little later in the day, you're all invited along for a tour of some of the local villages where you can see it being made. Maybe try your hand at doing some yourself?



This evening another optional extra. Join us for a cruise on the Aerauaddy across to Sunset Island and a yoga class—designed for beginners and experts! A perfect finishing touch for this day!

Lunch and dinner are on our own account.

<https://yogabagan.com/>

<https://www.balloonsoverbagan.com/>

### **Breakfast**

#### **Day 10**

This is the third of the optional extras at Bagan. May operates the Pennywort Cooking Class and if you've signed up for this, then this morning you need to breakfast early. Maat May at the market ---the first part of the lesson is market shopping!



<https://www.facebook.com/PennywortCookingClass/>

For the rest of you, you'll have a free morning. This afternoon some of us are going to rent ebikes (think electric scooters) and head back to see the temples by sunset on our own. Feel free to join in.

Lunch and dinner are on our own account

### **Breakfast**

#### **Day 11**

Heading on today (pack for flying). We'll catch a short flight to the Heho airport and will be met to drive to the hill station of Kalaw. In the heat of the summer, expat British looked towards the mountain regions of Kalaw for a respite and sent their families away from sweltering Rangoon and Mandalay. You'll see the remnants of those beautiful buildings all over town.

Today Kalaw is the hopping off point for the infamous 12 and 3 day treks down to Inle Lake. Relax—we're not doing that. We have a different plan!

Lunch and dinner on our own account

### **Breakfast**

#### **Hillock Villa**

#### **Day 12**

This is one of my favorite days on the trip. While we won't be doing the hike to Inle Lake, we have arranged a day hike that gets you into the farming countryside. You can see lots of photos in the gallery on the website.





The whole hike is about 20km and as daunting as that sounds, it really isn't! The morning is a leisurely stroll through ginger and cabbage farmland. Lots of great photo opportunities as we go. We'll stop for lunch (included) in one of the villages along the way. Great views over the valleys towards town.

In the afternoon it does get a bit challenging. If you think it's not for you it is possible to arrange a taxi from here (extra cost) back to town. Think --back of a pickup truck when you envision the taxi by the way. For the rest of us we should get back to town around 1630-1700—just in time for sunset at the top of the hill. You can look smugly at the others who just had to walk up ALL those steps you're about to go down to see the sunset from town!

Dinner is on our own account

### **Breakfast/Lunch**

## **Day 13**

Have a bit of a lie-in this morning . About mid morning we'll head off to the train station for our hour trip to Inle Lake. Ever done the Rocky Mountaineer or the Orient Express or Perurail Puno to Cusco? Well THIS AIN'T THAT! This is 3.5 hours in Upperclass carriages bouncing and bumping down the tracks through



Air conditioning? Of course! Open the window! I'm splurging on upper class seats so you have some padding for your delicate bums ! (Ordinary class has wooden slats) Snack trolley? Every station we pass through will have a handful



of vendors clamoring at the window for your attention. It's a lovely ride and lots of fun. There's a video on the webpage. You're going to love it!

We'll have a picnic lunch on the train. I'll sort something out before we leave.

Mid afternoon we'll pull into the station and take a transfer to our hotel in Naung Shwe—the jumping off place for Inle Lake. The rest of the afternoon is yours to explore.

I'm going to keep us in the town instead of on the lake—you have so many more options for dinner and night life

Dinner is on our own account

### **Breakfast/Lunch**

## **Day 14**

This is our day for Inle Lake. It's a chance to see the fishermen using the bamboo trap in the photo and paddling their boats with their leg. We'll visit several villages to see silversmith workshops, the Shan 'long necked women' and cheroot marking workshop.

In the afternoon, visit Phaung-daw-Oo pagoda the home of five small gilded images of Buddha, which have been covered in gold leaf to the point that their original forms cannot be seen; Inn Paw Khone weaving village and Floating gardens using Hydroponics systems .

Finally visit Nga Phe Chaung Monastery, one of the most impressive of the many monasteries on the lake with its 150-200 pillars with elaborate wooden carvings.

End of the day we'll head back to our hotel in Naung Shwe and off to find a bite. If you loved the marionettes in Mandalay, there is a smaller but great fun version of it here.

Lunch and dinner are on our own account today



### **Breakfast**

## Day 15

After breakfast at the hotel we continue today's explorations of Inle Lake and surroundings. Our boat journey follows the currents of a small river as we reach the Pa O village of Indein, a site that makes us feel as if we've stepped through a forgotten portal in time. To access the Indein archeological site we walk through verdant bamboo groves that open up to a field covered with the ancient pagodas constructed over 1,000 years ago – truly an amazing sight and a highlight of the lake.

Afterwards, cycling to hot spring and visit tofu making village. The village is home to around 300 people whose livelihoods come from different foods made and sold at local markets. It is known for its tofu, made from yellow chickpeas, and very popular in local cuisine. You'll be visiting a family who produces tofu and have an opportunity to take part in some steps of tofu production process. You get to sample tofu as well!

Finally we head back to the hotel for our farewell dinner and a chance to say goodbye to new friends.

Lunch is on our own account.



## Breakfast/Dinner

## Day 16

Up this morning and pack for international flying for most of you. We'll transfer you to the Heho airport for our flight to Yangon. From there, you'll grab your bags and take them next door to the international terminal for your homeward flight.

There are 3 airport lounges that are accessible for a fee if you want a place to chill until your flight. Alternatively you could take an extra night—or maybe a day room if your flight is late.

Whatever you decide to do—we'll miss you! Keep in touch with new friends on the facebook group. And be ready because I'm bound to ask "Where do you want to go *next*!"

## What's Included?

Services of Tour Director and local guide throughout trip

All transportation including local flights with 1 bag with the exception of tours marked optional

Breakfast each day, welcome and farewell dinner, other lunches and dinner as indicated in full itinerary

Entrance fees as needed

Gratuities for local guides/drivers on included activities

## What's NOT Included

Gratuities for Tour Director

Meals other than those mentioned

Optional tours as indicated

Gratuities for guides/drivers on optional tours

### NOTES:

1. We hope nothing has to change but Myanmar is Myanmar and you need to be flexible. You never know when or why we might need to change a hotel but it can come up. As experienced travellers you know it's all about the adventure and the surprise along the way.
2. You don't need to speak Burmese but you certainly have time to give it a try between now and then. Try this: It's free: <https://www.soas.ac.uk/bbe/>
3. There is a FAQ on the web page.
4. Do you need trip cancellation/interruption and medical insurance? In a word—yes! Unless you are okay with getting ill or injured and riding it out in Myanmar then you need a way to get taken care of if anything happens. Trip cancellation covers you for everything from lost bags to cancelled flights and all the things you hope don't happen to you.



5. Do you need shots? Not 'required' but the usual recommended for travel are a smart idea. There is malaria in Myanmar as well as yellow fever but not where we are and February is not the season. Check with your doc about what you need. The advice of covering up, not getting bit and using bug juice with DEET is well founded. (and works for dengue fever as well).
6. Recommend you download WhatsApp (wifi based communication with me and the rest of the group as well as back home) XE Currency Converter—also works when you're offline! Both free apps.
7. **“Adventures with Kit” trips are unique and well thought out. Please read “Is it for You?” to make sure the trip is right for you.**