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## Experience the INSIGHT with Myanmar Shalom Tours!

### Private Group Tour (17<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2020) 10 Days/ 9 Nights Myanmar Trip



- Discover the spectacular beauty of the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon
- Capture the mystery and romance of Mandalay
- Discover the royal temples and shrines of the plains of Bagan
- Browse in bustling markets and craft centers
- Attend traditional, dazzling Shan State Tribal markets
- Cruise the tranquil waters of Inle Lake through floating gardens and villages
- See recently opened 17<sup>th</sup> century ruins in the Shan State
- Stay in stunning deluxe hotels

*Myanmar has recently opened its doors to the world after decades of isolation and now is the time to explore these distinctly different regions of this fascinating country. **We have created this unique itinerary which is perfect for the first time visitor to Myanmar.** This itinerary gives the traveler fascinating access into highlights of the country.*

*With a focus on the culture, people, arts and sights of Myanmar, you will see fairy-tale pagodas, fascinating architecture and lively street life. You will stay at deluxe boutique hotels and dine on gourmet cuisine. Our guides are carefully chosen for their wealth of knowledge and their ability to help understand Myanmar's diverse cultures and sights. The warmth and hospitality of the local people will make this journey memorable.*

Sammy Samuels  
Managing Director  
Myanmar Shalom Travels

### **Day 1: Yangon (D)**

Upon your arrival in Yangon, welcome by our tour guide and transferred to your hotel for check-in. Enjoy your day at leisure. Dinner at local restaurant.

### **Day 2: Yangon (B, L)**

Enjoy private tour and drive through downtown to explore the city centre and its fabulous mix of architecture and sites. The streets are filled with historical buildings many of which have a faded colonial charm not seen elsewhere in Asia. You'll start at the post office – a lovely historic building, passing by Strand Hotel, Mahabandoola Garden and Independence Monument along the way. Then visit famous Chauk Htat Kyi, home to a 70-meter long reclining Buddha. The feet of the statue carved with traditional symbols and often many locals gathering to pay homage and pray. Photo stop at the Karaweik Hall royal floating barge. Nothing will prepare you for Shwedagon Pagoda, with its glittering gold stupa. At the pagoda observe local pilgrims and monks offering their devotions and enjoy the amazing sunset view at Shwedagon pagoda.

### **Day 3: Yangon – Bagan (B, L)**

Morning flight to Bagan. Begin our exploration by visiting a busy local market and gain an insight into the bustling market atmosphere in Bagan. You will spend the day exploring the architectural masterpieces of this amazing town by visit to a diverse selection of the most important pagodas and temples. Then get to learn more about the local culture with a visit to two workshops producing Bagan's most famous products: lacquer ware and wood crafts. Watch as the skilled craftsmen use techniques passed down through generations to create beautiful items. In the late afternoon climbing to the top of the sunset hill for sunset views. Sit back relax and be amazed by the beauty of Bagan as you watch the sun slowly set behind the ancient Pagodas.

### **Day 4: Bagan & Villages (B, L)**

More than just temples, our tour introduces you to provide a great overview of Bagan's history, culture and local lifestyles. Today see the real way of life for most Myanmar people by visiting villages near Bagan to view the local lifestyle. In the late afternoon transfer to jetty where a private wooden river boat is waiting. Sitting under the shade or on the open-deck you'll be treated to fabulous views as you cruise down the Irrawaddy River to Shwezigon Pagoda. A private boat tour on the river during sunset time will hopefully show you a spectacular sunset. Relax and enjoy the scenery.

### **Day 5: Bagan – Mandalay – Amarapura (B, L)**

Transfer to the airport for your flight to legendary Mandalay, a city of great cultural importance. This morning visit the second most sacred image in Myanmar next to the Shwedagon Pagoda is the Mahamuni Pagoda. Visit local artisan's workshops of gold leaf making, woodcarving and marble carving. Next visit Golden palace Monastery famous for its intricate woodcarvings. Continue to the Kuthodaw Pagoda, which is known as the world largest book due to the Buddhist scripture carved on 729 marble slabs. Before sunset visit a 200-year-old teak bridge, the most photographic site in Myanmar.

### **Day 6: Mandalay – Irrawaddy River – Mingun (B, L)**

After breakfast you'll board a private local boat for a trip up the Irrawaddy to Mingun (45 min each way). Visit the Mingun Bell which weighs more than 87 tons and being the world's largest intact bronze bell, the unfinished Mingun Paya (built with the intention of being the world's biggest pagoda). Mingun's other highlight is the Hisbyume Pagoda, a white-washed temple built to resemble Mount Meru. Throughout Mingun there are small neighborhoods crafting traditional basketry and other artistic items and there is plenty of time to stop and interact with the craftsmen and friendly locals. After returning to Mandalay in the afternoon continues sightseeing and visits the ruined remains of the Royal Palace. This evening, enjoy a commanding overview of the city from the Mandalay Hill.

### **Day 7: Mandalay – Heho – Inle Lake (B, L)**

After breakfast, fly to Heho, gateway to Inle Lake. From Heho drive to NyaungShwe where we pick our boat & transfer to your hotel for check in. Enjoy the full day tour by private boat in Inle lake. Visit the Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda, the most holy religious site in southern Shan State. Be amazed by the local handicrafts, silk weaving, wooden handlooms and traditional blacksmith methods along the way. Visiting Inle Lake is not just about being on the water but also about discovering the Shan and Intha villages on the banks of the river. Pass the endless floating gardens, houses, monasteries built on stilts on the lake. Proceed to Nampan village and see local cheroot factory (where the Burmese cigars are made) and canoe carving.

### **Day 8: Inle Lake – Indein (B, L)**

Begin your day with a visit to the market, which rotates locations every five days and where hill tribe people dressed in

colorful, traditional outfits — as they barter for goods and produce. We continue our sightseeing in Inle Lake, maneuvering by boat through long, scenic channels. We will visit the fascinating village of Indein, with its complex of ancient shrines and stupas and walk through exotic colonnades of stairways and shop stalls. We'll visit the "long neck" tribal women, and weaving and craft villages perched on stilts. See the lake's unique "leg rowers" – the Intha people row standing up with one leg wrapped around an oar. It is a feast for the senses and a photographer's dream.

**Day 9: Inle Lake – Heho – Yangon (B, L, D)**

Morning flight back to Yangon. Then enjoy a visit to Scott Market, the sprawling 75-year-old Market. At the market you will find a whole variety of interesting Burmese souvenirs, from lacquer ware to gems & jewelry – bargain at the stores to fully experience the Burmese market atmosphere! Drive through the city and observe the influences of other cultures in the region. Intersperse in the tour are various religious sites such as the St Mary's Cathedral, built in 1899, and the Buddhist landmarks of Sule Paya and over 100 year old beautiful Rangoon Synagogue. In there you will have the opportunity to meet with Trustee of the Synagogue to learn the Jewish Life in the Pagoda Land. Then visit Little India and Chinatown – stop to greet the vendors and let them introduce you to their wares – some familiar, some exotic. Dinner at local restaurant

**Day 10: Yangon – Departure (B)**

After breakfast, day at leisure until transfer to airport for International departure flight.

City	Hotels
Yangon	Pullman Yangon Centerpoint or Wyndham Grand Hotel or Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake or Lotte Hotel or similar
Bagan	Amata Garden Hotel or Myanmar Treasure Resort or Areindarma Hotel or similar
Mandalay	Yadanarpon Dynasty Hotel or Eastern Palace Hotel or Hotel Shwe Pyi Thar or similar
Inle Lake	Inle Lake View Hotel or Amata Garden Resort or Myanmar Treasure Resort or similar
<b>Subject to Availability</b>	

**Quotation:**

Tour cost per person: \$1250 (based on twin or double sharing room)

Single Supplement: \$390

**Inclusion:**

- 9 Nights accommodation with breakfast
- 4 Domestic air tickets (Yangon – Bagan – Mandalay – Inle – Yangon)
- English speaking local tour guide in each city
- 8 Lunches & 1 Dinner at local restaurant
- Private boat in Mingun and Inle Lake
- All entrance fee and zone fees
- Transfers and sightseeing by private air conditioned car
- Government tax and service charges

**Exclusion:**

- Visa to Myanmar
- Meals & Drinks (Lunch & Dinner)
- Other personal expenses