

**MYANMAR: THE GOLDEN LAND**  
**November 1 - 17, 2011**

Myanmar has spectacular sights and is a wonderful place to visit : nice people, great food, beautiful scenery. The country has chosen to isolate itself and gone from one of the most prosperous in Asia to one of the least developed. The result is that, in addition to the magnificent temples and physical features, we can visit a culture and society much like “it used to be.”

<u>November</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Night</u>
1 T	Gather at Amari Boulevard Hotel in Bangkok. Meet in the lobby at 6 PM Bangkok for orientation. Group dinner option.	Bangkok
2 W	AM: Fly to Yangon, transfer to Park Royal Hotel. Late afternoon: Visit Shwedagon Pagoda. You will be overwhelmed!	Yangon (B)
3 Th	A full day tour of Yangon. Sule Pagoda, historical area, Mahabandoola Park, the port area. Afternoon: Walking in Chinatown, then to the vegetable and fruit market. End at Bogyoke Aung San (Scott’s) Market near our hotel.	Yangon (B)
4 F	Fly to Bagan, then drive to Chauk, an oil producing area. Lively market. Then the Yoke Sone Kvauna Manastery, famed for its wood carvings. In afternoon drive to Mt.Popa; along the way we see palm sugar making, whisky distillation, peanut oil extraction, and various farm activities. Our hotel is beautifully sited on a mountainside. Birders: I have seen racket tailed drongos here.	Mt. Popa (B)
5 S	Mt.Popa is a volcanic plug that has been uncovered by erosion and now several hundred feet above the surrounding area. There are Nat (spirit) shrines on the top and a path to reach them. In the village below there are shops selling souvenirs, flower bulbs, geodes, etc. In the afternoon to Bagan, stop at Pwa Saw Village.	Bagan (B)
6 S	Full day tour of Bagan, beginning at the extensive Nyaung Oo market, Beautiful flowers, vegetables, cloth, etc. Shwezigon Pagoda, Htilominio Temple, then the beautiful Ananda Temple, Dhammayangi, Tharabar Gate.	Bagan (B)
7 M	Fly to Heho in the Shan States and then drive to Pindaya; this is one of the more interesting road trips on any of the tours: villages, fields, small roadside markets, piles of avacados. The Pindaya Caves, with thousands of Budda images. Workshops making Shan paper from bark. The market in town sometimes has authentic antiques.	Pindaya (B)
8 T	Scenic drive to Taunggi. Afternoon to the hot air balloon competition and festival. All shapes and sizes. At nite the balloons ascend, the smaller ones powered by candles.	Taunggi (B)

9 W	AM: In Taunggi: markets, Shan State Museum, shops. This is sort of a “frontier” town; only a few tourists get this far. (B) A gem trading center, great ethnic diversity. Later: Hot air balloon festival.	Taunggi
10 Th	Drive to Nyaung Shwe on Inle Lake and take boat to the Golden Island Cottage (hotel) on the lake. See the Inle leg-rowers.	Golden Island (B)
11 F	By boat to edge of lake and up a river to In Dein, a recently opened area with hundreds of old burial pagodas. Visit the floating gardens, the floating village at Ywama, paper umbrella making, Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda.	Golden Island
12 S	Boat to Nyaung Shwe. The “periodic market” is here today. Pa O and other people attend. The large open market has everything; it and a couple of the shops have real antique items gathered from villages; they tend to be in very poor condition.	Nyaung Shwe (B)
13 S	Drive to Heho and fly to Mandalay. Afternoon tour of Mandalay. Mahamuni Pagoda with the huge Buddha covered with gold. Craft workshops: marble carving, bronze by lost wax process, wood carving, gold leaf making.	Mandalay (B)
14 M	Boat trip up the Ayerawaddely to Mingun. See all sorts of river transport, often log rafts. Hsinbyume Pagoda,	Mandalay (B)
15 T	To Amarapura. See the largest monastery (Mahagandayon) as the monks are fed. Better than it sounds. Later to silk weaving. Later: To airport and fly to Yangon	Yangon (B)
16 W	In Yangon. Return to Shwedegon? To Bogyoke Aung San Market. I can take you to places of interest. Afternoon: To airport and fly to Bangkok. Evening: Group dinner in Bangkok (option)	Bangkok (B)
17 Th	Tour ends after breakfast	

The cost of \$2,995 (begin in Bangkok) includes all hotels, air travel, land travel, airport transfers, and breakfasts. Single supplement is \$610. It does not include most food, individual taxi, laundry, airport taxes or visa. The tour is organized and led by Professor Robert Phillips who has lived for half of the last 20 years in Thailand and Laos, and has taken many groups to these areas, including remote parts of Laos and perhaps the only group along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. He has visited Myanmar at least 20 times and led 9 tours there. He will be with us all of the time, as will an English speaking Burmese guide. Weather should be clear and sunny, with day temperatures of 65-75 degrees. Our hotels are extremely good, beginning with the Amari in Bangkok. A deposit of \$500 will hold a place. Final payment by September 1.

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