

relax, explore, discover . . . new friendships!



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a unique travel experience just for women

Magical Myanmar

13 Days | Departing Tuesday 13th March 2018 and returning Sunday 25th March 2018



HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Sightseeing Tour of Mandalay
- Visit to Mahamuni Pagoda
- Visit to Sagaing and Amarapura
- Visit to Sagaing Local Market
- Visit to Kuthodaw Pagoda
- Visit to Shwenandaw Monastery
- Walk along 200 Year Old U Bein Bridge
- Visit to Colourful Nyaung Oo Market
- Visit to the Cave Temple of Wetky-In Gubyaukgyi
- Visit to Ananda Temple
- Visit to Nyaung Shwe including Market
- Visit the Water Villages of Inle Lake
- Visit Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda
- Inle Lake Day Trip
- Be a "Local" for the Day.
- Visit to the Morning Market at Inle Lake
- Opportunity to see Pa Oh, Inthar & Shan Villagers
- Visit to Bogyoke Market - Yangon's Best Market for handicrafts
- Visit Kyaukhtatgyi Pagoda - the 70M Reclining Buddha
- Visit to Shwedagon Pagoda the Most Revered Buddhist Temple in Myanmar
- 3 Night Beach Stay at Ngwe Saung with Pleny of Leisure Time

** *Optional: Balloon Excursion over Bagan – additional \$450AUD, please advise at time of booking.*

Discover Mystical
Myanmar with
Ready Made
Friends!

PRICE: \$4,499.00 per person twin share
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$935.00

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Fully Escorted Tour – Your Sisterhood Tour Hostess is on hand to assist with making your holiday a memorable one
- Return airfares ex Melbourne with Singapore Airline including taxes (Other departure cities upon request)
- Domestic flights as per itinerary
- Private transportation throughout
- All meals as described in itinerary
- All sightseeing as described in itinerary
- Willing to share option
- Document distribution day subject to minimum numbers

NOTICE: This tour will require a basic level of fitness. You may be climbing on uneven stairs and pathways.

DAY 1 Tuesday 13 March 2018

Melbourne – Singapore – Mandalay ~ (Meals Inflight)

Welcome to Sisterhood Womens Travel. Your Tour Hostess will meet you at the designated time and departure point for your tour to Myanmar. Sit back, relax and enjoy the inflight hospitality of our airlines as we head towards Mandalay. We will arrive into Mandalay, Myanmar via Singapore early afternoon.

Upon check-in to our hotel we'll embark on our sightseeing tour of Mandalay starting with a visit to Mahamuni Pagoda. The Pagoda is home to one of the country's most revered Buddha images which, over the years, has been covered in gold leaf.

Mandalay is well known for its skilled craftsmen and with each visit to the traditional workshops, learn more about the city's cottage industries. Observe the production of wood carvings, kalaga tapestries, and gold-leaf where the techniques have remained unchanged from those used centuries ago to craft items for the Royal Court.

We'll head to the top of Mandalay Hill as the sun begins to set to enjoy magnificent views of the city and Irrawaddy River.

Accommodation: Yadanabon Dynasty Hotel, Mandalay.

DAY 2 Wednesday 14 March 2018

Mandalay ~ (B)

After breakfast we take an excursion around Mandalay to explore the former capitals of Sagaing and Amarapura.

This morning, cross a bridge over the Irrawaddy River 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 centres and we'll visit pagodas such as Swan Oo Pon Nya Shin and U Min Thone Sae.

We'll visit Sagaing's local market, a typical Burmese market that few tourists visit. Here find a range of items for sale including locally made pottery, silver and other handicrafts. Stop at a small pottery village to see the process of making the ubiquitous water pots found throughout Myanmar.

Back to Mandalay and continue our tour of Mandalay with a visit to Kuthodaw Pagoda, whose 729 marble stone slabs of Buddhist scriptures have earned it the title 'World's Biggest Book'.

Continue to Shwenandaw Monastery, the only remaining building from the 19th century Royal Palace. This grand teak building is known for its exquisite woodcarving.

At the end of the day, stop at Amarapura at 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 kilometres 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.

Accommodation: Yadanabon Dynasty Hotel, Mandalay.

DAY 3 Thursday 15 March 2018

Mandalay – Bagan ~ (B,L)

This morning after an early breakfast we'll take a ferry to Bagan from Mandalay. Lunch is served on board. In the late afternoon enjoy views on the horizon of the first pagodas before we reach Bagan.

From the 11th to 13th centuries, when Bagan was the capital of the

country, more than a thousand stupas, temples and monasteries were built, and most of them are still preserved as ruins. Bagan is one of the most impressive archaeological sites in the whole of Southeast Asia.

Accommodation: Bawga Theiddhi Hotel, Bagan – 3 nights

DAY 4 Friday 16 March 2018

Bagan ~ (B)

Optional Activity: Start the day with an incredible hot air balloon flight over Bagan's temple studded plains. Commence with a morning snack on pastries and croissants, and tea or coffee as the balloon is inflated. Climb aboard before gently rising above thousands of gilded stupas and earthen temples all back-dropped by the impressive Irrawaddy River. A truly unforgettable and unique experience. (This activity is weather permitting - AUD450.00 per person)

After breakfast, we visit the colourful Nyaung Oo Market where villagers gather every day to buy and sell their produce and other goods.

We'll then continue to Myinkaba village and take a short walking tour to explore the temples of Manuha and Nan Paya. Continue with a visit to an elevated temple from where you will have a panoramic view of the magnificent plains of Bagan.

Next stop is the golden stupa of Shwezigon Pagoda for an introduction to Bagan's rich history. Then we'll visit to nearby Wetkyi-In Gubyaukgyi, a cave temple with exquisite jataka mural paintings and the elegant Htilominlo Temple noted for its fine plaster carvings and glazed sandstone decorations.

This afternoon we begin with a visit to a traditional lacquer ware workshop where we can observe the production of one of Myanmar's best-known handicrafts.

Then onto Ananda Temple, an architectural masterpiece and one of Bagan's most beautiful temples. From here, we'll travel by horse and cart for a tour passing Thatbyinnyu, the highest temple in Bagan, massive Dhammayangyi Temple, noted for its remarkable brickwork, and Sulamani Temple.

Then to finish off our busy day we'll enjoy an unforgettable sunset over the plains from the upper terrace of one of the temples.

DAY 5 Saturday 17 March 2018

Bagan – Day at Leisure ~ (B)

Today we'll have the whole day to explore Bagan at leisure. We'll come together in the evening to share our day's experiences.

DAY 6 Sunday 18 March 2018

Bagan – Heho – Nyaung Shwe – Red Mountain – Inle Lake ~ (B)

Today after breakfast we'll fly to Heho and upon arrival we'll take a scenic one hour drive to Nyaung Shwe, the gateway village to Inle Lake.

En route, stop at the wooden Shwe Yan Pyay Monastery which features beautiful carvings and a collection of Buddha images. We'll have time for a look around the town of Nyaung Shwe and visit the colourful market if it is being held on this particular day. Continue onto Red Mountain Winery for a tasting of locally produced reds and whites.

Upon reaching the edges of Inle Lake, we'll board a private motorboat to head out onto Inle Lake, one of Myanmar's most spectacular sights.

itinerary

We'll pass villages built on stilts over the lake, inhabited by the local Intha people and observe the leg-rowing fishermen and their floating gardens built up from strips of water hyacinth and mud anchored to the bottom of the Lake with bamboo poles.

We'll visit Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda, the lake's main sanctuary, which contains five sacred Buddha images covered in gold leaf. Then enjoy a short walk through one of the lakeside villages.

Accommodation: Golden Island Cottages 11, Inle Lake - 2 nights

DAY 7 Monday 19 March 2018

Inle Lake ~ (B)

This morning we'll begin our Inle Lake day trip. We will be equipped with a pair of Intha trousers and hat to prepare for the morning spent 'as a local.'

Begin with a visit to the morning market, which rotates locations on a 5-day basis. (note: there are no markets on full moon or dark moon days). This daily market attracts people from all over the lake's shores who gather to buy and sell their wares – if we are lucky we may see Pa-Oh, Inthar and Shan people in their traditional outfits. Time to wander amid the stalls and learn about the local produce and goods for sale.

We then continue to Khaung Daing village on the lake's western shores. This village is famous for its traditional Shan tofu – fried tofu crackers and folded, triangular tofu treats. We'll have the opportunity to watch (and perhaps participate!) as the locals sift the soy beans, boil them, mash them into balls then form tofu cakes to dry in the sun. There will also be a chance to visit the village monastery for a tea break and snacks. This is a fabulous taste of local life on Inle Lake.

We'll then return to the main part of the lake and venture through small 'streets' as you make your way to a neighbourhood of stilted houses whose residents craft wooden boats. Depending on the time of year we may see traditional methods of boat building in various stages, from the initial framework all the way to the final coat of paint.

Return to Inle Lake and explore, if time allows, the local crafts of Inle Lake with a stop at the weaving village of Inpawkhone and a cheroot factory, where the typical Burmese cigars are made by hand. This will be a day of cultural immersion!

DAY 8 Tuesday 20 March 2018

Inle Lake – Heho – Yangon ~ (B)

Today we fly to Yangon where, upon our arrival, we'll visit Bogyoke Market, formerly known as Scott's Market, with time to browse through the dozens of stalls and shops. This is Yangon's best market for handicrafts and other goods.

We'll visit Kyaukhtatgyi Pagoda, home to a 70-metre long reclining Buddha. A visit to Kyaukhtatgyi provides a great overview of Buddhism with murals depicting the life of Buddha, the feet of the statue carved with traditional symbols and often many locals gathering to pay homage and pray.

Continue to Kandawgyi Park, one of central Yangon's greenest spots. See the glittering Karaweik barge, a replica of the royal barge, and the

vast lake with views of Shwedagon in the background. Depending on the day of your visit to Kandawgyi it may be busy with local families who come here on the weekend to relax in the fresh air.

From here we continue to Shwedagon Pagoda, the most revered Buddhist temple in Myanmar. Although the origins of the pagoda are unclear, the local legend states that the original structure was built 2500 years ago then renovated several times until taking its current shape in the 15th century. The 8-sided central stupa is 99 metres tall and gilded with gold leaf and is surrounded by 64 smaller stupas and your guide will show you around the massive complex, explaining why this temple is so revered. Enjoy breathtaking views of the golden stupa from this vantage point.

Accommodation: Best Western Green Hill Hotel, Yangon

DAY 9 Wednesday 21 March 2018

Yangon – Ngwe Saung ~ (B)

This morning we'll depart Yangon and head out on a scenic drive through the Irrawaddy Delta to Ngwe Saung Beach. Ngwe Saung, which means Silver Beach, is located 5-6 hours' drive from Yangon on the beautiful Bay of Bengal and features 14 kilometres of sandy beaches. We'll arrive in the late afternoon and check into the hotel for a 3 night stay including breakfast daily.

Accommodation: The Palm Beach Hotel, Ngwe Saung – 3 nights

DAY 10 Thursday 22 March 2018

Ngwe Saung – Free Time ~ (B)

We'll enjoy two full days at leisure. Take in the tropical ambience of the area, bathe in the warm tranquil waters, or do nothing at all.

Optional boat trips or bike rides are available, booked and paid directly to the hotel.

Tonight we'll regroup and share out day's experiences.

DAY 11 Friday 23 March 2018

Ngwe Saung – Free Time ~ (B)

Another day to relax. Swim, read a book by the beautiful infinity pool or wander along the 17km of white sandy beach.

Tonight we'll regroup and share our day's experiences before enjoying a farewell dinner to celebrate great times spent with new friends.

DAY 12 Saturday 24 March 2018

Ngwe Saung – Yangon – Singapore – Melbourne ~ (B)

After a leisurely breakfast and relaxing morning we'll depart for Yangon airport to connect with our return flight home to Melbourne via Singapore.

DAY 13 Sunday 25 March 2018

Welcome Home

A 10.00am (subject to change) arrival into Melbourne.

We thank you for joining us for your latest adventure and look forward to welcoming you back for your next adventure.

terms and conditions

Booking Conditions

CONDITIONS OF TRAVEL

When booking a Sisterhood Womens Travel tour it is imperative that you are aware of all of our terms and conditions as these form part of your agreement with Sisterhood Womens Travel. **It is recommended that all travellers adopt a sense of adventure, an easy going outlook and the ability to 'expect the unexpected'.** It is the expectation that all travellers will respect fellow passengers and understand the key to an enjoyable tour is you.

ABILITY TO TRAVEL

A minimum level of fitness is required to be able to participate on a Sisterhood tour. As a minimum you will need to be able to walk 2km on uneven ground, carry your own luggage and walk up a few flights of stairs. We rely on the information you provide on our 'Fit to Travel' form completed as part of your booking application. You acknowledge that there are no other medical issues (both physical/mental) that SWT needs to be aware of when making your travel arrangements. SWT will not be liable for any damage, injury, death or loss of any kind arising from your failure to disclose relevant medical information. Women with disabilities are welcome on all SWT tours provided you are accompanied by an able bodied companion and do not require special assistance from SWT personnel. SWT reserves the right to refuse to carry anyone if it is felt the individual cannot cope with the requirements of the tour and who may require services and facilities that SWT cannot guarantee will be available

EXCLUSION FROM TOUR

You may be excluded from any tour at our discretion if you fail to comply with our reasonable instructions whilst on tour or if you interfere with other client's enjoyment of the tour and you will be responsible for all costs associated with your tour expelition.

VARIATION TO TOUR COMPONENT

No deduction in our tour costing will be made for leaving a tour early as this will cause a reduction in our travelling numbers and create additional costs.

ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

SWT is happy to assist with additional arrangements before and after each tour subject to an additional handling fee of \$150.

DEPOSITS AND FINAL PAYMENTS

Payments required are:

International	25% deposit within 7 days
	35% deposit within 120 days
	Final Payment 90 days prior to departure
Domestic	25% deposit within 7 days
	Final Payment 75 days prior to departure

On occasion and outside of SWT's control a higher deposit or earlier payment date may be required.

LAST MINUTE BOOKINGS

Bookings made after final payment date will be subject to availability and will require full payment upon confirmation. A late fee of \$100 per person will apply.

ACCEPTED FORMS OF PAYMENT

We accept direct deposit, money order, bank cheque or Visa/Mastercard payment. For credit card payments an additional 1.5% surcharge is payable (non- refundable)

MINIMUM NUMBERS

All tours are subject to minimum numbers. If a tour falls below the minimum number required for a fully escorted tour, SWT reserves the right to offer the tour escorted by a local guide upon arrival to your destination. If SWT cancels a tour due to lack of numbers a full refund is offered or transfer to another tour. Should a tour be cancelled, SWT cannot assume any responsibility for any additional costs relating to travel arrangements made outside of SWT or travel insurance not taken out through SWT.

CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS

All cancellations must be made in writing to Sisterhood Womens Travel and will be subject to cancellation charges from the date the written cancellation is received.

CANCELLATION

Prior to Final Payment: Loss of Deposit

After Final Payment: 100% of tour cost.

Regrettably cancellation charges cannot be waived.

After Departure: No refund

Final Payment dates are determined by SWT suppliers and may vary from tour to tour.

AMENDMENTS

Once your tour is confirmed and a deposit is paid, a \$100 amendment fee will be incurred for any changes to your tour arrangements.

TOUR PRICING & ITINERARY CHANGES

SWT operates on the basis of fluid pricing. This is the practice within the Travel Industry where pricing changes due to various factors including, but not limited to changing airfares, currency fluctuations, and availability of product. We reserve the right to change our prices without notice. This can mean that different passengers on the same tour may have been charged different prices. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of our tours SWT takes no responsibility for any itinerary changes that may occur prior to or during travel and any such changes will be at the discretion of the airlines and our ground operators. Changes in flights and land arrangements are beyond the control of SWT. Every effort will be made to minimise any inconvenience to SWT passengers. SWT advises making full payment for tours as early as possible to avoid any potential price increases.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of booking that travellers are adequately insured for the full duration of their tour arrangements in respect of illness, injury, death, loss of baggage and personal items, cancellation and curtailment. SWT offers comprehensive travel insurance at a competitive price and will not be responsible outside their offered policy for inadequate travel insurance in the event of any insurance claims.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

When travelling alone a great way to keep your costs down and make new friends is to be prepared to share a room with another traveller. We are unable to guarantee that your room mate will be of similar age group but it is an enjoyable way to travel and could mean the start of a great friendship. Of course if you prefer a room to yourself the single supplement will apply. If we are successful in matching you with a fellow traveller we give you the opportunity prior to departure to make contact. SWT takes no responsibility for any mismatch of passengers and will not be liable for any additional charges incurred for changing room configuration whilst on tour.

HEALTH & IMMIGRATION

The traveller is responsible for all visa, passport, immigration, quarantine, customs, health and other requirements of the countries visited or transited. If travelling on an Australian passport you will need at least 6 months validity on your passport taken from the date of re-entry into Australia. If you are travelling under any other passport please advise at the time of booking. Sisterhood Womens Travel will not be held responsible for any incorrect re-entry visas for non- australian passport holders. SWT is happy to offer assistance with visas (additional charges may apply). Please note that passport and visa requirements are the responsibility of you the traveller and SWT takes no responsibility for failure to comply with the provided advice.

NAMES AS PER PASSPORTS

When booking on any tour, it is imperative that you provide SWT with your full correct name as per your passport and a copy of your passport (for international tours) SWT will not be held liable for any or expense incurred for incorrect names.

CONSULAR ADVICE

Official travel advice issued by Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is available by contacting 1300 444135 or visiting their website www.dfat.gov.au. We recommend that you review this

information both prior to making your booking and prior to departure.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

These conditions represent the entire agreement between the client and Sisterhood Womens Travel. SWT will be responsible to the client for supplying the services and accommodation as described in their itineraries, except where such service cannot be supplied or the itinerary used is changed due to delays or other cause of whatever kind or nature beyond the control of SWT. In such circumstances we will do our best to supply comparable services, accommodations and itineraries, and there shall be no refund in this situation. SWT acts only as agent for the client and upon the express condition that SWT will not be held liable or responsible for any direct, indirect, consequential or incidental damage, injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity of any kind, which may be occasioned by reason or any act or omission of any third party (including without limitation, any act, inaction or breach of contract of any third party, which is to or does supply any goods or services for SWT tours). Without limiting the foregoing, SWT does not own or operate any third party suppliers of services such as hotels, restaurants, transportation companies, sightseeing companies or local tour operators and is not responsible for any injury, death or expense due to overbooking accommodation, default of any third parties, sickness, weather, strikes, acts of God, Government, acts of terrorism, criminal activity, war, quarantine, force majeure events or any other cause beyond its control. All such risk, loss and expense must be borne by the client. Any personal expenses incurred by a client as a result of any delay, alteration or curtailment of any tour, whether caused by mechanical defect, strikes or any other cause are the responsibility of the client (travel insurance is mandatory on all SWT tours). SWT is unable to guarantee exact arrival and departure times, and is not liable for any failure to make connections with any other services, or guarantee the operation of any particular service. In the case of breakdown or other unforeseen circumstances, the operator reserves the right to substitute vehicles other than specified to ensure the operation of a tour. SWT reserves the right to cancel any ticket or booking, or to refuse to carry client where payment has not been received by SWT.

Updated 1 June 2015

Registered Office:

Level 1, 361 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

1300 885 255

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Please read through our full terms and conditions. It is a condition that upon booking this tour you have read and fully understood this important information. Minimum numbers are required to operate this tour. This tour requires a certain level of fitness as it may include walking for extended periods of time, on uneven ground and climbing of steps. Please take this into consideration when booking. Travel Insurance is mandatory.


sisterhood
womens travel
Interesting itineraries for women

TRAVELLERS
CHOICE

WE'RE
PROUD
TO BE

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travel accredited

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