



## Myanmar

Family Culture & Adventure Holiday

# PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY...

**Itinerary**

**Myanmar • Family Culture & Adventure Holiday**

**13 Days • 12 Nights**

Yangon – Mandalay – Amarapura – Pyin Oo Lwin – Naung Pain – Hsibaw – Mt Popa – Bagan – Heho – Inle – Zagar – Ngapali

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Stunning Swedegon Pagoda, Yangon
- Culture and adventure
- Nga Pali Beach
- Mount Poppa Mountain Resort – trek and horse riding options.

## TOUR ESSENTIALS

Tour Style	Cultural Adventure
Tour Start	Yangon
Tour End	Yangon
Accommodation	Hotel, Guest House, Resort
Included Meals	10 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 3 Dinners
Difficulty Level	Medium

## FAMILY CULTURE ADVENTURE



This Burma/Myanmar adventure trip includes some of the very best experiences that Myanmar has to offer including Yangon, Pyin U Lwin – Mt Popa – the temples of Bagan as well as the beaches of Ngapali. Included in the itinerary are off the beaten track treks and bike rides to experience the real unspoilt Myanmar. This is a trip not to be missed.



Pioneer Expeditions

Stable Cottage • Chydyok Road • Chaldon Herring • Dorchester • DT2 8DN  
t 01202 798922 • e info@pioneerexpeditions.com

Mya02

# MYANMAR, *an overview*

Known as the dark horse of South East Asia, the truly mystical land of Myanmar offers an abundance of untouched off-the-beaten-track beauty. Charmingly, Myanmar remains at heart, a rural nation of traditional values with glittering golden stupas, bountiful rice fields, enigmatic ruined temples and picturesque mountain paths. The genuinely friendly and warm-hearted locals are eager to introduce foreigners to their deeply spiritual country and their culture. A once isolated nation which offers a host of treasures and hidden gems to captivate travellers is considered to be Asia's most unspoilt & overlooked destination; however, it is becoming increasingly in demand as the country has begun to cautiously welcome in tourists. Brimming with pristine white beaches, sparkling blue lakes, serene Buddhist architecture and vibrant cities, Myanmar holds a wealth of spectacular natural wonders and history. Along with its dream-like landscapes blended with an incredible amount of unique culture and colour, Myanmar is becoming all-the-rage for the more adventurous travellers as well as the culture-seekers. Kipling once claimed that Myanmar is "unlike any land you know about" - who wouldn't want to discover this intriguing hidden world untouched by tourism.

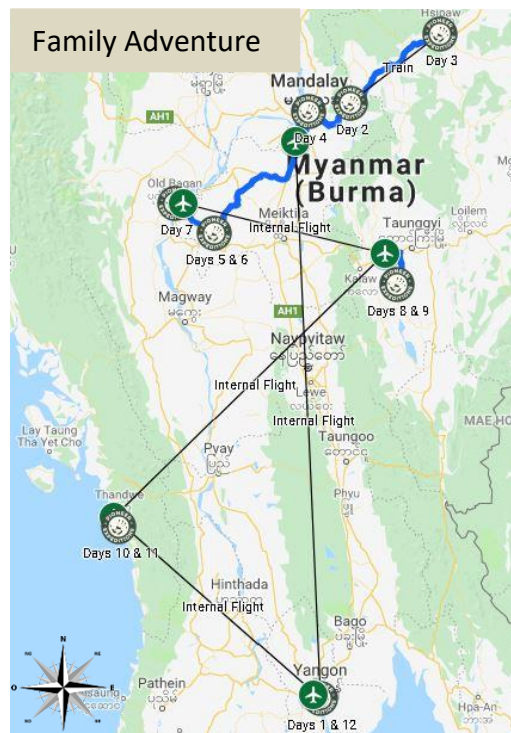
## WHY PIONEER EXPEDITIONS?

Pioneer Expeditions are one of the few specialists that really *do* off the beaten track and unique adventures. The team have a real passion for wildlife and adventure travel which we love to share with our clients. We delight in searching the world for new destinations, new experiences and creating the most incredible adventures.

We like to introduce our clients to unique, the different, and the incredible. Whether it is through wildlife tracking, sea kayaking, snorkelling, trekking, rafting, cycling or observing wildlife in its natural environment, we want to give you the real Pioneer experience.

From the moment you choose to travel with Pioneer Expeditions until you return back home, you are supported by our dedicated team. We listen to what you want and can create an itinerary around your specific needs, working with your budget and with a commitment to responsible travel.

## ITINERARY



Pioneer Expeditions

Stable Cottage • Chydyok Road • Chaldon Herring • Dorchester • DT2 8DN  
t 01202 798922 • e info@pioneerexpeditions.com

Mya02

## DAY 1: YANGON ARRIVAL - TRANSFER FROM AIRPORT TO HOTEL

Then after a welcome drink we walk along Pansodan street which has many large colonial buildings which are still in use. It is also interesting to see the sidewalk markets including those selling old books and magazines dated from the 1960's to the present. Enjoy the amazing sunset over the world famous Shwedagon Pagoda.

*Overnight Hotel (Snack)*

## DAY 2: MANDALAY - AMARAPURA - PYIN Oo LWIN (B,L,D)

Fly to Mandalay on morning flight and we will drive to Amarapura and see the amazing 1.2km long U Bein's teak bridge. After that, we continue to Pyin Oo Lwin which is 42 miles away from Mandalay (about one and a half hours drive) and was a former British Hill Station. The town was originally renamed Maymyo after British Colonel May who established the towns beautiful botanical gardens built by Turkish prisoners of war during WWI. Visit Pyin Oo Lwin.

*Overnight Hotel*

## DAY 3: NAUNG PAIN - HSIBAW (B,L,D)

Morning departure by local train to Naung Pain village (~ 4 hrs) passing over the famous Gok Hteik viaduct which was the second highest railway bridge in the world (before the building of the railway in the mountains of Lhasa in Tibet) and was built over the deep gorge (300m) by Pennsylvania Steel Company on behalf of the British over 100 years ago. The scenic view along the viaduct is breathtaking and you can also experience the way of life along the railroad. Arrive at Naung Pain station, and continue by car to Hsibaw, the former royal capital of Northern Shan State. The afternoon we visit to Bawgyo Pagoda before check-in at hotel. Then walk around some typical Shan villages surrounded by paddy fields.

*Overnight - Mr. Charles Guest House*

## DAY 4: MANDALAY - INWA (B,L,D)

Drive back to Mandalay (129 miles, about 6 hrs driving). If time permits, we will go by horsecart on tree lined paths of the former royal capital of Inwa with its ancient wooden monastery and ruins of old palaces and walls.

*Overnight in hotel in Mandalay*

## DAY 5: DISCOVERING THE MT. POPA (B)

After breakfast we drive to Mt. Popa and enjoy the scenic beauty.

*Overnight in Popa Mountain Resort*

## DAY 6: TREKKING TO THE MT. POPA (L)

Mt. Popa options 1 and 2.

Option 1: Trekking to the Summit of Mt.Popa



The summit of Mt. Popa is four and half hours round trip by trekking and only four miles far from Resort to the summit. It is 4981 ft (1518 m) above sea level. We can see pine forests, evergreen forests, birds and butterflies on the way to the summit and once there we have a packed lunch.

#### Option 2: Trekking and Horse Riding to the Ye Nge Natural Spring Water Resource

An alternative option to climbing the summit of Mt. Popa is to trek to the Ye Nge Natural Spring Water camp, two miles from Resort. It is 2650 ft (810 m) above sea level. This is the best place for trekking, horse riding and seeing birds and butterflies on the way. Packed lunch will be taken. There is a small additional cost of US\$ 15 per hour for the horse riding.

*Overnight in Popa Mountain Resort.*

### DAY 7: BAGAN (B)

Drive back to Bagan and check into hotel. Half day cycling tour of the ancient ruins of the Bagan plain. Enjoy the amazing sunset over Bagan's 2,000+ temples.

*Overnight in Bagan at hotel*



### DAY 8: FLY TO HEHO (B)

After our arrive we will do unchallenging bicycling to Red Mountain Winery through local villages and paddy fields. If we are lucky, we will be welcomed by Mr. Francois Raynal (the Wine maker). He will accompany us around the vineyard and explain the process of wine making like harvesting, crushing, pounding, fermentation and finally how they store the finished products in wine cellar. We also have a chance to taste their genuine western style Myanmar Wines. Transfer to Inle.

*Overnight on Inle Lake at a floating resort hotel*

### DAY 9: ZAGAR (B)

Today we take a long boat ride (about 3 hours) down the lake to seldom visited ZaGar. We will see many villages and scenic lake sights along the way and at the ZaGar area the villages will welcome us to visit in their houses. The small temple ruins are interesting too.

*Overnight on the lake at resort hotel*

### DAY 10: NGAPALI (B)

After breakfast, transfer to airport for our onward flight to Ngapali. Stay overnight.

Free time and leisure in Ngapali, a delightfully quiet and laid back resort, that can be used as a base for further adventures or to just to chill out on the white sandy beaches. There is a possibility to eat at the spectacular restaurants beneath the palm trees, where the fish and seafood dishes are to die for.

*Overnight hotel*



## DAY 11: DAY OFF IN NGAPALI (B)

Ngapali free day.

*Overnight Hotel*

## DAY 12: YANGON (B)

Fly back to Yangon on the morning flight.

*Overnight Hotel*

## DAY 13: FLIGHT HOME

Continue our exploration of this amazing City. If time allows before departure transfer, take a last walk about of the downtown area, with its Hindu temples, synagogues, churches and mosques, markets and tea shops and we can also visit a fortune teller!

**NB:** This itinerary is subject to change – arrangements, routes and facilities are subject to variation depending on local conditions.

***Our Myanmar Adventure ends here although there are a number of extensions to the trip that can be arranged or we can tailor this to suit.***

## Additional Considerations

This trip can be combined with the water festival or better known as the Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda Festival, if you are planning to travel in October. The Phuang Daw Oo Pagoda Festival is where four Buddha Images from Phaung-daw-oo Pagoda are carried on a royal barge and conveyed around 14 villages on the Lake. The barge is towed by the boats of leg-rowers and hundreds of boats follow the procession. The large crowds of people gather on the lake-shores to celebrate the occasion. It is really a splendid sight.

You can also combine this trip with an amazing traditional Burmese balloon festival if you are planning to travel in November. This balloon festival is one of the most popular festivals in Myanmar. The hot-air balloons are made up of hand-made paper, beautifully designed with colourful fireworks and firecrackers. The festival is also a competition between the town's various quarters as to who can send up the most elaborate firework displays and decorated hot air balloons. The competition is divided into 2 parts: the daytime competition and the Nya Mee Gyi or the Big Night Balloons. It has to be seen to be believed!



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## INCLUDED

- 🌍 All meals as described (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)
- 🌍 Accommodation with meals as per program,
- 🌍 Transfers
- 🌍 Sightseeing with entrance fees
- 🌍 Domestic flights
- 🌍 Service of an English speaking guide throughout the trip

## NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Visa fees
- Airport tax
- Drinks
- Personal expense and insurance
- Any service not mentioned above.

**Note:** Prices have been calculated based on current rates for internal flights, which may increase during the first half of the year and if the price increases are in excess of 5% we reserve the right to pass on any increase over and above this level.

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITY DURATION

2-5 hours

SEASON

January through December

BEST TIME TO GO

November through May

GROUP SIZE

2-8 pax

EXPEDITION SCHEDULE

Tailor Made to suit your dates

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

Our grades have been designated based on our perception of the degree of physical activity you are likely to require to enjoy the adventure. These are only a guideline. This itinerary has a 'Medium' level (2-5 hours per day). This means that you will need an average level of fitness.



# THE PIONEER BOOKING PROCESS

---

Where do you go from here? Well, you can feel free to email us at [info@pioneerexpeditions.com](mailto:info@pioneerexpeditions.com) if you're interested in this trip, or any of our other expeditions from around the world. Visit our website [www.pioneerexpeditions.com](http://www.pioneerexpeditions.com) to unearth all of our other equally amazing trips and destinations.

**1. Contact us -**

We will be happy to answer any questions or enquiries you may have. From here we will begin to plan and put together your dream adventure holiday! Alternatively, on our website you will find our booking and enquiry forms; once filled in, we will be notified of your enquiry and will get back to you ASAP.

**2. Leave everything to us -**

Everything will be arranged and booked by us, but we will make sure to keep you updated every step of the way. In addition, we can arrange your international flights if needed, as we have access to competitive airfares. We can also arrange any additional tours or additional night's accommodation.

**3. Wait for your adventure to begin -**

Sit back and count down the days until your trip of a lifetime with Pioneer Expeditions. We'll handle all of the last minute preparations and provide you with everything you need. All practical information will be sent out to you, prior to your trip.

If you feel like altering this itinerary to suit your personal preferences, we can arrange all of that and more – just get in contact with us and let us know your requirements and wishes. From here, we can simply tailor-make your dream holiday.

