

Myanmar

PHOTOGRAPHIC TOUR



Myanmar formerly known as Burma is a mystical country centred amongst Southeast Asia's more common destinations, yet still remaining relatively unknown. After many years of harsh repression from the military regime, it has only recently opened up to the outside world. As such, Myanmar is one of the least developed and least Western-influenced countries in the world, providing many attractive and unique photographic opportunities. From ancient civilisations to the friendly and happy people, Myanmar promises to be a feast for the lens and is highly regarded as one of the best destinations in the world for travel photography.

Highlights

- Yangon, formerly known as Rangoon, with its impressive colonial and spiritual heritage and the magnificent 2500-year-old Shwedagon Pagoda.
- The Long-neck women of Loikaw and Panper.
- Inle Lake with its spectacular stilted villages, unique leg-rowing fisherman, bustling local markets and lakeside life.
- Phaung Daw Oo festival on Inle lake
- U Bein Bridge, the world's longest teak wood bridge.
- Mandalay, the centre of skilled craftsmanship and the religious centre of Buddhist Monks.
- Bagan with more than 2000 temples, pagodas and other religious structures dating back to the early 11th century.

Details

- Duration: **14 days**, including arrival and departure
- Departure date: **20th November 2022**
- Group size will be a minimum of **4 people** and maximum of **12 people**
- Price: **US \$5495** per person twin share for land only content.
- We will make every effort to match up single travellers who wish to travel at twin share rates. For anyone requiring a single room, there may be an additional charge of **USD \$700***.
- Optional hot air balloon flight: **US \$290 - \$330**
- Return international airfare departing Sydney/Melbourne is estimated at or less than AUD \$1000 depending on carrier and time when booked.

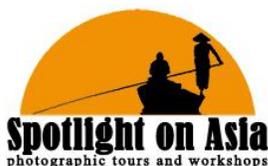


Included

The complete tour as per itinerary, four domestic flights within Myanmar, domestic airport and airline taxes/charges, arrival/departure transfers, clean twin share accommodation (3-4 star), in country ground transport by private air-conditioned vehicles with drivers, private boats as per itinerary and fully escorted by an experienced professional Australian photographic tour leader and local guides. All meals as specified in the itinerary (B/L/D), purified drinking water, admissions and camera fees.

Not included

Return international airfare to Yangon, visa, personal travel insurance (requirement of joining tour), optional hot air balloon flight, meals not indicated in program, additional beverages such as soft drinks and alcohol, activities during free time, laundry, items of personal nature, tips and gratuities, excess baggage fee.



Tour Itinerary

Day 1: AUSTRALIA – BANGKOK – YANGON (D)

Upon arrival in Yangon we will be greeted by our local guide and taken to a local restaurant for dinner before being transferred to our hotel. Yangon, formerly known as Rangoon is known for its impressive colonial and spiritual heritage and the magnificent 2500-year-old Shwedagon Pagoda. Overnight in **Jasmine Palace Hotel, Yangon.**



Day 2: YANGON (B,L,D)

After breakfast we visit Chauk Htut Gyi Pagoda (70 m long reclining Buddha image) followed by Kalaywa Tawya Monastery where over 1200 monks and novices reside. Here we enjoy a great photo shoot of the novices bathing and having their daily meal in the hall.

After lunch at a local restaurant, we travel downtown to see and photograph the old colonial quarter before visiting the lively and colourful China town. Dinner will be at a local restaurant with a great view over the city. Overnight in **Jasmine Palace Hotel, Yangon.**

Day 3: YANGON – HEHO – KAKKU – LOIKAW (B,L,D)

We depart early for our flight to Heho. Upon arrival, we commence our long day of travel, stopping along the road for photography as required. Our first major stop will be Kakku, one of Myanmar's most spectacular sights, a huge collection of 2,478 stupas which are believed to have been commissioned as far back as 2,00 years ago with some dating the site back to the 3rd Century BC and credit it as being founded by the Indian Emperor Ashoka. Upon arrival in Loikaw we will go to a local monastery to photograph a Monk praying. Overnight in **Famous Hotel, Loikaw.**



Day 4: LOIKAW – PANPET - LOIKAW (B,L,D)

This morning we rise early to photograph sunrise at a small mountain offering a panoramic view over Loikaw. After breakfast we drive to Panpet Padaung Village where we enjoy some time meeting and photographing the local Padaung ladies. Lunch will be in their village.

After lunch we proceed to Tanilarle Village where Kayah ladies wear brass and rubber rings on their knees. If time allows, we will also visit De Mow Soe Market which only occurs three days per week. We return to Loikaw in time for sunset. Overnight in **Famous Hotel, Loikaw.**

Day 5: LOIKAW – SANGHAR – INLE LAKE (B,L,D)

We commence our day by road travelling to Sanghar where we enjoy some time exploring and photographing the village. At Sanghar we transfer to Long-tail boats and then commence our amazing boat trip up through the lake system to our hotel. Long-tail boats will be our means of transport over the next few days, and we need to take all our luggage with us. There will be many opportunities to take photographs as we travel including amazing scenes along the river and a fish net making village. Overnight in **Golden Island Cottages, Inle Lake.**



Day 6 - 7: INLE LAKE (B,L,D)

Over the course of two days we will be doing a number of amazing activities around the lake, the main being the Phaung Daw Oo festival in which hundreds of men board purposely built boats then row through villages towing a large royal barge containing sacred Buddha images. This is a festival like nothing you have ever seen.

In addition to this, there is a five-day rotating market which we may be able to visit depending on the location it is scheduled. In addition to attending the local markets, we will also have the opportunity to workshops such as cheroot, weaving, silk/cotton dyeing and blacksmith workshops. Special photo shoots will also be arranged with the unique fisherman who row with one leg. We will also travel to Indein, a picturesque small village on the western bank of the lake with thousands of stupas. Inle Lake is one of the highlights of the tour and our program will vary according to events and locations we travel. Overnight in **Golden Island Cottages, Inle Lake.**



Day 8: INLE LAKE – NYAUNG SHWE – HEHO – MANDALAY (B,L,D)

Today we depart Inle Lake and return to Heho for our flight to Mandalay. Keen photographers are welcome to rise early and seek out vantage points around the lodge to photograph our final sunrise over the lake. We then return to Nyaung Shwe before visiting Shwe Yan Pyay Monastery, a popular photographic stop in Myanmar.

On arrival in Mandalay, we proceed to Amarapura, the former capital from 1783 to 1821 and 1842 to 1859. We end the day watching and photographing the sunset over U Bein Bridge from small Sampan boats. U Bein Bridge is a beautiful 200-year-old teak bridge said to be the longest in the world. The bridge's attraction however is the hundreds of locals, monks and fisherman making their way back and forth, affording us the opportunity to get some great silhouette shots. Overnight in **Ayarwaddy River View Hotel, Mandalay.**



Day 9: MANDALAY (B,L,D)

This morning we rise early to photograph the sun rising over Mandalay Palace and the local monks/novices walking the streets of Mandalay to collect their daily alms.

After breakfast, we transfer to the jetty and take a private boat to visit Mingun, an unfinished pagoda which would have been the largest in the world if it had ever been completed. The pagoda is also location of the largest ringing bell in the world, weighing in at 90 tonnes. If we're lucky we may even see the rare Irrawaddy dolphins which are known to visit this part of the river.

Lunch will be provided on the boat whilst we make our way back to Mandalay. In the afternoon we travel to Paleik to see its famous snake temple and more than 300 long-abandoned temples from the 14th century covered in ivy. Overnight in **Ayarwaddy River View Hotel, Mandalay.**

Day 10: MANDALAY – BAGAN (B,L,D)

This morning we depart very early for a sunrise shoot at U Bein Bridge before continuing to the airport for our flight to Bagan. With more than 2000 temples, pagodas and other religious structures dating back to the early 11th century, Bagan is one of the world's greatest archaeological sites and one of the very best destinations for photography. The following days in Bagan will be filled with numerous photographic opportunities from beautiful sunrises and sunsets to architectural and controlled shoots with locals. There is also the option of booking a place on the popular hot air balloon flight at an additional cost!

Upon arrival in Bagan we visit the main entrance passageway into Shwezigon Pagoda for a special photo shoot before proceeding to lunch. After lunch we check into our hotel before going out and exploring the magnificent sites in the afternoon and evening. Overnight in **Amazing Bagan Hotel, Bagan.**



Day 11 - 12: BAGAN (B,L,D)

Bagan is the second major highlight of our Myanmar tour and will offer a number of photographic opportunities. For those interested in doing the optional hot air balloon flight, one morning will involve an early rise, briefing, flight and champagne breakfast. Those not doing the flight will have the option of shooting sunrise from one of the temples. The other morning will involve a sunrise shoot from a prime location with the hot air balloons floating past in the distance.

During our two days we have a number of temples, stupas and monasteries that can be visited, and these will be coordinated according to the route we choose and to avoid busy tourist times. Some of these shoots will involve local Monks and Novices. Other interesting photo shoots will be goat herders in the late afternoon light and sunset shoots from prime locations. There may even be an opportunity to do an astrophotography night. One night we will also enjoy a dinner with Marionette show. Overnight in **Amazing Bagan Hotel, Bagan.**

Day 13: BAGAN – YANGON (B,L,D)

We arise early to prepare for our flight to Yangon, stopping to visit Shwezigon Pagoda on our way to the airport. On arrival in Yangon we visit and photograph Danyin Gone market before enjoying a train ride to downtown Yangon. Later afternoon we go to the magnificent Shwedagon Pagoda for our final evening shoot. Overnight in **Jasmine Palace Hotel, Yangon.**



Day 14: YANGON – DEPARTURE (B,L)

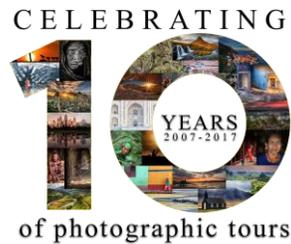
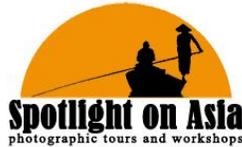
On our final morning we rise early to take a walk through the local fish market. We then return to the hotel for breakfast and preparation for our departure. Those interested in catching up on some last-minute shopping can walk to the nearby Scott's Market.

After an early lunch we travel to the airport for our departure.

Day 15: ARRIVE IN AUSTRALIA

If you're interested in joining me on this fantastic photographic tour or require additional information, please contact:

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