



Tour Dossier
Magical Chindwin
Private Tour | 11
Days | Comfortable
Pace



The Tour Dossier is designed to be read in conjunction with the other pre-departure information provided by Wendy Wu Tours including the tour itinerary as described in our brochure and/or website.

The itinerary of the tour dossier has three distinct sections. The first section is to give you a day outline, giving an overview of each day's activities. The second section provides an overview of any physical activity which may be faced on a day of touring and provide approximate durations of transfers, air travel etc. For moderate and active paced tours, please pay special attention to this. The third section provides a more in depth description of destinations and sights you will visit on each day, including any shopping experiences.

Private Tours

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures on a more personal fully-inclusive tour. These tours are also suitable for those looking for a cruise on the Irrawaddy River.

Magical Chindwin tour highlights:

- ❖ Cruise up the Irrawaddy River, the lifeline of Burma
- ❖ Step back in time to the traditional village of Mawlaik on the upper Chindwin
- ❖ Explore the sumptuous teak monasteries of Mingkin
- ❖ Visit the spectacular Shwedagon Pagoda as it glistens
- ❖ Visit the Thanbodi Temple with its million Buddha images
- ❖ Travel to the Phowin Taung Caves to see the beautiful mural paintings and Buddhist statues

Magical Chindwin tour inclusions:

- ❖ Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges
- ❖ All accommodation
- ❖ Meals as stated
- ❖ All sightseeing and entrance fees
- ❖ All transportation and transfers
- ❖ English speaking Local Guides
- ❖ Visa fees for UK and EU passport holders
- ❖ Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- ❖ Comprehensive travel guides
- ❖ Safe and secure with ABTA, ATOL and IATA
- ❖ Local drinks on board your Pandaw cruise ship

The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, any meals not provided, insurance of any kind, tipping and early check in or late checkout.

Destination profile – Burma

Burma (Myanmar) – Is a spiritual country, largely unexplored by tourists until recently. It is known as the ‘Golden Land’ because of the countless number of pagodas and temples that dominate the landscape. In Burma, 89% of the population is devoutly Buddhist, which is reflected in their gentle and welcoming nature.

Development in Burma (Myanmar) - Although Burma is developing quickly, it still lacks the international standards of civil infrastructure and tourist facilities. Concepts of personal responsibility are also different to those in the UK. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in the UK; for example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade. All of our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense, refer to notices and follow advice from you National Escort or Local Guide

Cuisine in Burma (Myanmar) - Most meals (excluding drinks) are included as indicated from the groups’ arrival until the day of departure. Our schedule of meals is designed so that you can experience the local dishes, their individual flavours as well as the different ways they are prepared and cooked throughout Burma.

Tour Profile – Magical Chindwin

Magical Chindwin is a **comfortable paced** tour. This is the easiest pace of tour, which Wendy Wu Tours offers. Anyone with a reasonable level of fitness should be able to complete this itinerary.

Our Local Guides always endeavor to provide the highest level of service and assistance, but they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

The river cruise section of your itinerary will be on a Pandaw River Cruise ship. Your stay on your Pandaw River Cruise ship and activities off the boat will be on a shared basis.

Magical Chindwin itinerary

Days 1-2: UK/Rangoon (Yangon)

Fly overnight from the UK. On day 2, you will be met at Rangoon Airport in the arrivals hall by your Local Guide from Wendy Wu Tours. Transfer to your hotel and check-in.

On arrival at the airport you will be met in the arrivals hall by your local guide.

You will transfer 25 minutes to your hotel and check into your room or store any luggage if your room is not ready yet.

There is no sightseeing today.

Rangoon – With a population of over 5 million, Burma's former capital possesses a peaceful atmosphere with colonial boulevards and tranquil lakes. This charming city thrives by night with bustling streets filled with stalls selling everything from locally made handicrafts to fruit and cigars.

No Meals

Day 3: Rangoon – Homalin

Be transferred early this morning to the Sule Shangri-La Hotel for registration. Next transfer to the airport for your flight to Homalin. The flight is approx. one hour. On arrival, transfer to the jetty in Homalin, the furthest navigable point on the Chindwin for a vessel of this size. You will enjoy some lightsighting including a visit to the Buddha Lotus Garden, home to some stunning temples and views.

You will return to your ship this evening for a welcome dinner. Sit back and relax as you enjoy the start of your exciting river cruise.

Breakfast and Dinner included

Day 4: Toungdoot

Discover the unique culture and history of Toungdoot, an ancient enclave of the Shan people. During British rule, this area still had a ruling Burmese prince, also known as a sawbwa, with a palace and court. Continue towards Paungbyin, passing the area of Patha. This area was an important location of an oil refinery which belonged to the Indo-Burma Petroleum Co.

Sightseeing will be at a leisurely pace today.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 5: Sitthaung

Arrive into Sitthuang which was the final resting place of many Irrawaddy Flottilla Company steamers which were scuppered there in 1942 in the face of the advancing Japanese army. Keep an eye open for the remains as we pass through. Next, cross the mouth of the Yu River which drains down into the Kubu Valley.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Day 6: Mawalaik

Enjoy a morning visit to Masein Village. Entering here is like taking a step back in time. Located on the Upper Chindwin and only accessible by boat, Masein very much keeps the old traditions alive but was also the centre of British teak loggings in the 20th century.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Day 7: Mingkin

Explore the sumptuous teak monasteries of Mingkin, one of the artistic and historic highlights of Burma and described in detail in Paul Strachan's book *Mandalay: Tales from the Golden City*. Pass a number of small attractive villages like Kanee where you can stop to stretch your legs.

Mingkin has been described as the 'Luang Prabang' of Chindwin. The oldest wooden monastery in Burma can be found here.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 8: Monywa

Here, the Chindwin will start to widen and the forested hills give way to farmland. We will pass a number of attractive villages. Take a shore excursion to Thanbodi Temple, which is home to millions of Buddha images. Monywa is also home to one of the longest reclining Buddhas and one of the tallest standing Buddhas in Burma.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 9: Phowin Taung

This morning, take a coach to the Phowin Taung Caves which are home to beautiful mural paintings and Buddha statues. Inside the caves, there is intricate Buddhist artwork on the ceilings and outside the caves there are a number of small, white and earth-coloured stupas.

Touring will be at an easy pace today.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 10: Disembark In Monywa

You will disembark from Monywa Jetty at 08:00am this morning. Transfer to Mandalay where you will take your flight to Rangoon. On arrival, check into your hotel before taking a night tour of the stunning Shwedagon Pagoda.

The drive from Monywa Port to Mandalay Airport is approx. two hours 30 minutes. The flight from Mandalay to Rangoon is one hour 10 minutes. On arrival, transfer 40 minutes to your hotel for check in.

Sightseeing at the Shwedagon Pagoda will be at a comfortable pace.

Shwedagon Pagoda - Located on top of Singuttara Hill, where many locals and Buddhists come to worship. Shwedagon Pagoda is thought to have been built between the 6th and 10th centuries; however it has been rebuilt many times. It is here that eight strands of Buddha's hair are said to be kept. The pagoda is covered in gold and contains diamonds, rubies and emeralds.

Breakfast included

Day 11: Depart Rangoon

After check out, transfer to the airport for your onward flight.

Land Only

If you are travelling on a land only basis, then you will need to make your own way to the starting hotel in Rangoon (Yangon) on Day 2. On Day 11, you will checkout from your Rangoon (Yangon) hotel, and continue as per your own arrangements.

Please refer to the Wendy Wu Tours brochure and/or website for details on departure dates, prices, itineraries, inclusions and tour extensions available as well as full booking conditions.

Magical Chindwin Travel Info

Visas - A visa is required for entry into Burma. A standard visa processing service is included in your tour cost. We will require your passport, completed visa application form, 2 completed visa application forms per person and 2 passport photos taken within the last 6 months, to process your visa. We will require all this information 8 weeks prior to departure. As per our standard visa processing service, we will have your passport for at least 4 weeks. Any passports and visa applications that require an express 2 week service, or that are received in our office less than 6 weeks prior to departure will incur a £50 per passport express fee. In rare cases, you may be required to provide further information or documentation to the embassy. If this is the case we will notify you as soon as possible.

Insurance - We strongly encourage all travellers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the originals.

Accommodation - All accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family run guesthouse in a smaller town. In remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local 3-3½star standard, but do please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and Burma.

Exchanging Cash – The Central Bank of Burma has withdrawn all foreign currency exchange license for businesses including Hotels, Restaurants, Airlines and Souvenir Shops. Starting from 01 November 2015, institutions such as the ones named will not be allowed to accept payments in US dollars. Tourist can bring US-Dollars and change it into local Kyats or withdraw local currency at any ATM with their credit card.

US Dollars are the preferred currency in Burma. ATM's are limited in Burma, so we suggest that you bring enough US Dollars in cash to last the duration of your stay. It is highly recommended that extra care and attention is paid when exchanging money when travelling outside major cities in Burma. For your convenience, please ensure that US Dollars should be from the new series from the year 2003 onwards and in good condition to avoid any difficulties exchange money during your trip. Old series notes can be difficult to exchange.

We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to remote areas and smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be limited. Your National Escort will remind you to do this before departure.

Personal Expenses - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of £120 should be sufficient; (*Please note US dollars are the preferred currency to be used in Burma*); however for those that cannot resist a bargain, consider allocating a higher amount.

Consider Cultural Differences – Burma is predominantly Buddhist; however, it is a nation with many cultures and histories. Please be considerate of this, the local beliefs and customs and dress with consideration.

Pandaw River Cruise – Please note before and after your Pandaw River Cruise, you will be touring privately. On the Pandaw River Cruise ship, you will be sharing the boat with other passengers and you will enjoy shore excursions with other members of the boat.

After your booking - Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice followed by deposit documentation, which includes a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2 weeks prior to departure, and will include a travel wallet, badge, lanyard, a travel guide (which includes a suggested packing list) and phrase book, along with your final itinerary and international e-tickets.

Luggage - All clients are limited to two items of luggage each; a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of 5kg. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

Updated: 11 March 2016

Book now on **0844 499 3899** visit **www.wendywutours.co.uk** or see your preferred travel agent.