



## Golden Land

Private Tour | 14 Days | Comfortable

Rangoon – Mandalay – Ava – Bagan – Magwe – Prome – Danupyu – Rangoon

- **Wander through the parks**, colonial buildings and the golden Shwedagon Pagoda of Rangoon.
- **Explore** over 3,000 temples on the plains of Bagan
- **Walk along** the world's longest teak bridge in Mandalay
- **Become a local** at the many small authentic villages along the Irrawaddy River



#### Golden Land tour inclusions:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- Some meals
- Drinks on the cruise section; local soft drinks, beer, spirits, coffee, teas and mineral water
- 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

*The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, tipping, early check in or late checkout and other items not specified on the itinerary.*

#### Private Tours:

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of South East Asia on a more personal fully-inclusive tour. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

#### Moderate Pace:

'Golden Land' is a **comfortable paced** tour. Although this is the easiest pace of tour Wendy Wu Tours offers it still requires a reasonable level of fitness.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time often on uneven surfaces
- You will be required to get on and off the boat without assistance

Of course, our local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

## Itinerary – Golden Land

### Days 1-2: UK to Rangoon

No meals included

You will be met at Rangoon airport in the arrivals hall by your Local Guide from Wendy Wu Tours. You will then be privately transferred to your hotel where the remainder of your day is at leisure.



#### Destination Information

**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.

### Day 3: Rangoon to Mandalay

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

This morning you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Mandalay. From the airport you will be transferred directly to your ship to board your Pandaw River Cruise. Once checked in you will be taken on a short sightseeing tour of Central Mandalay visiting the Mahamuni Pagoda and the U Bein bridge, the largest teak bridge in the world. Return to the ship and take the opportunity to settle into your cabin and sip on a welcome cocktail before settling down to dinner served in the bistro-style dining room.



#### Destination Information

**Mandalay** - the second largest city and the last royal capital of the Burmese Kingdom. Located along the Irrawaddy River and centred around the Royal Palace, Mandalay is within easy distance to former colonial hill stations and ancient cities.

#### Day 4: Ava & Yandabo

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

This morning cruise to the ancient capital of Ava to explore by horsecart (approx. 2 hours). Afterwards, cruise downstream, taking lunch as we go, to arrive in the late afternoon at Yandabo, a small rural village that specializes in pot making. Visit the Pandaw School built with past donations from Pandaw passengers. Walk around the village is approx. 1 hour.



#### Destination Information

**Yandabo** - a village on the Ayeyarwady River in central Burma. The Treaty of Yandabo which ended the First Anglo-Burmese War (1824–1826), was signed here on 24 February 1826.

#### Day 5: Bagan

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Arrive in Bagan. Tour a selection of the 3,000- listed monuments at this spiritual location and visit lacquer workshops. Watch a sunset which will involve some climbing of some stairs.



#### Destination Information

**Bagan** - It is believed as many as 13,000 temples and stupas once stood in the area around Bagan; however, invasions, war and natural disasters have reduced most of these to rubble. Despite this, Bagan is home to more than 2,200 standing ancient temples and is Burma's greatest architectural site.

#### Day 6: Bagan

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Ascend Tan Chi Taung Mountain, either by foot or by jeep for sunrise over the temples of Bagan for 2 hours. Reboard the ship and continue to Salé where we will tour the magnificent teak monasteries and an area of splendid colonial-style houses by foot for approx. 2 hours.



#### Day 7: Magwe

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Disembark the ship, climb the river bank and wind through a labyrinth of paths and passages to reach the magnificent Myat-thalon Pagoda, constructed of solid gold bricks. Take a 2 hour walk through the village of Magwe.



#### Day 8: Minhla and Gwechaung

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Spend 1.5 hours on foot at Minhla and Gwechaung, two Italian built forts which were constructed to keep the British at bay from Royal Myanmar. Later, climb the Gwechaung hill for astounding views today.



#### Day 9: Prome (Pyay)

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Visit the 5th-8th century archaeological site of Thiri-ya-kittiya, former centre of the Pyu civilization with a fascinating museum of early Buddhist artifacts and sculpture. Touring here will include 3 hours by bus.



#### Day 10: Akauk Taung

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Journey south of Prome, and visit the dozens of Buddha images carved into Akauk Taung (Tax Mountain). This natural wonder is named Tax Mountain after toll-takers who would carve Buddhist images into the sides of the mountain between taxing boats travelling down the Irrawaddy.

#### Day 11: Danupyu

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Explore some of the creeks of the verdant Irrawaddy Delta before stopping at the town of Donabyu with its bustling markets and busy port. There will be a 2-hour trishaw tour.



#### Day 12: Twante to Rangoon

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Sail through the Rangoon River and enter the Twante Canal, which connects the river with the Irrawaddy Delta. Make a stop to explore the town of Twante en route for approx. 1.5 hours. Sail into the Rangoon river port.



### Day 13: Rangoon

### Breakfast and lunch

Disembark at Rangoon's Botahtaung jetty at 8am. Transfer to the hotel. In the late afternoon visit the Shwedagon Pagoda to enjoy the sunset over the city.



### Day 14: Rangoon to UK

### Breakfast

Transfer from your hotel to Rangoon (Yangon) International Airport for your flight to the UK. Depending on your chosen airline, some flights will arrive the same day, whereas others will arrive the following day.



## Golden Land Travel Information

### 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, 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, passports will usually be returned within 4 weeks of your tours scheduled departure. 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 £60 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

It is a condition of booking with us that you take out suitable travel insurance. You must provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24-hour emergency contact number when you book with us or as soon as possible thereafter. These details will be available to your national escort should they be required. Wendy Wu Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

### Eating in South East Asia

Southeast Asia is home to an incredibly rich food history. The local cuisine is known for its intense flavours, spices and some of the freshest ingredients you can find. In general, meals include either rice or noodles and are packed full of flavour. Lemongrass, ginger, lime leaves, coriander, fish sauce and soy sauce are used in most local dishes. Whilst Southeast Asian food has a reputation for being hot and spicy, each region actually has its own distinct characteristics. Vietnam, for example, is perhaps best known for its fresh and aromatic dishes – relying heavily on flavours from fresh herbs such as mint, basil and dill.

Your itinerary has been carefully crafted to introduce you to a range of local dishes and we hope that you enjoy the culinary adventure ahead. Most meals (excluding drinks) are included in this tour, please see the itinerary for details. When dining in Southeast Asia, although some restaurants have adopted a western approach to dining, expect some restaurants to follow the traditional communal style of eating. Typically, this will mean each diner has their own small bowl and may serve themselves from a variety of shared dishes. At some local restaurants, appetizers and main courses might be served when they are ready instead of following a particular order.

Determining when it's appropriate to use chopsticks, forks or spoons can be challenging for some travellers, even other Asians, as each country has different customs. In Vietnam, dishes are normally placed in the centre and people serve food for themselves with their own chopsticks and bowl. In Thailand and some other countries in Southeast Asia, fork and spoon are used for most dishes and chopsticks are typically provided to eat noodles. Usually chopsticks or other utensils are provided to scoop the food into your bowl to prevent your own chopsticks from touching the food that remains on the table. Dining in Southeast Asia is fairly casual with not too many rules. Leaving food on the plate is not considered rude.



Please refer to your travel guide for more information on Southeast Asian cuisine, including information for travellers with restricted diets.

## Accommodation

Your 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 more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to

four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and South East Asia. All private tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your Local Guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

## Transport

**Coaches:** Air conditioned 4-seater cars are used on our private tours for all transfers. Roads in South East Asia have generally improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road - not just one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the itinerary are approximations only.

**Planes:** Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines.

## Development in South East Asia

Although South East Asia 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 your National Escort or Local Guides.

## Tipping Policy

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and South East Asia is no exception. Tipping is included in the price of our standard group tours but we do not include the cost in our private tours. The recommended tipping amount in Burma is approximately \$7 per person per day though of course this is at your discretion.

## Climate

Please refer to our website or brochure for detailed temperature charts.

### 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.

### Itinerary changes

It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate; in these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

**Last updated: May 2017**