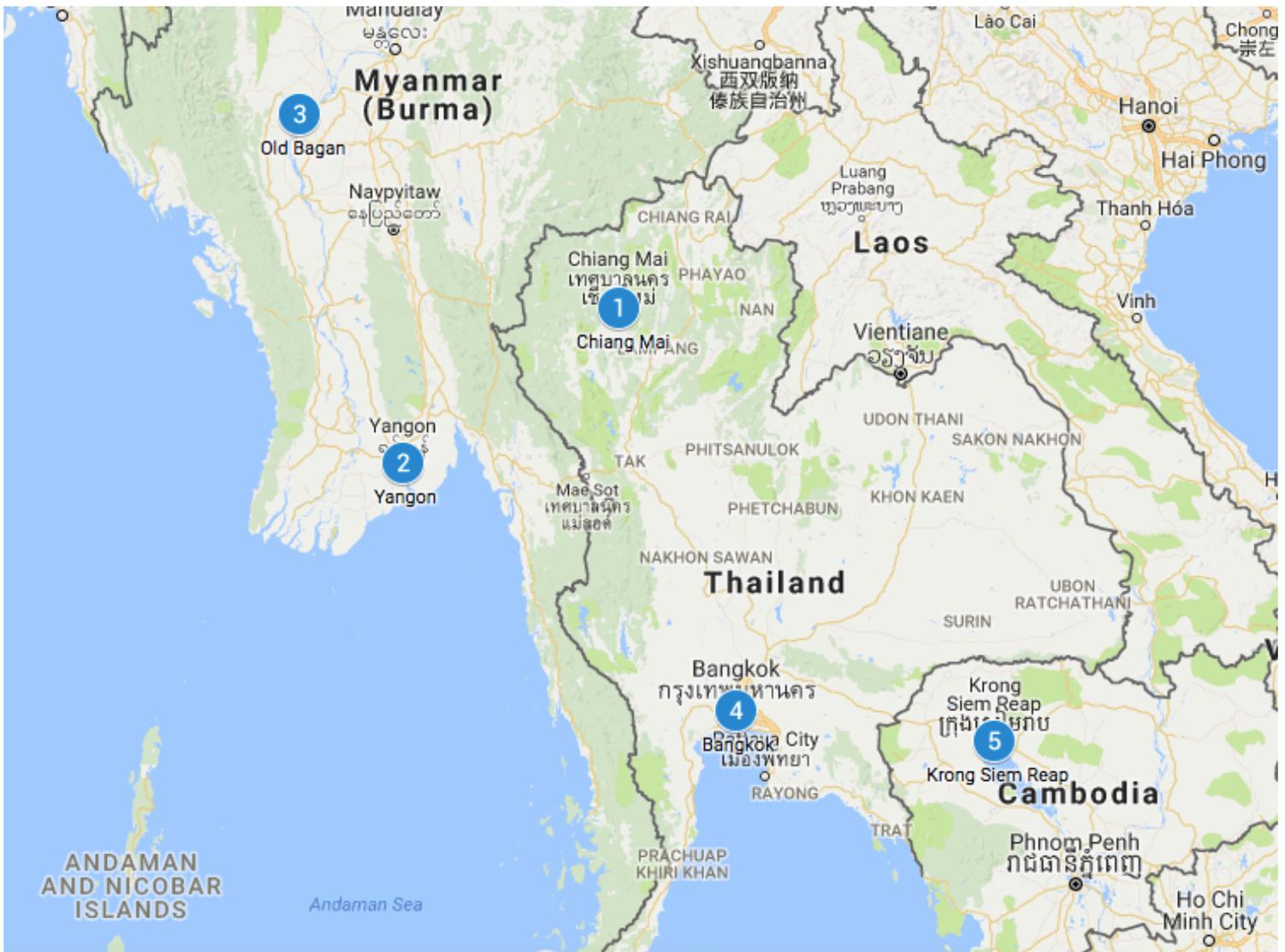


## HIGHLIGHTS OF THAILAND, MYANMAR & CAMBODIA



Overnight	Highlights	Hotels	Meals
Chiang Mai	Arrival in Chiang Mai	Arantura	
Chiang Mai	Tiger Kingdom and Doi Suthep Temple	Arantura	B
Chiang Mai	Patara Elephant Farm	Arantura	B, L
Yangon	Fly to Yangon. Explore Yangon and Shwedagon Pagoda	Sule Shangri La	B
Bagan	Explore Bagan; Shwezigon Pagoda, Ananda Temple	The Hotel Tharabar Gate	B
Bagan	Sunrise ballooning in Bagan, biking or horse drawn cart, and cruise down Irrawaddy River	The Hotel Tharabar Gate	B
Bangkok	Fly from Bagan to Bangkok		B
Bangkok	Free days in Bangkok		
Siem Reap	Fly from Bangkok to Siem Reap	Jaya House River Park	
Siem Reap	Explore Ta Prohm Monastery and Angkor Wat	Jaya House River Park	B, L
Siem Reap	Explore Angkor Thom. Monk Blessing	Jaya House River Park	B
Fly home			

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Chiang Mai Arrival (B)

Upon arrival at the airport, your guide and driver will be waiting for you outside of the customs. He/she will be holding a sign that says “Busa Group” and/or “Blue Odyssey”. You’ll be transferred to your hotel (15 mins driving) for check in. Your room is at your disposal from 2 pm onward. The rest of the day is free at your leisure. You can get a massage and then head to the night market of Chiang Mai where you’ll see lots of vendors and also street food stalls.

**Meals on your own.** Overnight at the hotel.

#### **Aruntara Riverside Boutique Hotel**

351/1 Charoen Prathet Rd., Changklan, Muang, Chiang Mai 50100 Thailand

info@aruntarahotel.com

Phone: +66(0)53 235111

### Day 2: Chiang Mai (B)

After breakfast, you’ll be picked up at 10 am to visit Tiger Kingdom. The tigers at the Tiger Kingdom (40km - 1 hour driving) are tame enough that you can get close to both cubs and fully-grown adults to touch, stroke and pose for photos with these great animals. The sheer size of the adult tigers takes your breath away and getting so close makes for an unforgettable experience. There are also opportunities to interact with tiger cubs of various ages, which are more playful in nature than their parents- lots of fun for adults and children alike (45 mins – 1 hour). Included: Package #2 (smallest tiger and a big tiger)

In the afternoon, optional (free) visit to Doi Suthep, also one of the city’s most spiritually noteworthy temples. Or you can enjoy a free afternoon.

**Lunch and dinner your own account.** Overnight at the hotel.

### Day 3: Chiang Mai: Patara Elephant Farm (B,L)

Are you an elephant lover looking for an out-of-the-ordinary experience? Then Patara Elephant Farm (50 km away – 45 mins – 1 hour driving) is definitely the right place to spend the day, interacting with your own peaceful pachyderm. Faithful to the slogan “extinction is forever” they created a healthcare program that breeds happy elephants to grant future generations the right to get in touch with these magnificent creatures. You will learn how the mahouts take care of them performing daily health checkups of the elephants, observing their mood and interacting with them. You will be entrusted with your own elephant and the mahout will guide you through the whole experience, teaching you how to feed them, wash them in a waterfall and walk around together in the lush jungle. At 3:30 PM, leave the farm and return to your hotel in the late afternoon.

**Dinner on your own account.** Overnight at the hotel.

***Note:***

- *Transfer by private car to/from the Elephant Farm without guide*
- *These are join-in tours.*
- *Things to bring: Swim suit and change of clothing. Water shoes to wear while washing the elephants.*

**Day 4: Chiang Mai - Yangon (B)**

You will be picked up at 9:30 am and transferred to Chiang Mai airport for your flight to Yangon.

**Flight PG 723 Chiang Mai – Yangon 12:00 - 12:55**

Mingalabar and welcome to Myanmar! The former capital Yangon, also known as Rangoon, remains Myanmar’s largest city and continues to be the country's the most important commercial hub and gateway for most of its international visitors. Its colonial background and religious legacy make it one of the most mesmerizing and genuine places in all of Southeast Asia. Upon arrival at the airport you will be warmly welcomed by your guide who will take you to your hotel in for check in (15 km – 1 hour driving depending on the traffic).

You’ll be taken downtown (15 mins) and start your tour on Mahanbandola Road where the Immanuel Baptist Church, originally built in 1830, is located. Continue east passing a couple

of alley ways crammed with food stalls and markets. Turn right onto Pansodan Street with its many stalls selling second-hand and photocopied books. You'll pass the High Court Building, the grand Inland Water Transport offices and even grander Myanma Port Authority building until you'll reach Strand Road. Your next stop will be outside of the majestic Strand Hotel and walk along Strand Road until you'll see the Customs House and the Law Court, an impressive-looking colonnaded building. Turn north onto boisterous Bank Street and up onto Sule Pagoda Road, where you can consult one of the many fortune tellers who hang out under the trees. Be sure to make a photo stop at Sule Pagoda, downtown's symbol whose construction dates back to over 2,000 years ago and have a glimpse of Independence Monument, Mahabandoola Garden, and City Hall.

After that you will continue to Shwedagon. No Myanmar expedition can be considered truly great if it's lacking a visit to the legendary Shwedagon Pagoda. The visual delights present there alone, are worth the trip. Witness the colors transform on the 100-meter chedi which is literally enclosed in over 40 tons of gold leaf. You will start at the eastern staircase where you will find a row of shops at the base of the temple selling various religious items. Here you will find monks robes, alms bowls, offerings, incense and other unique Buddhist objects. As you browse the stalls your guide will explain the use and rituals of Myanmar's Buddhist people. Shwedagon is largely considered to be the most important religious site for the Burmese; most visitors report that the trip is extremely memorable and still etched into their minds.

Lunch and dinner on own account. Overnight at the hotel in Yangon.

### **Sule Shangri-La Hotel, Yangon**

Address: 223 Sule Pagoda Rd. Yangon, 11182

Phone: (95 1) 242 828

## **Day 5 : Yangon - Bagan (B)**

### **Flight K7 671 Yangon – Bagan 09:05 – 10:25**

Early in the morning, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Bagan (15 km – 1 hour driving depends on the traffic). Welcome to Bagan, known as one of the greatest

architectural sites in Asia. Bagan, about the size of Manhattan, boasts more than 4,000 temples made of red bricks. Upon arrival you will be transferred to Bagan city (9 KM – 20 minutes transfer) for sightseeing.

Visit the renowned Shwezigon Pagoda, constructed by King Anawrahta in the early 11th century as a religious memorial. Travel over dusty lanes and tree shaded roads past temples and to a small village. Explore the village on foot, getting a glimpse of local lifestyles of Bagan's residents. Continue to more lesser-known monuments, selected based on your interest, for the remainder of the morning. If you wish, a short walk can be arranged for a unique perspective of Bagan.

In the afternoon you'll continue to Ananda Temple, which is considered to be an architectural work of art and is certainly one of Bagan's most gorgeous temples. Constructed in an earlier "Mon" style, Ananda houses two distinctive Buddha images. Their expressions also appear to transform, according to the space from which the statue is seen. From here you will journey on by horse cart for an excursion that passes Thatbyinnyu, the tallest temple in Bagan and the gigantic Dhammayangyi Temple noted for its remarkable brickwork, among others. Take pleasure in an extraordinary sunset from an elevated location amid the temple plains to see the sun's last light cast its colors over the fields and pagodas of Bagan.

*Perry and Jale's note:* Ask your guide if he can take you to Gubyaukgyi Temple to see the 12th century murals.

*Restaurant suggestion:* Weather Spoon Restaurant, Queen, Moon

**Meals on own account.** Overnight at the hotel.

### **Hotel Tharabar Gate, Bagan**

Address: Near Tharabar Gate (Old Bagan )

Nyaung Oo Township

Phone: 95 (61) 2460037/ 42 / 43

Email: [smm@tharabargate.com](mailto:smm@tharabargate.com)

## **Day 6: Bagan (B)**

### ***Hot Air Balloon Ride Over Bagan***

The morning will start off with an exciting hot-air balloon ride above the Bagan countryside. You will observe one-of-a-kind views when the sun begins to rise over the Irrawaddy River and various stupas in the region. You're simply not going to find many other opportunities like this on Earth. – Pick up time at 5 AM unless otherwise advised by your local guide.

After the ballooning, you'll be brought back to your hotel where you'll have breakfast. After breakfast, your guide will pick you up for another excursion in Bagan. If you want, you can use electric scooters among the temples or take a horse drawn carriage (included).

Perry and Jale's note: We preferred horse drawn carriage. What they call e-bikes are electric operated scooters. The ground was sandy and it was more comfortable to take the horse carriage. This also gave us better photo opportunities. You can talk to your guide and make a decision.

You will be driven late in the afternoon to the jetty where a private wooden river boat awaits you (15 mins drive). Sitting either under the shade or on the open-deck you'll be treated to fabulous views as you cruise down the Irrawaddy River. You'll cruise past several small villages, fishermen, local boats and of course many of the ubiquitous Myanmar Buddhist temples. The views of Bagan from the river are particularly spectacular and offer a different perspective from the land based tours. As you finish your delicious and refreshing cocktail and the sun begins to sink slowly from view, you will prepare to disembark before being driven back, greatly relaxed, to your hotel for the evening. The perfect end to a busy day of sightseeing in Bagan! (1 hour boat trip along the Irrawaddy River)

**Lunch and dinner on own account. Overnight in Bagan.**

### **Day 7: Bagan - to Siem Reap**

Welcome at Siem Reap Airport and transfer to the hotel to check in.

**Meals on your own account.** Overnight at the hotel.

#### **Siem Reap Hotel: Jaya House River Park**

River Road, Treang Village,

Siem Reap - Slor Kram Commune

+855 639 62 555

info@jayahouseriverpark.com

### **Day 12 : Siem Reap: Ta Promh - Picnic lunch - Angkor Wat (B,L)**

Wake up early to visit the ancient Ta Prohm Monastery (11 km – 20 mins driving) where immense branches have taken root in the stones – hence the nickname of the Jungle Temple. You will find some splendid sculptured Devatas and an atmosphere that is unique. You will pass rice fields, small villages and smiling children, who will wave and say “hello”. This quiet and quaint location is off the tourist track and a fantastic opportunity to have a break from exploring the imposing Angkor complex and enjoy an invigorating lunch surrounded by this special atmosphere. After the meal you can relax with foot massage and listen to the birds chirping, have a nap or learn more about the temple thanks to our tour guide. Coming back to hotel, the rest of the day is free at your leisure. At a designated time, you will discover the incredible temple of Angkor Wat (11 km – 20 mins driving) for the sunset. It's a world heritage site with soaring towers and extraordinary bas reliefs. It is one of the most amazing man made monuments in the world, erected in the 12th century (1112-1152) in honor of Vishnu. **Meals on your own account.** Overnight at the hotel.

**Note:** - *Pick up time: 08.00 am*

### **Day 13: Angkor Thom - Monk blessing ceremony (B)**

Early morning visit to the Great City of Angkor Thom (11 km – 20 mins driving) beginning at the south gate and the famous Bayon temple of the 12th and 13th centuries. Dedicated to

Buddhism, Bayon consists of 54 gigantic towers featuring 216 smiling faces of Avalokitesvara. Then, cross to the Elephant Terrace which, at 350m long, was used as a giant reviewing stand for public ceremonies and served as a base for the king's grand audience hall. Afterwards, move to the raised terrace of the Leper King, from the 12th century, which bears many beautifully sculptured Apsara statues. Then, visit a remote temple where you get insights into Buddhism, its history and its role in modern Cambodia, to take pictures and enjoy the atmosphere. Afterwards, it's time for the blessing (about 1 hour). The monk will bless you with water, so be prepared to get wet! It's absolutely worth it. Afternoon is free at your leisure. **Meals on your own account.** Overnight at the hotel.

**Note:** - *Pick up time: 08.00 am*

### **Day 14: Siem Reap Departure (B)**

Spend the balance of day free at your leisure until transfer to Siem Reap Airport for your flight home. Room is disposal until noon time. **Breakfast is included.**

### **Bon voyage...**

What's included?

- Accommodation in the category chosen.
- Meals as mentioned in the program.
- B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner.
- All local boat rental, horse carts, and cycling as mentioned in the program.
- Transfer from and to the airports by private vehicle with A/C. Transportation by private vehicle
- All entrance fees and sightseeing as mentioned in the program.
- Local English speaking guide(s) as mentioned.

What's not included?

- Meals and drinks are not mentioned in the program.
- International flight tickets and airport taxes.
- Tips & personal expenses.
- Personal insurance.
- Any services not clearly mentioned in the program.
- Any visa fees