

## Myanmar Magic

See the beauty and majesty of Myanmar on this expansive, luxury trip that will show its incredible highlights. Starting in the bustling city of Yangon you will experience golden temples, vibrant markets and friendly people. Head north towards Mandalay & Bagan aboard the luxury Belmond cruise which ends in the unbelievable surroundings of the Bagan temples.

### **Day 1: Arrive in Yangon**

Arrive into Yangon after your connecting flight from Bangkok, Thailand and get settled into your hotel (Savoy or Belmond Governor's Residence or similar) and relax into the evening.

### **Day 2: Yangon**

Get an early start, following breakfast at your hotel you will explore Yangon for a day with your own private guide who shares the highlights of Myanmar's capital city. Visit top attractions including Shwedagon Pagoda, Sule Pagoda, and Chaukhtatgyi Temple; browse exhibits at the National Museum; and see evidence of the British influence in the city center. Go shopping at Bogyoke Aung Sun Market on a private tour with flexible itinerary that includes lunch, and hotel pickup and drop-off.

### **Day 3: Yangon - Golden Rock Pagoda**

Visit Kyaiktiyo Pagoda, also known as Golden Rock, on a day trip from Yangon with a private guide and transfer. Perched on a boulder, this Buddhist pilgrimage destination offers views of the surrounding area from its mountaintop location. Admire the impressive setting as you learn more about the pagoda, which is one of Myanmar's most sacred religious sites. Lunch is included. Note: Females are not allowed in some areas of the site. The journey does include an open truck ride to the pagoda, if you are uncomfortable with this please let us know as there are limited options available.

Alternatively, you can choose to see more of Yangon or relax at your hotel.

### **Day 4: Road to Mandalay**

Depart your hotel early with a pre-arranged transfer to arrive at the Shwe Kyet Yet jetty before 11:00 to meet up with the boat ahead of your departure. Once on board you are escorted to your cabin and then invited to the Observation Lounge to meet the Captain and crew. A short safety briefing is given. A buffet lunch is served as Belmond Road to Mandalay sets sail, cruising towards Mandalay. After lunch you disembark for a guided tour of Mandalay, considered the home of Burmese traditional arts. Explore some of its great treasures, including Kuthodaw Pagoda, a UNESCO-listed site with 729 stone tablets inscribed with Buddhist scriptures, and the atmospheric Shwenandaw, an intricately-carved wooden monastery which used to be part of King Mindon's living quarters. Pass through the streets of the marble quarter where artisans sculpt Buddhas of all sizes and continue to the outdoor workshop of a family of bronze casters to observe, first hand, the creation of statuesque

Buddha images and ceremonial gongs. End the day with a visit to the 200-year-old U Bein Bridge, one of Myanmar's most photographed sites. Re-board Belmond Road to Mandalay at Shwe Kyet Yet village where the ship will berth for the night. This evening you are invited to join a cocktail party on the Observation Deck, followed by dinner in the elegant Restaurant. Enjoy a selection of gourmet Asian and Western dishes prepared by our Chef. House wines are included with dinner, or you might prefer to choose a fine wine from our extensive international list.

#### **Day 5: Ava (Inwa)**

Rise early to enjoy the Healthy Juice Bar on the Observation Deck before you start your day. An extensive breakfast buffet with à la carte menu is served in the Restaurant and guests also have the option to order tea or coffee to their room. Those who wish may join our guides on an early-morning visit to the village of Shwe Kyet Yet. This small village holds a special place in our hearts, having been the location of the ship's berth for 20 years. Visit the village pagoda, where you will have the opportunity to donate food to a procession of monks from the local monastery. On the return walk you can observe the bustling activity around the market and tea shops.

Belmond Road to Mandalay sets sail for Ava (or "Inwa"), an ancient imperial capital situated between the Ayeyarwady and Myitnge Rivers. Here you have a choice of two tour options:

#### **Ava by Horse and Cart**

Perfect for those who wish to explore the most fascinating highlights of the ancient city. Climb into one of the traditional buggies and enjoy a scenic drive. Ava was the capital of Burma four times between 1364 and 1841, although what remains today dates mostly from the early 19th century. See the ruins of King Bagyidaw's palace walls and moat, visit a beautiful 19th-century teak monastery, now a monastic school, and journey through picturesque villages, farmlands and rice Paddies.

#### **Ava Adventure (Limited space. Please register at Reception. English-language tour only)**

Set off on an independent mountain bike tour (a map will be provided), or join one of our staff for a leisurely, guided bike ride. Head off the beaten track into Ava's more rural pathways, pedalling past King Bagyidaw's palace ruins, through farmlands and tranquil villages. The ride is suitable for advanced beginners and above. There are no steep inclines, but be prepared for a mix of paved roads and dirt tracks with rocky or sandy surfaces.

After exploring the village, return to the ship mid-morning and set sail towards Bagan. Spend this time enjoying the ship's plentiful offering of leisure activities. Treat yourself to a spa treatment, or enjoy a lunch on the Observation deck whilst taking in the passing views. You may wish to join one of our onboard activities: have your fortune told by an astrologer, or attend a demonstration by our housekeeping staff on how to tie a longyi (Myanmar sarong) or prepare thanaka, a paste that serves as both decorative make-up and protection from the sun. Our onboard doctor will be giving a presentation on his charitable and community activities in Myanmar in the Observation Lounge. Indulge in afternoon tea, Myanmar-style, in our Burmese Tea Shop before visiting the Observation Lounge for a talk on Myanmar Ways of Life by one of the expert Belmond guides.

Late afternoon, on the port side, the ship will pass the village of Yandabo, where in 1826 the treaty of the same name was signed between the Kingdom of Ava and the invading colonial British. Today this village is known for its production of terracotta clay water pots, which can often be seen drying

on the riverbanks. After dinner this evening, visit the Observation Deck for an unforgettable surprise on the river (weather permitting). The ship anchors mid-river for the night.

### **Day 6: Bagan**

Take in the sunrise with an early morning yoga session on the Observation Deck before a meditation class is held in the Lounge. You may wish to be on the Observation Deck by 08.30 to enjoy the views as we sail into Bagan. Spot fishermen casting their nets, local boats carrying passengers from one bank to the other, and the gilded hti, or crowns, of pagodas as the ship circles and drops anchor near the Taung Be village jetty.

Disembark to explore Old Bagan. There are three optional morning tours to choose from:

#### **Introduction to Bagan**

Bagan has been one of the main visitor attractions in Myanmar for many years, ranking alongside Angkor Wat in Cambodia and Borobudur on Java as the greatest historic sites in Southeast Asia. Over 3,000 temples dot the plain beside the Ayeyarwady River, most of which were built between the 11th and 13th centuries. On this tour you will visit a complex of pagodas, both ruined and restored, offering a fascinating insight into Bagan's history and architectural styles. You will also visit a small temple surrounded by fields where farmers can often be seen nurturing crops such as peanut, sesame and beans, and later you will discover a village rarely seen by visitors and glimpse a lifestyle unchanged for centuries.

#### **A Day in the Life (English-language tour only)**

Visit a family compound and observe the process of making ponyegyí (fermented soy bean paste), one of Central Myanmar's specialities. Nearby, watch as another family produces colourful bamboo and paper fans, which are given as gifts at weddings and other special occasions. Explore the narrow lanes of the bustling morning market at Nyaung-U, admiring stalls piled high with exotic fruits and vegetables and typical Myanmar products such as betel leaf, cheroot cigars and tea leaves. Stroll through the village, meeting local people and learning about their ways of life; sample a homemade kyaw sone, a tasty, fried chickpea snack, in a villager's home.

#### **Bagan by Bicycle**

(Limited space. Advance reservations essential. English-language tour only)

Set off on an independent mountain bike adventure (a map will be provided), or opt to join our staff on a guided ride through Old Bagan. Pedal along small paths and roads that wind their way around ancient temples and pagodas. The ride is suitable for advanced beginners and above. There are no steep inclines but cyclists should be prepared for a mixture of dirt tracks with patches of sand and short stretches on paved roads with motor vehicles.

With advance notice Belmond can also arrange private guides and drivers for a tour tailored to your specific interests, or other activities in Bagan such as golf (supplement applies).

All tours conclude at our jetty in Taung Be village. Next to the jetty is a free health clinic established by our ship's doctor, Dr Hla Tun, with the support of volunteers from the local community, the monastery and Belmond Myanmar Foundation. Dr Hla Tun treats hundreds of patients a week when the ship is moored in Bagan.

After lunch on board, disembark for an afternoon excursion to one of the most significant pagodas

of Bagan, Ananda Temple. This architectural masterpiece was built in AD 1090 and contains four gilded Buddha statues, each standing 30ft tall. Follow your guide to a small temple, opened exclusively for Belmond guests, to discover magnificent murals by torchlight. A short walk brings you to a stunning view of 12th-century Thatbyinnyu, one of Bagan's tallest pagodas. A visit to a lacquerware workshop follows. Marvel at the exquisite patience and skill required to produce these finely detailed pieces, many of which take several months to complete. As daylight starts to fade, gather to watch the sunset over plains peppered with hundreds of pagodas.

Back on the ship, grilled specialities are a highlight of dinner, which is served from live cooking stations under the stars on the Observation Deck. Afterwards you are treated to a classical marionette performance in the Observation Lounge. Historically these shows were royal entertainment, depicting stories from the early life of Buddha, but they were also considered a safe way to deliver messages to the King.

Tonight the ship anchors mid-river in Bagan.

### **Day 7: Bagan**

Dawn risers are rewarded with one of the most magical highlights of Bagan—a sunrise hot-air balloon flight over the pagodas (operates October-March, advance reservations essential, supplement applies). Guests participating in this activity will return to the ship at around 08.30. An early-bird breakfast is served before you disembark from Belmond Road to Mandalay for your onward travel arrangements. Check-out time from your cabin is at 08.30 and guests may use the public spaces of the ship until the final disembarkation time of 11.00.

From here you will head to your Bagan hotel for one or two nights depending on how much time you would like to spend here. This will be a great opportunity to take in the sights of this fascinating ancient town and perhaps take in one of the excursions (or similar) that you didn't get to do the day before.

### **Day 9/10: Depart**

Leave your hotel in Bagan today and head to Nyaung U Airport for your flight to Yangon and then onwards toward Bangkok & home. We recommend breaking up this trip by adding at least a 2 night stopover in Bangkok to avoid three consecutive flights home.

## **Cabin Sizes aboard the Road to Mandalay**

### **Governor's Suite**

This exclusive suite has been newly created to satisfy our most demanding guest's requirements. The Governor's Suite is ideal for passengers who embark on our eleven and seven night journeys as its space and views enchant your discovery of this magical land.

- 29.1 square meters, 313 square feet
- Twin beds (can be configured into a double bed)
- Bed side tables
- Wardrobe (including drawers)
- Lounge area
- Shower room with double wash basins

- Three large Windows
- Separate WC facilities
- 2 built in flat screen TV's
- Desk/dressing table and chair
- Butler Service
- Unpacking service on arrival and packing for departure
- Complimentary laundry service
- Complimentary mini bar including soft drinks, beer, local wine and spirits
- Complimentary, one hour spa treatment per person, per cruise
- Nespresso Machine
- Tailor made dining menus
- Farewell gift

### **State Cabin**

Being our most popular cabin type on the Belmond Road to Mandalay, has lead us to increase their number to eighteen cabins. Their comfort will suit all our guests' requirements.

- **23.25 square meters, 250 square feet**
- **Twin beds (can be configured into a double bed)**
- **Bed side tables**
- **Ottoman (multifunctional)**
- **Desk/dressing table and chair**
- **Built in flat screen TV**
- **Cupboard with shelves**
- **Armchair**
- **Luggage rack**
- **Wardrobe (including drawers)**
- **Shower room with wash basin**
- **Ensuite shower and WC facilities**
- **Complimentary bottled water, replenished daily**
- **Welcome flower arrangement and fresh fruit basket in every cabin**
- **Complimentary shoe cleaning after excursions**
- **Nightly turndown service plus special gifts**
- **In room dining available**
- **2 x iPads available for guests to use in public areas connected to satellite Wi-Fi**

### **Deluxe Cabin**

This is a completely new concept to the Belmond Road to Mandalay ship. These sixteen cabins have been fully designed and created to optimise space and views through their three windows.

- **17.95 square meters, 193.2 square feet**
- **Two twin beds**
- **Bed side tables**
- **Desk and chair**
- **Built in flat screen TV**
- **Sofa**

- Luggage rack
- Desk/dressing table and chair
- Ensuite shower and WC facilities
- Wardrobe (including drawers)
- Three windows
- Complimentary bottled water, replenished daily
- Welcome flower arrangement and fresh fruit basket in every cabin
- Complimentary shoe cleaning after excursions
- Nightly turndown service plus special gifts
- In room dining available
- 2 x iPads available for guests to use in public areas connected to satellite Wi-Fi

### **Single Cabin**

The size is similar to a superior, but displays a single bed to optimise space and comfort and is supplied with all private facilities.

- 10.6 square meters, 114 square feet
- A single bed
- Wardrobe (including drawers)
- Desk/dressing table, chair and mirror
- TV and TV table
- Ensuite shower and WC facilities
- Window
- One large window
- Complimentary bottled water, replenished daily
- Welcome flower arrangement and fresh fruit basket in every cabin
- Complimentary shoe cleaning after excursions
- Nightly turndown service plus special gifts
- In room dining available

### **Superior Cabin**

These cabins offer all the comfort needed to fully live the cruise. As all our cabins on board they are all external and display a large window to admire the ongoing scenery when cruising.

- 11.3 square meters, 121 square feet
- Two single beds
- A bed side table
- Wardrobe (including drawers)
- Desk/dressing table, chair and mirror
- TV and TV table
- Ensuite shower and WC facilities
- One large window
- Complimentary bottled water, replenished daily
- Welcome flower arrangement and fresh fruit basket in every cabin
- Complimentary shoe cleaning after excursions
- Nightly turndown service plus special gifts

- In room dining available
- 2 x iPads available for guests to use in public areas connected to satellite Wi-Fi