

# **Jewels of Myanmar & Cambodia**

**Yangon, Inle Lake,  
Mandalay, Putao, Bagan, Siem Reap, and Phnom Penh**

**20 Days (Tour Code – JMC)**

**Access China Tours®**

Small Group and Private Fine Touring in China & Asia

## About This Adventure

Myanmar is Asia at its best. More than any other Asian countries, Myanmar has preserved its cultures and traditions. Myanmar is a deeply religious Buddhist country and is well known by travelers for its abundance of sights and sounds, interesting cultures, diversity of nature and most of all for its charming and friendly people. Cambodia is a small, unique kingdom with a rich history and fascinating heritage of Buddhist art and architecture. Common motifs in Khmer sculpture are apsaras (celestial nymphs), which have become a symbol of the Khmer culture.

Begin your adventure in **Yangon**, former capital and largest city of Myanmar. Yangon lies in the fertile delta of southern Myanmar, on the wide Yangon River. The city is filled with tree-shaded boulevards, while shimmering stupas float above the treetops. The city became the capital only in 1885, when the British completed the conquest of Upper Myanmar and Mandalay's brief period as capital of the last Burmese kingdom ended.

A short flight takes you to Heho and the transfer by vehicle to **Inle Lake**, located in Shan State. The lake is beautiful, with very calm waters dotted with patches of floating vegetation and fishing canoes. High hills rim the lake on all sides. The lake's shore and islands bear 17 villages on stilts, mostly inhabited by the Intha people.

Next destination – the last capital of royal Burma, **Mandalay** is still one of the largest cities in Myanmar, and a cultural and spiritual center. This place produces a unique atmosphere that no one can resist. Neighboring Sagaing is home to over sixty percent of the country's monks, while the artisans of Mandalay continue to turn out the finest crafts.

Wing on to the small town of **Putao** in northern Myanmar, at the foothills of the Himalayas. Here with the Malikha Lodge Experience, you will explore the magnificent nature via various outdoor activities and meet the local ethnic people. Putao is also a very Christian village influenced by colonial rule under the British Empire.

Travel southward to **Bagan**, a city located in a spectacular plain stretching away from the Ayeyarwaddy River and dotted with thousands of 800-year old temple ruins. Although human habitation at Bagan dates back almost to the beginning of the Christian era, Bagan only entered its golden period with the conquest of Thaton in 1057 AD.

After a brief overnight stop in Yangon, you fly to **Siem Reap** via Bangkok. Near Siem Reap, the crowning jewel of Khmer art and architecture – **ANGKOR WAT** is the national symbol and the highlight of any visit to Cambodia. The largest, best preserved, and most religiously significant of the Angkor temples, Angkor impresses visitors both by its sheer scale and beautifully proportioned layout, as well as the delicate artistry of its carvings.

Finally, explore **Phnom Penh**, a chaotic, energetic and always fascinating city. Graceful tree-lined boulevards and riverfront promenades are reminders of bygone eras; today they teem with life and activity, as motorcycles weave in and out of traffic, vendor hawk their wares, and pedestrians go about their business. Cambodia is catching up with its neighbors.

Tour ends in Phnom Penh, from where you fly home.

P.S. You will stay in some of the best hotels and resorts these two countries have to offer and ACT guides and ground staff will look after you every step of the way. Come and enjoy.

## Tour Itinerary

- Day 01 → **Yangon** Arrive on your own international flight to Yangon today; met by your local guide and transfer to hotel for check-in; overnight in [The Strand Hotel \(superior suite\)](#)
- Day 02 **Yangon** Start the day at the SULE PAGODA, a gleaming octagonal pagoda that stands squarely at the center point of the city. Afterwards, visit the NATIONAL MUSEUM to gain an insight into Myanmar. See the eight meter high Sihasana Lion Throne, used by the last Burmese king, and other fascinating artifacts from Burmese history and culture. Enjoy a break at BOGYOKE (SCOTT) MARKET, a pleasant covered market containing crafts from all corners of Myanmar, gems, fabrics and more. (The market is closed on Mondays and public holidays).
- In the afternoon, visit some of the more well known pagodas, including BOTATAUNG PAGODA, named after the 1000 military leaders who escorted relics of the Buddha from India over 2000 years ago, and NGADATKYI PAYA, with a giant seated Buddha image. Finally, continue to the SHWEDAGON PAGODA, the highlight of any visit to Yangon. Towering over the city, this pagoda is the most sacred spot in the country, built to house eight hair relics of the Buddha. The Shwedagon and surrounding shrines are at their most beautiful during the sunset hour, as the golden stupa reflects the changing colors of twilight. <B>
- Day 03 **Yangon** Take a walking tour of Yangon today. Transfer to Maha Bandoola Street, the starting point for the tour, and begin strolling through Chinatown. This quarter of the city is especially alive during the mornings with fresh markets for vegetables, meat, and flowers. Stop at a typical shop to watch the making of flat rice noodles and rice flour pancakes. Continue into the Indian Quarter, visiting Hindu temples and passing the Jewish Synagogue. Continue the tour by trishaw, passing colonial style municipal and government offices before ending the tour with a drink at the historic Strand Hotel. Enjoy some free time in the afternoon. <B>
- Day 04 → **Inle Lake** Transfer to airport and fly from Yangon to Heho; met and transfer by vehicle to Inle Lake. Begin your sightseeing on a motorized boat.
- Enjoy the spectacular scenery and observe the skilled fishermen using their leg-rowing technique to propel themselves around the lake. Visit the floating gardens, a market and an Intha village by the lake (Please note that no markets take place on full moon or new moon days). The day sightseeing also includes a visit to the PHAUNG DAW OO PAGODA, INN PAW KHON VILLAGE (Lotus and silk weaving) and the NGA PHE KYAUNG MONASTERY.
- Spend two nights in [Inle Lake View Resort \(deluxe room\)](#). <B>
- Day 05 **Inle Lake** Enjoy an excursion by boat on Inle Lake to Indein and Sae Ma Village. Travel by boat to the western shore of the lake to a stairway leading to the hidden INDEIN temple complex. Located on the shore of the lake, this

site consists of hundreds of small stupas overgrown by moss and greens.

Continue on foot past rice fields to the village of SAE MA, stopping to explore the village and the local school. In the afternoon, meet the people in the villages on the lake and travel to one of the monasteries to observe the monastic activities. Return by boat to resort. <B>

**Day 06 → Mandalay**

Travel by vehicle to Heho and fly to Mandalay; met by your guide and transfer to hotel for check-in and a short rest.

Begin your tour at MAHAMUNI PAYA. The Mahamuni image enshrined here is perhaps the most venerated image in Myanmar, covered in over 15 cm of gold leaf. Worshippers flock daily to the shrine at four in the morning to observe the unique face-washing ceremony. Afterwards, head to SHWENANDAW KYAUNG, or the Golden Teak Monastery. Built entirely of golden teak, this intricately carved wooden monastery was once part of the Mandalay Palace, used as private apartments by King Mindon and his chief queen. Continue to KYAUKAWGYI PAYA, famous for its monumental sitting Buddha, carved from a single block of marble, and the elegant SANDAMANI PAYA. Finally, visit KUTHODAW PAYA, known also as the world's biggest book. Around the central stupa are miniature pavilions, each housing a slab of marble. Numbering altogether 729, these slabs are inscribed with the entire Tripitkata, or Buddhist scriptures.

Stay for 3 nights in [Sedona Hotel Mandalay \(deluxe room\)](#). <B>

**Day 07 Mandalay**

Today's tour visits three former royal capitals, each with its own unique atmosphere. In the morning, drive to AMARAPURA, and visit MAHAGANDAYON MONASTERY; every day at mid-morning, monks and novices line up to receive their daily offering of alms and food from faithful Buddhists. Next, head to SAGAING, the spiritual center of Myanmar. Hundreds of stupas, monasteries, temples and nunneries are to be found in Sagaing Hill, sometimes known as a living Bagan. Thousands of monks and nuns retreat here for meditation and contemplation. Stop at some of the most famous temples, such as TUPAYON PAYA and HSINMYASHIN PAYA (the Pagoda of Many Elephants).

Cross the river by ferry to INWA, situated on the banks of the Irrawaddy River. Once a royal capital, Inwa is now a quiet rural oasis. Enjoy a leisurely HORSECART RIDE around the peaceful countryside, briefly visiting BAGAYA KYAUNG, a beautiful teak wood monastery, MAHA AUNGME BOZAN KYANG, and NAN MYINT TOWER. On the way, stop and observe how local artisans make the famous alms bowls out of iron. Finally, return to AMARAPURA, to end the day at U BEINÂ'S BRIDGE, a picturesque teak bridge which extends over one kilometer across Taungthaman Lake. At dusk, the bridge teems with monks and local people as they stroll home or linger to enjoy the sunset. <B>

**Day 08 Mandalay**

Morning excursion to Mingun with boat - travel upriver by boat to MINGUN, enjoying the views of river life - fishing villages, market boats, women attending to their washing, and children playing in the water. Explore the ruins of the vast MINGUN PAYA, a monument to human ambition - never finished, its size would have dwarfed all contemporary

pagodas. After visiting other nearby pagodas, return downstream by boat to Mandalay.

Afternoon your own exploration in Mandalay. <B>

Day 09 → Putao

Transfer to airport and fly to Putao; upon arrival, transfer to Malikha Lodge for check in and lunch. Enjoy 3 days of MALIKHA EXPERIENCE.

We may offer an elephant excursion after lunch once our two elephants have returned from a night of foraging in the jungle. Setting off from the Main Lodge, the elephants take you through the fast flowing clear waters of the Nam Lang River and up through the terraced rice fields to the village of Yegyawdi opposite our lodge or downstream along the banks for the Nam Lang River, before a final river crossing brings you back to the lodge. By prior arrangement there is the opportunity to view the elephants being washed by the mahouts. Dinner and drinks at the main lodge in front of our open fireplaces and accommodation at Malikha Lodge, Putao.

Stay for 3 nights in [Malikha Lodge \(bungalow\)](#). <B-L-D>

Day 10 Putao

Enjoy a full day excursion combining gentle rafting from Mulashidi suspension bridge by the Lodge down the Nam Lang to join Malikha River, through its scenic river gorge to our picnic spot. A picnic lunch is prepared in a spectacular riverside beach inside the gorge. From there we venture downstream in Malikha Lodge own long boat on the Malikha River through forested hills and past white river beaches, where villagers may often be seen panning for gold until our arrival at the picturesque village of Manchanbaw. After a short stroll through the village return by vehicle to Malikha Lodge in time for sunset.

Dinner and accommodation at Malikha Lodge, Putao. <B-L-D>

Day 11 Putao

After breakfast, guests at Malikha Lodge will have the opportunity to experience and learn about life in Mulashidi Village and the Putao Valley and view some of the cottage industries. For early birds there is also the chance to visit the Putao market, to try a steaming bowl of Shan Noodle Soup for breakfast and to practice your haggling skills over spectacular Rawang Village headman woven hats, colorful longhis and fine baskets. Lunch at Malikha Lodge.

In the afternoon, we have many bike and trek routes to follow with our guides from the Lodge. We discuss and arrange these upon our guests' arrival dependent on their level of fitness and special interests. Returning to the Lodge in the evening to a huge, hot bath in our fabulous teak bathtubs and/or a massage from our own spa staff in Bungalow is a very welcome treat. The last evening we invite our guests to a hosted group dinner in the Main Lodge. <B-L-D>

Day 12 → Bagan

After a final leisurely breakfast at Malikha Lodge, check out and transfer to Putao Airport for a flight to Mandalay and then connect with your onward flight to Bagan. Met and transfer to hotel upon arrival.

Balance of the day is free and stay for 2 nights in [Aureum Palace Hotel and Resort \(deluxe room\)](#). <B>

### Day 13 **Bagan**

Explore the fascinating temples and ruins in Bagan. Start with the SHWEZIGON PAYA: King Anawrahta started the construction of the Schwezigon Pagoda to enshrine some relicts of Buddha. The construction was finished by his successor, King Kyansittha between 1086 and 1090. Originally the Shwezigon Pagoda marked the northern end of the city of Bagan. The stupa's graceful bell shape became a prototype for virtually all later stupas over Myanmar.

GUBYAUKHYI TEMPLE at Wetkyi-Inn: This Temple was built in the early 13th Century and repaired in 1468. The great colorful painting about the previous life of Buddha and the distinguished architecture make this temple an interesting site for a visit. A temple at Myinkaba has the same name but it is different in style.

ANANDA PAHTO: one of the finest, largest, best preserved and most revered of the Bagan temples. Said to have been built around 1105 by King Kyanzittha, this perfectly proportioned temple heralds the stylistic end of the Early Bagan period and the beginning of the Middle period.

GUBYAUKGYI TEMPLE at Myinkaba: Built in 1113 by Kyanzittha's son Rajakumar, this temple is famous for its well-preserved Stuccos from the 12th century on the outside walls. The magnificent paintings date from the original construction of the temple and are considered to be the oldest original paintings in Bagan.

SHWESANDAW PAYA: In 1057 King Anawrahta built this Pagoda following his conquest of Thaton. This is the first monument in Bagan, which features stairways leading up from the square bottom terraces to the round base of the Stupa. This Pagoda is ideal to watch Bagan's magnificent sunsets.

Enjoy some downtime at your wonderful resort. <B>

### Day 14 → **Yangon**

Continue your tour in Bagan this morning. Visit MANUHA TEMPLE: The Manuha Temple was built in 1059 by King Manuha, the King of Thaton, who was brought captive to Bagan by King Anawrahta. It enshrines the unusual combination of 3 seated and one reclining image Buddha. It is said that this temple was built by Manuha to express his displeasure about his captivity in Bagan.

Tour LACQUERWARE WORKSHOP: the villages around Bagan are known for producing the finest lacquer ware in Myanmar. Stop by one of the workshops and learn about the painstaking process of lacquer ware making and decoration.

In the afternoon, transfer to airport and fly to Yangon. Met and transfer to [Governor's Residence Hotel \(deluxe room\)](#) for overnight. <B>

### Day 15 → **Siem Reap**

Transfer to airport after breakfast and fly to Bangkok to connect another flight to Siem Reap, Cambodia. You are met at the Siem Reap Airport and transferred to hotel for check in and rest. Balance of the day is free for your own relaxation or exploration.

Stay for 3 nights in [Victoria Angkor Resort \(deluxe room\)](#). <B>

### Day 16 **Siem Reap**

ANGKOR WAT is the national symbol and the highlight of any visit to Cambodia. The largest, best preserved, and most religiously significant of

the Angkor temples, Angkor impresses visitors both by its sheer scale and beautifully proportioned layout, as well as the delicate artistry of its carvings and sculptures.

To approach the temple, first cross the vast moat, continuing along a broad causeway lined with naga balustrades. As you enter the main building, ascend through a series of galleries and courtyard before reaching the central sanctuary, which offers beautiful views back over the causeway and across the surrounding countryside. On the way, stop to enjoy the intricate stone carvings that adorn nearly every surface, with some 1,700 Apsaras, or celestial dancers, sculpted into the walls. Along the outer gallery walls run the longest continuous bas-relief in the world, which narrates stories from Hindu mythology, including the famous Churning of the Ocean of Milk. Angkor Wat is stunning at any time of the day, but sunrise and sunset are especially beautiful times to watch the play of light on the stones.

PREAH KHAN: a temple built by King Jayavarman VII with towered enclosures and shoulder-hugging corridors in a jungle setting. Preah Khan covers a very large area but the temple itself is enclosed within a rectangular wall of around 700 by 800 meters.

Seemingly miniature in comparison to the other Angkor temples, BANTEAY SREI is considered to be the jewel of classical Khmer art. Built in pink sandstone, the walls are covered in exquisitely preserved carvings of unusual delicacy. Because of its small size, fairy-like atmosphere and extraordinary examples of Khmer sculpture, this temple is often a favorite with visitors.

Watch the sunset over the Cambodian countryside from the upper terraces of an ancient Angkorian temple. <B>

## Day 17 Siem Reap

The fortified city of ANGKOR THOM covers an area of 10 square km. Enclosed by a wall and wide moats, the city includes many of Angkor's most popular sights. Enter by the monumental SOUTH GATE over a causeway lined on either side by statues of demons and gods, each carrying a giant naga. Continue to the TERRACE OF THE ELEPHANTS and the TERRACE OF THE LEPER KINGS, former spaces for public ceremonies, both adorned with dramatic bas reliefs. Visit the ruined BAPHUON, ROYAL ENCLOSURE and PHIMEANAKAS before continuing to the mysterious BAYON TEMPLE. In this temple, one of the most popular and compelling in Angkor, explore the galleries of beautifully preserved bas reliefs and ascend narrow stairs to reach the central sanctuary, where you will find giant stone faces smiling enigmatically down at you from every angle.

PRASAT KRAVAN: the five brick towers were built for Hindu worship in 921 and are notable for the bas-reliefs cut into the bricks on the interior walls. A massive Buddhist temple dating from the second half of the 12th century, BANTEAY KDEI is surrounded by four concentric walls, the outer walls measuring 500 by 700 meters.

SRAS SRANG: a basin opposite of Banteay Kdei measuring 800 by 400 meters with a tiny island in the middle where only the stone base

remains of what was once a wooden temple. TA PROHM: one of the most popular attractions of Angkor as much of the jungle has not been cleared and it looks very much as most of the Angkor monuments would have appeared when European explorers first stumbled across them.

TA KEO: built by Jayavarman V who ruled from 968 to 1001, it was the first Angkorian monument built entirely of sandstone and was dedicated to Shiva. The summit of the central tower is 50 meters high and is surrounded by four lower towers.

THOMMANON: temple which mirrors Chau Say Tevoda (just to the north), as it was built around the same time and has a similar plan. It is also dedicated to Shiva and Vishnu. CHAU SAY TEVODA: built during the second quarter of the 12th century opposite of Thommanon, it was dedicated to Shiva and Vishnu. <B>

Day 18 → **Phnom Penh** Enjoy a relaxed morning in your resort hotel and transfer to airport at noon to fly to Phnom Penh. Transfer to hotel upon arrival.

Begin your tour of this fascinating city at WAT PHNOM, the birthplace of the capital; according to legend the city began here when a woman named Penh found four Buddha statues and built the temple to house them. Afterwards, see the splendor of Cambodia's royal heritage by visiting the ROYAL PALACE, still the official residence of King Norodom Sihanouk, the adjacent SILVER PAGODA, also known as the Pagoda of the Emerald Buddha.

Stay for 2 nights in [InterContinental Phnom Penh Hotel \(deluxe room\)](#). <B>

Day 19 **Phnom Penh** Continue your tour of Phnom Penh by visiting the elegant NATIONAL MUSEUM, which contains a comprehensive collection of Khmer art.

Later, learn about a chapter from Cambodia's more recent, tragic, past at the TUOL SLENG MUSEUM (Museum of Genocide). Formerly the Tuol Svay Prey High School, in 1975, this became the interrogation and torture facility for the Khmer Rouge regime - at that time known as Security Prison 21, or simply S-21. Kept largely unchanged, this prison now showcases photographs and exhibits about the thousands of victims that passed through these doors - only seven of whom came out alive.

Finally, explore the modern-day city, visiting one of Phnom Penh's two great markets, the CENTRAL MARKET, located in a distinctive domed Art Deco building (Central Market is currently under construction but can be visited as usual), OR the sprawling RUSSIAN MARKET, a labyrinth of stalls selling everything from CDs and DVDs to silks, crafts, jewelry and more.

Enjoy some free time in late afternoon. <B>

Day 20 → **depart** transfer to airport for your homebound flight. Service ends. <B>

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**Changes to Itinerary:** Access China Tours has made all possible attempts to ensure the accuracy of tour itineraries. Circumstances beyond our control may occur. We reserve the right to change itineraries, sightseeing activities, and common carriers, and to substitute hotels when necessary. Service of a similar category and standard will be maintained if such changes are made. The Service Voucher in your last pre-departure packet will provide the operational itinerary summary, final transport and hotel information.

## Tour Land Price Inclusions & Exclusions

### What's Included in Tour Land Prices:

- Luxury/deluxe class hotel accommodations, double occupancy
- Coach class intra-region domestic air and ground transportation while on tour
- All tour related hotel and transportation taxes
- Arrival and departure transfers on tour dates
- Transfers and luggage (1 piece of 50 pounds per person) handling
- Pre-departure information packets
- All sightseeing, activities, and cultural events listed in the itinerary
- All breakfasts and some lunches, dinners as specified in the itinerary
- Guide and transport services included in the Malikha Lodge Experience in Putao
- Service of a private English-speaking local tour guide in each city except in Putao
- Private and clean vehicles with air-conditioning and professional driver except in Putao

### What's Not Included in Tour Land Prices:

- International air tickets and visa processing
- Most Lunches and dinners
- Trip cancellation, baggage, accident, and medical insurance
- Gratuities to guides and drivers
- Items not listed and/or specified as included in the itinerary

**Cancellation Policy:** All cancellation notices must be received in writing and will become effective as of the date of receipt by **Access China Tours**. We assess cancellation fees of all tours according to the following schedule:

70 days or more prior to departure *	\$200 per person
69 to 50 days prior to departure *	\$400 per person
49 to 30 days prior to departure *	\$600 per person
29 to 15 days prior to departure *	\$800 per person

\* Plus any charges assessed by government agencies, land suppliers, cruise companies and airlines.

Within 14 days of departure .....100% forfeiture of the tour price per person

**Access China Tours** will not grant partial refunds for any unused trip arrangements after the trip has commenced or any refunds to participants who do not complete any portion of the itinerary. Any airline tickets issued are subject to the carrier's refund and cancellation policy. **We strongly recommend you purchase trip cancellation/interruption insurance to protect your travel investment.** **Access China Tours** reserves the right to cancel any tour(s) that has only one traveler. In this case, we will try to find an alternative tour for tour participants. If this is not acceptable, all money paid will be refunded in full and this will constitute full and final settlement for the client. However, **Access China Tours** will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by tour participants (e.g., non-refundable "advance purchase" air tickets, insurance & medical expenses, passport and visa expenses, etc.).

If a tour is forced to be cancelled due to government's travel warnings, declared or undeclared wars, hostilities, civil disturbances, strike, riot, epidemic, and quarantines, **Access China Tours** will refund all participants' payment less any irretrievable expenses and loss (visa fees, airline penalties, communication cost, and non-refundable booking cost, etc.)