

# , MYANMAR MAGIC 12-26 November 2020

# Mandalay – Pyin Oo Lwin – Pindaya – Inle Lake – Kalaw - Bagan – Pyay - Ngapali Beach – Gwa Beach - Yangon (15 Days 14 Nights)

#### **On The Road To Mandalay**

#### **12** November 2020. Day 1:

Touchdown at the airport in Mandalay and get ready for your Myanmar adventure with other like-minded travellers. Make your way to your hotel or we can arrange your airport pick-up at an additional cost. Time is allowed for you to settle in and then if you have time enjoy some freedom to explore the city. In the evening the group will get together for a meal.

Overnight stay at hotel in Mandalay.

#### MANDALAY- PYIN OO LWIN

# 13 November 2020. Day 2: 120KM

Spend the morning exploring Mandalay, stopping first at a vibrant morning market, and then seeing some of the city's most impressive historical sites including Shwenandaw Kyaung (the last remaining building of the last royal palace) and Kuthodaw Pagoda which is often referred to as 'the world's biggest book'

After lunch we climb aboard our motorbikes and head through the rice paddies and hills toward Pyin Oo Lwin.

Overnight stay at hotel in Pyin Oo Lwin.

# Start In Pyin Oo Lwin & Finish In Pindaya

# 14 November 2020. Day 3: 295KM

This morning we start our day heading towards Pindaya and en route we pass charming farming villages while riding the winding and hilly roads. Lunch break at a local village and onward to Pindaya with its famous Buddha filled cave. Handmade paper and parasols are a local handicraft and fascinating to observe.

The road to Pindaya cuts across one of the most densely farmed areas in Myanmar – a patchwork of fields and hedges.

Overnight stay at hotel in Pindaya.

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#### Begin the Day In Pindaya & End at Inle Lake

#### 15 November 2020. Day 4: 100KM

We continue to make our way south through Shan, Danu, and Pa-O villages until we descend on Inle Lake and Nyaung Shwe town. Nyaung Shwe is the accommodation and transport hub of the region and a great base for exploring Inle Lake region - one of Myanmar's most well known attractions. In June 2015, it became Myanmar's first designated place of <u>World</u> <u>Network of Biosphere Reserves</u>.

There is good reason for this region to be held in such high regard. It is a large lake (21.7 km miles long and 11.3 kms wide) in a peaceful setting, edged with marshes and floating gardens. Stilt houses and Buddhist temples add the finishing touches to this picturesque scene.

Overnight stay in resort at Inle Lake.

#### Relax At Inle Lake & Boat Trip (No Riding)

#### 16 November 2020. Day 5:

After breakfast, board a private motorboat to head out onto Inle Lake, one of Myanmar's most spectacular sights. Pass villages built on stilts over the lake, and see their floating gardens built up from strips of water. Local fishermen are known for practicing a distinctive rowing style – standing at the stern on one leg and wrapping the other leg around the oar. Explore the local crafts of Inle Lake with a stop at the weaving village of Inpawkhone and a *cheroot* factory, where the typical Burmese cigars are made by hand.

OPTION: Hot Air Balloon flights over Inle Lake.

Overnight in resort at Inle Lake.

#### From Stunning Inle Lake to Loikaw

#### 17 November 2020. Day 6: 135KM

We'll ride south, loosely following a small and bumpy road on the eastern side of Inle Lake and the Moebyel Lake to Loikaw. The route leads us through a stunning hilly region. On the way we pass numerous lakeside horticultural gardens growing a variety of vegetables and fruit. The capital of Kayah State, Loikaw is a low-key, low-rise town on the Pilu River. Overnight stay in lodge at Loikaw

#### **Ride Loikaw to Kalaw**

# 18 November 2020. Day 7: 245KM

Today's adventure begins by heading north on the western shore of Lake Moebyel. Myanmar's largest hydropower plant built (by the Japanese as war reparation) is located at the southern end of Lake Moebyel. We'll be passing many ethnic minorities including; Shan, Taung Yo, Danu, Kayah and Danaw. Our destination is Kalaw, which was founded as a Hill Station, by the British, to escape the summer heat on the plains below. The tree-lined town of Kalaw still retains colonial-era architecture and cool temperatures. The town is also notable for its significant population of Nepali Gurkhas and Indians, whose ancestors came here to build the roads and railway during the colonial era. Overnight at hotel in Kalaw

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#### **Cool Kalaw to Hot Bagan**

#### 19 November 2020. Day 8: 285KM

We'll descend from the cool hills onto the hot and dry plains then travel through one of the biggest cities of Central Myanmar, Myeikhtila. We'll pass by Mt. Popa the extinguished million-year-old volcano. The volcano is considered extinct and last erupted some 250,000 years ago. Continue through the desert like plains of central Myanmar's dry zone to Bagan. Overnight at hotel in Bagan

#### **Beautiful Bagan and Surrounds**

#### 20 November 2020. Day 9: 0 KM

Breakfast at the hotel and then the day is yours to do as you choose. Please note that, by law, foreigners are not allowed to ride motorbikes in Bagan. It is possible to hire e-motor bikes/scooters (could be fun!) or bicycles.

Bagan, located on the banks of the Ayeyarwady (Irrawaddy) River, is home to the largest and densest concentration of Buddhist temples, pagodas, stupas and ruins in the world with many dating from the 11th and 12th centuries. This temple town is one of Myanmar's main attractions. An overgrown village with basic tourist infrastructure - a good place for R & R. Overnight at hotel in Bagan.

#### Depart Enchanting Bagan And Travel To Pyay

### 21 November 2020. Day 10 375KM

After breakfast we head from Bagan to Pyay. Our route is on quiet roads passing through villages and their markets filled with colourful ethnic groups. You will see oil wells on the roadside.

Myanmar folk alternate the town's pronunciation between 'pyay' and 'pyi'. The Brits couldn't deal with the confusion and called it Prome. The current town site became an important trading centre during the Bagan era. Pyay boomed, along with the British Irrawaddy Flotilla Company in the 1890s. Today, it remains an important transit point for goods between northern and southern Myanmar.

Overnight at hotel in Pyay.

#### From Pyay To The Beach At Ngapali

# 22 November 2020. Day 11: 275KM

After breakfast, we ride from Pyay to Ngapali via by Taung Gok.

With its pristine, palm-tree-fringed white sand, the clear waters of the Bay of Bengal, and a host of sophisticated accommodation, Ngapali– supposedly named years ago by a homesick Italian reminiscing about Napoli – has a justified reputation as Myanmar's premier beach getaway.

Ngapali maintains a laid-back fishing village vibe, as evidenced by the small boats that head out nightly to catch the bounty that is served up in the restaurants just hours later. The locals remain smiley, and despite the increasing number of hotels, the 15 miles of coast here means there's still a lot of space on the beach.

Overnight at hotel in Ngapali.

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#### From Ngapali To Gwa Village And Beach

#### 23 November 2020. Day 12: 135KM

A leisurely start to the day. We'll enjoy lunch at Ngapali Beach before our 110km ride to Gwa. Riding south with the Bay of Bengal's on our right, then through the rolling hills of the Rakhine Mountains. It is peaceful and quiet with villagers going about their daily business along the roadsides. We arrive at the serene setting of the Arakan Eco Nature Lodge on the beach in Gwa.

Overnight at Eco Nature Lodge at Gwa.

#### Gwa Beach (No Riding)

#### 24 November 2020. Day 13:

The day is yours to enjoy at leisure on the beach or go further afield if you wish. Gwa Beach is pristine and uninhabited, apart from the villagers going about their daily work. Swimming and snorkelling or maybe a bicycle ride or walking trek. If you have good balance what about a paddle around the bay on a S.U.P? (stand up paddle board) Overnight at Eco Nature Lodge at Gwa.

Leave Gwa & Go To Busy Yangon

#### 25 November 2020. Day 14: 285KM

It's the last day of our motorbike adventure. We'll ride through rolling hills and winding and twisting roads before leaving Rakhine State. After Rakhine , we will ride the Pathein Road, (Ayeyarwaddy Division) then we will meet our mini bus, on the outskirts of Yangon, arriving into Yangon in the early evening.

Later we'll gather for a sumptuous dinner and drinks to celebrate the finish to our awesome adventure together.

Overnight at hotel in Yangon.

#### **Yangon Departure**

#### 26 November 2020. Day 15:

Today is your leisure at hotel before transfer to airport for your departure flight. Check Out time is 12.00 noon. Please advise us if you require late check or if you are staying longer in Yangon and require additional accommodation (additional costs apply).

Tour End



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#### \*What is included\*

- 14 nights accommodation based on sharing Twin/Double
- Breakfast every day
- Lunch most days
- Dinners as per the tour itinerary
- Professional guides and staff
- Motorbike rental cost, petrol and puncture repairs
- Accompanying Toyota Hi Ace for luggage or non-riders
- Private boat trip on Inle Lake
- Entrance fees and permits
- Personally guided by Angela and Mike

#### **Excluded Services;**

- International flights
- Domestic flights
- Airport transfers.
- Early Check-IN and/or Late Check-Out at hotels
- Visa and insurance fees
- Beverages, Porters at Airports & Hotels
- Tips and personal expenses
- other meals and snacks not included in itinerary

#### **MOTORBIKE:**

**BAJAJ BOXER 150** Designed and built in India. The Boxer150 is a proven, sturdy and dependable workhorse with a very comfy seat and low seat height. Electric start, 4 stroke 150cc, 4 speed gears, great for pillion passenger, 124kg.



#### COST for the tour on a twin share basis

RIDER	NZ6995
PILLION	NZ6345
SINGLE SUPPL.	NZ1199 additional for own private room