

Explore Myanmar: Hill Tribes & Ancient Bagan



Although this itinerary can run any time of the year, the most spectacular time to travel here is in June, during what is becoming known as Myanmar's 'green season'. It's a great time of year. It's cooler, it's greener and there's hardly a tourist in sight! And while there's still a chance of tropical rain, the destinations we've selected in this itinerary typically have much less rainfall than most of Myanmar.

Day 1: *Yangon*

After arriving in Yangon, check in to our casual Inn accommodations, and we'll gather later in the afternoon to ensure our mountain bikes are sized correctly for us. Then, it's time to taste a range of delicious, locally inspired dishes as we head out for an early evening dinner hosted by one of our preferred Yangon restaurants.

Day 2: *Yangon - Keng Tung* ✈️ 🚶

Keng Tung is nestled in the remote hills of eastern Shan State near the infamous Golden Triangle. It's a rewarding location because of its seclusion and close-at-hand ethnic hill tribes. We'll arrive there late morning and be welcomed by our local guide who will arrange comfortable transportation. Following lunch, we will check in to the best hotel available in the area, and spend the afternoon on a mini trek, exploring the lush countryside and nearby ethnic villages.

Day 3 & 4: *Keng Tung* 🚶

The next couple days will be spent trekking further afield in one of the most ethnically diverse areas of the country, visiting local partners along the way. The moderate-level guided trek takes us through flourishing green landscapes and villages of the Ann, Lahu, Akha and Wa people; many still living as their ancestors did for centuries.

Day 5: *Keng Tung - Mandalay* ✈️ 🚲 🚌

Enjoy a perfect 'people watching' experience at the local market where many of the hill tribe people come down to sell and shop for wares. There'll be time for shopping for Shan-style lacquerware and lunch before we catch an afternoon flight to Mandalay. Once in Mandalay, after checking in to our hotel, we'll take to our bikes or support vehicle and head up Mandalay Hill for sunset and the sweeping views of the city below.

Day 6: Mandalay - Mt. Popa - Bagan

Following breakfast, there's around a 4-hour drive with our support vehicle to Mt. Popa. Lunch will be served at the Mt. Popa Resort while taking in the magnificent view of the 800 meter tall, pagoda topped, lava rock. Afterwards, we have choices:

For cyclists there's around 60 kms of gently undulating and flat countryside to travel before reaching the ancient capital of Bagan. The rest of our group heads towards Bagan by vehicle, with a detour to the ancient riverside village of Salay and a visit to its ornately carved teak monastery. We reunite late in the afternoon following check-in at our charming boutique accommodation.

Day 7: Bagan

Today is dedicated to exploring the vast open landscape of Bagan which is dominated by this ancient, religious architecture built up to 1,000 years ago. The buildings and monuments are spread far and wide – along the roadside, amongst paddocks ploughed ready for planting, down country laneways in villages.

For those less inclined to cycle, there will be E-Bikes or our support vehicle to travel with. Between the months of October and March, there's an opportunity to soar high over the ancient Bagan plains in a hot air balloon for an additional cost.

Day 8: Bagan - Yangon

Shortly after our final breakfast together, we'll head over to the airport for our flight returning us to Yangon. Finally, further in-country travel and day sight seeing can be arranged upon request.

