



Myanmar Hill Tribes

Chin Hills, Shan Plateau, Inle Lake • Touring • 18 Days

This adventurous style journey takes us into the remote Chin Hills of Myanmar for an easy trek and some village stays among the spectacular rhododendron cloud forests of Nat Ma Taung National Park. On the Shan plateau our easy “Monastery trek” takes us to Palung hill villages in a region of stunning scenery, and authentic indigenous cultures. Our itinerary in ‘up country’ Myanmar includes the pagoda fields of ancient Bagan and stunningly picturesque Inle Lake with its artisan villages and colourful markets.



Myanmar Hill Tribes TRIP DETAILS

2010 Departures

Escorted Small group

- 07th Jan—24th Jan

Trip Price : NZD5900pp

Private Departures

- Feb
- March
- November
- December

Trip Price : Price on application

Trip Length: 18 Days

Activity Type: Adventurous

WHATS INVOLVED IN THIS ITINERARY

• ROUTE

Itinerary includes Yangon, Chin Hills, Nat Ma Taung Nat Park, Bagan, Shan Hills, Inle Lake.

A relaxed exploration of the remote Chin Hills (Nat Ma Taung National Park) and the picturesque Shan Plateau. Easy fully supported treks are planned. The first will include an easy ascent of Mt Victoria (3,050m) by 4x4 and on foot along a well graded colonial era bridal path. Our second trek will be in east Myanmar on the Shan plateau at Pindaya near Inle Lake. The trip also includes the amazing pagoda fields of Bagan, the floating villages at pristine Inle Lake and Yangon (Rangoon) site of the inspiring Shwedagon Pagoda.

• TREKKING

The maximum trekking distance per day will be 5-6 hrs. We stop often. No strenuous trekking is involved in this itinerary and you need carry only light packs on overnight treks (7 to 10kg max). Paths are a mix of local footpaths and bridle paths. You have the choice to carry your own clothing/necessities on 3 days during the Shan plateau trek or engage a local porter to carry your gear. Bottled water, bedding and meals are provided.

• GROUP SIZE and ESCORTS

The maximum group size is 12 people. This itinerary accompanied by our local English speaking professional guides.


• ACCOMMODATION

A mix of tourist standard hotels and guesthouses (en suite) on twin share basis, village homestays and monasteries.

Single room supplement available for hotels NZD465

• INCLUSIONS

Our group departure prices are fully inclusive. Meals, local flights, road and rail transportation, entries and transfers are included. There are no hidden costs, no supplementary extras and no add-ons apply to any of the services associated with the advertised programme once it commences.



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Itinerary at a Glance :

07-Jan-10 Arrive Yangon AM.

Afternoon sightseeing in central Yangon's colonial era administrative district. Return to hotel via Royal Lake floating boardwalk. Dinner Hotel

08-Jan-10 To Bagan

Morning flight to Bagan. PM sightseeing excursion around the spectacular Bagan Archaeological Zone World Heritage Area.

09-Jan-10 To Chauk and Kanpellet town

By 4x4 to Kanpellet on the forested slopes of Mt Victoria. Initially down the Ayeyarwaddy to Chauk town then across the river heading west into the hills by a narrow jungle track thro teak forested hills to reach the old colonial era hill station of Kanpellet (1300m asl) at the entrance to Nat Ma Taung National Park. Dinner and overnight at Oasis Village resort.

10-Jan-10 Kanpellet

Exploration of Kanpellet district walking to villages and utilizing the cars for transport back to the hotel. Dinner and overnight at Oasis Village resort

11-Jan-10 Mt Victoria

Trek to Mt Victoria (3,050m asl), the highest peak in south-east Asia outside the Himalayan mountains. By 4x4 car to 2000m then by the colonial era bridal path on an easy grade into the Rhododendron cloud forests to the summit (5hrs return). Nat Ma Taung National Park is listed by IUCN as a biodiversity "hot spot" and the park is Myanmar's largest conservation area. Return on foot to the road head and take the vehicles down into the Hsaw river valley to Aye Sakan village (1700m asl)



12-Jan-10 Trek - drive to Mindat

Morning trek to neighbouring village. Return to Aye Village for late lunch, visit local school and weaving centre. Mid afternoon drive to the river and up the steep road to Mindat. Dinner at local café, overnight at Victoria Guest house

13-Jan-10 Mindat

Today we plan to relax in Mindat and meet some of the local identities. Chin culture is renowned for its strong ethnic identity with a tattoo and wind instrument culture similar to that of Polynesian people. Dinner at local café and overnight at Victoria Guest house

14-Jan-10 To Pauk and Bagan

Drive back to Bagan today. If the road is open we will take the more direct route from Mindat to Pauk and cross the Ayeyarwaddy by ferry at Kyun Chaung. Dinner at the hotel, overnight Bagan

15-Jan-10 Bagan

Morning at leisure and afternoon local village visit after which we can also visit a Lacquer ware factory and sample some of the stunning array of local crafts. Sunset at Shwesandaw Pagoda and dinner at local restaurant.

16-Jan-10 To Heho and Pindaya

Morning flight to Heho on the Shan plateau then by road to Pindaya (60km), a quiet town about 90 minutes drive from the airport. After lunch time we'll visit the 1000 Buddha Pindaya caves and local market.

17-Jan-10 Trek to Kanhlakone

After breakfast we set out for the 3hr walk to Yasakyi village, home of the Palaung hill tribe. This is a gradual but steady climb for 2 hours to reach the ridge top and an easy descent of 2-3hrs to our overnight stop at the village monastery or local house.

18-Jan-10 Trek

Continue through fields and villages by an easy trail to bypass Mt. Yasakyi (2,200m asl) and gradually descend by easy local paths to the villages of Mene Taung Pinsein Pin, Htin-shugon and our overnight stop at Kanhla Kone. Today there are great views out to the east and plenty of time to wander in the villages along the way. Dinner and overnight at the village monastery or local house.

19-Jan-10 Trek to Pindaya

Today the walk back to Pindaya is an easy ramble down hill bamboo forest and cultivated small holdings to the villages of Pansit, Inya Kan, and Zawgyi Myit Phya. Return to Pindaya by late afternoon, dinner and overnight at the Inle Resort Pindaya hotel

20-Jan-10 To Inle Lake

Leisurely start this morning. Late morning we'll head back down valley to Inle Lake. We have a leisurely day to make our way down into the Inle basin and by "long-tail" boat out across the lake to our "floating hotel". Arrive at the hotel late afternoon. Dinner at the hotel.

21-Jan-10 Inle Lake

After breakfast depart by longtail boat for a full day sightseeing. Inle Lake is home to the Intha people, famous for their leg rowing prowess, floating gardens and villages. Plan to spend the day visiting villages and sampling the spectacular array of traditional handicrafts. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

22-Jan-10 Inle Lake

Depart by Longtail boat for Shwe Indein Pagoda at the southern end of the lake. Today we can combine a trip to the ancient Inle capital of Indein with a walk to local Pa-O villages. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

23-Jan-10 To Yangon

Return to the airport at Heho for our morning flight to Yangon. In Yangon, we will visit the Bogyoke Aung San Market (Scott Market) for souvenir shopping and late afternoon visit the magnificent Shwedagon Pagoda - one of Myanmar's most sacred places - a stunning sight as the sun sets and a most fitting place to conclude our trip in this "Golden Land". Farewell dinner at a local restaurant

24-Jan-10 Depart

Transfer to the airport for your flight