Cambodia & Myanmar Ancient Wonders: Temples, Lakes & Culture – 10 Days

10D / 9N	Moderate	Private	USD 2,259 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Journey through Cambodia and Myanmar over ten days, discovering ancient temple complexes, serene lakes, and vibrant local traditions. This private tour blends historical exploration with cultural encounters, from Angkor Wat's grandeur to Inle Lake's unique floating life.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Siem Reap

TOUR OVERVIEW

Overview

This ten-day private journey invites travelers to uncover the rich historical and cultural landscapes of Cambodia and Myanmar. Beginning in Siem Reap, the tour delves into the majestic temple complexes of Angkor before flying to Myanmar. The itinerary then explores the spiritual heartlands of Yangon, Mandalay, and Bagan, renowned for their golden pagodas and ancient royal cities. The adventure concludes with a serene exploration of Inle Lake's unique floating communities, offering a comprehensive look at the diverse heritage of these two Southeast Asian nations.

Tour Highlights

Explore the vast Tonle Sap Lake and its vibrant floating villages near Siem Reap.

Witness the architectural marvels of Angkor Thom, including the enigmatic Bayon Temple.

Discover the jungle-embraced ruins of Ta Prohm and the iconic grandeur of Angkor Wat.

Experience the sacred Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, glowing at sunset.

Visit Mandalay's royal sites, including Mahamuni Pagoda and the U Bein Bridge.

Journey through Bagan's ancient plains, dotted with thousands of temples, by horse cart and river cruise.

Discover the spiritual Pindaya Caves, filled with countless Buddha images.

Cruise Inle Lake, observing unique one-legged rowers and stilt villages.

Route Summary

The tour begins in Siem Reap, Cambodia, with explorations of Angkor and Tonle Sap. Travelers then fly to Yangon, Myanmar, for city sightseeing. The journey continues north to Mandalay, then to the ancient city of Bagan, followed by a flight to Heho for the tranquil Inle Lake region. The tour concludes with a flight back to Yangon for departure.

Who This Tour Suits

This private tour is ideal for solo travelers seeking a deep dive into the history, culture, and heritage of Cambodia and Myanmar. It caters to those who appreciate ancient architecture, spiritual sites, and authentic encounters with local traditions and crafts. The pace allows for thorough exploration of each destination.

Practical Information

The tour includes nine nights of hotel accommodation, daily breakfasts, and two lunches. Transportation within the tour is provided by air-conditioned vehicles and domestic flights between key cities. A local English-speaking guide accompanies the journey. Please note that international airfare, visas, personal expenses, and any peak season surcharges are not included.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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* Discover the vast Tonle Sap Lake and its unique floating communities near Siem Reap.
* Explore the ancient capital of Angkor Thom, featuring the iconic Bayon Temple with its smiling faces.
* Witness the awe-inspiring grandeur of Angkor Wat and the atmospheric Ta Prohm temple, intertwined with jungle roots.
* Experience the golden splendor of Yangon's Shwedagon Pagoda at sunset.
* Visit Mandalay's revered Mahamuni Pagoda and walk across the historic U Bein Bridge.
* Journey through Bagan's ancient plains, exploring countless temples by traditional horse cart and enjoying a sunset river cruise.
* Marvel at the thousands of Buddha images within the mystical Pindaya Cave.
* Cruise the serene waters of Inle Lake, observing unique one-legged rowers and stilt villages.
* Engage with local artisans, witnessing traditional silk weaving and umbrella making.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 Siem Reap Arrival & Tonle Sap Lake Exploration

Meals: NA | Stay: Hotel in Siem Reap | Transport: Car

Upon landing at Siem Reap International Airport, a driver will meet you for a transfer to your hotel. After settling in, the afternoon is dedicated to exploring Tonle Sap Lake. This vast freshwater lake is a hub of activity, home to unique floating communities that adapt their lives to its changing water levels. You will observe the daily routines of locals living on the water, surrounded by diverse wildlife. The serene atmosphere provides a peaceful introduction to Cambodian life.

Activities: Airport transfer to hotel
Visit Tonle Sap Lake
Observe floating villages and local wildlife

Day 2 Angkor Thom, Ta Prohm, and Angkor Wat Discovery

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Hotel in Siem Reap | Transport: Car

Following breakfast, begin a full day exploring the magnificent Angkor complex. The first stop is Angkor Thom, the ancient capital established in the 12th century. Enter through the impressive South Gate and proceed to the Bayon Temple, known for its multitude of smiling stone faces. This temple's intricate galleries and towers form a fascinating labyrinth. Next, visit Ta Prohm, a captivating temple largely untouched since its discovery, where massive tree roots intertwine with ancient stone structures, creating a mystical atmosphere.
After a local lunch, the afternoon is dedicated to Angkor Wat, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the world's largest religious monuments. This sprawling temple complex, built by Suryavarman II, covers 81 hectares and showcases exquisite Khmer architecture. Conclude the day by ascending Bakheng Hill to witness a panoramic sunset over the Angkor temples, offering a truly breathtaking view.

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Activities: Explore Angkor Thom and its South Gate
Discover Bayon Temple
Visit Ta Prohm temple
Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant
Explore Angkor Wat temple complex
Ascend Bakheng Hill for sunset views

Day 3 Banteay Srei & Grand Circuit Temples

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Hotel in Siem Reap | Transport: Car

Start your day with breakfast before embarking on a journey to Banteay Srei Temple, located approximately 35 kilometers from Siem Reap. This 10th-century Hindu temple, crafted from pink sandstone, is renowned for its exceptionally intricate carvings and delicate artistry, often regarded as the most beautiful temple in Cambodia. The drive takes about half an hour. Following your visit to Banteay Srei, return towards Siem Reap to explore Banteay Samre. This temple, built by Suryavarman II, shares architectural similarities with Angkor Wat and is named after the Samre ethnic tribe. Its tranquil ambiance and classic artistry from the middle period offer a serene experience.

After a local lunch, the afternoon focuses on the Grand Circuit temples of the Angkor complex. These sites, including Preah Khan, Neak Pean, Ta Som, East Mebon, and Pre Rup, showcase the more elaborate and sophisticated aspects of Khmer construction, providing a deeper insight into the empire's architectural prowess.

Activities: Visit Banteay Srei Temple
Explore Banteay Samre Temple
Have lunch at a local restaurant
Discover Grand Circuit temples: Preah Khan, Neak Pean, Ta Som, East Mebon, Pre Rup

Day 4 Siem Reap to Yangon Flight & Colonial City Tour

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Local Hotel in Yangon | Transport: Airplane, Car

After breakfast, you will transfer to Siem Reap airport for your flight to Yangon, Myanmar. Upon arrival at Yangon International Airport, a local guide will greet you and provide transportation to your hotel for check-in. Please note that standard check-in time is 2:00 PM.

The afternoon begins with a sightseeing tour of Yangon's historic colonial district, characterized by elegant buildings and wide, tree-lined streets that reflect its British past. You'll see landmarks such as City Hall, Mahabandoola Garden with the Independence Monument, and drive along Strand Road and the bustling Yangon Jetty. If time permits, there's an option to enjoy refreshments at the historic Strand Hotel. Continue to Botahtaung Pagoda and the nearby Ahma Mya Nan Nwe, believed to be guarded by a dragon princess spirit. Afterwards, browse the Bogyoke Aung San (Scott) Market, a vibrant hub for local crafts, jewelry, and clothing (closed Mondays and public holidays).

The tour proceeds to the Chaukhtatgyi Pagoda, home to a massive reclining Buddha, and then to Karaweik Hall, a royal barge replica on Kandawgyi Lake, offering excellent photo opportunities. The day culminates with a visit to the magnificent Shwedagon Pagoda, Myanmar's most sacred site, where you can witness its golden stupa brilliantly illuminated by the setting

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sun.

Activities: Transfer to Siem Reap airport
Fly from Siem Reap to Yangon
Airport transfer to hotel in Yangon
Explore Yangon's colonial district, City Hall, Mahabandoola Park, Independence Monument, Strand Road, Yangon Jetty
Visit Botahtaung Pagoda and Ahma Mya Nan Nwe
Browse Bogyoke Aung San (Scott) Market
See Chaukhtatgyi Pagoda's reclining Buddha
Photograph Karaweik Hall on Kandawgyi Lake
Witness sunset at Shwedagon Pagoda

Day 5 Yangon to Mandalay Flight & Royal City Exploration

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Local Hotel in Mandalay | Transport: Airplane, Car

Following breakfast, transfer to Yangon airport for a short domestic flight to Mandalay, Myanmar's last royal capital. Upon arrival, your driver will take you directly to Amarapura, known as the "City of Immortality." En route, stop at a traditional silk-weaving workshop to observe skilled artisans creating intricate patterns by hand, a proud craft of the region. Continue to Mahagandayon Monastery, a significant monastic college where hundreds of young monks silently gather for their daily alms, offering a profound insight into monastic life. Before returning to Mandalay, take a stroll across the legendary U Bein Bridge, a 1.2-kilometer structure built from teakwood over 150 years ago, believed to be the world's oldest and once longest teak bridge. The tranquil scenery around Taungthaman Lake provides excellent photo opportunities.
In the afternoon, begin your Mandalay city tour. Start at Mahamuni Pagoda, one of Myanmar's most sacred sites, housing a revered Buddha image adorned with gold leaf. Explore Mandalay Palace, the final royal residence, showcasing traditional Burmese teak architecture. Visit Kuthodaw Pagoda, famous for its 729 marble slabs inscribed with Buddhist scriptures, known as "the world's largest book." Discover the exquisite Shwenandaw Monastery, a former part of the royal palace, celebrated for its intricate wood carvings. After a stop at Atumashi Monastery, conclude the day by climbing Mandalay Hill for panoramic sunset views of the city and the Irrawaddy River.

Activities: Transfer to Yangon airport
Fly from Yangon to Mandalay
Visit a traditional silk-weaving workshop
Observe monastic life at Mahagandayon Monastery
Walk across U Bein Bridge
Explore Mahamuni Pagoda
Tour Mandalay Palace
Visit Kuthodaw Pagoda and Shwenandaw Monastery
Stop at Atumashi Monastery
Climb Mandalay Hill for sunset views

Day 6 Mandalay to Bagan Scenic Drive & Temple Plains Sunset

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Local Hotel in Bagan | Transport: Car, Horse Cart, Boat

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After breakfast, you will be picked up from your hotel for a scenic four-hour drive from Mandalay to Bagan. The journey offers picturesque views of the Myanmar countryside, passing through charming villages and lush landscapes that provide a glimpse into authentic rural life. Upon arrival in Bagan in the afternoon, check into your hotel.
Afterwards, begin your exploration of this ancient city, a UNESCO World Heritage Site famous for its thousands of temples and pagodas spread across the plains. Experience a traditional horse-cart ride through Bagan's most captivating temple areas. This leisurely mode of transport allows you to soak in the mystical charm and golden hues of the afternoon light as you pass by iconic pagodas and lesser-known ruins. As the day concludes, embark on a serene sunset cruise along the Ayeyarwaddy River. Witness the sun descending behind the horizon, casting a warm glow over the temple-dotted plains, providing a perfect and romantic end to your day of discovery. Return to your hotel for the night in Bagan.

Activities: Scenic private car transfer from Mandalay to Bagan
Check into hotel in Bagan
Enjoy a horse-cart ride through Bagan's temple areas
Take a sunset cruise along the Ayeyarwaddy River

Day 7 Bagan Ancient Temples & Pagodas Exploration

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Local Hotel in Bagan | Transport: Car

Begin your day by exploring Bagan's most significant sites. First, visit the lively Nyaung U Market, a bustling local hub where fresh produce, textiles, and handicrafts are traded, offering a glimpse into daily Burmese life. Continue to the Shwezigon Pagoda, a revered temple and an architectural prototype for many later stupas across Myanmar, its golden structure shining brightly in the morning sun. Next, explore Kyansittha Umin (Cave Temple) and the 13th-century Gupaukgyi Temple, celebrated for its intricate frescoes depicting Jataka tales, providing fascinating insights into Buddhist teachings and Bagan's artistic heritage.
After lunch, your journey continues to Htilominlo Temple, known for its detailed stucco carvings and ancient murals, built in 1211 AD. Afterwards, visit the Ananda Temple, a masterpiece of Bagan architecture with its symmetrical design, graceful spires, and four standing Buddha statues, making it one of the region's most beautiful and spiritual locations. The sightseeing tour includes Thatbyinnyu Temple, Dhammayangyi Temple, and Old Bagan, where the grandeur of ancient architecture and sacred Buddha images narrate stories of a glorious past. As evening approaches, ascend a vantage point near Shwesandaw Pagoda to witness a breathtaking sunset over the vast plains dotted with countless temples, an truly unforgettable sight. Return to your hotel for a relaxing evening.

Activities: Explore Nyaung U Market
Visit Shwezigon Pagoda
Discover Kyansittha Umin (Cave Temple) and Gupaukgyi Temple
Visit Htilominlo Temple
Explore Ananda Temple
See Thatbyinnyu Temple and Dhammayangyi Temple
Wander through Old Bagan
Witness sunset near Shwesandaw Pagoda

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Day 8 Bagan to Heho Flight & Pindaya Cave Discovery

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Local Hotel in Inle Lake | Transport: Airplane, Car, Boat

After breakfast, transfer to Bagan airport for your domestic flight to Heho. Upon arrival, begin a scenic journey to Pindaya. Your first destination is the magnificent Pindaya Cave, a natural limestone cavern filled with thousands of golden Buddha images, accumulated over centuries by pilgrims. The soft light illuminating these shimmering statues creates a deeply spiritual and serene atmosphere. Within the same complex, you'll also visit the tranquil Shwe U Min Pagoda. Continue to the picturesque Boutaloke Lake, where calm waters reflect the surrounding hills. Nearby, explore a local handicraft workshop renowned for its traditional Shan paper and umbrella-making, offering a fascinating insight into the region's artistic heritage.
In the afternoon, enjoy a gentle stroll at the base of Pindaya Hill, taking in the fresh mountain air and peaceful rural scenery. Afterwards, you will drive to Nyaung Shwe Jetty to board a boat for transfer to your hotel on Inle Lake.

Activities:
Transfer to Bagan airport
Fly from Bagan to Heho
Visit Pindaya Cave and Shwe U Min Pagoda
Explore Boutaloke Lake
Observe traditional Shan paper and umbrella making at a handicraft workshop
Stroll at the base of Pindaya Hill
Transfer by car to Nyaung Shwe Jetty
Boat transfer to Inle Lake hotel

Day 9 Inle Lake Boat Tour & Return to Yangon

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Local Hotel in Yangon | Transport: Boat, Car, Airplane

After breakfast, depart at 8:00 AM for a full-day boat tour to experience the unique charm and culture of Inle Lake. Glide across the calm waters, passing through villages built on stilts. If your visit coincides with a market day, you'll have the opportunity to explore a bustling local market where people from surrounding hill tribes gather to trade produce, textiles, and handicrafts. As you continue, observe the famous Intha fishermen, known for their distinctive one-legged rowing technique, a truly iconic sight of Inle. Stop at the Phaungdaw Oo Pagoda, the lake's most sacred site, before visiting the Silk Weaving Village of Inphawkhon to watch artisans crafting delicate fabrics by hand. You'll also see a Burmese Cats House, cheroot making, and other cottage crafts. The tour concludes at Nga Phe Kyaung Monastery, a 200-year-old wooden monastery built on stilts over the lake, admired for its beautiful architecture and peaceful ambiance. After the lake tour, transfer to Heho Airport for your flight back to Yangon. Upon arrival, check into your hotel and enjoy a restful evening.

Activities:
Full-day boat tour of Inle Lake
Visit local market (if applicable)
Observe Intha one-legged rowers
Explore Phaungdaw Oo Pagoda
Visit Inphawkhon Silk Weaving Village
See Burmese Cats House and cheroot making
Explore Nga Phe Kyaung Monastery
Transfer to Heho Airport
Fly from Heho to Yangon

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Transfer to hotel in Yangon

Day 10 Yangon Departure

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: NA | Transport: Car

Enjoy a final breakfast at your hotel in Yangon. At the appropriate time, you will be transferred to Yangon International Airport for your onward international flight or to connect with your next travel arrangements, concluding your memorable journey through Cambodia and Myanmar.

Activities: Breakfast at hotel
Transfer to Yangon International Airport

WHAT'S INCLUDED

INCLUDED

- v 9 nights accommodation in a shared Twin/Double room with air-conditioning.
- v All ground transportation in an air-conditioned vehicle as per the itinerary, including airport transfers.
- v Services of an in-tour stationed local English-speaking guide.
- v Meals as specified in the program (9 breakfasts, 2 lunches).
- v Entrance fees for all sites mentioned in the itinerary.
- v Domestic flight tickets within the tour: Siem Reap – Yangon; Yangon – Mandalay; Bagan – Heho; Heho – Yangon.

NOT INCLUDED

- x International airfare to/from Cambodia and Myanmar.
- x Early check-in and late check-out at hotels.
- x Peak season surcharges and compulsory gala dinners (if applicable).
- x Visa fees (passport must be valid for at least 6 months with a minimum of 3 blank visa pages).
- x Personal expenses such as tips, laundry, and gratuities.
- x Meals and drinks not explicitly mentioned in the itinerary.

PRICE INCLUDES

- v 9 nights accommodation in a shared Twin/Double room with air-conditioning.
- v All ground transportation in an air-conditioned vehicle as per the itinerary, including airport transfers.
- v Services of an in-tour stationed local English-speaking guide.
- v Meals as specified in the program (9 breakfasts, 2 lunches).
- v Entrance fees for all sites mentioned in the itinerary.
- v Domestic flight tickets within the tour: Siem Reap – Yangon; Yangon – Mandalay; Bagan – Heho; Heho – Yangon.

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AVAILABLE DEPARTURES

Departure Date	Return Date	Price / Person	Availability	Languages
01 May 2025	20 Dec 2026	**USD 2,259**	Available	–
21 Dec 2026	20 Dec 2027	**USD 2,327**	Available	–

CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-88F79FA953C7