

SPICE ROADS





CYCLING



BURMA HERITAGE BY BICYCLE

Tour Code
MMR-BHB

7 DAYS
6 NIGHTS

 Destinations	Burma
 Tour Meets Tour Ends	Mandalay Yangon
 Fly in to Fly out of	Mandalay International Airport (MDL) Yangon International Airport (RGN)
 Group Size Minimum Age	2-16 riders 18 (on scheduled departures)

ACTIVITY PROFILE



5 Cycling days	247 km Total cycling distance
49 km Avg distance / day	206 m Avg climbing / day

PRICING



Price	On request
Bike Hire	Included
Single Supplement	N/A

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ✓ SpiceRoads jersey
- ✓ Water bottle
- ✓ Domestic flights
- ✓ Support vehicle
- ✓ Guide(s)
- ✓ Meals (as indicated)
- ✓ Accommodation
- ✓ Bike and helmet
- ✓ Snacks and drinks

WHAT'S EXCLUDED

- ✗ International flights
- ✗ Airport pick up
- ✗ Airport drop off
- ✗ Visa fees
- ✗ Alcohol
- ✗ Tips

DEPARTURES



There are no scheduled departures for this trip at the moment. Please contact us to arrange a private departure.

TRIP PROFILE

This is a touring trip for those who know biking can take you to the heart of a country. We ride 247 km on country lanes and quiet roads. There is little traffic, which makes for excellent bicycle touring. The first few days riding are on gentle rolling hills and through rice fields, ancient cities, and scenic countryside. Passing through many villages, you will find the people curious, friendly, and polite. We share the road with ox carts, cyclists, and waving children. There is an unbelievable amount to see throughout the tour, and we stop frequently to view temples, rural scenes (especially if riding during rice harvest), and villages.

Suitability: This trip is a touring bike journey and suitable for anyone with a reasonable level of fitness. A support truck is always available to help when required. Inexperienced riders and even non-riding partners can be catered for and are more than welcome to join this tour.

Biking Conditions: This tour covers around 247 km in 4 full cycling days and 1 half day. The roads can vary from being in quite good condition to broken tarmac, to vehicle-wide dirt trails. There is no technical riding on this trip, and the distances have been kept low to allow for plenty of time to visit sites and learn about the local culture.



Day 1 Meet in Mandalay

We meet you at the Mandalay hotel at 4 pm for a tour briefing and then drive up to the top of Mandalay Hill for sunset. We then go for dinner and have our first experience tasting the many traditional Burmese specialties. Optional morning activity: Balloon Experience Over Mandalay. As your hot-air balloon rises, the first site to greet you is 729 white pagodas. Drifting above you'll witness barefoot monks collecting alms, bustling morning markets, and boats coming alive on the Irrawaddy River and U Bein Bridge. (Note: available only from late-October to late-March; all flights weather permitting). Contact us for more information

 Mandalay Hill Resort

 Dinner

Day 2 Mandalay - Mingun - Mandalay

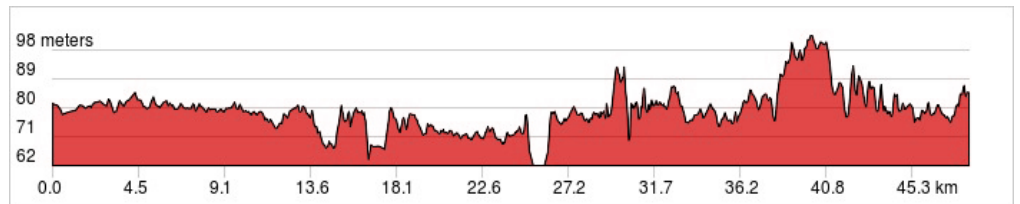
We start off our tour with a leisurely ride as we get used to our bicycles. Making our way towards Mingun, we stop at the famous 200-year-old teak U Bein Bridge. Our route follows the Irrawaddy all the way to Mingun, and there's little traffic on this undulating road. There'll be plenty of photos ops as we ride past more monasteries on this one road than on the entire rest of the trip. In Mingun, we visit the ruins of Pahtodawgyi, a massive unfinished stupa that would have been the largest in the world if completed and now might be the largest pile of bricks in the world, but is nonetheless impressive. We'll also see the Mingun Bell, which weighs 90 tonnes and is the largest ringing bell in the world. After lunch at a restaurant, we hop on a boat to take us downstream back to Mandalay and then pedal from the dock to the hotel. We meet up in the evening to drive to Mandalay Hill to enjoy another sunset before dinner.



Mandalay Hill Resort



Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Ride 44km



+335m



-249m

Day 3 Mandalay - Monywa

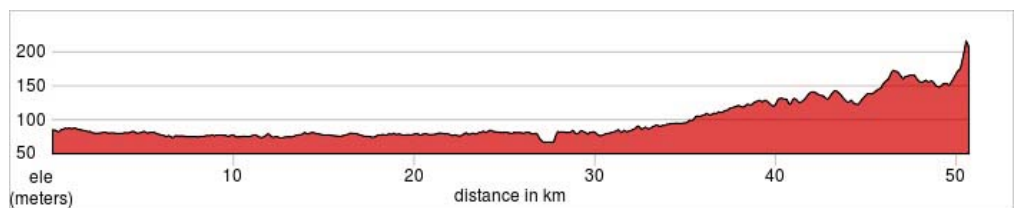
We start with a 3-hour transfer beyond the small town of Chaung-U. Once on the bikes, we cycle through the Chindwin Valley, where a variety of crops, from oranges to sugar cane, are grown. We take a break to visit Monywa's famous temple complex of Mohnyin Thambuddhei Paya, which dates back to 1303 and claims to house more than 500,000 Buddha images. After lunch at a local restaurant, we cross the Chindwin River by boat and continue cycling to Pho Win Taung Cave, famous for its carvings and mural paintings dating from the 14th and 18th centuries. Passing through several small farms and villages, you will have a glimpse of the traditional Burmese way of life. After visiting the cave, we return to Monywa and check-in to the hotel.



Win Unity Hotel



Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Ride 51 km



+324m



-202m

Day 4 Monywa - Pakkoku - Bagan

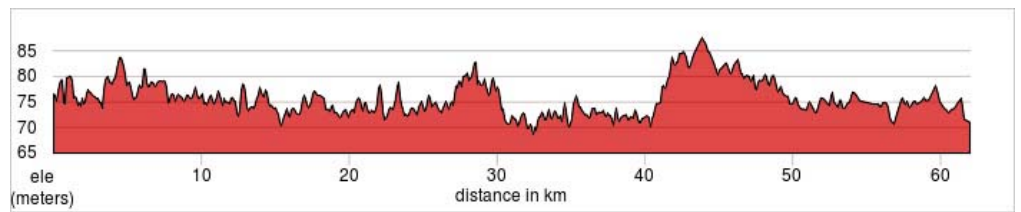
We start from the hotel and hit dirt roads to take us south along the Irrawaddy River to Pakkoku. We pass through A Myint and A Neint, where you can spot ancient pagodas peeking out from the overgrowth. We stop to see some of the hidden temples decorated with murals as well as an old monastery. After lunch, we have a relaxing afternoon as we boat to Bagan. Once we dock, it's a short transfer to our hotel.



Bagan Hotel River View



Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

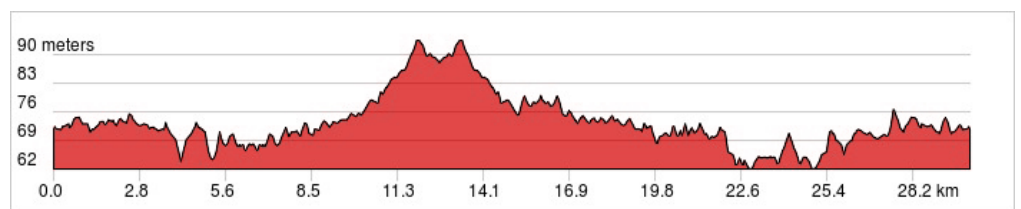


Ride 62km
 +214m
 -219m

Day 5 Bagan

Bicycles are the perfect way to explore the temples of Bagan. We take a morning cycle around the Archaeological Zone before returning for a dip in the pool. The sunset, with views across the plains studded with chedis and temples, is something you will never forget. Optional morning activity: Start your day with a scenic hot air balloon ride and enjoy the stunning aerial view of Bagan's temples and golden stupa. Contact us for more information

Bagan Hotel
 Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

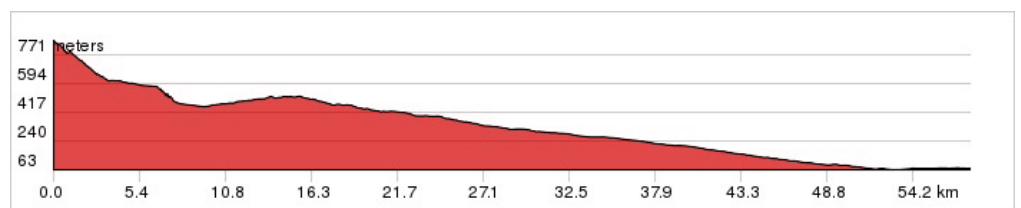


Ride 27km
 +139m
 -139m

Day 6 Bagan - Mount Popa - Bagan

Following the highway east, we transfer by bus up to Mt Popa. Popa soars 650 m up out of the plains, and the temple at the summit is populated by Burma's most revered nats (spirits). As you climb the almost 900 stairs up to Popa Taung Kalat Temple, you will pass dozens of nat shrines and see pilgrims who come to honour the spirits. From the top, you will have a pano-rama of the surrounding plains. After your visit, begin biking downhill to Bagan. Along the way, we stop to enjoy a picnic box lunch in a village. The ride weaves through villages and quiet lanes as we make our way back to Bagan.

Bagan Hotel
 Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Ride 63km
 +100m
 -880m

Day 7 Bagan - Yangon

In the morning, we transfer to Nyaung U airport and fly back to Yangon. On arrival, we visit Bogyoke Aung San Market before lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, we visit Shwedagon Paya, Burma's holiest religious sight, before heading to the airport for the flight home. Please book a late evening flight to be sure you won't be rushed. ~~~ Please note: Due to the popularity of Burma as a destination hotel rooms are extremely hard to guarantee. Though we will do our best to adhere to the original itinerary, we cannot be held responsible for any last-minute hotel changes. Any changes will be to another hotel of the same standard

Disclaimer: The adventure cycling tours we operate often go beyond the beaten track, and the countries where we ride are not always predictable. Due to these reasons, it is occasionally necessary to reroute or update itineraries. Our guarantee is that we will not change a trip unless for safety or to improve it. Our listed hotels are always accurate at the time of writing, but should we have to change any hotel, it will always be for a similar or better one.

NUTS & BOLTS

Bikes

We provide a mountain bike for this trip.

If you bring your own bike, please make sure it is a mountain bike, preferably with front suspension in good mechanical order.

Bike Repairs

Basic spares and tools are carried by the guide and on the support vehicle, though we cannot guarantee having spares for every conceivable problem. Carrying a basic tool kit, a spare tube and a pump while riding is recommended.

Safety

Wearing a helmet is required on all our biking adventures and is non negotiable. If you do not wear a helmet you will not be allowed to cycle. Your tour leader is trained in first aid and emergency rescue, but to a large degree you must be responsible for your own safety while riding. It is therefore compulsory that you take out travel insurance that will cover you for a mountain biking tour.

Guides

You will be led by a local English-speaking guide and if the group is 9 people or more we will add another guide to the tour. All our guides are well informed in the history, culture and religions of the area where you are biking and are skilled at passing that knowledge on to you. Your guide is also medically trained and an experienced cyclist, able to handle most minor repairs en route.

THE NITTY GRITTY

Passports and Visas

A visa is required for all visitors to Burma. Please make sure your passport is valid for a minimum of 6 months beyond the duration of stay in Burma. Regulations are changing quickly, but at the moment the easiest method for those flying in is to obtain an e-visa for USD \$50. The e-visa will be for a single-entry to international airports only (no land borders) and is valid for 28 days after entering the country. Apply online for the visa [here](#) and it takes one week to process (have a scanned copy of the first page of your passport and a digital photo ready). The approval letter must be printed as it will be needed to board international flights and needs to be submitted to immigration upon arrival. For those crossing at a land border (Bangkok to Yangon and Burma Road tours) you must go to your nearest Myanmar embassy to obtain a visa in advance. A list of embassies abroad is available [here](#). Please [click here for more information on visa requirements](#).

Health

Recommended vaccinations include typhoid, polio, tetanus and Hepatitis A. A certificate for Yellow Fever is required if arriving from an infected area within the prior six days. Some areas of Burma may be considered malarial areas. Please check with your doctor prior to departure for the most recent information.

Weather

Myanmar has a tropical climate with fairly high humidity. There are three seasons: from March to June it is hot and dry, with temperatures between 27 and 40 °C, and with night temperatures in the 20s. The rainy season is from July to September, but temperatures are slightly lower, because of the effect of the rain. The cooler season (particularly in the mountains) is from September to February, with average temperatures between 20 and 30 °C. ***It will be much cooler at night in the hills in Shan state, where we spend 2 nights, and adequate cold weather clothing – gloves, hats, jacket – is advised.***

Food

Meals are included as per the itinerary where B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner. Most meals are local dishes and feature noodles, rice, curries and soups. Any special dietary requirements can also be catered for as well. Please let us know at the time of booking.

Drink

Keeping you completely hydrated is a job we take very seriously. Cold water, some energy-restoring local fruit and soft drinks are included in the tour price. Beer is freely available everywhere, but is NOT included in the price.

Solo Travelers

SpiceRoads does not require you to pay a surcharge for travelling alone. We will arrange for you to share accommodation with another traveller of the same gender and if we can not match you up we will provide a single room at no extra charge. If you prefer not to share a single supplement is payable to guarantee your own room. The cost of the single supplement is listed above.

Extra Expenses

We recommend that you tuck away a few extra dollars, perhaps US\$10, for incidentals. It is customary to tip local tour guides and drivers, however, the amount you give should be dependent on the level of service you receive. As a general guide we suggest US\$ 3-4 per person per day is appropriate.

Money

Burma's everyday currency is the kyat. The kyat is used to cover buying small items, bottle of water or a snack, while dollars are used for everything else and the euro is also increasingly being accepted. The exchange rate in Yangon is generally better than upcountry and the larger the bill, the better the rate (ie- 100 USD notes receive 2% more kyat compared to 50 USD notes). Bring only newly issued USD currency (meaning the ones with the large off-centered portraits) without any tears or holes and avoid serial numbers beginning with CB. There have been widespread rumors that CB series notes are counterfeit. ATMs from CB Bank and KBZ Bank are available in Yangon and Mandalay. There is a 5000 kyat service fee and the maximum withdrawal is 300,000 kyats. Credit cards are only accepted in some upscale restaurants and some hotels do accept credit cards (surcharge of 3-8%) but it is not recommended to rely on this service as the Internet often shuts down during the day making payment by card impossible. Travelers Checks currently CANNOT be used or exchanged in Myanmar.

GENERAL BOOKING INFO

If this is the tour for you here's what you need to do to confirm your place:

FLEXIBLE BOOKING CONDITIONS

Booking a SpiceRoads cycling adventure is easy and we try to do everything possible to make sure you have full flexibility and peace of mind. We do not require a deposit to hold your place on a tour and once full payment has been made your money is protected in our client account and you have the flexibility to cancel or change your booking if needed.

CONFIRMING YOUR BOOKING

Just complete our online booking form or send your booking details offline (email or post), and we will confirm your participation. No deposit is needed to confirm your place on a SpiceRoads tour.

You are advised to read our [Booking Conditions](#) in full before you make your payment and should you require further clarifications of any of the conditions below, please [email us](#) or call our office.

TRIP STATUS

There is a minimum number of participants (usually 2) required to enable the trip to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to Depart'. Once a trip is guaranteed to depart you are free to book your flights and make other travel arrangements. If the trip status is 'Limited' will mean we have only a small number of spaces available for booking. If you are unsure about the trip status, please [email us](#) or call our office.

BOOKING ONLINE

From the tour page, click the 'Book Now' link. All departures for this tour will appear, just select the date you'd like to travel. For the next steps, you'll need to know the names of the people travelling. If you wish you can also provide extra details such as passport numbers, height (for bike hire), or you can add that later by logging into [Manage My Trip](#) (we'll set up an account for you automatically if you don't already have one). Our system will contact you from time to time to fill in the missing information, as it will be required before departure. However, if the trip that you are booking offers a child discount, you will have to fill out the date of birth of each rider (so we can calculate the appropriate discount).

If you are having any problems [please send us an email](#), or give us a call (+66 026 3295) and one of our travel specialists will assist you with your booking.

BOOKING OFFLINE

Just call us or send an email indicating which trip you want to join and we will happily send you a list of questions and process your booking for you.

DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS

We do not require a deposit or full payment to book a place for you on a tour.

The balance of the tour's cost (final invoice) will need to be paid 60 days before the departure date with fees for any bicycle rental(s), single supplement(s) and extra hotel nights.

In the case where a booking is made when there are less than 60 days until the tour departure date, the tour's cost should be paid in full within 72 hours of receiving an invoice from SpiceRoads. Payment can be made by credit card using our online payment gateway or by bank transfer. When making payment online you will need to confirm that you have read these booking conditions during the "checkout" process, which equates to agreeing to the terms of services and stipulations as indicated in this document.

In all cases, tour fees need to be paid "in full" before participation in a tour. No person(s) will be allowed to join a tour without fully settling their invoice and receiving a confirmation number from SpiceRoads.

The exception can be made for last-minute miscellaneous fees that can be paid locally (visas, additional local hotel bookings, etc.) can be settled on the day of arrival.

FULL FLEXIBILITY FOR TOUR CANCELATIONS

If the tour is cancelled or postponed by SpiceRoads because we didn't make the trip numbers and the tour can't run, we will make a full cash refund (by bank transfer or on your credit card).

If the tour is cancelled for any other reason, including due to Covid related travel restrictions, we will give you a full credit (with no deductions for admin or any other small-print item) to use on any SpiceRoads tour with no time limit. (Exceptions being flights, special permits and other non-refundable items and these will be advised when booking the trip).

Before paying for your tour, you can cancel your booking with no charge and up until 40 days before departure, you can change your booking to another travel date or move your booking onto another SpiceRoads tour with no charges.

If you need to cancel after you have made full payment, please see our [cancellation policy](#).

Loyalty Riders Club

For those who have been on several long tours with us, we reward customer loyalty by offering repeat customers a special discount off the tour price (excludes single supplement and bike rental). If this is your fourth scheduled tour or more you will receive a 5% discount. If this is your eighth scheduled tour or more we will extend a 10% discount. The discount will be reflected in your online booking, but please contact us if any questions. Loyalty discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Note: Only tours of 7 days or more will be applicable for a loyalty discount.

International Flights

International flights, to and from the start and finish points are not included in the tour price. Once your tour is Guaranteed to Depart you can book your flight. Please contact us for advice before arranging flights for the best arrival and departure times. We would only cancel a trip for an extreme circumstance, but in that case, where we cancel your trip, we cannot be liable for losses incurred relating to any flight booking you have made. Please claim any losses from your [travel insurance](#) that you acquired when you booked your holiday.

Newsletter

Our adventure travel [e-newsletter](#) is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from SpiceRoads, be sure to subscribe.

The information in this document is given in good faith, and covers the average range of conditions likely to be found on this trip. Please note that the itinerary is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances, however, we will always do our best to adhere to this original itinerary

CONTACT US

45 (Sub Soi Pannee) Soi Pridi Banomyong 26
Sukhumvit Soi 71 Klongtan Nua, Wattana
Bangkok, Thailand 10110
Tel: +66 (0) 2 026 3295
Email: info@spiceroads.com
Website: www.spiceroads.com

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