



SMILING
ALBINO

MYANMAR

FEATURED EXPERIENCES

YANGON, BAGAN, MANDALAY, INLE LAKE

YANGON COLONIAL HERITAGE WALK

Our focus in Myanmar is on exploration, and we'll start doing just that!

Yangon's old quarter is home to some of Asia's finest shopfronts and imposing edifices borne out of the ambitions of 19th century captains of European industry. Today it is a dazzling array of crumbling gems, iconic period architecture, derelict mansions with banyan trees sprouting up from within, and beautifully restored masterpieces rivalling some of Asia's finest buildings.

We hunt the hidden of Colonial Yangon by foot on a half-day below-the-surface jaunt. Foregoing traditional landmarks we explore tucked away back alleys, peering through doorways into the city's rare history.

This connoisseur's urban exploration gives you an intimate glimpse into Yangon's multi-cultural heart, access to stunning relics and an appreciation for the grandeur of the old town which captured the hearts of visitors from Orwell to Kipling.



SPIRITUAL SHWEDAGON PAGODA

Have you thought about what's behind the golden façade of the Shwedagon Pagoda? Venturing into the depths of Yangon's spiritual heritage, today we don't just see the sights, we engage in the culture, interacting with the locals living in the community around this impressive monument.

We walk away from Shwedagon with a deeper insight into Myanmar's Buddhism and how animist beliefs in spirits still play a part in Buddhist rituals and ceremonies.

Our intriguing adventure takes us into workshops, markets and monasteries, three integral pillars of life in Myanmar, all of which play an essential role in the upkeep and worship of Shwedagon Pagoda.

After a classic Burmese lunch, transfer back to the hotel for some r'n'r.

Experience Features: Savor a traditional Burmese breakfast, make offerings to Shwedagon's resident monks, sit down with a famed Yangon fortune teller and try the infamous Burmese green tea leaf salad for lunch.



A SUNDOWN SIP WITH A YANGON EXPERT

Local Rangoon (Yangon) resident, entrepreneur, connoisseur and student of all things Myanmar; Edwin Briels is a true "Burma lover". This afternoon Edwin will take you out for a sundowner walk through downtown Yangon, have a local drink and some typical Burmese bites as Edwin narrates Yangon.

Politics and the strong social behavior and resilience of the people of Myanmar are also fair game for discussion. Edwin's personal experience from his years in Myanmar are fascinating, as are the sustainability projects he's initiated across the country. This lively dialogue with one of our own will deliver long-lasting memories.



ABOUT EDWIN

Edwin Briels first arrived in Myanmar in 1996. Originally from the Netherlands, Edwin is well-versed in tourism, Myanmar history and current affairs, and much more. Ask him about his favorite local tastes, secret Myanmar's destinations or his extensive travels.



THIS IS BAGAN WITH PICNIC LUNCH

Galavant the plains of Bagan where ruined temples grow out of the horizon. Serene viewpoints give way to endless glimpses of pagodas and a bird's-eye orientation of Old Bagan. Sites ranging from Ananda to Dhammayangyi, Sulamani, and Thatbyinnyu, which have stood in place for centuries demonstrate the awe of the steadfast skills of ancient craftsmen.

Today's lunch is no ordinary meal. In a quiet quarter away from crowds, our team has prepared a private picnic lunch. Home-cooked Burmese favorites made with love by a local family, surrounded by the ancient ruins, this rustic feast is delicious in its simplicity.



PRIVATE SUNDOWNERS ON THE BANKS OF THE IRRAWADDY RIVER

Bagan is home to magnificent sunsets and our favorite way to enjoy the sky's morphing colors is aboard a boat ride along the mighty Irrawaddy River.

With cocktails in hand, on a sandbank in the middle of the river, relax and enjoy light snacks as the golden orb of the sun sinks into the temple-filled horizon.

Cheers with a complimentary bottle of champagne as you appreciate the tranquility of your surroundings.



SUNRISE HOT AIR BALLOON RIDE OVER BAGAN

Today's adventure sets off to experiences of the most revered sunrises in the world. One of Southeast Asia's epic experiences, rise early for a spectacular hot air balloon ride over the temples of Bagan.

As we arrive at the launch site, the growing light reveals the grounds team busy at work preparing your balloon against a backdrop of ancient ruins shrouded in mist.

We slowly rise into the air as you absorb the serene and peaceful God's-eye view of ancient temples drifting by. The roar of the hot air balloon is a stark contrast to the placid plains that lay still below us.

A gentle landing brings us back to earth where our experienced crew wait for you with fruits, fresh pastries and a balloonist's traditional glass of bubbly for a jovial post-flight celebration.



PRIVATE BLESSING CEREMONY

For a true and complete Buddhist experience, we invite three Buddhist monks to pray for you.

A predominantly Buddhist country, the Burmese people are spiritual and in times of celebration gather to recite Buddhist verses and perform rituals for good luck, health and prosperity. These rituals are essential for the locals when opening shops, inauguration a house or car, and to celebrate special occasions.

Kneel or sit in silence as local monks recite Buddhist verses in a ceremony they practiced throughout the lives of Theravada Buddhists of Myanmar.

The day's offerings will be arranged for you.



WATER WELL DONATION AT ONE OF MYANMAR'S DRY ZONES

On celebration days like anniversary and birthdays, the people of Myanmar look outward instead of inward. A common practice is to give rather than receive, offering different types of donations according to their own budget.

For your own celebration of your time in Myanmar, we will arrange the donation of a water well to a local village in part of Myanmar's dry zone. In these dry areas, getting water during the dry 6 months of the year is a difficult feat.

On your day in the local village, you will interact with the locals through the translations of your host and through other forms of communication. Smile and generosity are international!

Your donation will provide a lasting impact on the community long after you've left the village.



INLE LAKE

A DAY ON INLE LAKE

Inle Lake is a vast natural lake surrounded by Shan villages. On the lake itself, the Intha people have been living for many centuries in villages built entirely on stilts.

Rise early to watch the morning mist – a quintessential Inle Lake experience. After breakfast, we begin in true Inle Lake fashion: by boat.

Today will be one long iconic photo moment after another. We'll have a little bit of fun with today's lunch, catered on a rice boat in the middle of the lake. The boat has been transformed into an ephemeral restaurant fully-equipped.

Sprawling on and around the traditional markets are held in different villages according to a 5- day rotating schedule. After lunch, we'll leave solitude behind and visit one of these colourful markets frequented by Shan and PaO people.

Choose your final adventure depending on your interest. We can visit a local cheroot factory (where traditional Burmese cigars are made), floating tomato gardens, Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda, Intha Heritage house - where Burmese cats are bred - and a weaving factory. The choice is yours.



SUPPORT INTHA WOMEN'S BOAT RACING

Today you'll have the opportunity to participate with the women's racing teams' training! Using the traditional leg-rowing technique, this is not your average boat race.

During the year, different communities on the lake practise to become the annual champion at the boat racing events which take place every October.

Two teams of 15 women on each boat practice and compete against each other. After the first round to see how it's done, you'll be up to test your skills and join one of the teams on their boat. This is certainly an unforgettable event that is supporting Intha women on the lake and preserving the boat racing culture!

MEN'S BOAT RACING CEREMONY

Similar to the women's racing, the men's team is ready to welcome you to test your skills as their sport! Two teams of at least 25 leg rowers on each boat practice and compete against each other. After the first round you can even join one of the teams on their boat.

A spectacular and fun way to get a close insight to the traditional boat racing of the Intha people, the local lake community.





THE SMILING ALBINO DIFFERENCE

AT SMILING ALBINO WE DON'T JUST CONNECT THE DOTS, WE CREATE THEM, AND DELIVER UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES.

We understand implicitly that a perfect adventure is much more than nice hotels, great meals and hassle-free logistics. For a travel experience to be perfect, all pieces must work together like a symphony. It is the fine details which our guests appreciate most, like cold face towels after a hike, electrolyte beverages for your day cycling, and wine uncorked when the moment is right. From local maps to bottled water and colorful anecdotes on the areas we visit, a Smiling Albino adventure is a thorough, intimately hosted experience.

You will be treated with executive care during your Smiling Albino adventure. We look forward to hosting you!

mahouts@smilingalbino.com | www.smilingalbino.com

@smilingalbino

