



Round Square Week
Myanmar (Burma)

'Experience The Ancient City of Bagan and the Rich Culture of Inle Lake'

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is with greatest pleasure that I write to you regarding an exciting opportunity, for your Son/Daughter, to visit the culturally rich country, Myanmar (Burma) during Round Square Week (June 13 -20, 2015). Mr Daly & Miss Ball would like to provide a 7 day excursion to ensure student have the time to experience the true wonders this land can provide. This trip is simply packed with culture and adventure, from visiting the magnificent ancient city of Bagan to experiencing the cultural richness of the Intha people on Inle Lake. In a nation with well over 100 ethnic groups, exploring Myanmar can often feel like you've stumbled into a living edition of the *National Geographic*. Below is the detailed itinerary which reflects the very best attractions this country has to offer.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: 13.6.2015 Bangkok to Mandalay (Amarapura)

Upon arrival, drive to Mandalay. On the way stop in Amarapura and enjoy a walk on the famous U Bein Bridge. Proceed to Mandalay and check in at hotel. Afternoon, visit Kuthodaw Pagoda, known as the world's largest book for its 729 marble slabs, inscribed with the Buddha's doctrine; Golden Palace Monastery, noted for its exquisite wood carvings and enjoy the panoramic view of the city from Mandalay Hill. Overnight stay at a hotel in Mandalay.

Day 2: 14.6.2015 Mandalay/Mingun/Ava/Mandalay

After breakfast, you will be transferred to a private boat across the river Ayeywarwaddy to visit Mingun. The dedications of King Bodawpaya such as the unfinished Pathodawgyi Pagoda, a brick counterpart of pyramid in Egypt and the Mingun Bell, the second largest bell in the world are the most prominent religious heritages. Then visit the Myatheintan Pagoda, known to represent the universe. Return to Mandalay for lunch. After lunch, drive to Ava, 30-minute to the south of Mandalay, known in the west as the Kingdom of Ava. Travel by pony-cart around Ava to Nanmyint leaning tower which gives a birds' eye view of the mighty Ayeyarwaddy River; Bagaya, a wooden monastery and Aungmyaybonza Monastery made of brick and stucco and although the Royal Palace has gone, the Pagodas, temples and monasteries still remain. From Ava, drive to the airport for your flight to Bagan. Overnight stay in Bagan.

Day 3: 15.6.2015 Bagan

Depart for a sightseeing excursion around Bagan Archaeological Zone World Heritage Area. A comprehensive exploration of Bagan which includes Nyaung OO Market; Shwezigon Pagoda, the prototype of later Myanmar stupas; Kyansittha Umin; Wet-kyi-inn Gubyaukgyi Temple with exquisite mural painting of 13th century and Htilominlo Temple. In the afternoon, continue to Manuha Temple built by exile King Manuha; Nanphaya, said to have been the residence of King Manuha; Ananda Temple, architectural masterpiece and Oak-Kyaung monastery decorated with multi color mural paintings. Enjoy the breath taking sunset from one of the temples in Bagan, then an overnight stay in a hotel.



Day 4: 16.6.2015 Bagan

After breakfast at the hotel, proceed to Myinkaba village. In the afternoon, enjoy an excursion to the countryside village of Minnanthu, the least visited temple area in Bagan. Observe the local farmers way of life, together with a visit to some of the most interesting temples, such as Payathonzu, with its unusual architecture and Tantric Buddhism influence, Lemyethna and Nandamannya temples. Overnight stay at a hotel in Bagan.

Day 5: 17.6.2015 Bagan / Pindaya / Inle Lake

After breakfast, depart for flight to Heho on the Shan plateau. Upon arrival, transfer by road to Pindaya (60km). After checking in at a local hotel, make an excursion to the caves which houses over 8,000 Buddha Images of various sizes made from teak, lacquer, marble, alabaster and cement. In the afternoon, explore the district for its famous traditional paper & umbrella making. Late afternoon, drive to Inle Lake and stay overnight in a hotel.

Day 6: 18.6.2015 Inle Lake

Spend the day visiting villages and sampling the spectacular array of traditional handicrafts. You will see the unique method locals use to row their boats, fishermen with their own style of fishing, floating farms and gardens and a handloom weaving cottage with its own showroom. You will visit Phaungdawoo Pagoda which houses five of the most revered Buddha Images in the southern Shan State. We continue our excursion by motorized boat to Indein Pagoda Complex, in the south-west of the lake. The boat leaves the lake and enters a narrow canal with a beautiful natural environment to continue to a small Pa O Tribe village. From the village, follow an old covered path to a 13th century monastery and the very impressive ruins of hundreds of ancient pagodas, some hidden in the vegetation. The main stupa-area on the top of the hill offers breath taking views over the surrounding mountains and down to the valley and the lake in the far distance. Return to Hotel for overnight stay.

Day 7: 19.6.2015 Inle Lake / Yangon

Morning flight to Yangon. After lunch, a walk through "downtown" Yangon, a diverse mix of faded colonial architecture from the British times, and high-rises built by more recent investors; Sule Pagoda, built in the early 3rd century is a landmark in the city centre. Late afternoon visit the magnificent Shwedagon Pagoda of Rudyard Kipling, one of Myanmar's most sacred places. The massive bell shaped stupa is plated with gold and the tip of the stupa is set with diamonds and rubies, sapphires and topaz – a stunning sight as the sun sets and a most fitting place to begin our trip in this "Golden Land". Overnight stay at a Hotel.

Day 8: 20.6.2015 Departure

Last minute shopping in Yangon then transfer to the airport for the flight to Bangkok.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS

Only 10 places are available to students. These will be distributed to students who pay the deposit first.

COST

The cost of the trip is 43,000 Baht. The price includes all the following features:

1. Accommodations with daily breakfast in double/twin rooms
2. Lunches and dinners on tours
3. Local English speaking guide
4. Entrances fees as per itinerary
5. Vehicle (Air-Con) throughout the tour



6. All international and domestic flights tickets
7. Domestic airport tax and government charge
8. Boats in Inle Lake, Mingun, Inwa
9. Horse-cart in Inwa
10. Trip insurance

There will be small additional costs which depend on each individual student, for example, an E-Visa into Myanmar costs \$50 (1,620 Baht) (<http://evisa.moip.gov.mm/visafees.aspx>) and is very simple to process. Also students will want a small amount of money for snacks and souvenirs.

I truly believe that with an extensive itinerary and hotel accommodation, the trip really provides excellent value for money, providing huge benefits to students who have the opportunity to explore this culturally rich land.

PAYMENT AND COMPLETION OF PARENTAL CONSENT AND INFORMATION FORM

If you would like your child to be a part of this trip, please complete the attached forms and pay a deposit of 13,000 Baht to the Regent's School Finance Office by **03 April, 2015**. The balance of 30,000 will be due by **03 May, 2015**. A guidance form on how to transfer this money into the school account is attached to this letter.

Please note, this deposit will be non-refundable unless the trip is cancelled due to pupil uptake. Once flights are booked, money cannot be returned so it will be your son/daughters responsibility to find someone else to fill their place if necessary.

PASSPORT & VISA

Myanmar have an **E-Visa System** for tourists which is very simple to use and can be completed within 3 days (although this should be completed 4 weeks before the trip). Information to gain an E-Visa for Myanmar is as follows and is a very simple process. <http://evisa.moip.gov.mm/noticetotourists.aspx>.

Please note that while the school can give advice and guidance on matters concerning visa applications, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to complete this procedure. Parents need to complete the Visa application by mid-May.

If you have any questions, or would like further information regarding any aspect of the trip for Round Square Week 2015 then please do not hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to an exciting and culturally enriching experience in this, once closed country.

Yours sincerely,

Steven Daly
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The Regents International School
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FULL NAME OF STUDENT: _____ **FORM:** _____.

I hereby consent to my child attending the above trip and have returned:

1. The bank transfer note indicating the first deposit payment of 10,500 Baht.
2. The medical, dietary and contact details form.

Please return this, and the above documents to me, in a sealed envelope marked 'Myanmar Round Square Trip' by 03 April 2015.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN: _____ **DATE:** _____.