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TRAVEL

五洲旅行社

*** 4 Days 3 Nights Mandalay, Kyaukse + Sagaing&Ava / Mingun Tour ***
Kyaukse Elephant Dancing Festival 06 – 09 October
(Cougar Package)

Day 1: Arrival at Mandalay (Breakfast)

Cultural Treasures

Tour Attractions: U Bein Bridge, Mahamuni Pagoda, Shwe Nan Daw Kyaung and Kuthodaw Pagoda

- Arrive in Mandalay, you will be welcomed by your tour guide and brought on your tour
- ✓ Get ready your cameras as you visit the **U Bein Bridge** – a 200-years-old teak bridge. The bridge is definitely one of the icons of Myanmar and is the longest teak bridge in the world!
- ✓ Enjoy a bird's eye view over the entire Mandalay town from the **Mandalay Hill** whilst enjoying the sunset. A picture perfect moment.
- ✓ A must to visit is the **Mahamuni Pagoda**, one of the most important Buddhist pilgrimage sites in Burma. The temple houses the Mahamuni Buddha image, one of the five embodiments of the Buddha which was created when he was alive. The Buddha is covered in a thick layer of gold leaves (15cm!) pasted on by devotees.
- Check In for a 3-night stay in your hotel in Mandalay



Day 2: Mandalay – Kyaukse – Mandalay (Breakfast)

Kyaukse Elephant Dancing Festival

- After early breakfast at your hotel, you will be driven to Kyaukse, 42 km south of Mandalay
- ✓ The **Kyaukse Elephant Dance Festival** is celebrated every year at the end of the Buddhist Lent. Manned by 2 people, these intricate elephant costumes are constructed out of bamboo frames covered with cloth, paper and foil. Costumes are then decorated thoroughly with foil, glitter, latin and glass gems. First, these costumes will be paraded around, following which, a competition will be held to judge the precision and harmony of the dancing, construction of the elephant and the music/singing involved.
- Return to Mandalay for a good night's rest in your hotel in Mandalay





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(Option 1) Day 3: Mandalay - Sagaing - Ava - Mandalay (Breakfast)

Amazing Ava

Tour Attractions: Sagaing Hills, Kaungmudaw Pagoda, Soon U Ponnya Shin Pagoda, U Min Thonze Cave Temple, Maha Aung Mye Bon Zan Monastery, Bagaya Kyaung Monastery and NanmyintHmyawzin

- Have a good breakfast at your hotel, thereafter; you will be driven to Sagaing Hill, which lies on the other side of the Ayeyarwaddy River, an ancient city 21km southwest from Mandalay which takes a half-hour drive.
- ✓ Look out for the iconic **Sagaing Hills** which has 200 pagodas and stupas, and over 500 monasteries sitting on it. The monasteries serve as centers for peaceful Buddhist studies.
- ✓ The **Kaungmudaw Pagoda** (whose name means work of great merit) is shaped in an enormous dome that rises 46 meters and was modeled after the Mahaceti (Great Stupa) in Sri Lanka.
- ✓ **Soon U Ponnya Shin Pagoda** sits atop Nga-pha hill, one of 37 hilltops in Sagaing Hills. Built in AD1312, it enshrines Buddha relics revered by successive kings.
- ✓ The **U Min Thonze Cave Temple** is often referred to as the 30 caves pagoda because of its 30 windows on its thick outer walls. It houses a beautiful collection of Buddha images in a crescent-shaped colonnade.
- Next, you will visit **Ava** (Innwa), located on an island between Irrawaddy and myitnge Rivers. It is Myanmar's most famous old capital, and is situated 20 kilometres south of Mandalay. The heart of government and royal powerhouse on five separate occasions from the 14th to 19th centuries.
- ✓ See the **Maha Aung Mye Bon Zan Monastery** a fine brick building decorated with flora and stucco built by Queen Me Nu in 1818.
- ✓ Next, you would want to check out the **Bagaya Kyaung Monastery** which is entirely constructed out of teak wood and is a representation of the Watzayanta Palace, the highest level of heaven in Buddhism.
- ✓ Following, visit the **NanmyintHmyawzin** - remnant of the palace built by King Bagyidaw.
- Proceed back to Mandalay for a good night's stay in your hotel in Mandalay





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(Option 2) Day 3: Mandalay - Mingun - Mandalay (Breakfast)

The Mingun Bell

Tour Attractions: Pa Hto Daw Gyi Pagoda, Mingun Bell, Myatheintan Pagoda and Mingun village

- Have a good breakfast at your hotel before setting off for the Irrawaddy River.
- ✓ Get to know the magical Irrawaddy River – the largest and most important commercial waterway in Myanmar. Take an 11km boat trip upriver to Mingun, a town in Sagaing region. The journey will take one hour.
- ✓ Check out the **Pa Hto Daw Gyi Pagoda**, the world's largest unfinished pagoda standing at a height of 49 meters. It was internationally left unfinished and if completed would have been the biggest in the world at 150 meters tall.



- ✓ See one of the world's largest bronze bell - the "**Mingun Bell**". The bell was constructed in 1808 A.D. for the Mingun Pagoda which was never completed and in ruins. The bell weighs a staggering 90 tones!
- ✓ You got to check out the **Myatheintan Pagoda**, which is built in accordance to Buddhist cosmology. The seven terraces around the pagoda represent the seven mountain ranges around Mount

Meru.

- ✓ Visit the **Mingun village** on ox or horse cart to see the villagers' way of life
- Take a boat trip back to Mandalay
- Have a well-deserved rest in your hotel in Mandalay

Day 4: Departure from Mandalay (Breakfast)

- Free till departure transfer to Yangon airport for homebound flight.