

Private Balloon Safari over Inle and Pindaya

An incredible 2 day adventure through Southern Shan State seen from a hot air balloon

Shan state is one of Myanmar's most beautiful and culturally diverse areas. Our exclusive balloon safari takes you to the most stunning sites of Inle Lake and Pindaya in a style and manner reminiscent of the great days of luxury travel. Site seeing by balloon is a truly remarkable experience, allowing you to venture off the beaten path and gain a unique perspective of the country and its people.



Pindaya

Reminiscent of the rolling hills of Tuscany, Pindaya is set against some of the highest Shan Mountains and is a delight to see from the air. We will fly along the mountain valley, passing tiny Shan hamlets and hill top pagodas occasionally swooping down to the delight of villagers who have never seen a hot air balloon before. We fly at a time when the fields are awash with colour, with swathes of green and yellow against brilliant blue skies.



Inle Lake

Shan State's famed Inle Lake is home to the Inthar people, who live on and around the lake. To fly over the lake in a balloon, has to be one of the most beautiful ways to see this wonder. Our skilled pilots carefully use their knowledge of the winds to steer the balloon over the floating villages and water gardens. You will see the morning fishermen looking for the first catch of the day, and boats laden full of produce on their way to the market by the immense labyrinth of canals. At higher altitude you will be amazed to see thousands of village houses seemingly floating on the lake.



Introductory Rates for 2015 - 2016

Reservations and Pricing

- 1) Published rate pricing as follows based on 2 days / 1 nights for Inle and Pindaya:

USD 3000 per person based upon 2 pax private charter

(A minimum of 2 passengers is required to confirm the tour)



- 2) Published rate pricing as follows based on 2 days / 1 nights for Inle and Pindaya:

USD 2500 per person (3 – 6 pax occupancy)

(A minimum of 3 passengers is required to confirm this rate)



- 3) Payment and confirmation: A 20% deposit will be required to secure the booking. Final payment will be due one month before departure.

Cancellation fees will only apply upon payment and issue of tickets as follows.

- **Cancellation less than one month before – no refund**

Tour Staff & Support

At all times clients will be hosted by their "Balloons over Bagan" dedicated pilot or a local knowledgeable guide. Behind the scenes our professional ground crews, fleet of vehicles, boats and drivers will be working hard to ensure a seamless travel experience.

Group Size (2 – 6 pax)

Above rates are 25% commissionable for all licensed tour operators.

Terms and Conditions

TRIP PRICE INCLUDES

Trip is all inclusive from your early morning hotel pick up at Inle Lake until departure the following afternoon from Heho Airport or your alternative onward destination.

Accommodation including all tax and service charges, and baggage handling. All meals consisting of 2 x breakfast, 2 x lunch, and 1 x dinner. House wines, spirits juices and soft drinks as provided by "Balloons over Bagan" are included with all lunches and dinners. Balloon adventures and site seeing by the appropriate Foreign Language speaking guide, entrance fees to all places visited. Transfers and transportation if indicated.

ITEMS NOT INCLUDED

All items of a personal nature including laundry, wine or liquor, except those served by "Balloons over Bagan". Visas and trip insurance. Tips for the local crew are not included and are at the discretion of each guest.

CONDITIONS OF FLIGHT

- 1) "Balloons over Bagan" is owned and operated by Shwe Lay Ta Gun Travels and Tours, a 100% private Myanmar company.
- 2) It may be required to cancel flights by "Balloons over Bagan" for safety reasons or as a result of unfavourable weather or operational difficulties. The client accepts this as a part of the nature of a ballooning holiday, in which case a refund 250 per person will be given.
- 3) Any known medical condition which may affect your ability to fly or assist the crew must be disclosed to "Balloons over Bagan" at the time of booking. i.e. epilepsy, recent surgery etc. Some conditions may preclude you from eligibility to fly. Pregnant women will not be permitted to fly, and "Balloons over Bagan" will not accept liability for illness or injury due to any undisclosed condition or failure to comply with any reasonable instruction given by the pilot or crew or company representative.
- 4) No-smoking is permitted during the flight or anywhere in proximity to the balloon.
- 5) The pilot in command is legally obliged to consider the safety of his passengers at all times and may refuse to carry passengers for whatever reason if it is considered their carriage may endanger the flight, other passengers or themselves. "Balloons over Bagan" reserve the right to refuse the carriage of any passenger.
- 6) The passenger must carefully listen to the security briefing given by the pilot before the launch of the balloon and indicate in case he / she doesn't understand the security briefing.
- 7) The pilot of the day has absolute authority and all passengers and crew must comply with his instructions. The pilot's decision on all matters is final.
- 8) "Balloons over Bagan" expects passengers to assist the pilot and crew in any situation that is deemed reasonable, during pre- and post-flight activities.
- 9) "Balloons over Bagan" reserves the right to cancel or delay flights, change rendezvous and launch sites, at short notice, to achieve a safe and successful flight. "Balloons over Bagan" will not accept liability for any consequential loss or inconvenience.
- 10) "Balloons over Bagan" carries third party and passenger liability.
- 11) "Balloons over Bagan" accepts no liability for claims arising as a result of an act or default of any other passenger or bystander.
- 12) "Balloons over Bagan" accepts no liability for loss or damage to persons or property other than that of which results from negligence on its own part.
- 13) "Balloons over Bagan" does not accept liability for loss or damage to personal effects.
- 14) "Balloons over Bagan" reserves the right to alter, revise or review any terms, conditions or rates, at its discretion.

Program and fixed itinerary for Balloon Safaris

Day 1 Early morning Balloon flight over Inle, transfer to Pindaya and overnight in Ta Mae Monastery

Day 2 Early morning Balloon flight over Pindaya and visit to Pindaya caves - transfer to Heho Airport

Day	Service	Description
1	Morning balloon flight over Inle	
DAY 1	post flight breakfast	Private breakfast on the lake or in village side location depending on the landing
	Half day Cooking Experience or Sight seeing to Indein	Late morning and lunch time visiting a local market and buying cooking ingredients from there. Then visit to an Inthar house and experience Intha traditional cooking and sharing food for lunch with the house owner family. Duration around 2-3 Hrs depending on the guest.
	Afternoon transfer to Pindaya	Short walk or cycle to Ta Mae Village in the hills outside Pindaya in time for sunset and evening bonfire dinner under the Banyan Trees
	Accommodation at Ta Mae Village	Overnight in the village house with luxury bedding provided
2	Morning balloon flight over Pindaya	
DAY 2	post flight breakfast	Post flight cooked private breakfast in the fields surrounding Pindaya
	Pindaya Caves and guided tour of Pindaya	
	Picnic lunch in the pines en route to Heho	Chef's special menu including house drinks, coffee and tea
	Car transfer Heho (afternoon flight)	Adventure ends with onward flight to next destination

Balloon Safaris - frequently asked questions

1. How long is the flight?

Our balloon safari flights are a true adventure and can last from 30 minutes up to two hours. The whole experience including hotel pick ups and light champagne breakfast lasts between 3 to 4 hours. Ballooning in these remote areas is also about watching the set up of the balloon, and being rescued at the end too, not just the flight itself. Not knowing where you are going to land is always exciting and part of the adventure!

2. What do we see?

The exciting thing about ballooning is that you just don't know. You will see some of Myanmar's remotest and unspoilt areas in the early morning light. You will see forgotten and tucked away hill top pagodas, mountain villages and incredible vistas over Beautiful Inle Lake. On our Safaris the balloon is still a strange and mysterious sight, and as we come into land we are often mobbed by children and local villagers in an amazing interactive experience.

3. Is it safe?

- Commercial passenger ballooning is the safest form of all air transport.
- We only fly when there are light surface winds less than 8 knots.
- Our pilots and technicians are European Nationals qualified and registered in the UK.
- Our balloons are built to the highest standards of the British aerospace industry by Cameron Balloons Ltd and Lindstrand Balloons Ltd the world's largest manufacturers of hot air balloons.
- All our crew are trained to the highest international standards and have all been trained in first aid by UK Public Transport Inspectors

4. I'm scared of heights.

Ballooning does not usually affect those people who are scared of heights. Because the balloon travels with the wind, the basket is very stable and does not sway or rock during flight. There is no sense of vertigo or motion.

5. How many people can fit in one balloon?

We currently use our very smallest balloon for this unique and exclusive service. The balloon has room for 4 passengers in two separate compartments plus a pilot.

6. Where do we take off?

The take off site changes with the wind and is decided by the pilot in command on the day of the flight.

7. Where do we land?

Wherever the wind takes you! This could be next to the lake, a field by a village or even into the next valley, which will involve a lengthier rescue!

8. What time will we be picked up?

Passengers are usually picked up from their hotels by our private vehicle or boats between 05h30 and 06h00 in the morning. The exact time will be given to you the evening before by your pilot and host.

9. *What time do we get back to the hotel?*

In the morning flight, passengers are usually back at their hotels before 9.30 am.

10. *How can we pay for a pre-booking?*

For pre-bookings, full payment must be made through our company bank account one month in advance of your scheduled departure date, or through your tour operator.

11. *Can I get my money back if the balloon flight is cancelled?*

Balloon Safari holidays are an all exclusive package, including all accommodation, meals and transport in addition to your balloon flight. We guarantee a refund of USD 250 per person per flight in the event that we are unable to safely conduct one of these flights in each location. Our flights only operate when the chief pilot decides that the weather is suitable and it is safe to fly. Therefore it might be possible that we have to cancel the balloon flight at the launch site for safety reasons. Our flights normally take place during the months of November, December, January, February until mid March which are normally the most reliable and clear months for flying in Myanmar.

12. *Why do I have to give my weight?*

It is important that we receive the weight of each passenger as soon as possible. The chief pilot needs this figure to calculate the total ballast of the basket, so he can determine the total amount of lift available on that day.

13. *Who owns Balloons over Bagan?*

Balloons over Bagan is a 100% private Myanmar company, which was set up and run by husband and wife team Brett Melzer and Khin Omar Win.

For further information on pricing and reservations, please refer to Terms and Conditions.