

Code BUSB **Spiritual Burma**

Tour Dossier Introduction

Dossier Last Updated: 14-10-2014

Tour Code: BUSB

Duration: 13 nights / 14 days

Joining City: Yangon

Departure City: Yangon

Nearest Joining International Airport: Yangon International Airport (RGN)

Nearest Departing International Airport: Yangon International Airport (RGN)

Please check this document just before departing in case of last minute changes to your tour.

Tour Documents

 PDF Document  Web Page

 Burma Dossier

 Myanmar Dossier

What's Included

- > Yangon Heritage Walking Tour
- > Boat trip to Mingun
- > Village Walk
- > Half-day private tour of Bagan
- > Bagan Bicycle tour
- > Elephant Conservation Centre
- > Hilltribe Trek
- > Local Caves and Paper Workshop
- > Inle Lake Boat Tour
- > Nyaung Shwe Bicycle Tour
- > Peddle boat canal Tour/ Wine tasting

- > 12 nights in hotels, 1 nights on overnight buses
- > 13 breakfasts, 1 lunches
- > Travel by Overnight Bus, Public Bus, Minibus, 1 flight(s)
- > Tucan Travel tour leader, English-speaking local guide(s) on included excursions

What's not Included

- > International flights and departure taxes
- > Domestic flight taxes if applicable
- > Tips on included excursions, visas, travel insurance, personal items and single rooms.
- > Airport transfers and pre and post tour accommodation
- > Spending money – budget for meals, snacks, drinks, limited souvenirs, laundry, tips and any extras
- > Optional excursions - Please see our optional excursions guide on the dossier page for a comprehensive list of

optional activities and excursions available on this tour.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1 to 2 - Arrive Yangon

The first day of your tour is simply an arrival day with no pre-organised activities. In order to allow time to relax and see some of the sights you may wish to add pre tour accommodation. On arrival please ask at the reception for information on when the pre departure meeting will be held.

Arrive in Yangon early and book some pre-departure accommodation to enjoy some of the sights the city has to offer before your tour departs. Yangon is a huge city with a small downtown area. Here you can wander the markets, view the colonial buildings and enjoy the Yangon River and the green area that surrounds it. From the Sule Pagoda to the colonial downtown and harbour, there is plenty to see and do. It is also a great place to start learning about the dramatic history of the country. You can learn about the national hero Bogyoke Aung San and how this much loved figure brought independence to Myanmar.

Included Excursions: Yangon Heritage Walking Tour

Optional Excursions: Yangon City Tour – US\$130 • In the Footsteps of Bogyoke Aung San – US\$84 • Markets, Monks and Mohinga – US\$75 • ~~90~~ after sunset – US\$78 • Temples and pagodas in Bago – US\$180 • Meditation, traditional medicine and good luck – US\$130

Day 3 to 4 - Mandalay

“On the road to Mandalay.” We take an overnight bus to the famous Mandalay, a name that evokes splendours of old Burma, captured by Rudyard Kipling in poem Mandalay. “This is Burma” he wrote, “and it is quite unlike any place you know about!” Destroyed by a fire and heavily bombed during WW2, the Burma of old is more difficult to find but when you do, it astounds you.

You have a free day to enjoy Mandalay before our cruise to Mingun. Visit the Mahamuni pagoda with its old Buddha statue. Typically a lively temple, men stick gold leaves into the statue. Here you can also shop around for the perfect souvenir, your own small statue made of bronze or wood. If you can't find what you are looking for, the marble carving street should have a treat in store. Walking through the Mahagandayon monastery complex, see hundreds of monks heading to prayers.

Tonight, visit the night market to get a feel for the real Mandalay. At Yadanar night market, grab some traditional snacks before enjoying a beer at a famous beer station and a delicious meal at one of Mandalay's traditional BBQ restaurants.

Today we enjoy a boat trip to Mingun. Sailing along the Ayeyarwaddy River, it is possible to imagine the imperial atmosphere of historic Mandalay. We travel upstream to Mingun and visit the Mingun Pagoda. The Pagoda has a big crack through it, caused by an earthquake.

You have another full day to enjoy the wonders of Mandalay. Today you can enjoy an optional excursion out of the town to see some of the many sights on the outskirts. You can take a tour of the temple ruins of Paleik, a snake temple where three pythons sleep near the Buddha statue. Every day they are washed and fed at 11am by local worshippers. In the surrounding areas are dozens of temple ruins where you will find yourself the lone foreigner. Alternatively, you can hire a bike and cycle around the quiet town of Amapura, stopping at local teashops and colourful markets. There is a nearby monastery where you can show gratitude for arriving safely and souvenir stands to purchase local weaving products.

Included Excursions: Boat Trip to Mingun • Village Walk

Optional Excursions: The Glass Palace and Royal history – US\$135 • Paleik – US\$95 • Meditating in Ava & Sagaing – US\$155 • ~~Mandalay~~ Mandalay US\$116 • Colonial mansions & gardens – US\$50 • Amarapura and local market – US\$89 • Night market, beer, BBQ and show – US\$115 • Markets & Fine food

Day 5 to 7 - Bagan

Bagan is home to more Buddhist temples than anywhere in the world. They poke out of the trees and have a graceful aging process. It is here that the sunsets are some of the best in the world.

Bagan's stunning landscape is best seen by bike and the flat landscape makes a bike tour an easy excursion. As an included excursion, your guide will show you some of the most spectacular sceneries and ancient temples. You can climb some of the pagodas for impressive views over the temples.

A recommended optional excursion in Bagan is a hot air balloon ride. This takes place at sunrise for the best views over the temple zone. The views are breathtakingly spectacular and on landing, you will enjoy a glass of cool champagne.

With two full days in Bagan, should you want to visit the surrounding areas, you can take optional excursions to see what else the region has to offer. You can visit Mount Popa, the birthplace of the 37 'nats' of Myanmar which are the protective spirits. You can get off the beaten track and visiting rural villages as well as fruit and flower markets. Alternatively, visit a local slipper factory or the Kyauk Gu Ohnmin cave temple, a sight that rarely sees foreign visitors.

Included Excursions: Bagan Bicycle Temple Tour • Half-day tour of Bagan

Optional Excursions:

Picnic in Minnanthu – US\$125 • Ghosts, kings, conquerors and scary stories – US\$97 • Markets, monasteries and a hidden cave temple – US\$195 • Balloons over Bagan – US\$315 • Sundowners on a sandbank – US\$60 • Lesser known temples and Nyaung U Market – US\$100 • Mount Popa – US\$100

Day 8 to 9 - Kalaw

Located in cool rolling hills, Kalaw is a budget backpacking destination perfect for hiking and trekking. You have some time here to enjoy the scenery.

The following day we have a day trip to an Elephant conservation program. Your guide will meet you in Kalaw and take you into the forest to the elephants, their mahouts and the local hill tribe communities. Community projects have recently been established here, creating a haven for the forest and the animals within it. The project which we work with creates a natural habitat for Myanmar's elephants and helps develop the local population and bring them out of poverty. We will have a chance to wash and feed the elephants with the direction of the mahouts. These elephants are 'retired' and riding them is not allowed.

Included Excursions: Elephant Conservation Centre • Hilltribe Trek

Day 10 to 12 - Inle Lake

We take a bus to Inle Lake. Our time at Inle Lake is packed with adventurous activities and beautiful scenery. Inle Lake has many beautiful trails surrounding it and we have plenty of time here to make the most of them.

Well known for its weaving, here is an excellent chance to purchase souvenirs including the Burmese tote-bags and high quality silk fabrics. You can also try the traditional Shan cuisine including Htamin Jin, a delicious meal of rice, tomato, potato or fish in round balls, wrapped in crisp fried onion and marinated in garlic.

At Inle Lake we have an included excursion by boat on the lake. We pass local villages where the Intha people have been living in homes built on stilts for centuries. We admire the lake's natural beauty, visit floating gardens and traditional markets. The market we visit depends on the day of the boat ride. A delicious and authentic lunch is included on this full day excursion.

The following day we visit Nyaung Shwe and the surrounding area by bike and boat. The village is a lively little town which used to be the home of the Shan prince Mr Sao Shwe Thaik. Today the town is a busy trading centre and we visit the local Mingala market. Biking through amazing scenery we see the Shwe Yan Pyay monastery. In the afternoon we take peddle boats down small canals and floating gardens to the pagoda near Nanthe Village. At the end of the day we enjoy some wine tasting at the Red Mountain winery in Nyaung Shwe.

Included Excursions: Local Caves and Paper Workshop Tour • Inle Lake Boat Tour • Nyaung Shwe Bicycle Tour • Peddle Boat Canal & Floating Gardens Tour

Optional Excursions: Ruins of Indein & a meal with a local family – US\$130 • Inle Lake's west bank on bike and foot – US\$116 • Nampan village on east bank – US\$130 • Shan state by bike and train – US\$95 • Shan cooking class at viewpoint – US\$195

Day 13 to 13 - Yangon

We return back to Yangon where our tour started. You will have a day here before your tour finishes. Make sure you wake up early on your final day to visit the fish market on the Yangon River. At this time it is at its busiest and the national dish, Mohinga, tastes best. Donate some fresh fruit and vegetables bought from the local market to the Burmese monks.

In the evening, do as the locals do and enjoy your last meal as a group. While this meal is not included as part of the tour, it is not to be missed. At the end of the day, the people of Yangon leave work to enjoy some of the many social hotspots of the city. Visit the illuminated Shwedagon pagoda and grab some local snacks from the night market downtown.

Day 14 to 14 - Depart Yangon

Your adventure of a lifetime comes to an end today. If you have a late flight or have lengthened your stay by adding post tour accommodation you will have more time to explore the sights.

Day by Day Itinerary

Day	Activity	Country	Meals	Single Room
Day 1	Yangon	Burma, Myanmar		✓
Day 2	Overnight bus to Mandalay		B	✓
Day 3	Mandalay		B	✓

Day 4	Mandalay		B	✓
Day 5	Bagan		B	✓
Day 6	Bagan		B	✓
Day 7	Bagan		B	✓
Day 8	Kalaw		B	✓
Day 9	Kalaw		BL	✓
Day 10	Inle Lake		B	✓
Day 11	Inle Lake		B	✓
Day 12	Inle Lake		B	✓
Day 13	Yangon		B	✓
Day 14	Yangon		B	

(B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner included)

For tours that include the option of a single supplement, a ? will indicate in which destinations single rooms are available. The detailed and day by day itineraries above are provided in good faith and it is our intention to adhere to the published route. Changes may be made before or during your tour for operational or safety reasons or to incorporate improvements. Impromptu changes may also occur whilst you are travelling as a result of one-off circumstances such as an excursion being closed on a particular day, weather conditions or transport. Delays are rare but occur occasionally and for this reason and the reasons above this itinerary should be considered as a guide only. Published transport times are approximations and may vary depending on local conditions.

Travel Style

This is an Adventure Tour, we see a destination from the locals' perspective using a variety of transport and staying in small locally owned accommodation. There is a maximum of 16 travellers with an average group size of 8-12. All our Adventure Tours are priced per person on a shared room basis meaning there is no compulsory extra payment for those travelling on their own. Please read the Adventure Tour travel style dossier to ensure you understand the style of travel you are undertaking: <http://www.tucantravel.com/travel-styles/dossier/adventure-tours>

I'd like my own room

If you are a solo traveller, a single room is available on most occasions at an extra cost. Price information can be found on the price page of each tour. This must be booked in advance.

Joining your tour

Your joining location is:

Aung Tha Pyay Hotel
 No.74/80 38th Street (Middle Block) between Marchant Street and Ma Harbandola Street,
 Kyaukthdar Township
 Yangon,
 Myanmar

Tel: +95 1 378663

aungthapyayhotel@gmail.com

Free wifi is available at the lobby. Laundry is available for USD\$1 for each piece of laundry.

Arriving in Yangon

When arriving at the International Airport we recommend that you obtain some Myanmar kyat as soon as you arrive. There is an international ATM inside the airport, as well as money exchange offices offering a good rate. The rate will always vary slightly depending on where you go, it may be worth changing a small amount of money at the airport for your transport, and then finding a bank or money exchange within the town centre.

Airport Transfers

Airport transfers are not included in the tour price and must be booked separately in advance through Tucan Travel. If you have booked an airport/hotel transfer with us, please look out for someone with a sign which has your name, Tucan Travel, or both after exiting the customs hall.

If you have booked an arrival transfer with us and you are going to be delayed by more than two hours, you must advise us of the delay at least six hours before arrival. If we are advised in time, we will make every effort to reschedule your transfer and your driver will be asked to wait for two hours after your new expected arrival time. However, if we are not made aware of any change, the driver will only wait for two hours after the original scheduled arrival time and after this point it will be up to you to arrange transport to your hotel at your own expense. Please contact us on the emergency contact details below if you are likely to be delayed.

Contact your arrival transfer:

Contact: Mrs Su Mon Latt

Phone: +95 (0) 0943088652

Making your own way

If you would prefer to make your own way to and from your hotel, a taxi is the only solution as there are no public bus or train services. Before leaving the International Arrivals Hall please check the monitors at the exit which state average taxi costs Downtown Yangon and other popular destinations. If you do not have a pre-ordered car waiting for you, taxi drivers will generally approach you offering their services. As there are no meters and no extra surcharges please ensure to agree your price before leaving using the aforementioned monitors as a guide. Porter fees for your luggage are around 800 Kyat per piece of luggage.

Taxi from airport to downtown: Approx. 9000 Kyat (US\$9.00)

Emergency Contact Details

In the unlikely event of an emergency, please contact our Asia Destinations Manager on +44 (0)203 129 3763

Emergency contact details are a service for emergency calls only. We respectfully request that you consider the urgency of your enquiry. Non-urgent enquiries should be made during office hours. Visit [contact us](#) page for office hours.

Keeping in Touch

Your tour leader will point out internet cafes in all major cities and towns and Wi-Fi may be available in some hotels. Mobile phones may not work locally depending on your network. If you have an unlocked phone you may be able to purchase a local SIM card. Hotel details, apart from the joining hotel, are not given in advance and are subject to change, so if someone needs to contact you urgently during your tour the best method is to contact our office who can pass a message on to the tour leader.

Money

For personal spending money we recommend bringing US dollars, Pounds Sterling or Euros to exchange for or use alongside local currency. Travellers cheques are not accepted everywhere and can be expensive to exchange, but offer a more secure way of transporting funds. While bank cards provide a very good way to access funds overall, it is not recommended to rely on them as your sole source of funds as cash machines do not always work and may not be available in remote locations. Carry a mix of cards and cash with you, including notes in small denominations.

ATMs are fairly commonplace and pay out in local currency, except in Cambodia where US dollars is the main form of currency. If the ATM doesn't work after the first two attempts, find another machine as it may retain your card the third time. Always make sure no one else sees your PIN number when using ATMs.

Your spending money should cover some meals, optional excursions, souvenirs, drinks, laundry, border and airport taxes and any visas obtained locally. We provide guideline prices for optional excursions in the itinerary to help you budget, but ultimately the amount you will need to budget for your trip very much depends on your individual requirements. We recommend bringing extra money to cover emergencies or unexpected situations.

Tipping

Tipping is a part of the life in Asia, but you should not feel obliged or pressured to tip if you have not received good service. A gratuity of 10% of the total bill is recommended in restaurants. Gratuities are usually expected for local guides on included and optional excursions. Tips are also appreciated by Tucan Travel tour leaders at the end of your tour and we recommend an average of \$2-\$4 per person per day for the duration of your tour. This is only if you feel that their service was up to standard and is completely at your own discretion.

Packing List

The best advice when packing is to travel light and leave space for souvenirs in your bag.

Luggage

It is important to bring luggage you can carry and lift comfortably, potentially up several flights of stairs in hotels where elevators are not available and between bus/train stations and hotels. There may be times when you have to get your luggage through crowded streets which may be cobbled or store your luggage in lockers. Luggage too large for lockers will have to be left insecurely or carried for the duration of the day.

We recommend a frameless backpack or a sports type shoulder bag which fits comfortably on your shoulders, as they are less bulky and easier to handle than rigid suitcases or framed backpacks. Suitcases are not suitable for our tours and are not recommended. Tucan Travel takes no responsibility for damage to your luggage while on tour.

In addition to your main bag, you will need a small daypack for your everyday excursions. Try to keep this bag as light as possible and make sure that all main sections of your bags can be padlocked. This daypack should have enough room to carry food and snacks for long hikes and treks and space to carry belongings for overnight excursions.

Sleeping Sheet

Sleeping bags are not required on this tour, but a sleeping bag liner/sleep sheet is optional if you wish to bring one along. Some passengers like to use them on long bus journeys and overnight trains.

Clothing and Footwear

We recommend packing lightweight and durable clothes. Nights can be cold at higher altitude, so it is a good idea to bring at least one pair of warm trousers plus several thinner sweaters / fleeces which you can layer. Please avoid military or camouflage-patterned clothing as it can cause problems and in some countries may be illegal. In some sacred and religious areas you will be required to cover your shoulders and knees as a sign of respect (this often applies to men as well as women). A sarong or light scarf can be very useful in these scenarios.

Good, comfortable walking shoes are essential. These do not need to be expensive boots, but they should have good ankle support and grip, be worn in and ideally waterproof.

Essential items:

- A lightweight water/windproof jacket with hood
- Easy to pack wide-brimmed hat or cap
- Towel - you will need a towel for most overnight excursions
- Swimwear
- Sandals or thongs/jandals/flip flops

Suggested items:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Money belt | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic bags for waterproofing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses | <input type="checkbox"/> Inflatable pillow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small calculator | <input type="checkbox"/> Swiss army type penknife |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small collapsible umbrella | <input type="checkbox"/> Binoculars |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Universal washbasin plug | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel plug adaptor with a USB port |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Head torch or flashlight | <input type="checkbox"/> Small sewing kit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel alarm clock | <input type="checkbox"/> Insect repellent (DEET 35% min) and bite cream |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lip balm, sun block with high UV factor | <input type="checkbox"/> Antibacterial hand clensing gel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wet wipes | <input type="checkbox"/> Ear plugs and sleep mask |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cheap plastic watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel sickness tablets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plenty of spare memory cards for your camera | <input type="checkbox"/> Spare pair of spectacles or contact lenses and solution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spare rechargeable batteries for camera | <input type="checkbox"/> Hard drive or USB stick to back up your photos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing materials, address book and diary | <input type="checkbox"/> Pocket size phrasebook |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel games, cards and a couple of paperbacks | <input type="checkbox"/> Pegless washing line & travel laundry detergent (bio-degradable preferable) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper (best to carry a roll with you at all times and/or tissues) | <input type="checkbox"/> As gifts for local children - pens, coloured pencils, small notepads. To discourage a begging mentality we recommend that you try to give these gifts at schools or childcare centres rather than on the street. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small medical kit with diarrhoea remedy, rehydration salts, antiseptic cream, sterile dressings, plasters, bandages, pain-killers, safety pins etc. | |

Laundry

There are usually laundromats or laundry services in or near most of our hotels. Hotel services can be pretty costly however your tour leader will be able to recommend cheaper options. If you wash clothes yourself take care not to be too obvious where you hang them as most hotels do not like guests washing and drying their clothes in the hotel rooms.

Electricity Supply

The power supply in Asia differs not only from country to country but sometimes from region to region within a country.

- Vietnam, Thailand & Laos require a European plug with two circular metal pins
- Singapore and Malaysia requires a three square pin power sockets as in the UK.
- Japan requires a plug with two flat parallel prongs similar to those used in North and Central America. However, the Japanese plug has two identical flat prongs.
- China use a Japanese-style plug with two parallel flat blades; Australian-style plug with two flat angled blades and one vertical grounding blade; British-style plug with two flat blades and one flat grounding blade; South African/Indian-style plug with two circular metal pins above a large circular
- Cambodia uses a European plug with two circular metal pins or Japanese-style plug with two parallel flat blades.
- Nepal uses 2 or 3 round prongs as found in the US. You will also need a voltage converter.
- India use South African/Indian-style plug with two circular metal pins above a large circular grounding pin.
- Central Asia, Indonesia, Russia and Mongolia use a European plug with two circular metal pins.

We recommend bringing a universal plug adaptor with you.

Health, Fitness & Safety

Vaccinations

It is important to consult your doctor or travel clinic in good time before your tour departs to determine what vaccinations you require. You may need several vaccinations and/or malaria tablets and you should be aware that some inoculations require more than one visit and can take several weeks to administer. Always carry your International Certificate of Vaccination with your passport.

Malaria can be found in some parts of Asia. The risk is greater in rainforests or other areas at sea level. If required make sure you pack sufficient prophylactics for the duration of your tour and the incubation period after. You should take a good insect repellent (with DEET) and apply liberally and regularly. Flying-insect spray or mosquito coils (containing a pyrethroid insecticide) can help clear rooms of mosquitoes and may be worth bringing.

Pack a Medical Kit

A medical kit is handy for minor wounds and ailments. In areas with limited or dubious medical facilities, an emergency medical kit containing sterile syringes is also advisable. By law our staff are not allowed to administer first aid or give drugs to travellers, so please be prepared with your own supplies.

If you are taking medication, please ensure you bring an adequate supply and a letter from your doctor to avoid potential issues at border crossings.

Fitness & Suitability

This is a public transport-based tour so it is essential that you be able to carry your bags over distances between bus and train stations and hotels, generally for up to 20 minutes. Disruptions happen and while your tour leader will make every effort to ensure your trip runs smoothly, patience, a sense of humour and willingness to get involved and help your tour leader are essential ingredients for a successful and happy group.

If you have any pre-existing medical conditions please let us know at the time you book or as early before departure as possible. Depending on the severity of the condition, you may be asked to produce a medical certificate from your doctor approving your participation in this tour. While this would only happen in very exceptional circumstances, if we consider you incapable completing this tour or you have concealed an existing medical condition which is affecting your ability to participate in the tour of Tucan Travel reserve the right to turn you away without reimbursement.

Safety & Security

Asia is generally safe, even more so in a group. Reasonable precaution is advised; do not bring valuable jewellery or watches (even fakes can catch the eye of a thief), do not walk by yourself at night, heed your tour leader's advice and always keep an eye and a hand on your camera and bags in public places. Tucan Travel cannot accept responsibility for any valuables left in safe deposits in hotels or on public transport.

Travel Guides

If you would like to discover more about your destination, including history, geography, climate and language, please have a read of our country travel guides available here: <http://www.tucantravel.com/destination-travel-guides/asia-travel-guides>.

Documents

Passport

Your passport should be valid for at least 6 months after you have finished your tour with sufficient blank pages for visas and immigration stamps. Photocopy your passport, leaving one copy at home and taking one with you on tour. If you lose your passport while on tour, you will be responsible for any expenses incurred such as extra accommodation and transport while replacing your passport and will not be entitled to a refund of any unused portion of your tour.

Tour Documents

Before you depart you will be issued with a voucher for your tour and separate vouchers for any extra services such as airport transfers and pre/post tour accommodation. Please print these out and bring them with you. This dossier is updated regularly, so we recommend checking our website for the latest version just prior to the start of your tour.

Final Balance

The balance for your tour is due no later than 60 days prior to the start of your tour and no tour vouchers will be issued until this is received. In addition please send the following details at least 60 days before you depart:

- Passport number, date of issue, date of expiry, nationality and place of issue
- Your full name and date of birth
- Flight arrival details in your starting city
- Special requirements, e.g. special dietary requirements or allergies

Please let us know if you are travelling with another person on the tour but have made separate bookings and we will endeavour to make suitable rooming arrangements.

Visas

All countries have visa requirements that are subject to change at short notice. A general guideline for visa requirements is available here: <http://www.tucantravel.com/before-you-go/visa-guide>, but you must check with your local embassy or consulate for the very latest visa requirement information based on your nationality. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have all necessary visas for your tour. If you would like help applying for visas, we have recommended visa agencies on our visa page that we work with regularly.

Important things to check when applying for visas:

- Does the validity of the visa cover the duration of your time spent in the country?

- Do you require a single or multiple entry visa(s) for your tour?
- Are you required to show additional documentation when you arrive in a country? (Examples include proof of onward travel and travel itinerary)

Some visas are only valid for entry within three months of the date of issue which means on some of our longer tours the visa would expire before you are scheduled to enter the country. In these cases you must obtain the relevant visa during your tour. If it is necessary for you to obtain any visas en-route, please contact Tucan Travel or your travel consultant and inform your tour leader at the start of the tour. If you do not have the appropriate visas, Tucan Travel will not reimburse any expenses incurred in acquiring visas or any unused portion of the tour.

It is best to apply for visas in your home country if possible. If applying for visas by post, please allow plenty of time before departure and send your application by registered mail. Postal applications tend to be given a lower priority than in person applications and can take longer to process.

Special Note: If you have dual nationality it is advised not to obtain different visas in different passports. Although this may sometimes be cheaper, you may encounter problems at border crossings if your exit stamps from one country are not the same as your visa for the next.

Travel Insurance Policy

Travel insurance is compulsory for all tours. You must be adequately insured for medical, hospital, baggage and personal expenses, any necessary extra travel (rejoining tour or repatriation) as well as curtailment and cancellation.

We strongly recommend that all clients carry a copy of their full policy document with them at all times, together with any certificate showing the policy number and emergency contact details. Your tour leader will also ask for a photocopy of your insurance document, so please take this to the pre-departure meeting at the start of your tour. You will not be able to commence your tour unless you can provide proof of insurance to your tour leader.

Document Checklist

- Tour Voucher & Vouchers for extra services
- Passport (with photocopies of information pages and visas)
- Tour Dossier
- Cash & credit/debit cards (best to take a mixture and more than one card in case one does not work)
- Travel Insurance Certificate and photocopy for tour leader
- Travel consultant's phone number and email address
- Proof of onward travel, ie airline ticket

Optional Excursions

Optional excursions are not operated by Tucan Travel and while every effort is made prices may not be up-to-date and are intended as a general guide to help you budget for your trip. Prices for vehicle-based excursions such as game drives are approximate based on the optimum number of participants and the actual price may vary depending on group size.

Sufficient safety equipment such as helmets and life jackets are sometimes not available and Tucan Travel is unable to provide this equipment. If you intend to participate in an optional excursion you may like to consider bringing your own safety gear.

Excursions are run by a local operator or third party with both Tucan Travel and the Tour Leader acting as a booking agent only. Optional activities are not part of the tour and Tucan Travel's booking conditions do not apply to them. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the correct travel insurance for the excursions you intend to take part in and Tucan Travel is not liable for any injuries incurred.

Responsible Travel

We work hard to ensure our tours are sustainably and ethically run. You can read our responsible travel policy and advice on how you can travel responsibly here: <http://www.tucantravel.com/about-us/responsible-travel>.

Meet Up

Our free Meet Up app, available on Facebook, on iTunes and Google Play is an opportunity to chat with others passengers before you depart or keep in touch when you arrive back from tour. Information on the app is available here: <http://www.tucantravel.com/before-you-go/meet-up>

Add-ons & Extras

On many of our Group Tours, we spend one night in our arrival and departure cities. If you want to explore these cities more we can book pre and post tour accommodation, city tours and airport transfers for you. Price information can be found on the price page of each tour. We also have **Add-ons** - short

packages that can be booked alongside a tour or on their own and have been carefully designed to ensure you don't miss out on popular highlights.

Illegal Drugs

The possession or use of illegal drugs will not be tolerated on our tours. When overseas you are subject to local laws and the penalties for breaking these laws can be harsh. In order to safeguard the interests of the group as a whole, our tour leaders have been instructed to insist that any person found with illegal drugs leave the tour immediately – without refund. The tour leader's decision on this matter is final. If you need to carry certain drugs with you for purposes of medication, please inform your tour leader and ensure that you carry a copy of your prescription or letter from your doctor.