

BAGAN TEMPLE MARATHON

Run 42.2 kilometers (26.2 miles) and see more than 2,000 temples along the way. From being greeted by hordes of high-fiving local kids along the way, to letting your mind wander off into history, it's easy to forget you're in a race. The Bagan Temple Marathon takes you through, past, and around some of Myanmar's most sacred monuments.

Rarely in a race, or indeed in life, will you start your day in a building more than 1,000 years old. Built during the reign of King Htilominlo, in the early-thirteenth century, the temple that takes this monarch's name is both the start and finish line for the Bagan Temple Marathon. This historic structure sets the tone for a run of beauty, history, and culture, taking place in a breathtaking and relatively little-visited landscape.

Bagan, in central Myanmar, is a Unesco World Heritage site—an ancient city on a verdant plain that is cut through by the Ayeyarwady River. More than 3,500 recorded monuments—mostly temples and stupas—survive and are evidence of the glory of the Bagan kingdom, at its height between the eleventh and thirteenth centuries. Buddhist frescoes, carvings, and sculptures can all still be seen in these highly decorative structures. As you begin your run, ►

