

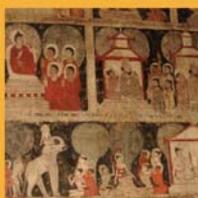
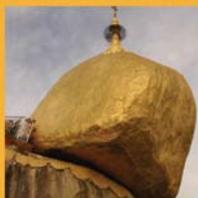
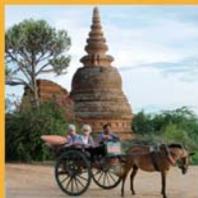
Myanmar *Travel Information*



This booklet and CD contain comprehensive guide to most popular tourist destinations, hotels, maps and all the information a tourist needs to visit Myanmar.



Official publication of Directorate of Hotels & Tourism, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism



<http://myanmartravelinformation.com>

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Nay Pyi Taw



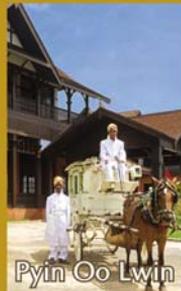
Ngapali



Bagan



Ngwe Saung



Pyin Oo Lwin



Inle

Kandawgyi Palace Hotel (Lake View Building), Kan Yeik Tha Road, Mingalar Taung Nyunt Tsp., Yangon, Myanmar. Tel : (95-1) 399 341~346, 09-73111770, 09-73111771
 Fax : (95-1) 399 346 E-mail : sales-aureum@myanmar.com.mm, aureumpalace@myanmar.com.mm Website : www.aureumpalacehotel.com, www.thebesthotelinmyanmar.com



Dat Taw Gyaint Waterfall Resort
 Anisakhan, Pyin Oo Lwin

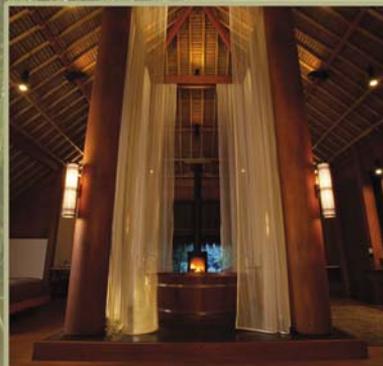


Kandawgyi Palace Hotel (Lake View Building), Kan Yeik Tha Road, Mingalar Taung Nyunt Tsp., Yangon, Myanmar
 Tel : (95-1) 399 341~346, 09-73111770, 09-73111771 Fax : (95-1) 399 346
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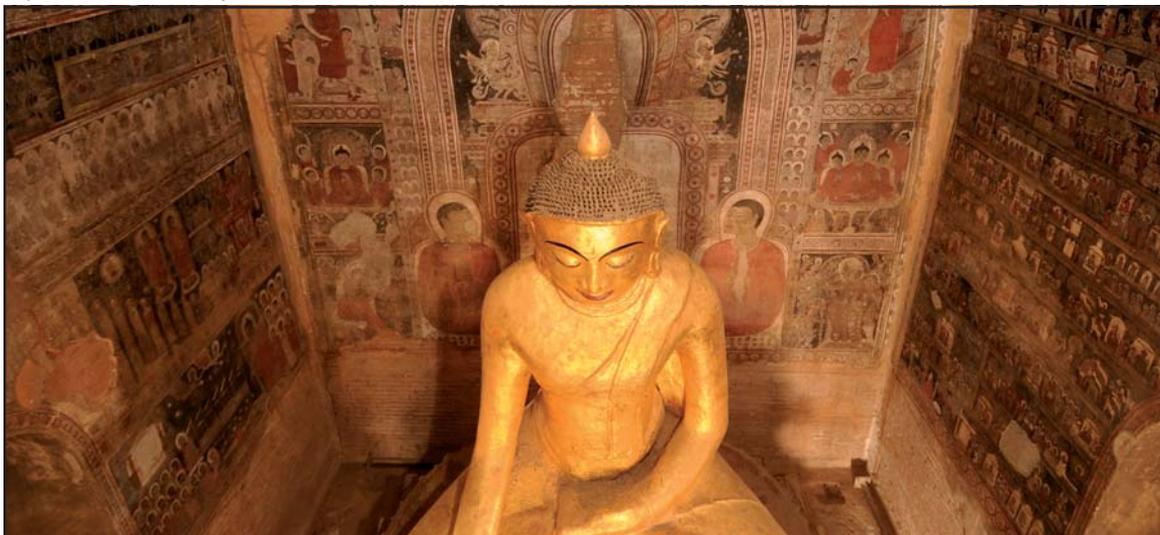
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 www.malikhaldodge.com



One of the most beautiful Bagan mural paintings

Welcome to the Golden Land



Myanmar is located at the crossroads of Asia's greatest civilizations, China and India. Being the 25th most populated, and 40th largest country in the world, Myanmar extends from the sunny silver beaches and diving island-resorts in the Andaman Sea, right up to the snow-capped mountains of Eastern Himalayas, creating a heterogeneous wonder of smiling peoples, precious nature and enriched cultures.

National Geographic's **Traveler** magazine listed Myanmar as 1 of the top 50 destinations of a life time for every tourist. It is a "must see".

The country's official name was changed to 'Myanmar' since 1989. Capital is now 'Naypyitaw'. Ancient capital cities of Myanmar had many interesting names: Suvannabhumi (meaning Golden Land), Amarapura (land of no death), Yadanabon (land of gems), and so on.

The earliest prehistoric primates known today is called *Pondaung Man*, who resided in Pondaung, northern Myanmar about 40 million years ago. Because of that, some call Myanmar, the land of human origin. Brick ruins from a number of Pyu city-states in central Myanmar

were from 4,000 BC, somewhat contemporary with *Babylonia* and *Mesopotamia*, earliest civilizations of the world. Aside from many city-states, there were 3 wholly-united Myanmar Empires.

The First Myanmar Empire was founded after King Anawrahta in AD 1044, who organized the whole country into a single sovereign. Founding of the Second Myanmar Empire was in AD 1287. Konbaung Dynasty (Third Myanmar Empire) existed between 1752 -1886.

Myanmar borders China, India, Thailand, Laos, and Bangladesh. The country stretches 581 miles from east to west and 1,275 miles from north to south. Over 100 national races formed up a nation of approximately 54 million inhabitants. Major nationalities are Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan.

Get the experience of a life time!

Air Carriers to Myanmar : Myanmar Airways Int.(8M), Thai Airways (TG), Malaysia Airlines (MH), Silk Air (MI), Air Asia (FD, AK), Indian Airlines (IC), Bangkok Airways (PG), China Airlines (CI), Vietnam Airline (VN), China Southern(CZ), Air China(CA), AirBagan(W9)

COVER: CHAUK HTAT GYI BUDDHA, Yangon. This giant Buddha's body-size alone (head-to-toe) is much bigger than the Statue of Liberty in New York.



Most Popular Destinations

- Yangon
- Mandalay
- Bagan
- Inle
- Kyaukhiyo
- Mrauk U
- Ngapali
- Ngwe Saung
- Mawlamyath

Total Country Area

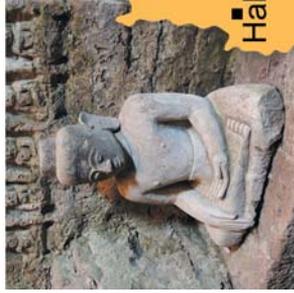
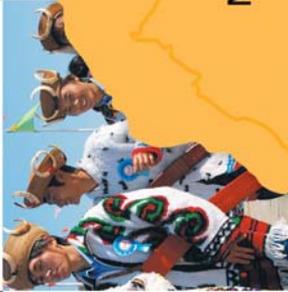
676,577 sq km
Over 260,000 sq miles

Location

Latitude: 09° 32'N & 28° 31'N
Longitude: 92° 10'E & 101° 11'E

Neighbouring Countries

Thailand, China, India,
Bangladesh, and Laos



The Golden Land

Gold is used every where; pagoda, monasteries, accessories of the nobels, and so on. The famous Shwedagon is fully covered with gold. The pagoda is one of the most magnificent monuments on earth.



Putao ✈

Myitkyina ✈

Bhamo ✈

Lashio ✈

Mogok

Monywa

Hakha

Mingun

Sagaing ✈

Pyin Oo Lwin

Mandalay

Pindaya Taunggyi

Bagan ✈

Mrauk U ✈

Kalaw ✈ Inle Lake Tachileik ✈

Sittwe ✈

Business Visa ✈

Kakku

Nay Pyi Taw ✈

Magway

Loikaw

Kyaingtong ✈

What to Wear

HOT SEASON

Light, casual cotton wear

RAINY SEASON

Quick drying clothes

COLD SEASON

A cardigan or light jerkin

Dress code for religious places:
No footwear at pagodas.

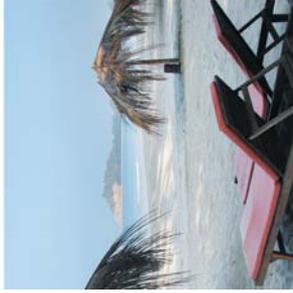


Tourist Visa

US\$ 20 + US\$ 10
per application
28 days validity
(extendible for
an additional
14 days)

Business Visa

28 days, extendible
up to 12 months on
case basis



Temperature

- YANGON
Min 16 °C - Max 34 °C
- MANDALAY
Min 10 °C - Max 43.3 °C
- BAGAN
Min 10 °C - Max 43.3 °C

Ngapali ■ Pyay
 ■ Chaungthar
 ■ Ngwesaung
 ■ Patheingyi
 ■ Bago
 ■ Hpaan
 ■ Kyaikhtiyo
 ■ Yangon
 ■ Mawlamyine



Tourist Information
 Yangon (Tel: +95-1-252859)
 77-91 Sule Pagoda Road
 Bagan: (Tel: +95-61-60277)
 Mandalay: (Tel: +95-2-603556)
 Inle: (Tel: +95-81-21611)

Visa on Arrival

Granted to tour packages only.
 Prior arrangement required.



New Flag



Old Flag

■ Dawei



Airline Offices in Myanmar

- Thai Airways (TG)
- Malaysia Airlines (MH)
- Silk Air (MI)
- Air Asia (FD & AK)
- Vietnam Airlines (VN)
- Air China (CA)



■ Myeik

■ Kawthaung

International Airports

Yangon & Mandalay

US \$ 10

Myeik Airport Tax

Domestic Airlines

- Air Bagan
- Air Mandalay
- Myanmar Airways
- Asian Wings Airways



Distance (in miles)

Yangon					
355	Mandalay				
320	60	Bagan			
268	110	106	Inle		
100	305	350	200	Kyaikhtiyo	

□ Indian Airlines (IC)

□ Bangkok Airways (PG)

□ China Airlines (CI)

□ Myanmar Airways International (8M)

Myanmar Travel Information





A rare scene of Shwe Dagon Pagoda under renovation.

Yangon City

Established: around 250 years ago

Location: Latitude:16° 47' N, Longitude:96° 08' E

Temperature: min 16° C - max 34° C

Population: Approximately 5 million



The commercial capital of Myanmar is Yangon. Although the earliest establishments in Yangon were as early as 2500 years old, it was officially founded in 1755 by King Alaung Paya (1752-1760 AD), the first emperor of the Third Myanmar Empire, at the base of Shwe Dagon Pagoda and named *Dagon*. Yangon has a unique charm, with its tree-lined streets, bustling markets, colonial buildings, and tranquil lakes.

Where to Visit

There are famous golden pagodas that glisten amongst the trees and buildings like Shwe Dagon Pagoda, Sule Pagoda, Botataung Pagoda and Chauk Htat Gyi Buddha Image to name a few.

Shwe Dagon Pagoda, is the also known to the Buddhist world as the first pagoda on earth. The perimeter of the base is 1,420 feet and its height 326 feet above the platform. It is plated with more than 30 tons of gold, towering 98m over the city. A number of Myanmar kings

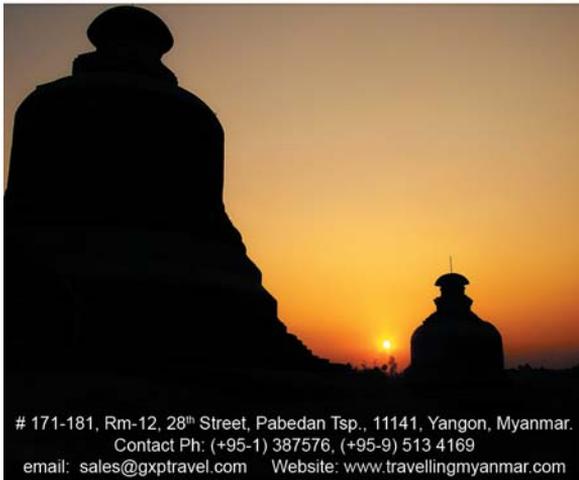
and queens donated pure gold equivalent of their body weight to this pagoda throughout the history. The tip of the golden cone is set with rubies, diamonds, sapphires and topaz. Around the main stupa are more than 100 smaller pavilions and halls. Next to the Shwe Dagon is Maha Wizaya Pagoda. There is a very interesting thing if you are into architecture. Similar to the Saint Peter Church of Vatican in Rome and Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt, there is a specially-designed hole on the ceiling that only permits the sunlight to inside, only on a single day in a year, the Myanmar New Year Day.

The National Museum is a must. It houses the famous *Lion Throne*, an amazingly decorated golden throne of the Konbaung Dynasty, which was brought back from The British Museum, England. Many recognize this golden throne as the 'grandest throne of all monarchs and emperors in the human history'. Priceless ancient artifacts and historic memorabilia are also on display, including 'golden shoe' of the last Myanmar King and some royal documents written on gold plates.

Sule Pagoda is the landmark of the heart of Yangon, located near the City Hall and the Myanmar Travels and Tours office. It is said to be 2000-years old. The stupa is 46m high and it is in a strange octagonal shape. Kaba Aye Pagoda (World Peace Pagoda) was built for the 6th International Buddhist Council in 1954. The World Buddhist Summit was held at the Maha Pasana Cave, near the pagoda. Botataung Pagoda is said to have the genuine hair relics of Buddha.



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Email: info@greenpalacemyanmar.com
Website: www.greenpalacemyanmar.com



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09-8022851, 09-5060136, 09-5105590, 09-5190850
E-mail : sdmtravels@myanmar.com.mm, sdm.marketing2009@gmail.com

Bagan Branch

Latnadaur Road (Near the Tampawaddy Restaurant),
Nyaung-U (Bagan).
Ph : (+95-61) - 60883

Taung Gyi Branch

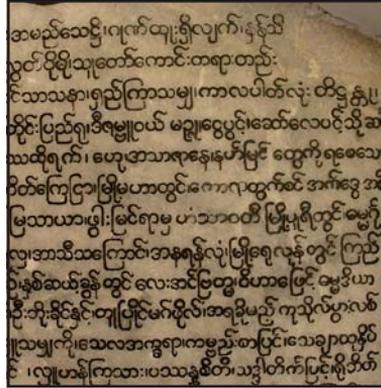
Bogyoke Aung San Road, (Infront of Bogyoke Park),
Taung Gyi.
Ph : (+9581) - 24646, 200933, 200944

Mandalay Branch

No.G-25/26, 82nd Street, Between 26th & 27th Street,
Mandalay, Myanmar.
Ph : (+952) - 30128, 72868, 72939, 73398, 73346
09-6819033, 09-6819022, 09-6819055, 09-5008439
E-mail : sevendiamond@mandalay.net.mm



Downtown Yangon scene



Some stone inscriptions at Shwe Dagon



Banyan-Tree Watering Festival, Kasone

The pagoda is hollow inside and it is a sort of a mirror-maze inside. Chauk Htat Gyi Buddha Image is the fourth largest colossal reclining image. Comparing the body-size alone (head-to-toe), you may be surprised to know that it is much bigger than the Statue of Liberty in New York. With an enigmatic smile on His lips, the image itself is 67m long and famous for the 108 distinguishing marks symbols on the soles of his two huge feet. Ngar Htat Gyi Buddha, Koe Htat Gyi Pagoda, Kyauk Taw Gyi Buddha are other famous statues in town. Kyauk Taw Gyi Buddha is the largest marble Buddha in the world sculptured out from a single piece of stone.

The Allied War Memorial at Htaukkyant is also another tour destination, especially for descendants of the soldiers of the Allied Forces, who died in the World War 2.

Karaweik is a huge 200 feet-long royal barge of 2 golden *hintha* birds by the Royal Lake, Yangon. It is the symbolic landmark "love & loyalty", as well as the landmark of the Golden Land (or *Suvanabhum* in ancient Pali language). Depicted Hintha bird was the state emblem and flag of *Suvanabhum*, capital of the Second Myanmar Empire, which extended throughout southeast Asia in 16th century. These birds reflect sincere love and loyalty, because they mate for total monogamy and greatly attached to each other very much that if one dies the other does not eat until death. Inside this Karaweik royal barge is a classy modern restaurant, with traditional live performance, small scale Myanmar orchestra, and nightly puppet shows.

Kandawgyi Nature Park, is a newly renovated park which is not far from Shwe Dagon. The Karaweik is located in this park. You can see the water fountains, the green sceneries, and the marble elephants. To do shopping in Yangon, Bogyoke Aung San Market has to be on top of your list. It is situated in the heart of Yangon and was built

in 1926. It is one of the preserved colonial buildings, consists of 1641 shops. A lot of souvenir, jewelry, handicraft, sculptures, and tapestry shops can be found there. Vendors in this market are generally easier to communicate in English than other shopping centers.

National races village, constructed by Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, is situated in Tharketa Township, on the left of Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge. This was aimed to expose the traditional way of living of the National races in Myanmar.

Yangon Zoological Garden has been inaugurated since 1906. It is quite a large zoo with over 59 species of animals, 63 species of birds, 17 species of reptiles on the fauna side. On the flora side, there are over 15,000 trees and plants.

Yangon Vicinity — Thanlyin, formerly known as Syriam, is just across the river from Yangon, spanned by one of the longest bridges in Myanmar. A half-an-hour's drive by car or train. This colonial town was built by the British for its port and petroleum refinery plant. The tombs of 2 famous Myanmar poets of 16th century, an 18th century Portuguese Church, and a century-old Sacred Heart Church are there. Kyaik Kauk Pagoda is built on a hillock on the road to Kyauk Tan. It is an imposing golden stupa similar to the Shwe Dagon pagoda. Another destination is the Yayle! Pagoda, meaning the pagoda in the middle of water. The pagoda complex comprises several buildings including a monastery. Pilgrims and visitors are ferried across to the pagoda. One can feed shoals of catfishes, often jumping out of surface to snatch tit-bits of food thrown at them.

Yangon Vicinity — Bago is a historical town, situated about 75 kilometers northeast of Yangon, was founded in 573 by two Mon

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Website: www.travelservicesmyanmar.com, www.fairylandmyanmartour.com

Summit Parkview

Yangon



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Website : www.myanmargoldentravel.com

Email : mgisales@myanmar.com.mm

mgisale@gmail.com, mgitours@gmail.com

Ph: (951) 535944, (959) 5127398, 73106464, Fax/Ph : (951) 536470

No.21, Shwehninsi St, Sanchaung Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar.



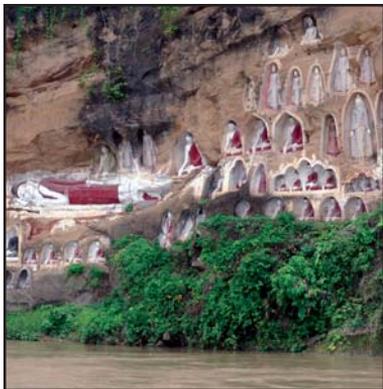
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Myanmar Nara Apex Travel & Tour



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Myanmar.Tel:(+951)540096 ~7, 545701.
Fax: (+951) 543789

Email: apex.mya@mptmail.net.mm
Website: www.myanmararaapex.com



Akauk Taung, rocky river bank of Ayeyarwaddy



Seitatkyi Buddha, Pyay



The grand palace of 2nd Myanmar Empire, Bago

princes, which later developed it into the capital of Second Myanmar Empire. Shwemawdaw Pagoda, located in the heart of Bago, is even taller than the famous Shwe Dagon Pagoda. Shwethalyaung Buddha is a famous reclining image of a huge Buddha, 180 feet in length and 52.5 feet in height. It was 'lost' for many years as it was covered under earth in the scrub jungle, until an Indian contractor dug up the place. The image was restored in 1881. It is also known as "the golden reclining image". Kanbawza Thadi Palace was built by King Bayinnaung, the founder of the second Myanmar Empire. According to the drawing record made by a minister 'Letwe Nawrahta' there were totally 76 apartments and halls. The replica of the palace was reconstructed not long ago. For ecotourism trips, Moeyingyi and Pho Kyar Camps are popular destinations. The Moeyingyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary is located within 40 square mile area where the birds from many parts of the world can be observed. Pho Kyar Forest Camp is a place having a special privilege of occupying a prime location, a little forest bordering with a stream running in zigzag way within the area and providing an abundance of water supply for local settlement and elephants bathing.

Yangon Vicinity — Taungoo, also known as Kaytumadi. Located 175 miles from Yangon and is the only place for the tourists where you can get good accommodation on Yangon-Mandalay road. It is one of the main gateway to Bago Yoma.

Yangon Vicinity — Pyay, was formerly known as Prome. It is an important commercial center for trade between the Ayeyarwady Delta, Central and Upper Myanmar and the Rakhine State. Pyay is only 161 km north of Yangon. The ancient 'Pyu' Capital lies 8 km southeast of Pyay. Archaeological discoveries indicate that the city attained its height of prosperity between the 5th and 9th centuries. Shwesandaw

Pagoda is a major destination in Pyay. The Sehtatgyi Buddha Image is an enormous seated image near Shwesandaw Pagoda. Shwemyatman Buddha Image, Shwe Nat Taung Pagoda and Akauk Taung are also popular places around Pyay.

Yangon Vicinity — Pathein is the main coastal town in the Ayeyarwaddy Division. About 48 kilometres from Pathein, Ngwe Saung Beach, with a beach frontage on the Bay of Bengal with its clear blue waters, sandy beaches and unspoiled and pollution-free natural surroundings, is indeed one of the best places to select for a holiday. Chaung Thar Beach is an attractive wide beach with a muddy delta look, mostly crowded with local visitors.

Where to Stay

- **Chatrium Hotel Yangon** 40, Natmauk Rd, Tamwe ☎544500 www.chatriumhotelyangon.com
- **Summit Parkview Hotel** 350 Ahlone Rd, Dagon ☎211888 www.summitparkview.com
- **Central Hotel** 335-357, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Pabedan ☎241001 www.centralhotelyangon.com
- **MiCasa Hotel Apartments** 17, Kaba Aye Pagoda Rd, Yankin ☎650933 www.myanmar.micasahotel.com
- **Ocean Pearl Inn** 215, Botataung Pagoda Rd, Pazundaung ☎297007 www.oceanpearlinn.com
- **Motherland Inn** (2) 433, Lower Pazundaung Rd, Pazundaung ☎291343 www.myanmarmotherlandinn.com
- **Classique Inn** No. 53 B, Shwe Taung Kyar Street (Golden Valley Road) Bahan ☎525557 www.classique-inn.com

Where to Eat

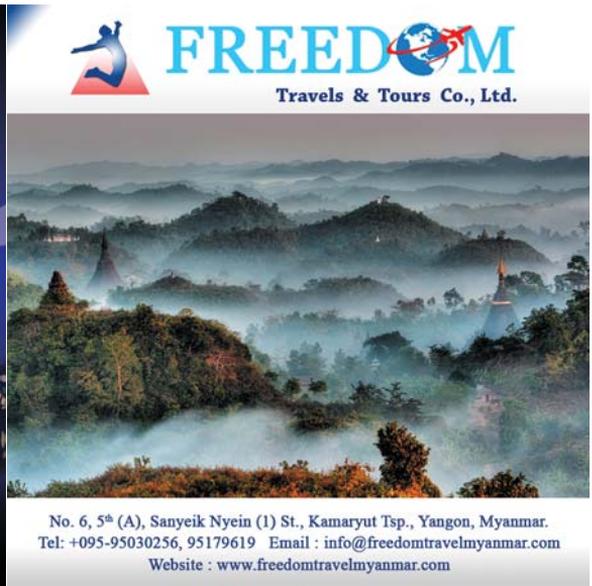
- **Inya 1 Restaurant & Bar** No.1, Inya Road, Kamayut ☎527506 www.inya1.com



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Fax: (+95-1) 507 273
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www.myanmar-kyawsantravel.com



Newly built town-hall at the capital Naypyitaw

Naypyitaw

Location: Latitude:19°62' N, Longitude:96°02' E



Naypyitaw is the administrative capital of the Union of Myanmar. Centrally located, it is 391 km from Yangon and 302 km from Mandalay, being easily accessible from all parts of the Union. The environs of Nay Pyi Taw comprise (8) townships viz. Zeyar Thiri, Pohbba Thiri, Uttara Thiri, Zabu Thiri, Dekhina Thiri, Pyinmana, Lewe and Tatkone Townships. Nay Pyi Taw Airport is about 30 minutes from Nay Pyi Taw. All domestic carriers operate daily flights from Nay Pyi Taw to the commercial capital, Yangon, and the cultural capital Mandalay. There are flights via Nay Pyi Taw to tourist destinations such as Bagan, Heho, Sittwe, Myitkyina, Kyaing Tong and others.

Getting around

Naypyitaw Station is on the main Yangon-Mandalay rail line. It takes nine hours by train to get from Yangon to Naypyitaw. Naypyitaw Airport, located 10 miles southeast of the city, is served by all domestic airlines. Air Bagan, Air Mandalay, Myanmar Airways and Yangon Airways, with regular flights to Yangon and other cities across the country. A new highway from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw has been opened recently and now the travelling time from

Yangon to Naypyitaw is only about 4 hours drive. Naypyitaw Express Coaches run everyday along the Yangon - Naypyitaw Highway. There are also private taxis available in Naypyitaw.

Where to Visit

City Hall is one of the prominent Land Marks of Nay Pyi Taw, in which Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee establishes its headquarters which undertakes tasks for development of Nay Pyi Taw. State occasions are held with the accompaniment of the tune of National Anthem played by State Orchestra in Nay Pyi Taw City Hall. That indicates Nay Pyi Taw, administrative City of the Union of Myanmar.

Myanmar International Convention Centre (MICC) is located on 16 acres of land with 312, 000 square feet in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw. The MICC has plenary hall that can accommodate 1900 attendees. The MICC building is formed with listening rooms, holding rooms, meeting rooms, VIP summit room, news briefing room, singing room and the 720 persons capacity Banquet Hall.

Uppatasanti Pagoda (Nay Pyi Taw) is 325 feet high Uppatasanti Pagoda lends a certain dignity to Nay Pyi Taw. The pagoda was



A beautiful sunny experience at Chaung Thar Beach

Chaung Thar Beach

Location: Latitude: 16°45' N, Longitude: 94°30' E
Temperature: min 13°C - max 38°C



Located 40 km to the west of Patheingyi in Ayeyarwaddy Division, Chaung Thar Beach is about 5-hour drive from Yangon. It is an attractive wide beach with Ayeyarwaddy delta look. Two small islands can be seen offshore. Chaung Thar is rich in food too. Delicious Crab curry and other sea foods are popular, with great taste and low prices. Fresh coconut juice will make you relaxed here. There are quite a few islands to visit near Chaung Thar Beach. Some of these islands are The' Phyu Island, Pho Kalar Island, and Kyaut Maung Nham. Speed boats are also available for rent. While listening to the whispers of the wind and beat of the ocean waves as you relax in your rattan chair, you will surely find yourself relaxing and all your stress and tensions slipping away. You can stroll along the seashore and visit nearby villages to sample the local cuisine, and buy ornaments made of sea shells, mother of pearl, fossilized marine flora, unusual coral formations and many more. These can be great souvenirs on your way home. Beaches in the western coast of Myanmar, including Ngapali, Ngwe Saung, and Chaung Thar, were never disturbed by Tsunami disaster.

The' Phyu Island - Also known as the white sand island. About 15 minutes walk to the ferry boat stand from your hotels. 25 minutes engine-boat ride for 1,000 Kyats/person. Life vests are provided to the passengers and tickets are required to buy at the ferry stand. There is a temple on the island. The island is white because of the dumping of the dead seashells to the shore. There are lots of rocky white stones. Pho Kalar Island - There is a temple, a monastery and many coconut trees. You can drink fresh coconut juice for 100 Kyats/coconut. 2 minutes engine-boat ride for 200 Kyats/person. No need to buy tickets. The water is quite shallow. There is a small village on the island selling coconuts and dried fishes. The water is clearer on that side of the island. You can find many red and green crabs running around. Kyaut Maung Nham - You can take a walk (takes about 3 hours) or ride a bicycle (takes about 2 hours) or ride a motor cycle (takes about 1 hour). The road is bumpy. But the rocky shores are beautiful. There is one temple on top of a big stone.

Where to Stay

- **Hotel Max Chaungtha Beach Hotel** No.1 Ywama Curve, Ba Yint Naung Rd, Hlaing ☎ 042-42346
- **Belle Resort** No.20 D,B-201, 202, 2nd Flr, Baho Road & Thirimingalar St, Sanchaung ☎ 042 - 42112
- **Lai Lai Chaung Tha Beach Hotel** ☎ 042-22587



Grand Palace Tower along with other buildings in Mandalay Palace, capital of 3rd Myanmar Empire

Mandalay City

Established: around 200 years ago

Location: Latitude:21°58' N, Longitude:96°04' E

Temperature: min 10°C - max 43.3°C

Population: over 1 million



Mandalay, capital of the last Myanmar kingdom has grown a lifestyle strongly influenced by conservative tradition and culture. It is situated about 600 kilometers north of Yangon on the bank of the Ayeyarwaddy River. It is the second largest city in the country. Today, it is a major trading and communication center in the northern and central Myanmar. With Buddhism, conservatism, and traditional arts, Mandalay abounds in historical sites and cultural memorials.

Where to Visit

The world's largest book, known as Kuthodaw is a 13-acre field of 729 pieces of stone inscriptions, documenting the whole Buddhist Bible on marble slabs. Mandalay Palace was first built by King Mindon when he shifted his capital from Amarapura in AD 1861, to fulfill an old prophecy. It was built of teak wood on raised brick plinth, gilded with gold and vermillion. This square-shaped palace wall is quarter mile long on each sides. There are 12 gates, 3 on each side.

The bricks wall is 25 feet high. It was the official capital and royal palace of the last Myanmar King Thipaw, until British captured him in 1885 and took him to India. Some buildings including wooden pavilions are original and some have been rebuilt as replica. Maha Myat Muni Buddha, located in the southwest part of the city, is a 4 m-high seated image, cast in bronze and weighs 6.5 tons. The crown is decorated with precious diamonds, rubies, and sapphires. This Buddha image is highly venerated, as it is said to be made in front of Buddha himself, and thus its face is most revered. The image is completely covered with 15 cm-thick gold. Mandalay Hill has 230 meters in elevation and commands a magnificent view of the city and surrounding countryside. As a legend goes, Buddha, on His visit, made a prophecy that a great city would be founded at the foot of this hill many years later. U Bein Bridge was constructed in 1849, crossing the Taungtha-man Lake is one of the main attractions for visitors. It is the longest teak bridge in the world. Although a bit rickety in some parts, it has withstood many storms and floods of over two centuries. The bridge is named after its donor Mayor U Bein. Atumashi Monastery in Mandalay is a Buddhist monastery, beautifully decorated with white and golden paints. Sanda Muni Pagodas are located near the Mandalay Hill. Sanda Muni is a large collection of slender whitewashed ancillary stupas on the grounds. The Golden Palace Monastery is the most significant of Mandalay's historic buildings, remaining as



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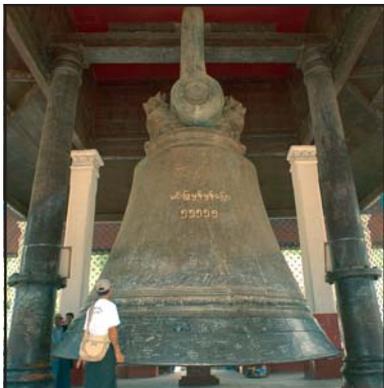


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Sandamuni Pagoda



World's largest ringing bell



Umin Thonse, the 30 Caves Temple

the sole major survivor of the former wooden Royal Palace built by King Mindon in the mid-nineteenth century. It is fragile yet grand example of 19th century Myanmar teak architecture and also a significant masterpiece of the wood-carver's art.

Mandalay Vicinity — Sagaing, ancient capital of Sagaing Dynasty, lies 21 km southwest of Mandalay on the west bank of the Ayeyarwaddy River. Sagaing Hills are known as a religious retreat where over 400 monasteries, housing thousands of monks and nuns. **Kaung Hmudaw Pagoda:** About 10 km from Sagaing, it is an enormous dome-shaped pagoda, built by King Thalun in 1636. **Umin Thonse (30 Caves)** has many Buddha images in a crescent shaped colonnade. Mural paintings can be seen in the Tilawkgaguru cave temple, built in 1672.

Mandalay vicinity — Monywa is located 136 km northwest of Mandalay and situated on the eastern bank of the Chindwin River. **Thanboddhay Pagoda:** First built in 1303 by Monywa Sayadaw. The solid section of the monument is said to enclose 7,350 relics and other holy materials. **Po Win Daung Caves:** The caves and surrounding hills are named after U Po Win. Caves themselves contain Buddhist statues and murals dating to the 17th and 18th century.

Mandalay Vicinity — Mingun: Located about 11 km from Mandalay, on the opposite bank of the Ayeyarwaddy River. **Great Mingun Temple:** Over 20,000 workers toiled for 20 years on the construction of this great temple, which was unfortunately abandoned due to the death of King Bodawpaya in 1819. According to the 15-foot miniature model of the temple, its final height of over 500 feet would have been the world's tallest building. It has the height of 162 feet up to the first terrace, which was less than one third of the final height. This unfinished

structure was badly damaged by the earthquake of 1838, but it is still the largest brick base in the world. **Mingun Bell** is the world's biggest ringing bell, as well as the second-largest bell on earth. The great bell was made of bronze and weighs 55555 visses (100 tons). **Mya Theindan Pagoda** was built by King Bagyidaw in 1816, three years before he succeeded Bodawpaya as a king.

Mandalay Vicinity — Pyin Oo Lwin: A pretty little hill resort, 67km east of Mandalay. Pyin Oo Lwin (formerly Maymyo) was established by the British as a cool retreat from the heat of the central Myanmar plains. **National Kandawgyi Garden,** is about 50-acre in size containing, 4840 trees mostly pine varieties, 575 different floral species and many exotic fruits and flowers. The '2006 Flower Festival' of Kandawgyi Garden was held in honor to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee years of the Garden. **Pwe Kauk Fall** is about 8km from town. It was called Hampshire Falls during British times. It's a very pleasant picnic spot. **Peik Chin Myaung Cave** is near Wetwun village. It is at the entrance to the Peik Chin Myaung ravine, with many beautiful springs. As lime piled up, the hillock took formation.

Where to Stay

- **Aureum Palace Hotels & Resorts,** Ward 6, Governor's Hill, Mandalay-Lashio Highway Road, Pyin Oo Lwin ☎085-21901 www.aureumpalacehotel.com
- **Mandalay City Hotel,** 26th St, 82nd & 83rd St, Chan Aye Tharzan, Mandalay ☎02-61700 www.mandalaycityhotel.com
- **Dat Taw Gyaint Waterfall Resort,** Anisakhan, Near Chan Myae Meditation Center, Mandalay-Lashio Highway Road, Pyin Oo Lwin ☎085-50262 www.pyinoolwinresort.com

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Kyaukhtyi Pagoda, the famous Golden Rock



Golden Rock at extremely sensitive position



Kachin beauty queens at Manau Festival

Kyaukhtyi

Location: Latitude:17°30' N, Longitude:97°07' E
Temperature: min 8°C - max 36°C



Where to Visit

Kyaukhtyi Pagoda is also well known as the Miracle Golden Rock. This miracle golden rock has been there in an extremely sensitive position on the edge of cliff. In Mon language, Kyaukhtyi means 'the pagoda carried on the hermit's head'. With its magical powers, the boulder itself was said to be floating miraculously up in the air, carrying the tiny pagoda with of holy Buddha relics in it. Over many centuries, it has descended bit by bit, and it is now intact with the cliff. Today, this miracle golden rock is still rocking back and forth when pushed, and it has survived many earthquakes and storms for over 2400 years. Regarding the scientific specification of the golden rock, the rock on which the pagoda lies is a granite stone. The volume is about 244 cubic meters. The density is about 2.5 ton per cubic meter, which calculates the total weight to about 611 Tons. Whatever it is, a 600-ton boulder standing on 1 square meter base, on this weather-exposed rocky peak, is still a living miracle! You should go there if you ever wanted to witness a miracle.

Where to Stay

- Kyaik Hto Hotel, Kyaukhtyi Yin Pyin, ☎ 01-663341
- Mountain Top Hotel, Five minutes walk from the Kyaukhtyi Pagoda ☎01-523553
- Golden Rock Hotel, Courtyard of Kyaukhtyi Pagoda, near the Yattheiktaung Car Parking ☎ 01-536553

Myitkyina

Location: Latitude:25° 22' N, Longitude:97° 24' E
Temperature: min 10° C max 32° C



Myitkyina is the capital city of Kachin state. The Myitkyina district consist of 5 townships. The snow-capped Mount Hkakabo Razi (19,295 feet or 5,881m) is the highest peak in the country, and also the world's 18th highest mountain. It was first ascended by humans recently in 1996. Famous jade mines are in Hpakant, accessible from Myitkyina via Moekaung and Karming towns. Recently a massive piece of jade over 2000 tons was discovered. Hpakant is renowned for its finest jade resources. Kachin Manaw Festival is held annually in Myitkyina, usually around first week of January. The Kachins take great part in this festival and many Kachins from around the world come back to participate in the festival. Foreigners are now free to visit Myitkyina without prior government permission. There are also Buddhist pagodas and Chinese temples. The Myitkyina Airfield was built before World War II and was captured by the Imperial Japanese Army during the World War II.

Myitkyina is a place where giant fruits abound such as apples, grape fruits, limes, pineapples and assortment of oranges including the giant avocados and apricots.

Where to Stay

- **Sumpra Hotel:** No. 10, Thida Aye Quarter Sitapur ☎ 074-22298
- **Popa Hotel:** Railway Station, Myitkyina ☎ 074-21746



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Phaung Taw Oo Festival boat parade at Inle Lake

Inle Lake

Location: Latitude:20°46' N, Longitude:97°01'E
Temperature: min 12°C - max 28°C
Population: 80,000



Inle Lake is a huge lake (22 km long and 10 km across) located in Shan State, over 900 meters above sea-level, and it is outrageously beautiful. The strangest thing about Inle is native lake-dwellers, living on 'floating islands'. Have you ever seen an island in your life which floats around? This is no magic. No miracle. No joke. It's real!

Inle Lake is one of the most significant and productive ecological system supporting an immense variety of plants and animals and yielding great wealth for Myanmar through its occurrence of floating islands and the life style of the natives.

Floating islands are collection of floating weed and water hyacinth, which later piled up and hardened, that vegetation can be grown, and even houses can be built on top of them. These floating islands can be cut, dragged by boats, or even be sold like a piece of land! This vast picturesque lake is one of the main tourist attractions in Myanmar. Besides, it is the home of some 80,000 Inthars (native lake-dwellers) in 17 villages. Many Inthars live in their huts and wooden bungalows on floating islands, while some live by the villages lakeshore. Inle

Lake, natural and unpolluted, is famous for their amazing lifestyle and its incomparable scenic beauty. You have to find out why this unique leg-rowing custom is practiced by Inthars.

Living Legend: Why do they live a harder life on water, and not on land? There goes a folk tale that today's lake-dwellers are descendants of some Myanmar troops centuries ago. They were once sent to exile by an angry Emperor.

The order of exile was 'to leave *his land*'. But these Myanmar troops were so loyal and smart, that they left Myanmar land obeying the emperor, by living on water in Inle Lake, but never left the country they love so much!

Where to Visit

Phaungdawoo Buddha Images are in a set of five, cherished by Bagan Emperor Alaung Sithu, dedicated to five Buddhas of this planet Earth. These Buddha images are famous because many prayers came true, after praying at Phaung Taw Oo. Try yourself.

Nyaung Shwe is the capital town for Inle Lake area. 5-day market, opened only on every 5th day, is very interesting thing for tourists. Women from various hill tribes that live in the Inle Lake region come to sell their home crafts, products, fruits & vegetable in this market.

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Weaving is a way of life in Padaung land



Ancient temples at Shwe Indein



Stucco beauty at Shwe Indein

Indein, one of the 17 small villages of Inle Lake, is on the west end. Visitors have to take 5-km boat ride from Ywama village, which is next to Nyaung Shwe. A Buddha image is enshrined inside a white-washed stupa, on the summit of a hill. Below the stupa around the hill are a cluster of hundreds of ancient stupas. Many of them are ruined and overgrown with bushes.

Nga Phe Kyaung: This wooden monastery was built on stilts of Inle, about 2 centuries ago. Century-old wooden sculptures can be seen there. It is widely known as 'Jumping Cat Monastery' because cats from this monastery can jump and leap through hoops.

Boat Competitions held during the Phaung Taw Oo Pagoda festival, are also very interesting. About 100-leg rowers stand on each boat, standing on 1 foot and paddling with the other. Imagine it's even quite hard to stand still on a boat.

Taunggyi

Taunggyi is situated in southern Shan State and is the capital town of Shan States. It is 4,712 feet above the sea level and has a moderately cool climate. Also located about 500 kilometers north of Yangon and about 100 kilometers southeast of Mandalay. It is situated on a high plateau surrounded by high mountains.

Hot-Air Balloon Festival: In Taunggyi, people celebrate the Tazaungdine Lighting Festival by sending up fire-balloons into the sky. Balloons in the shape of elephant, ox, horse, bird, pig, fish, owl, parrot and so on. This is the biggest festival in the country. It is attended not only by Taunggyi residents but also by other locals from all over the country and international tourists.

Pindaya

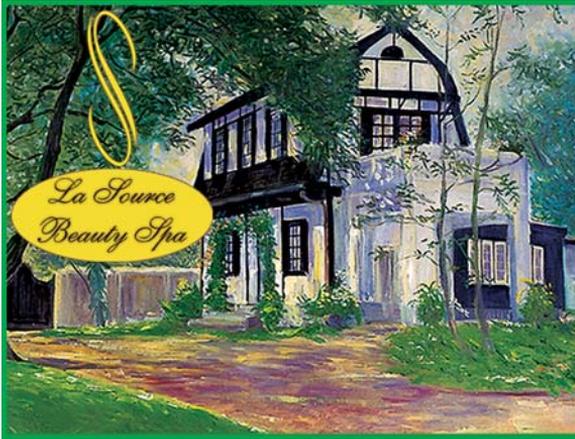
Pindaya is a small quiet town perched on the bank of the placid Botoloke Lake. The Pindaya Cave, containing thousands of Buddha images, is the main destination in this region. It is a huge cave where hundreds and thousands of Buddha images in various sizes, styles, and shapes were donated and installed since the 11th century. The most attractive place in Pindaya is the ancient Shwe U Min cave which contains about 8,000 Buddha statues, collected over the centuries. Shwe U Min Pagoda festival is held annually on the fullmoon day of Tabaung, which is the last month of Myanmar Lunar Calendar.

Inle Vicinity — Kaku Pagodas are a group of over 2,000 stupas, only about 33 miles away from Taunggyi. Most of them are many centuries old, and it is a newly opened destination.

Inle Vicinity — Kalaw stands high on the western edge of the Shan Plateau. It is 70 km west of Taunggyi, about halfway along the Thazi-Taunggyi road. This was a popular hill resort in the British colonial period, and it is still a peaceful quiet place. At an altitude of 1,320m it is pleasantly cool and a good place for hiking amid pines, bamboo groves and rugged mountain scenery. Those living around Kalaw are from four ethnic groups, Palaung, Pa-O, Danu and Taung Yoe.

Where to stay

- **Inle Resort** Inlay Lake, Southern Shan State ☎ 081-29361 www.inleresort.com
- **Paramount Inle Resort** Nga Phe Chaung Village, Inle, Shan State. ☎081-209477 www.amazing-hotel.com



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How many kings or queens are there in the world, who could afford to make documents with golden sheets? Myanmar is one of those who made the grandest golden throne in the world and those who built the largest golden building on earth.

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National Geographic Traveler magazine, October 2006



Panoramic view of Bagan archaeological zone with 4000 ancient monuments

Bagan

Established: 1200 years ago

Location: Latitude:21°10' N, Longitude:94°51' E

Temperature: min 10°C - max 43°C



Although earliest Myanmar civilizations emerged as Pyu city states since BC 4000 or so, Bagan actually was the first capital of the first wholly-unity Myanmar Empire (846-1368 AD). Situated on the east bank of the Ayeyarwaddy River and approximately 90 miles (145 km) southwest of Mandalay, lies the magnificent Bagan. Over 2000 Buddhist shrines, temples, pagodas, and remains of the royal palace cover the whole Bagan plain of 42 sq km.

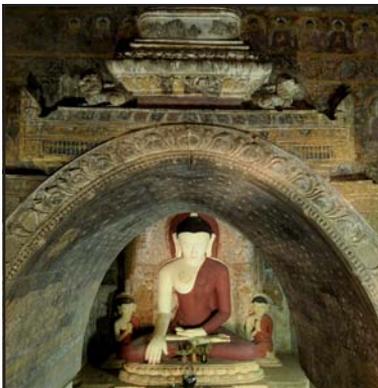
Where to Visit

Ananda Temple is the finest and best preserved among all Bagan temples. The Ananda, built by King Kyansittha (1084-1113AD), is significantly different in form. The temple is said to represent the endless wisdom of Buddha. Thatbyinnyu Temple was one of King Sithu's (1113-1167 AD) finest legacies to the Bagan region. Located just inside the southeastern corner of the old city wall, Thatbyinnyu is Bagan's tallest temple at almost 200 ft. Shwegugyi, meaning 'Great Golden Cave' was built by King Alaungsithu (1113-1167AD)

This temple is an early example of a transition in architectural styles which resulted in airy and naturally well lit buildings, built in 1131. The Gadawt Palin (Temple of the worshipping throne) was built during the reign of King Narapatisithu (1174-1211AD) and completed during the reign of his successor, Nadaung-mya (aka. King Htilominlo, 1211-1234). Strangely shaped Bupaya Pagoda is situated right on the river bank of the Ayeyarwaddy. This pagoda has been claimed to be the oldest in Bagan, dating back to 3rd century AD. The Maha Bohdi Temple, erected during the reign of King Nadaungmya, is modeled after the temple of the same name in Bodhgaya, India. It is a 140-foot-high brick and whitewashed stucco structure characterized by a large square pyramidal tower and topped by a conical spire and umbrella. Dhammayangyi Temple, one of the most artistic and massive shrines, was built by King Narathu, who ensured sole copyright of artwork of this temple, by killing hundreds of workers who built it, so that these masons can no more produce high quality artwork as same as this. First Myanmar Empire collapsed after Mongol invasion during the reign of King Narathihapati (1256-1287 AD), who built Mingalarzedi Pagoda. It could be the last pagoda built during the Bagan era. It is noted for its fine proportions and for the many beautiful jataka tiles around its three square terraces. A very similar structure, Shwezigon Pagoda is located in Nyaung Oo, 4 miles to the northeast of the ancient city of Bagan. It is 160 feet high and 160 feet wide at the base. Built in the early Bagan period on an open plain,



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Most massive temple in Bagan

this pagoda inspires faith even today, bringing joy to the hearts of visitors as they behold its scene. The Htilominlo descended from the Mon words, meaning "the most prestigious place among the three phases". The Gubyaukgyi is noted for its wall paintings, depicting scenes from the previous lives of Buddha. Its ceiling is full of wall paintings and the halls have enough lights to view these clearly. There is a Buddha Image in the first hallway and with the marvelous paintings at the back of the image. There is also Myinkaba Gubyaukgyi situated near Wetkyi-Inn Village. Manuha Temple is on the right side of the main road going south from Bagan, and right in Myinkaba Village. King Manuha's inscription says that it was built in AD 1067 about a decade after the Mon king was brought to Bagan. A portico in the north, paved with green glazed stones and having niches holding stone reliefs of Buddha, provides access to the Nagayon. The walls of the corridor have niches holding stone sculptures depicting the 3 Buddhas previous to Gotama Buddha, as well as paintings showing scenes from the Jatakas and the Final Life of Gotama Buddha. The Lawkananda Stupa is believed to have been built in 1059 by King Anawrahta. It is located on a promontory above a small bay in the east bank of the Ayeyarwaddy that probably served as a port for Bagan and marked the southern end of the city. Other than the ancient pagodas and temples, the museum and the lacquer shops are also the main tourist attractions. Archaeological Museum is 3-storey building, beautifully decorated with contemporary Myanmar traditional art. Its ceiling tiles are one of the most beautiful part of the museum. The ground floor exhibits arts and crafts of Bagan era, languages and literatures, archaeological designs, portraits of the Bagan's lifestyle and battle fields. On the first floor, portraits of famous Bagan shrines, artifacts, and Buddha images. From the top floor, you can see the most scenic view of Bagan and its prehistoric

pagodas. This museum is one of the most important places you should visit while you are in Bagan. Nann Myint Viewing Tower is the ideal one-stop viewpoint for visitors to Bagan to see the wonders of over 4,000 ancient Buddhist temples and pagodas of 11-13 century.

Bagan Lacquerware: Lacquerware in general means woven rattan handicrafts which are coated with fine lacquer. In Myanmar, they are mostly woven with bamboo and covered with thick varnish, usually black. The history of Myanmar lacquerware art goes back to the 11th century. It emerged in the early part of Bagan period. This is how Myanmar lacquerware is made. On a framework of woven strips of bamboo, mixtures of sap resin with clay and ash are carefully built-up and finally polished with the ash of wood. The designs are then etched or painted by hand. The most traditional lacquerware is of a unique terracotta color, with scenes from the 550 previous lives of Buddha or activities of royal families. Etched and then filled in with green pigment, many types of lacquerware are produced.

Mt. Popa is an extinct volcano, estimated to have erupted over 320,000 years ago. Popa is popularly recognized as an abode of many spiritual beings. To Myanmar people, Mt.Popa is same as Mt.Olympia is to Greeks, where all sorts of mythological gods live in. It's just a few hours drive from Bagan.

Where to Stay

- **Aureum Palace Hotels & Resorts** Near Bagan Viewing Tower, Min Nanthu Village, Bagan ☎061-60046-47, aureumpalacehotel.com
- **The Hotel @ Tharabar Gate** Near Tharabar Gate, Old Bagan, Nyaung Oo, Bagan ☎061-60037 www.tharabargate.com



Ngapali beach was originally named after the beautiful beach of Naples, Italy

Ngapali Beach

Location: Latitude:18°30 N, Longitude:94°15'E
Temperature: min 13°C - max 38°C



Beaches of Myanmar belong to the list of most beautiful southeast Asian beaches and they however are still nearly undiscovered. Among them, Ngapali Beach is the most beautiful in Myanmar. It is famous for its natural and unspotted beauty up to this day. There are some folk tales which tells that Ngapali Beach was said to be named after the beautiful Beach of Napoli (Naples) of Italy, in the Mediterranean Sea. Ngapali Beach stretches miles after miles with soft white sand fringed by coconut palms. It lies on one of the finest seaside in the country. It serves as the best ground for sunbathing and recreation such as beach strolling, cycling and so on.

Unlike today's beaches of Asia, it is free of noisy beachside bars, crowded people and hawkers persuading you to buy their stuffs. There are only natural scenic beauty of the blue *sea*, white *sand* and the lovely *sun*. The sea is clean cobalt blue, without any dangerous marine creatures. The water here is transparent and the sea is tranquil. Bicycle tours, bullock cart tours can be arranged to visit the nearby villages. Fishing boats and jet ski, diving equipments, can be hired nearby.

Near by destination : Mrauk U

Mrauk U is located near the west coast of Myanmar. It is the 15th century ancient capital of in Rakhine Kings. There are remains of the magnificent Royal Palace in Mrauk U along with 70 stupas. Mrauk U Museum displays some old artifacts of Vesali, Launggret and Mrauk-U periods, ranging from 8th to the 16th century. Also it is a good collection of ancient artifacts unearth around the city. Shitthaung Pagoda, (80,000 pagodas) is located half mile away from Mrauk U. It consist of 80,000 pagodas of various sizes and forms. Originally built by King Minbagyi in 1535 as a fortress against the Portuguese invasion. Similarly Koethaung Pagoda (90,000 pagodas) was built by King Thaikkha in 1553. It is the biggest pagoda in Mrauk U area. The whole series of pagodas were built with sandstones. Andaw Pagoda houses a tooth relic of Buddha, obtained from Sri Lanka. Laymyetnha Pagoda was built by Rakhine King Saw Mon.

Where to Stay

- **Aureum Palace Hotels & Resorts** Shwe Wah Chaing, Mya Pyin Village, Than Dway (Sandoway) City, Rakhine State ☎ 043-44122 www.aureumpalacehotel.com
- **Amazing Ngapali Resort** Ngapali Beach, Rakhine State, Myanmar. ☎043-42011 www.amazing-hotel.com



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Traveler Information

Accommodations: Over 16,000+ hotel rooms of all categories to suit each traveler's price range. Banking / Money Exchange: Exchange of US dollars to FEC has become optional. Local private banks are not licensed to exchange foreign currencies. Money exchangers are not found everywhere. Business Hours: 9am-5pm for private companies. 9:30-4:30 for government offices, Monday through Friday. Credit Cards are not widely accepted. Cash is always more convenient. Currency: National currency is Kyat (MMK). Departure: Export permit is required for some jewelries and artifacts. Prior applications required. Antiques are not allowed for export. Drug Abuse: Trafficking drugs is a capital offence. Electricity: 220 volts AC, 50Hz. 110 volts is also available in some hotels. Language: Myanmar is the official language. English is widely spoken and understood. Adult literacy rate: 90%+ Fees: There are official entrance fees (zone fees) to some destinations. Public Shopping: Bargaining is acceptable in most places, unless it is declared fixed price. Jewelries and handicrafts are most popular souvenirs for visitors to Myanmar. Souvenirs: Generally it is a great bargain for tourists to buy precious jewelries, sculptures, lacquerware, handicrafts, tapestries. Make sure your expensive souvenirs come along with an export permit. Big jewelry shops

usually do. Transportation: Taxis are available everywhere. For exclusive transport, contact car rental services. Express Bus Terminals: No border-crossing bus lines at the moment. Domestic highway bus terminals are Aung-Yadanar and Sawbwargyi-Gone, both about 10 miles from downtown Yangon. Travellers' cheques: Not widely accepted as it takes weeks to clear them. Weight & Measure: Common local unit of weight is peiktha (viss), which equals to 3.6 pounds. Most common unit of measure is feet and inches. Public Holidays: Some holidays are different every year, so please check the holidays before you come to Myanmar. Clothing: Light, casual cotton wear, sandals or slippers are best for summer. A cardigan or light jerkin for winter and quick drying clothes and an umbrella during the rainy season. Accessories: Insect repellent, sun block, sunglasses, hat, umbrella will be useful. Medicines: Medication for diarrhea and cold are suggested to bring with you.

TOURIST CENTER: Myanmar Travels and Tours (MTT) No. 118, Mahabandoola Garden Street, Kyauktada, Tel: (+95-1) 374281, 378376, 371910, 252859 Fax: (+95-1) 254417 Email: mtt.mht@mptmail.net.mm. Information: myanmartravelsandtours.com

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Ngwe Saung Beach sunset view

Ngwe Saung Beach

Location: Latitude:17°00' N, Longitude:94°25'E
Temperature: min 13°C - max 38°C



Ngwe Saung, meaning 'silver', is a newly opened beach resort on the west coast of Myanmar. It is still an unspoiled virgin destination, with crystal clear water and clean silver sand. Have you noticed that all the beaches does not face to the west? Only when it does, you can experience the perfect sunset, with sun going down into the sea.

Ngwe Saung is a very romantic beach, which stretches 15 km of white sand against the blue sea. There are newly constructed bungalows with local flavor but equipped with modern facilities. Fringed with coconut trees, almost all hotel buildings usually face toward the beach. Diving-fishing facilities and boat tours to nearby islands can be arranged.

At Ngwe Saung Beach, one can find varieties of sea fishes, marine plants and also the coral reef. This beach is so natural that you will be able to find sea shells, jelly fishes, and crabs on the shore. Moreover crab-arts on sand are interesting to watch in evenings. The smell of fresh air, the taste of delicious seafood, and the heat of the sun, will make your holidays complete.

Lovers Island (Chitthu Myar Kyun) can be reached on foot in early mornings and afternoons for romantic moments. This is an extraordinary island, because it is an island only for a half day everyday when the tide is low, and becomes part of the coast on another half of the day, when the tide is high. The need for occasional rest and recuperation from the cares and worries of the world of work is an absolute necessity of the human beings. The periodic recharging of one's batteries and a replenishment of one's reserves of energy and vitality are universal needs. Ngwe Saung extends its warmest welcome to all visitors who wish to relax amidst the waving palms and balmy breezes of a truly memorable ocean resort.

Another interesting destination nearby is the Elephant Camp between Ngwe Saung and Pathein. It is only about 20 minutes drive from Ngwe Saung beach. You can see the day-to-day works of the elephants and their wildlife nature.

Where to Stay

• **Aureum Palace Hotels & Resorts** Ngwe Saung Village, Pathein, 042-40217 www.aureumpalacehotel.com • **Bay of Bengal** No.1 Ward, Ngwe Saung 042-40304 www.bayofbengalresort.com • **EFR Seconda Casa Beach Resort** Ward (3), Myoma Street, Ngwe Saung Beach 042-40398 www.efrseconda.com



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Snow-capped mountains of Putao, northern Myanmar

Putao

Location: Latitude: 27° 33' N
Longitude: 97° 41' E



Putao is the northernmost town of Kachin State, Myanmar and the World War II British Fort Hertz was there. It can only be reached by road during summer but is accessible year round by air. The area around Putao is famous for the variety of endemic birds and rare orchids, which grow naturally. Many orchid lovers are especially attracted by the so called "Black Orchid" that can be found in the mountains east and west of Putao. Mount Khakaborazi, the tallest peak in Myanmar, and other snow-capped mountains are visible from Putao. Putao attracts a lot of hiking enthusiasts. Khamti Long was the old name, meaning "Great Place of Gold" in the Hkamti Shan language. Nowadays, Rawang and Lisu people are making this place

their home. At 7-day-trek distance toward the west of Putao's mountain region, there live the Hta Lone pigmies of Myanmar, whose average height is less than four feet. These Hta Lone people are nearly extinct today. Other terrestrial species such as monkeys, boars, mountain goats are common here. Endangered butterfly species found here are Kaiser, Apollo, Bhutan, Glory and Birdwings. The area is full of rare butterflies, and rare orchids during January to April.

Tour Operators can arrange your trip for Malikha river cruise, elephant rides, kayak adventure, mountain-biking, trekking, and exciting Putao cultural tours. The Malikha Lodge is the perfect introduction and final farewell to Northern Kachin State. It was designed by world-famous architect Jean Michel Gathy.

Where to Stay

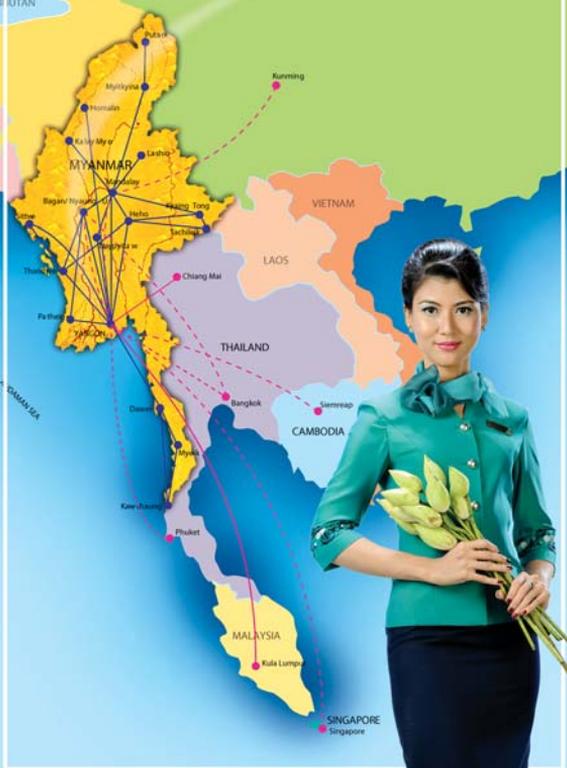
• **Malikha Lodge** No. 41, Golden Valley, Bahan, ☎(+95-1) 513300
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The first impression you get when entering the Long Tail in Ranong, Thailand, till you arrive in Kawthaung, Myanmar, is that you are about to enter a new and amazing world. Kawthaung is a bustling border town and the gateway to Mergui Archipelago. There are regular 1 hour 30 min flights from Yangon to Kawthaung. Plenty of shops, local restaurants, market and several interesting Buddhist temples. The local people are smiling, friendly and happy to meet people from other countries. There is a few handicraft shops selling carvings and semi precious stones. But, this is not your average tourist town. As a matter of fact you never see a tourist after darkness. At the end of our Mergui cruise we will spend a few hours exploring the town. Our local crews will be your guides. The islands are all covered in green rain forest. All have beaches which are spotlessly clean and the water is warm and clear. Prolific bird and wildlife, large sea eagles are common as well as Hornbill, Kingfisher, Heron other species. Several islands have Monkeys, some large lizards and boars. There is an island with a lagoon the size of a football field which can only be reached through a small tunnel by dingy or kayak. Another island has an enormous bird nest cave inhabited by 20 or so bird nest collectors which will blow your mind. But, one of the impressions which are everlasting is meeting the local sea gypsies (Moken). The whole family lives and sail their small craft from island to island. Collecting Fish, crabs, sea snails and whatever they can find to eat. In the book "Sea gypsies of Malay" written about 100 years ago they where estimated at 5000, young and old. Today the numbers are much smaller. But the few hundred Sea gypsies still live the same way they always did. With no materialistic desires.



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