

Tourist's Advisory



Bago

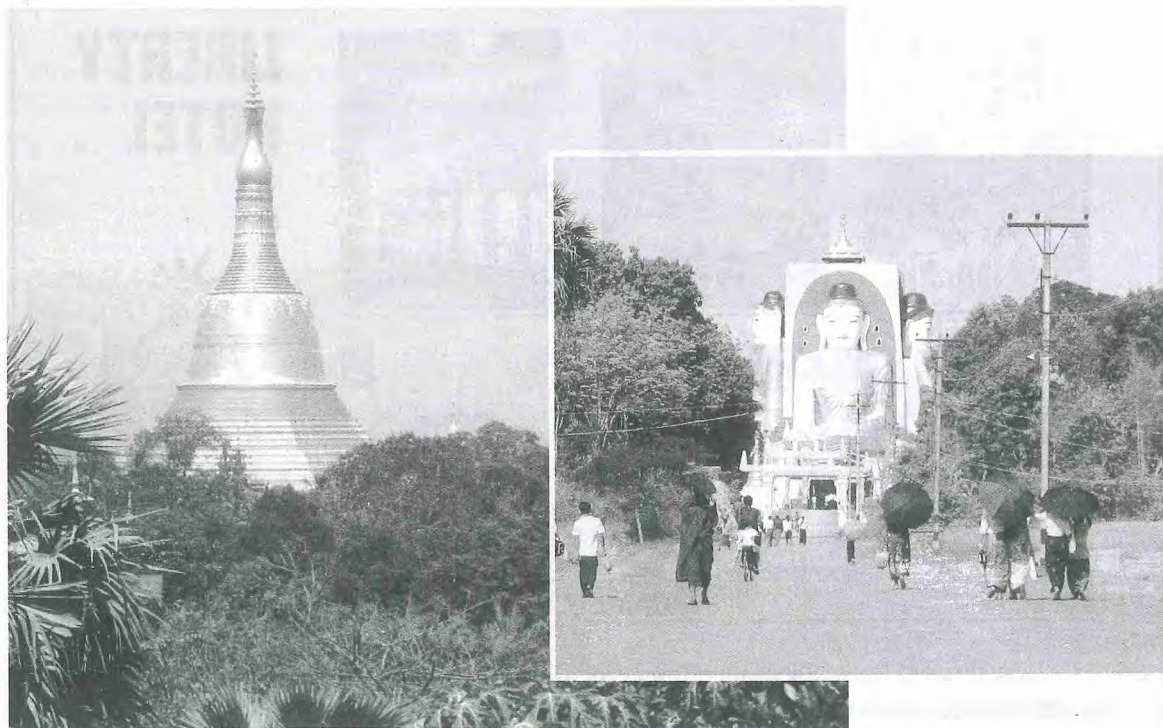
Capital of 15th century Mon kingdom of Hanthawaddy, Bago sprouts with a lot of memorable sites of its own. It is only 80 km by road from Yangon so it could well be made an extension of a Yangon visit.

Bago is a road and rail junction on Yangon- Mandalay and Yangon-Mawlamyaing routes. It is 1 1/2 hours by car or 2 hours by train from Yangon.

Bago has good guest houses but no accommodation should be needed for a for-

eign tourist as it is close to Yangon. For food there are several restaurants including Shwe Ohndaw just outside the town.

The leading pagoda of Bago is Shwemaw-daw, more or less the size and shape of the Shwedagon. Places of interest also include: Shwe-tha-lyaung Reclining Buddha (55 m long), Kalyani Sima (Ordination Hall), 28 m high Buddha Image of Kyaikpun Pagoda, and the Palace of King Bayintnaung (being restored as Kambawzathadi Palace). ☞



Myitkyina



Location

Covering an area of 34,379 sq miles and with a population of over 1.2 million, Myitkyina is in the northernmost state in the Union of Myanmar.

As its name (Myitkyi means "big river" and na means "near"), Myitkyina is on the western bank of the Ayeyarwaddy River.

How to get there

Total flying time: 185 mins from Yangon to Myitkyina.

By Malikha-Mandalay Train from Mandalay to Myitkyina—it takes 25 hrs passing through towns such as Shwebo, Indaw, Mohnyin and Mogaung.

Regular boat trip between Mandalay and Bhamo takes about 33 hrs.

Where to stay and where to dine

Popa Hotel (Railway Station, Myitkyina) YMCA, Manaw Guest House. some of the best Shan noodles are to be found at a stall at the corner of Bogyoke Aung San and Zawgyi Streets.

Why so special

Myitkyina is the capital of Kachin State where giant fruits abound: apples, grape fruits, limes, pineapples, and assortment of oranges including the giant "Washingtons", avocados, apricots.

On the bank of the Ayeyarwaddy River and in Myitkyina are Thetkya Marazein Andawshin Pagoda with a number of monasteries within its precincts; Lawka Man Aung Hse Taungpyi Zaydidaw, built in AD 1118 by King Alaung Sithu, overlooking the Ayeyawaddy River.

Myitkyina also boasts a gurkha temple (Shree Shara Swathi Temple) and a Chinese temple.

And six miles from Myitkyina is the Kareinnaw Yeiktha, amidst rocks and mountains where there are restaurants and stalls.

About 300 km to the north of Myitkyina stands Mt. Hkakaborazi, the highest peak in south-east Asia (5,882 m.)

About 150 km to the southwest of Myitkyina is located Indawgyi, the largest lake in Myanmar. And Myit-hson (confluence) of Maykha and Malikha to form the great Ayeyawaddy River. ☞

Pyay

258 km northwest of Yangon; On the eastern banks of the Ayeyarwady.

How to get there

8 hours by train; 4 hours by car.

Where to stay and where to dine

Pyay Strand Hotel, Mingalar Garden Hotel. Also Chinese restaurants.

Why so special

A few kilometers northeast of the town is Thaye Khittaya (Sri Khestra), an archaeological site of the ancient Pyu capital (5th to 9th century). Shwesandaw Pagoda, Hsehtatkyi Pagoda are among places of interest. 45 minutes by boat to Akauktang, a hillock engraved with many Buddha's images on its steep wall of rock. 📍



Kyaing Tong



Kyaing Tong, the capital city of the Golden Triangle Region, is served by daily flights from Yangon, taking about one hour. You can go there by car but it will be rough riding most of the way.

Formerly off-limits to foreigners, Kyaing Tong is a border town with good hotels and restaurants including Kyaing Tong Hotel. The room rate is about US\$ 80 while a meal costs about Ks. 1,500. The area is perfect for trekking, leading to villages of 13 nationalities including Ahku, Ahka, Palaung, Eng, or Lahu races. They retain their traditional costumes and way of life. Kyaing Tong is a mixture of old and new; local guides are available.

Visitors cannot stay overnight at the villages of the national race. Giving presents is not allowed, except for some medicines such as anti-malaria ones. Foreigners need to get

Border Passes through arrangement with tour agencies. A trip to Kyaing Tong can be recommended in the dry season since the rainy season is very heavy in this area. 📍

YANGON

Yangon was founded by King Alaungpaya in 1,755, over 350 sq km in area, with a population of about 5 million.

How to get there

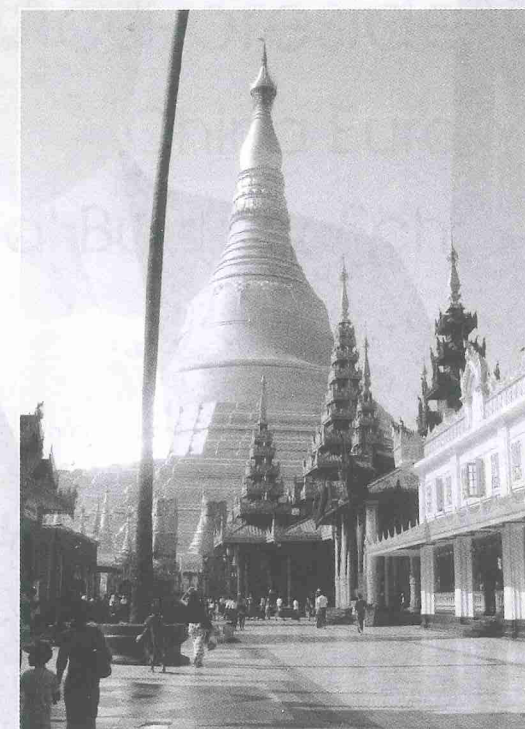
Daily flights from Bangkok Kunming, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. The domestic airlines Myanmar Airways, Yangon Airways, Air Bagan, Asian Wings, Air KBZ and Air Mandalay have regular flights to Mandalay, Bagan, Kawthaung and other tourist destinations.

Where to stay and dine

A wide choice of accommodations ranging from 4-star deluxe hotels to economy class hotels and motels.

How to go about

Limousine service at Yangon International Airport, free airport transfer by major hotels, taxis easily available in town.



Why so special

Shwedagon Pagoda where the relics of four Buddhas were enshrined, built over 2,500 years ago.

Kaba Aye Pagoda where in 1954 the Sixth Buddhist Synod was held in the Great Stone Cave.

National Museum houses the last Myanmar king's Lion Throne, royal regalia, manuscripts, etc. 📍