



Around Yangon

Includes »

Delta Region.....	74
Thanlyin & Kyauktan..	74
Twante.....	75
Pathein.....	76
Chaung Tha Beach ..	80
Ngwe Saung Beach ..	83
Around Ngwe Saung ..	85
North of Yangon.....	85
Taukkyan.....	85
Bago (Pegu).....	86

Best Temples

- » Shwethalyaung Buddha (p86)
- » Shwemawdaw Paya (p87)
- » Yele Paya (p75)
- » Shwemokhtaw Paya (p76)

Best Places to Stay

- » Emerald Sea Resort (p83)
- » Bay of Bengal Resort (p83)
- » Shwe Ya Min Guesthouse & Restaurant (p80)
- » Shwe Hin Tha Hotel (p83)
- » Bago Star Hotel (p89)

Why Go?

Like the spokes of a wheel jutting out from Yangon, you can find fun and adventure if you head a short distance in just about any direction.

Immediately south of Yangon are the vast, squelchy swamps and river channels of the Delta region. Travel here might be tough, but the rewards include starry nights on chugging river ferries and pagodas that float on water.

West, across more rivers and past paddy field after gorgeous green paddy field, is sticky Pathein, home of golden monuments to love and a Buddha who sailed on a raft from far away Sri Lanka. Beyond that charming city are carefree Chaung Tha Beach and the refined sands of Ngwe Saung.

And heading east out of Yangon it's only a short hop to Bago (Pegu), the former capital born of a chivalrous bird. Today Bago might look a little down at heel, but it has treasures to make any monarch jealous.

When to Go

Not surprisingly, the weather in this region follows many of the same trends as Yangon: hot in the summer (March to May) and relatively comfortable in the winter (November to January), with an average high of 89°F (32°C). Rainy season rice planting (from approximately June to October) makes the Delta region the greenest part of Myanmar.

DELTA REGION

A vast, wobbly mat of greenery floating on a thousand rivers, lakes and tributaries, like a squishy waterbed, the Delta region south of Yangon is one of the most fertile and dazzlingly green regions of Myanmar. All this water irrigates millions of hectares of farmland, making the delta essentially one of the rice bowls of the country. In addition, the estuarine environments along the coast provide much of Myanmar's saltwater and freshwater fish harvest.

Thanlyin & Kyauktan

သံလျင် နှင့် ကျောက်တံခံ:

056 / POP C5000

One of the easiest escapes from the glamour and noise of Yangon is to the small, rural towns of Thanlyin and Kyauktan, just across the river from Yangon. The official goals of the trip are a couple of interesting religious sites, but the true purpose is just getting into the groove of rural Myanmar.

During the late 16th and early 17th centuries, Thanlyin was the base for the notori-

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

At the time of research, a permit was still required to visit those parts of the Delta region that were particularly damaged in 2008 by Cyclone Nargis, namely Dalah and Twante.

ous Portuguese adventurer Filipe de Brito e Nicote. Officially a trade representative for the Rakhaing (Arakan), he actually ran his own little kingdom from Thanlyin, siding with the Mon (when it suited him) in their struggle against the Bamar. In 1599 his private army sacked Bago, but in 1613 the Bamar besieged Thanlyin and de Brito received the punishment reserved for those who defiled Buddhist shrines: death by impalement. It took him two days to die, due, it is said, to his failure to take the recommended posture for the stake to penetrate vital organs.

Thanlyin continued as a major port and trading centre until it was destroyed by Bamar King Alaungpaya in 1756, after which Yangon took over this role. Today Thanlyin



Around Yangon Highlights

- 1 Pretend you're a local on holiday at family-friendly **Changtha Beach** (p80)
- 2 See a less-visited side of Myanmar in **Patheingyi** (p76)
- 3 Stroll the virtually people-free sands of **Ngwe Saung Beach** (p83)
- 4 Cycle around ancient pagodas in **Bago** (p86)
- 5 Boarding a crowded local ferry for the day trip to **Twante** (p76)