



Southwestern Myanmar

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Best Places to Eat

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Best Places to Sleep

- Akariz Resort (p100)
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- Hill Garden Hotel (p100)
- Bay of Bengal Resort (p103)
- Emerald Sea Resort (p103)

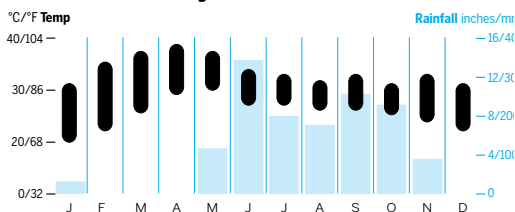
Why Go?

South and west of Yangon is the Ayeyarwady Delta (အေရာဝတီ), a stunning patchwork of greenery floating on rivers, tributaries and lakes that stretches to the Bay of Bengal. A key rice-growing area, the delta is also home to historic towns such as Patheingyi, which makes the best base for exploring the region, and Thanlyin. In the far west of the delta are the beach resorts of Chaung Tha and Ngwe Saung, long-time favourite sea and sand escapes for Yangonites.

A couple of hours east of Yangon is Bago (ပဲခူး), once capital of southern Myanmar and home to many historic pagodas, monasteries and palaces that date back over a thousand years. Bago can be visited as a day trip from Yangon, or it makes an easy first stop as you set out on your tour of the country.

When to Go

Southwestern Myanmar



Mar–May Temperatures can reach scorching.

Nov–Jan The days are comfortable during the winter with an average high of 32°C.

Jun–Oct Rainy season rice planting makes the Delta region the greenest part of Myanmar.

Thanlyin & Kyauktan

သန်လျင်/ကျောက်တန်း

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An easy escape from Yangon is a visit to the historic town of Thanlyin and nearby Kyauktan, east of the city across the Bago River – both towns house important pagodas.

The notorious Portuguese adventurer Filipe de Brito e Nicote ran his own little kingdom from Thanlyin in the late 16th and 17th centuries. He sided with the Mon in their struggle against the Bamar, before dying after being impaled by his enemies in 1613.

Thanlyin was a major port, until it was eclipsed by Yangon in the late 18th century. It was briefly the base of the French East India Company and the first place in Myanmar to receive Christian missionaries and have its own church. The ruins of a **Portuguese-built church**, dating to 1750, can be found not far from the Thanlyin Bridge.

Under British rule, Thanlyin was known as 'Syriam' and was the site of a major oil refinery.

Sights

Kyauik-Khauk Paya

BUDDHIST STUPA

(ကျိုက်ခေါက်ဘုရား; Kyauik-Khauk Pagoda Rd, Thanlyin; K2000; ☺ daylight) A couple of miles south of Thanlyin's centre is this gilded Mon-style stupa, similar in design to Shwedagon and said to contain two Buddha hairs delivered to the site by the great sage himself. There are stupendous views from its hilltop location.

Yele Paya

BUDDHIST TEMPLE

(ရေလယ်ဘုရား; Kyauktan; K2000; ☺ 1st/last boat 6am/6pm) At Kyauktan, 7.5 miles south-east of Thanlyin, is a sparkling floating temple adrift on a chocolate river. You can feed the massive catfish splashing about at the temple complex's edge. To reach the islet,



Southwestern Myanmar Highlights

- 1 Bago** (p88) Cycling around the ancient temples, palaces, monasteries and giant Buddhas that dominate this historic former capital.
- 2 Patheingyi** (p94) Basing yourself in this bustling delta city, where you can admire the artistry and skill needed

to make its famed silk and cotton parasols.

- 3 Chaungtha Beach** (p99) and **Ngwe Saung Beach** (p102) Riding a motorbike taxi along deserted beaches and jungle tracks between these two beach resorts, or just lazing in the sand and surf.

- 4 Thanlyin & Kyauktan** Exploring the ancient pagodas dotted around these delta towns.

- 5 Shwesandaw Paya** (p88) Joining the locals on their daily commute by riding the ferry across the Yangon River to visit Twante and this 2500-year-old pagoda.