



Northern Myanmar

Includes ➔

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Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Hotel Pyin Oo Lwin (p264)
- ➔ Mr Charles Guest House (p271)
- ➔ Malikha Lodge (p290)
- ➔ Hotel Madira (p277)
- ➔ Friendship Hotel (p281)

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Club Terrace (p265)
- ➔ Jing Hpaw Thu (p278)
- ➔ Aung Padamyar (p264)
- ➔ Shamie Restaurant (p281)
- ➔ Shwe Lawon (p275)

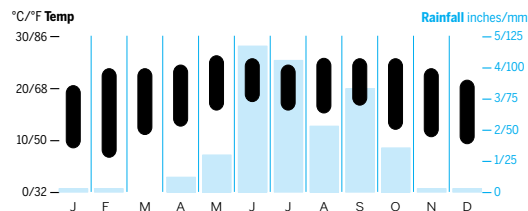
Why Go?

Rugged and remote, northern Myanmar offers a fascinating mix of ethnic minority peoples and the prospect of travel through some of the least-visited areas of the country. While much of this vast region remains off-limits, two main routes are accessible. One climbs rapidly from Mandalay to the British-era summer capital of Pyin Oo Lwin, and then continues across the rolling Shan Plateau to Lashio. The crisp evenings are a great relief from the heat of the plains, while hikes take visitors into timeless Palaung and Shan hill-villages.

The other option is taking a ride along the mighty Ayeyarwady (Irrawaddy) River. You'll need close on a week if you want to stop off along the way from Bhamo to Mandalay, but shorter itineraries are possible starting from Katha, the setting of George Orwell's *Burmese Days*. The lazy, meandering journey downstream provides great opportunities for genuine interaction with the locals. Far beyond Myitkyina lie the rarely seen, snow-capped peaks of Myanmar's Himalayas.

When to Go

Northern Myanmar



Nov–Feb Best time for river travel, with temperatures comfortable and water levels high.

Mar–May The Shan Plateau's cooler days offer an easy escape from the ferocious hot season.

Sep–Oct Despite the rain, the best time to mount serious climbing expeditions in the far north.

