



Western Myanmar

Includes ➔

Rakhine State.....	293
Ngapali Beach	293
Sittwe	298
Mrauk U	302
Chin State.....	309
Mt Victoria (Nat Ma Taung)	309
Paletwa & Around.....	310

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Yoma Cherry Lodge (p294)
- ➔ Shwe Thazin Hotel (p307)
- ➔ Royal City Guest House (p307)
- ➔ Pleasant View Resort (p295)
- ➔ Sandoway Resort (p295)
- ➔ Noble Hotel (p300)

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Aung (p300)
- ➔ Htay Htay's Kitchen (p296)
- ➔ Pleasant View Islet Restaurant (p296)
- ➔ Kaung Thant (p308)

Why Go?

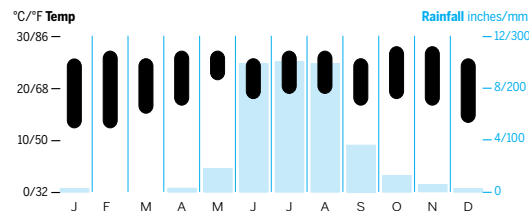
Even as more of the country's remote areas become 'open' and tourist numbers increase, Myanmar's westernmost states remain staunchly untouristed.

The handful of tourists who make it to Rakhine State tend to confine themselves to the relaxing resorts of Ngapali Beach, and understandably so: the pristine sand and the turquoise waters of the Bay of Bengal are some of the country's best. Yet those with more adventurous aspirations can head to the state's scrappy, atmospheric capital Sittwe and the old Rakhine capital of Mrauk U, an amazing archaeological site, studded with hundreds of temples.

And for the even more daring, looming to the north is elusive, underdeveloped Chin State, where if you're willing to deal with the red tape and lack of infrastructure, a richly traditional area of mountains, forests and culture awaits.

When to Go

Western Myanmar



Nov–Mar Many Ngapali Beach hotels are closed outside the high season.

Mid-May–mid-Sep During the monsoons Sittwe and Mrauk U receive more rain than elsewhere.

Dec Rakhine State Day, held mid-month, is one of the region's largest celebrations.



Western Myanmar Highlights

1 Lose yourself amid the temples and fortifications in timeless **Mrauk U** (p302), former capital of Rakhine

2 Savour the seafood, sand and resorts of **Ngapali Beach** (p293), Myanmar's most sophisticated beach destination

3 Boat to **Chin villages**

(p310) upriver from Mrauk U, where tattoo-faced women lead you around by the arm

4 Take in both the Rakhine countryside and ancient history on a half-day trip to **Wethali** and **Mahamuni Paya** (p308)

5 Burn your tongue on spicy Rakhine food at a local

restaurant such as **Aung** (p112)

6 Get a permit to climb **Mt Victoria** (Nat Ma Taung; p309), the country's second-highest peak

7 Be among the handful of visitors to the remote heartland of Chin culture in **Paletwa** (p310)