



Mandalay & Around

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Inwa (Ava)	263
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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Aye Myit Tar (p252)
- ➔ Shan Ma Ma (p252)
- ➔ Pan Cherry (p252)
- ➔ Super 81 (p252)
- ➔ Ko's Kitchen (p251)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Rupar Mandalay (p250)
- ➔ Peacock Lodge (p246)
- ➔ Hotel by the Red Canal (p248)
- ➔ Shwe Ingyinn Hotel (p249)
- ➔ Hotel 8 (p249)

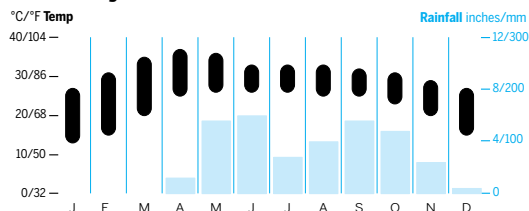
Why Go?

The Mandalay region is the major population centre of Upper Burma, itself the cradle of Burmese arts, culture and civilisation. Where Yangon is a diverse microcosm of the nation, Mandalay – for all its traffic and construction – remains an urban expression of Burmese ethnic identity, as seen in local dance shows, puppetry and crafts shops. And that identity is realised not just via considerable cultural capital, but proximity to a host of historical and religious sites. Places such as Inwa and Sagaing offer a green, rural escape from urban congestion, plus access to some of the nation's most evocative religious sites and archaeological ruins.

And one of the world's biggest bells, its longest teak foot bridge and an enormous, failed monument to royal hubris are just around the corner. Throw in Upper Burmese cuisine, friendly locals and sunsets over the Ayeyarwady (Irrawaddy) River, and you have a region worthy of careful exploration.

When to Go

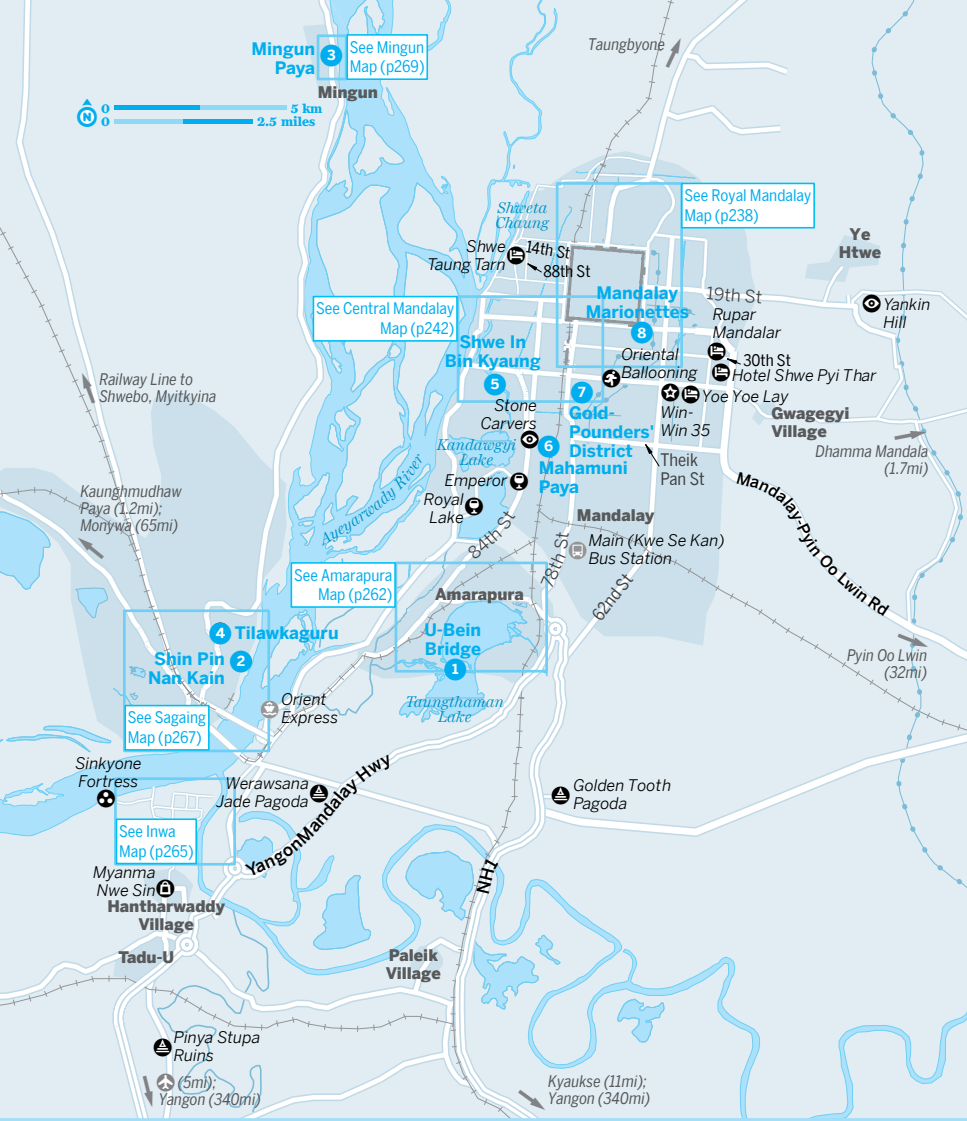
Mandalay



Nov–Feb Peak tourist season: days hot but bearable, evenings mild and occasionally chilly.

Apr–Sep Extreme heat gives way to serious mid-summer rain; expect widespread closures during Thingyan festival.

Oct & Mar Budget hotels quieter; AC is still useful and rain is still possible.



Mandalay & Around Highlights

- 1 U-Bein Bridge** (p261)
Watching sunrise or sunset from the world's longest teak bridge in Amarapura.
- 2 Shin Pin Nan Kain** (p268)
Surveying Sagaing's monastery-dappled green hills and endless gilded pagodas.
- 3 Mingun Paya** (p269)
Pondering this king-sized unfinished stupa.

- 4 Tilawkgaguru** (p268)
Exploring the ruins and painted frescoes of Tilawkgaguru.
- 5 Shwe In Bin Kyaung** (p241)
Pottering around Mandalay's lesser-known beautiful teak monastery.
- 6 Mahamuni Paya** (p241)
Arriving by 4am at Mahamuni Paya as attendants wash the

face of the country's most famous buddha image.

- 7 Gold-Pounders' District** (p240)
Discovering the wealth of crafts being made, including edible sheets of gold leaf, in the Gold-Pounders' District.
- 8 Mandalay Marionettes** (p255)
Witnessing a lovely duet of expert royal ballet performed by puppets.