



Western Myanmar

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Best Places to Eat

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- ➔ Pleasant View Islet Restaurant (p312)
- ➔ Green Umbrella (p312)
- ➔ Moe Cherry (p324)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Ngapali Bay Villas & Spa (p311)
- ➔ Yoma Cherry Lodge (p310)
- ➔ Bayview Beach Resort (p311)
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Why Go?

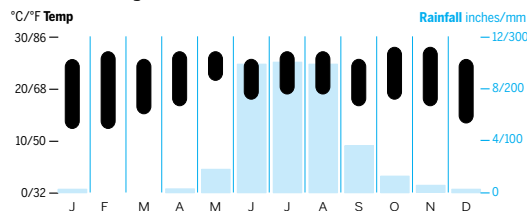
Remote, rugged and rewarding, Myanmar's westernmost states – Rakhine (also known as Arakan) and Chin – remain staunchly untouristed.

Those travellers who make it to Rakhine State tend to confine themselves to the pristine sand and turquoise waters of Ngapali Beach on the Bay of Bengal: Myanmar's premier beach destination. Far fewer venture further north to the old Rakhine capital of Mrauk U, an amazing archaeological site studded with hundreds of temples, and the current capital, scrappy Sittwe.

But if you really want to get off the grid, then head to largely unknown and undeveloped Chin State, where breathtaking mountains, forests and traditional villages await. The south of Chin is already seeing a tentative increase in visitors, drawn by treks to and around Mt Victoria. But the perhaps more stunning hills in the north of the state – close to Myanmar's border with India – still see only a handful of foreigners a year.

When to Go

Western Myanmar



Nov–Mar Many of Ngapali Beach's hotels are only open during the high season.

Mid-May–mid-Oct Monsoon season in both Rakhine and Chin states.

Mid-Dec Rakhine State Day, in Sittwe and Mrauk U, is one of the region's biggest celebrations.



Western Myanmar Highlights

- 1 Mrauk U** (p318) Drifting around the hundreds of ruined temples and fortifications in the former grand capital of Rakhine State.
- 2 Ngapali Beach** (p309) Savouring the seafood, sand and sunsets at Myanmar's most sophisticated beach destination.
- 3 Mt Victoria** (p326) Climbing Myanmar's third-highest mountain in southern Chin State.
- 4 Mindat** (p327) Striking out for treks through timeless Chin villages from this hilltop town.
- 5 Rih Lake** (p331) Getting way off the map at this heart-shaped lake on the Myanmar-India border.
- 6 Wethali** (p325) Taking in both the emerald-green Rakhine countryside and the state's ancient history on a half-day trip here from Mrauk U.