

Myanmar

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NAY PYI TAW



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HIGHLIGHTS

The capital city plays host and warmly welcomes visitors



Capital

After four years in the making, Nay Pyi Taw became the nation's new administrative and political capital in 2006. Most commercial activity still takes place in the former capital, Yangon; however Nay Pyi Taw enjoys a more central situation in Myanmar. Closer to three important states namely Shan, Kayah and Kayin, it is located in the country's dry zone so it mostly escapes the yearly monsoon rains. In the last decade much development has taken place. With its wide, manicured, multi-lane roads, it is free from the traffic and crowded streets of Yangon. It is efficient and, given its growing economy, has suitably large venues for a country in transition.

MICE

With the best event facilities in the country, Nay Pyi Taw is positioning itself as Myanmar's top MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences & Events) destination. The new capital has over 50 hotels (totalling more than 5,000 rooms) including top international brands with luxury facilities that have received VIP guests such as President Barack Obama. For major conferences welcoming several thousand delegates, there are two large, international standard buildings, the Myanmar International Convention Centres. It is here that global events such as the World Economic Forum East Asia, ASEAN Summit and ASEAN Tourism Forum have been successfully held.

Attractions

The most prominent, shimmering landmark is Uppatasanti Pagoda. A replica of Yangon's treasured Shwedagon Pagoda, it is a slightly shorter and is unusual in that it is hollow with superbly decorated ceilings. Moreover, it affords spectacular views across the surrounding areas and has some auspicious white elephants housed nearby. In fact, Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden is also home to the country's largest zoo with more than 420 animals and within a 45-min drive is an elephant sanctuary called Phokyar Resort. The city's attractions include visits to the enormous Parliament House, the Gems Museum, the Water Fountain Park, and the National Landmark Garden.





WELCOME TO NAY PYI TAW

The young capital, of a nation steeped in tradition and heritage, awaits you

The third largest metropolis by population (after Yangon and Mandalay), Nay Pyi Taw is unusual in that it is dominated by seemingly interminable wide open spaces and highways that are largely devoid of any traffic. At the heart of this fascinating capital lies the parliamentary complex which comprises 31 palatial buildings designed with pagoda-style roofs said to represent the 31 planes of existence in Buddhist cosmology. Other impressive buildings include facilities that are geared for MICE tourism for meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions as well as a wealth of hotels to accommodate such guests.

Inside the sprawling city there are numerous attractions such as Tha Pyay Gone Market and Myoma Market, a planetarium, museums, pagodas and gardens; Jade Garden, Safari Wildlife Park and the National Herbal Garden. The Water Fountain Garden offers welcome respite from the heat during the day. It is worth staying until twilight when the sound and light shows commence. Just 10-20 minutes outside the capital are the old towns of Pyinmana and Lewe with a wealth of treasures to explore including bustling local markets, pagodas and beautiful teak monasteries.

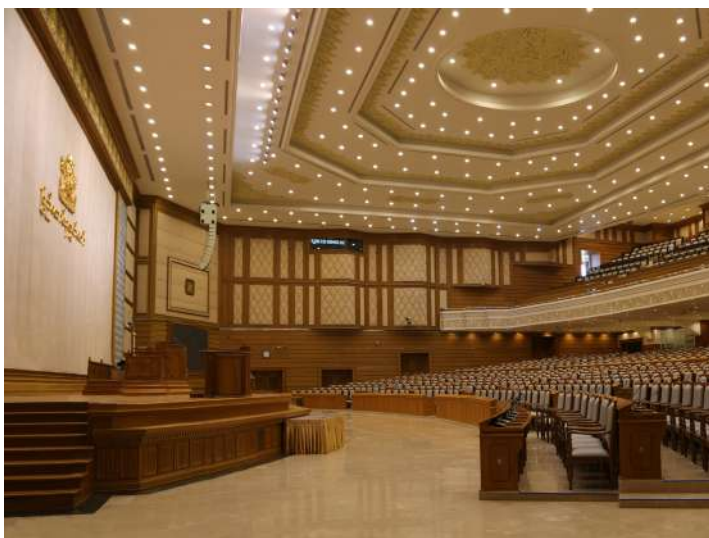




ATTRACTIONS

Verdant wide open spaces studded with interesting places to visit

Founded on a greenfield site 3km west of Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw is located on a plain between the Bago Yoma and Shan Yoma mountain ranges, boasting fabulous backdrops, and is considered one of the greenest capitals in the world. With a population of just under a million it is also a low density urban environment but fascinatingly known as one of the world's 10 fastest growing cities. Not yet a magnet for conventional tourists, it attracts business travellers and those curious about the young capital of Myanmar characterised by wide open spaces and many purpose-built attractions.



Parliament House & City Hall

The huge and impressive parliament building was built on an 800-acre complex in Zabu Thiri Township with a 20-lane highway. It contains 31 structures, and the President's Residence featuring Myanmar architecture and ornate interior spaces which reflect the local culture and traditions. City Hall, headquarters of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee is another landmark in the capital. During important state occasions, the National Anthem of Myanmar is played by the State Orchestra in the City Hall.



MICC I & II

The two expansive Myanmar International Convention Centres (MICC I / MICC II) recently hosted a number of large-scale events, including the World Economic Forum East Asia and the ASEAN Forum. The colossal MICC I - 60,000 sq m of space inaugurated in 2014 - has 2 main halls, 33 function rooms and 40 supporting rooms. The original MICC (now MICC II) opened in 2010 is a 29,000-sq m building on a 16-acre site with a main hall capable of seating about 1,200 people. Hotel zones are conveniently located close by.

National Museum

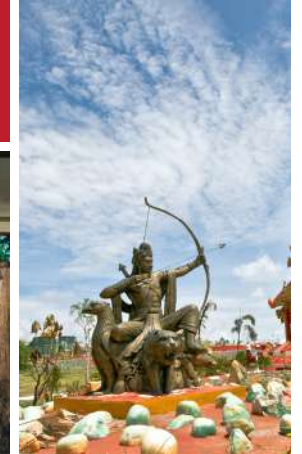
National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) is located on 14-hectare plot in Ottarathiri Township. It has 5 main buildings - A, B, C, D and E. Building A houses a mini theatre, VIP holding rooms, President's Gifts Exhibition Room and a public area. The rest of the buildings have display areas, for example in Building B, the display area is divided into different exhibition rooms, namely: Primate and Fossil, Prehistoric Period, Proto-historic Period, Historic Period (11th-14th Century AD), Myanmar Art Gallery and Myanmar Performing Arts.

Wunna Theikdi Stadium

Wunna Theikdi Stadium is the biggest stadium in Myanmar. Based in in Zabu Thiri Township it is a multi-use international standard stadium and includes a modern gymnasium and swimming pool. The oval-shaped stadium has a capacity of about 30,000 spectators and boasts a floor area of 44,000 sq m. Recently it played host to the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2013 Southeast Asian Games and 2014 ASEAN Para Games.

Defence Services Museum

Nay Pyi Taw boasts an impressive Defence Services Museum, a grand colonnaded collection of buildings on a 604-acre site enjoying fine views across the city and countryside with a backdrop of the Shan hills. It is divided into 3 main sections, the Army, Navy and Air Force. The army section covers some early history from the time of former kings but most exhibits date from the inception of the Armed Forces to the present day. There are also assortments of military machinery including planes, Spitfires, tanks, guns and ships.



Gems Museum

Flanked by two white elephant sculptures, the 3-storey Gems Museum, features a 69-kg jade boulder and Myanmar's largest ruby, weighing in at a whopping 21,450 carats; hardly surprising in a country synonymous with precious jewels. It also displays an enormous natural pearl (6.2cm by 3cm) which weighs an incredible 845 carats and there's also an even heavier cultured pearl at 104 carats. Next door is the Mani Yadana Jade Hall where the national gem emporiums are hosted.

Uppatasanti Pagoda

Considered the most renowned landmark of Nay Pyi Taw, Uppatasanti Pagoda stands 100m high. Although smaller, it is intended to be a replica of the famous Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon. It houses a Buddha tooth relic from China. At the pagoda, Buddha's path to the achievement of Nirvana is depicted with majestic statues. It features Maha Hsutaungpyae Buddha image and four jade Buddha images in the hollow cavernous interior. There is also a 33m-high flagpole, a Bo Tree garden, Marlini Mangala Lake and a museum.

White Elephants House

At the foot of the Uppatasanti Pagoda, there is an elephant house containing several white elephants. Myanmar people believe they bring luck, peace and prosperity to their lives. The elephant house has been built in the traditional Myanmar architectural style and the enclosure features grassland with viewing areas. It also contains 2 pools with fountains, 2 dams, a bathing pond, a sugarcane plantation, a medical centre and a feed store.

National Landmarks Garden

Home to miniature models of the states and regions of Myanmar, the National Landmarks Garden, is situated on a 400-acre plot near Thaik Chaung Village in Zeyathiri Township. The garden showcases scaled-down versions of the country's most famous attractions, such as the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, Ngapali Beach in Rakhine State and Inlay Lake in Shan State. It is a great place to visit to learn Myanmar national races' cultural heritages, customs, and traditions.



Zoological Garden

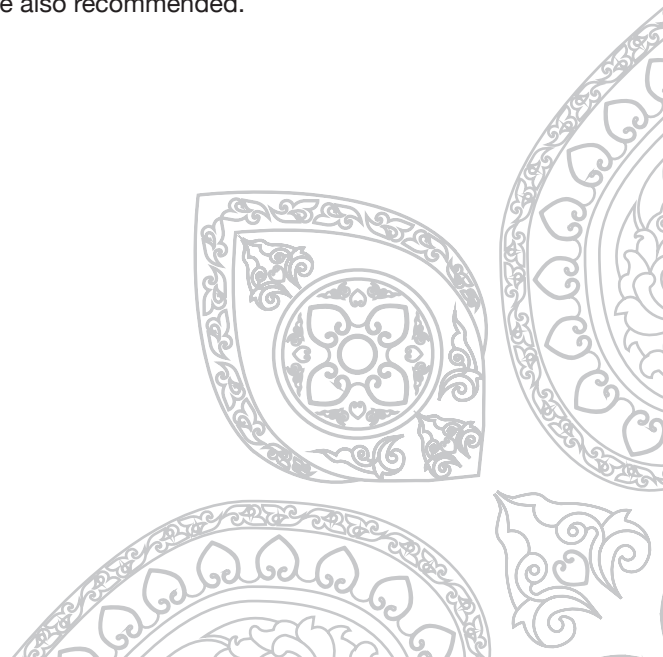
The Zoological Garden in Nay Pyi Taw is the biggest of its kind in Myanmar. Located just off the old Yangon-Mandalay Highway, the zoo covers about 500 acres and is home to 430 animals, representing 81 species. As well as animals native to Myanmar, there are exotic foreign animals such as penguins and kangaroos, as well as one of the most popular attractions - a white tiger. There is a daily show with performing elephants and elephant rides available.

Golfing

The capital boasts several golf courses. Royal Myanmar Golf Course has 18 holes and the shape and roll of the terrain were accentuated in the design phase to highlight the site's natural attributes. It is very challenging as there are fairway bunkers on contoured fairways and several lakes strategically placed throughout the course. For those needing a golf lesson, PGA Professionals are on hand to help improve their game. Another 18-hole golf course, City Golf Course, and Yan Aung Myin Golf Range are also recommended.

Pho Kyar Elephant Camp

For those who would like to venture further out of the capital, there is Pho Kyar Elephant Camp. Just 113km south of Nay Pyi Taw it is located in the foothills of the Bago Yoma mountain range, within the Saing Ya tropical reserved forest. Surrounded by a zigzagging stream and full of the fragrance of wild orchids and seasonal flowers, it has emerged as an ideal ecotourism spot. Visitors can learn about the elephants and also watch them bathing as well as take elephant rides in the forest.







Myanmar with its cities and neighbouring countries

Destination: Nay Pyi Taw in Mandalay Region

Destination Climate: Mild – no rainy season as in a dry zone

Region Borders: Magway Region, Sagaing Region & Shan State

Region Size: 37,024 sq km/ 14,295 sq miles

Region Capital: Mandalay

Region Population: 6.1 million (2014)

Destination Lineage: Myanmar, Kayin & Chin

Destination Languages: Myanmar/Burmese, Chin

Destination Religions: Buddhism & Christianity

How To Get There: Nay Pyi Taw (also known as Naypyidaw), means “Abode of Kings”, is the young administrative capital of the Union of Myanmar, founded over a seven-year period at the beginning of this millennium. Centrally and strategically located, it is 376km from Yangon and 274km from Mandalay, being easily accessible from most of the country’s major cities. Visitors can fly into Nay Pyi Taw International Airport, or they can get there by private car, highway bus service or by rail.





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