

KAYIN STATE

HOW TO GET THERE

The Kayin State is mountainous region renowned for its limestone caves and beautiful scenery. The capital city is Hpa-An, approximately 270km from Yangon. It is easily accessible and a six hour drive from Yangon. Buses depart daily. It is also possible to access Hpa-An by road from Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda (Golden Rock Pagoda).

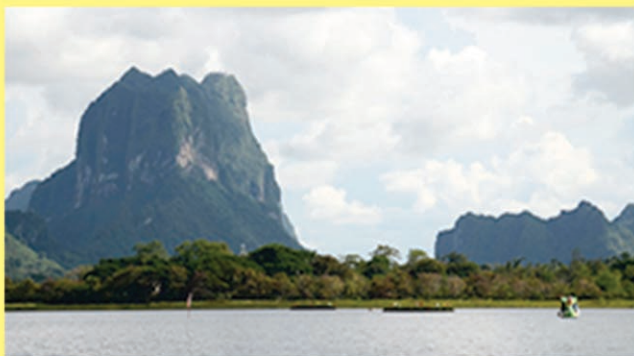


KAYIN CULTURAL MUSEUM



Located near Kan Thar Yar Lake, two-storey museum is dedicated to preserving and sharing Kayin history and culture. The exhibits at Museum are introduction of the Kayin State, the history of the Kayin ethnic group, Kayin literature, culture, and Kayin musical instruments.

Mt. ZWEKABIN



Mt. Zwegabin is located seven miles south of Hpa-An near Ka Lawk Nose village. It is a key landmark of Kayin State and its peak is 2372 feet above sea level. It is a three hour hike to the summit where one can enjoy breathtaking views of Hpa-An and the surrounding areas.

BAYINNYI CAVE



Bayinnyi cave is situated 12 miles from Hpa-An. The cave is approximately 20 meters in length and has an ancient pagoda with many Buddha statues inside. On the hillside of the cave there is a natural hot and cold spring.

KAWGOON CAVE



Kawgoon is a natural limestone cave and is located 116 feet above sea level on the western bank of Thanlwin River in Hpa-An. It is famous for its Mon cultural style clay Buddha images and terracotta votive tablets in its interior walls. This cave dates back to the later Bagan period (13th century AD). This can be seen in the carved statues, sandstone Buddhist statues, the mural paintings and the ink and carved Mon inscriptions.

SADAN CAVE



Sadan Cave is situated in the southern part of Zwegabin mountain range. It is approximately 20 miles south of Hpa-An. The cave is 107 meters in length and 40 meters in width with the entrance being the widest part of the cave. Natural stones, rocks, stalactites and stalagmites can be found in the cave.

MYAWADDY



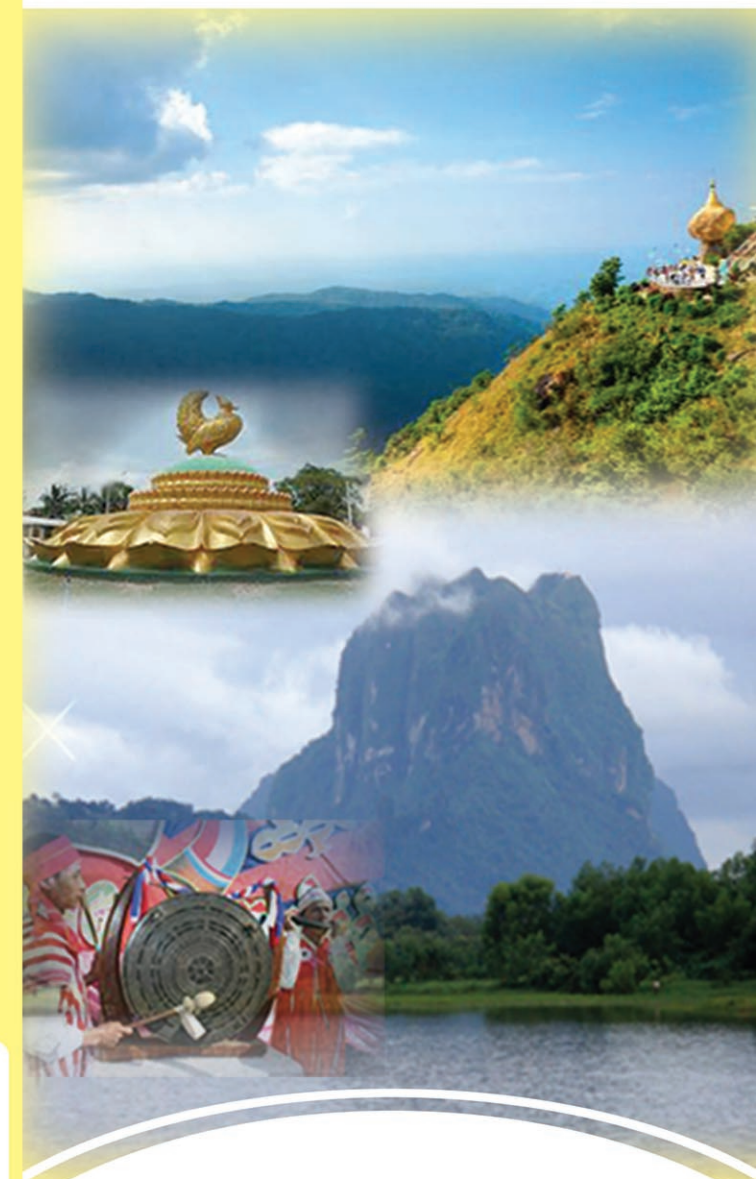
Myawaddy is one of the Thai-Myanmar Border gateways. It is the link from Myanmar to Maesot in Thailand via Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge which passes over the Thaungyin River (Moei River). Myawaddy is also located on the ASEAN-India Highway Road, which will be built in the next few years. The area has been developed for tourism and cross-border trade with Thailand and many tourists use this as a gateway.



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Mon & Kayin

MON STATE

Mon State is situated between Kayin State and the Gulf of Mottama. It has a short border with Thailand's Kanchanaburi Province. The Dawna range runs along the eastern side of the state and also has some small islands. The State's capital is Mawlamyaing.

GETTING TO MAWLAMYAING

There are regular express coach services to Mawlamyaing from Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay. The trains from Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw are also accessible to Mawlamyaing.

ATTRACTIONS

Mawlamyaing, Kyaiktiyo Pagoda, Thaton, Thanbyuzayat War Memorial death railway, Setse Beach and Kyaikkami Yele Pagoda.

KYAIKHTIYO
(The Golden Rock Pagoda)



Located 160 km from Yangon, this legendary Pagoda is renowned for its golden rock precariously perched. The pagoda is situated on a rocky mountain at 3615 ft above sea level and is an 11km hike from the base camp. The pagoda is said to have been built during the life-time of Buddha some 2600 years ago. There are now many options for transport and accommodation at Kyikhtiyo.

MAWLAMYAING



Mawlamyaing was the Capital of the former British Empire and it was a major teak port from 1827 to 1852.

MON CULTURAL MUSEUM



It is a two storey building dedicated to the Mon history of the region. Exhibits are displayed downstairs and reading rooms are upstairs. The modest collection of the museum includes scales with Mon inscriptions, hundred year old sculptures of wood, ceramics, thanaka grinding stones, silver betel boxes, laquerware and folding manuscripts an English language letter dated 22 December 1945 from Bogyoke Aung San to Mo Chit Hlaing, a famous Mon leader. In front of the museum a British cannon dated 1826 and a huge Myanmar gong are displayed.

KYAIKTHANLAN PAGODA



Three famous pagodas adorn the Mawlamyaing Ridge, with Kyaikthanlan being one of them. Erected in 875 A.D., this pagoda has a hair relic of Buddha, Tripitaka manuscripts and gold images of Buddha. Successive kings raised the pagoda higher, from 56 feet to the present 150 feet. A big bell with a medieval Mon inscription and also another bell with an inscription in English, dated 30th March 1885 can be seen on the platform.

GAUNGSAY KYUN



Gaungsay Kyun in Myanmar means Head Wash Island. This beautiful little island of Mawlamyaing's north-western end is a good picnic spot. The island was named Head Wash Island because the yearly royal hair washing ceremony during the Inwa (Ava) period, used the water taken from a spring on the island. A short boat ride can take visitors to the island.

KYAIKKAMI YELE PAGODA



Located 9 kms northeast of Thanbyuzayat, Kyaikkami was a small coastal resort and missionary center known as Amherst during the British era. The main focus of Kyaikkami is Yele Paya, a metal-roofed Buddhist shrine complex perched over the sea and reached via a long two-level causeway; the tower level is submerged during high tide. Other attractions here are the colonial administrative buildings that are nearly 100 years old.

SETSE BEACH



Situated 24 km south of Kyaikkami and 16 km southwest of Thanbyuzayut, this wide, brown-sanded beach tends towards tidal flats when the shallow the shallow surf-life recedes at low tide. The beach is lined with waving casuarina trees.

KYAIKMARAW PAGODA



It is located 24 km south east of Mawlamyaing. The main Buddha image sits in the position of the legs hanging down as if sitting on a chair. Therefore, the temple is famous for the Buddha which is sitting in the "western manner" and it is also well known for its hundreds of beautiful glazed tiles.

PHAAUK MEDITATION CENTRE



Phauk Meditation Centre was established by monk U Kemar wutnare in 1925. In 1997, meditation camps are opened in Malaysia, Singapore, Japan, U.S.A, South Korea, England, India and Germany. Foreign monks have come and strived to Buddha doctrine since 1990. This center is very famous for its Buddhist meditation technique.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



This Church was founded by Reverend Adoniram Judson, an American Baptist Missionary, who translated the Bible into Myanmar and compiled an English-Myanmar dictionary.

It is Myanmar's first Baptist church and situated on the corner of upper Main Road and Jetty Road in Mawlamyaing.



THAN BYU ZAYAT

Thanbyuzayat is 30 km south of Mawlamyaing. It was the western terminus of the infamous "death railway" by the thousands of Allied prisoners of war. A kilometer west of the clock tower in the direction of Kyaikkami lies the Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery, which contains 3,771 graves of Allied prisoners of war who died as building the railway. Most of those buried were British, and there are also markers for American, Dutch, and Australian soldiers. This Death Railway is 415 kilometre (258 miles) long between Bangkok, Thailand and Myanmar to support Japanese forces in the Myanmar campaign.

THAHTON



Thahton is said to be the original capital of the Mons but now that distinction has shifted to Mawlamyaing. However, Thahton still boasts some historical links. There are remnants of an old city wall with the shrine of a Bagan hero, Byatwi, who became a nat (spirit) after being killed by the lord of the town when he fell in love with the governor's beautiful daughter. Now he is regarded as the guardian of the town and people come here to pray.