



Photo: Sean Pavone/Shutterstock.com

# Yangon



Kerdkanno/Shutterstock.com

Yangon is the largest city and the most vibrant in Myanmar and situated in the southern part of the country on the east bank of the river Yangon (Hlaing River). The city has a lot to offer and some spectacular sights can be explored such as the Buddhist temples, pagodas and stupas. When arriving by air, you will see amazing golden domes dotted around the city and an amazing greenery.



Sean Pavone/Shutterstock.com



f9photos/Shutterstock.com

## Featured



### Zoological Garden

In Yangon you can find the oldest and largest zoo of Burma. The great collec...



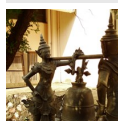
### Yangon Yoga House

Meet up with the yoga community at the Yangon Yoga House. Here you can pract...



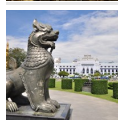
### Sule Pagoda

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### National Museum

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### Mahabandoola Garden

As you stroll through Mahabandoola Garden you can take in all the beautiful ...

## Top 5



### The Shwedagon Pagoda

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### Kan Daw Gyi Lake

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### Botataung Pagoda

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### Inya Lake

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### Gems Museum

Myanmar is famous for its gems, so anyone interested in the history behind t...



## THE CITY



*Sean Pavone/Shutterstock.com*

Yangon is the capital city of Myanmar. It used to be called Rangoon, and the country Burma, by the British. Its history easily goes back to the 1st century, but its most turbulent times have come in the last two centuries.

Colonised by Britain in 1825, the country regained independence in 1948, so for 113 years, the country was under British rule. It is very clear, even today, how much influence the British had in the city of Yangon with the remains of some fine old colonial buildings. Sadly only a few have been maintained, and these are generally now hotels or restaurants.

However, any visitor to Yangon will probably be more interested in the long history of Myanmar that is found at the Shwedagon Pagoda. Dagon was the original name of Yangon and this mighty golden pagoda, is one of the most important Buddhist monuments in the world. It is thought to be situated in the region of 2,500 years old, and has survived earthquakes, occupations and fires. Over the years it has been remodelled, renovated and restored. It is the most magnificent pagoda anyone could ever wish to see, and to some extent, is Yangon.

## DO & SEE



*Etakundoy/Shutterstock.com*

Yangon is a fascinating destination with things to see in pretty much every street corner. There are temples and pagodas and museums everywhere and it is a treat to simply walk around and soak up the atmosphere.

### The Shwedagon Pagoda



This will be at the top of everyone's list in Yangon. The pagoda can be seen from quite a long way away, since it is set on the top of a hill. The pagoda remains one of the most important Buddhist sites in the world, but is very much part of contemporary life in Yangon. It is open from dawn, and Buddhists will go to the pagoda from early morning to late evening. It is very high and has a crown of gold. On the crown you can find 5,448 diamonds, 2,317 rubies and the top of the crown boasts a 76 carat diamond. In total there are nearly 80,000 precious stones and 3,154 gold bells here.

This is a living, practicing site, so the visitor should know some of the basic rules of visiting a Buddhist temple in Myanmar:

You will be asked to take off your shoes and socks. Dress with respect: no shorts (although

this is less of a problem in Myanmar than Thailand).

Walk around the Pagoda in a clockwise direction, which is starting from the left side and going round to the right. This applies to all Buddhist sites.

If you want to sit down, make sure your feet are not pointing towards any images or figures of The Buddha, and especially, keep the bottom of your feet tucked inside, towards yourself. Have a look at the way the local people sit, and copy them. Most sit cross legged.

Try not to pat children on the head.

Try to make your picture taking the least intrusive as possible. The Buddhist people who come here are worshipping, and may not want to be the centre of a photo.

Photo: f9photos/Shutterstock.com  
Address: The Shwedagon Pagoda, Yangon

### Kan Daw Gyi Lake



Kan Daw Gyi Lake is close to the city centre and to Shwedagon Pagoda, so it is an ideal place to relax and get away from the traffic and crowds. At Set Yon Road, in the east end of the park, there are plenty of lakeside cafés and restaurants.

Also in the vicinity is Karaweik Palace, which is a very large gold coloured structure in the shape of a boat - or is it a pagoda? The 'Palace' has a restaurant, and around the corner is the Kandawyi Palace Hotel.

Photo: Sean Pavone/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Kan Daw Gyi Lake, Yangon

### Botataung Pagoda



This pagoda was rebuilt after being destroyed in a World War II bombing. It was constructed at the same time as the Sule and Shwedagon Pagodas. What is unusual is that you can walk inside and look at relics in showcases.

Photo: Jakrit Jiraratwara/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Botataung Pagoda, Yangon

### Inya Lake



This is the larger of the two lakes in Yangon, which lies further away from the centre. There are some very good hotels at the lake, or nearby, so it can be a more relaxing place to stay than the city hotels. As with Kandawgyi Lake, there are plenty of vantage points to take in the views and enjoy the gardens. There is an amusement park near Kabaraye Pagoda Road.

Photo: manjik/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Inya Lake, Yangon

### Gems Museum



Myanmar is famous for its gems, so anyone interested in the history behind the gem industry will find this a good place to start. The main source of these gems was from the mines in the northeast, near Mandalay. Rubies, sapphires and jade were mined from these sites. Private

companies as well as state run enterprises exhibit on three floors.

Photo: Paulo Vilela/Shutterstock.com

Address: 66 Kaba Aya Pagoda Road, Yangon

Opening hours: Tue - Sat 9.30am - 5pm

Phone: +95 1 665 115

### Yangon Yoga House



Meet up with the yoga community at the Yangon Yoga House. Here you can practice meditation, sports and exchange experiences with others.

A must for any aspiring Yogi.

Photo: Andresr/Shutterstock.com

Address: 36 Alan Pya Pagoda Street, Yangon

### Sule Pagoda



In the heart of Yangon and located on a busy street lies the Sule Pagoda. Supposedly built 2000 years ago, legend has it that the golden

tower holds a strand of Buddah's hair. Visitors have to take off their shoes and pay a small admission fee to enter.

Photo: Luciano Mortula/Shutterstock.com

Address: Maha Bandula Road, Yangon

### Zoological Garden



In Yangon you can find the oldest and largest zoo of Burma. The great collection of local wild animals makes it a popular destination for

weekend travelers and locals alike. Next to the animal park, the area hosts the Natural History

Museum, an Aquarium and you can join animals shows throughout the day.

Photo: Denise Allison Coyle/Shutterstock.com

Address: Bo Min Kaung Street, Yangon

Opening hours: Every day 8am - 6pm

### National Museum



Built in 1952 the Yangon National Museum holds 14 halls filled with ancient treasures, art and memorabilia. While

wandering the four story building you can learn about the countries history, the evolution of the language as well as cultural and religious developments.

Photo: Adam Jones/Flickr.com(image cropped)

Address: 66 Pyay Road, Yangon

Opening hours: Tue - Sun 9.30am - 4.30pm

More Info: Located in walking distance of the Shwedagon Pagoda (about 20 minutes)

### Mahabandoola Garden



As you stroll through Mahabandoola Garden you can take in all the beautiful sights of the city on the way. The City Hall , the High Court, the

Independence Monument Obelisk as well as the Rowe & Co department store are located in the area. Don't forget to bring your camera, the park is a great backdrop for holiday pictures.

Photo: Wojtek Chmielewski/Shutterstock.com

Address: St Kyauktada, Yangon



## DINING



JM Travel Photography/Shutterstock.com

There are strong influences from the neighbouring countries and cuisines of Thailand, Malaysia and China, so there's a good mix of dishes in the restaurants. Some of the favourite local dishes are Mohinga (Rice noodles in fish soup-Myanmar National Dish), Kyther Hin (Traditional chicken curry) and Nga Phe Ohn No Chet (Fish cake in coconut curry).

### Street Stalls



Some of the most genuine Myanmar food can be found at the street hawkers' stalls across the city. This is where you can taste dishes like

grilled fish, kebabs, omelettes and crabs, only to name a few.

Photo: Scott Biales/Shutterstock.com

Address: Street Stalls, Yangon

### 50th Street Cafe Restaurant Bar



50th Street Cafe Restaurant Bar is an American styled bar that has pool tables, darts and sports on widescreen

TV's. They offers a broad range of Western and Asian food and is

frequented by expats and tourists.

Photo: valeriiarnaud/Shutterstock.com

Address: 9/13 50th Street Botahtaung Township, Yangon

Opening hours: Every day 9.30am - 1am

Phone: +95 1 397 060

Internet: [www.50thstreetyangon.com](http://www.50thstreetyangon.com)

Email: [manager@50thstreetyangon.com](mailto:manager@50thstreetyangon.com)

### 999 Shan Noodle Shop



This restaurant and shop offers you noodles in all variations. Whether you're a vegetarian, meat lover or salad fan, you can be sure to find your

fit among the great offer.

Photo: Tuomas Lehtinen/Shutterstock.com

Address: 34th Street Kyauktada Township, Yangon

Opening hours: Every day 6am - 7pm

Phone: +95 1 389 363

Email: [999shannoodle@gmail.com](mailto:999shannoodle@gmail.com)

### Shwe Sa Bwe



Fine dining and French cuisine can be found at Shwe Sa Bwe. Delicious three-course menus with sweet desserts will make your evening a lasting

memory.

Photo: norikko/Shutterstock.com

Address: 20 Malikha Road Mayangone Township, Yangon

Opening hours: Tue - Sat 12pm - 2pm, 6.30pm - 9pm, Sun 6.30pm - 9pm

Phone: +95 9 42100 5085

Internet: [www.shwesabwe.com](http://www.shwesabwe.com)

Email: [shwesabwe@gmail.com](mailto:shwesabwe@gmail.com)

### Linkage Restaurant



This restaurant combines art and cuisine to a creative and delicious experience. Dine surrounded by works of local artists and discuss the paintings and sculptures over some coffee. You can easily spend hours in the cozy and beautiful place.

Photo: Lifeinviewfinder/Shutterstock.com

Address: Seikkantha Street, Yangon

Opening hours: Mon - Sat 11am - 2pm, 6pm - 10pm

Phone: +95 9 45193 3034

Email: [contact@linkage-restaurant.org](mailto:contact@linkage-restaurant.org)

### House of Memories



Located in a historical building, the House of Memories is the ideal place to spend an evening with traditional dinner in the city. Try the fish cake curry with coconut milk or choose from the Thai food menu. There's something for everyone!

Photo: JoannaTkaczuk/Shutterstock.com

Address: 290 U Wizara Road, Yangon

Opening hours: Every day 11.30am - 2pm, 5.30 - 11.30pm

Phone: +95 1 534 242

## CAFES



*areeya\_ann/Shutterstock.com*

Alongside Kandawgwi Lake there are a number of cafés serving food all day. You can also find cafés throughout the whole city, so you can just pick a place to sit down and rest your legs while touring.

### Easy Cafe & Gentleman Coffee Roasters



This cosy place is claimed to be a true gem. Easy Cafe & Gentleman Coffee Roasters is a great place to drop in for a coffee and dessert, or maybe

something a bit more filling if you are hungry.

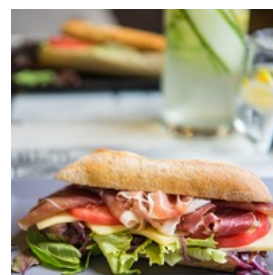
Photo: mickyteam/Shutterstock.com

Address: 30A/C1 Bo Yar Nyunt Street Dagon Township, Yangon

Opening hours: Every day 8am - 8pm

Phone: +95 9 262 546 289

### Yangon Bakehouse



If you are looking for a nutritious and quick lunch you can head to Yangon Bakehouse. Here you can find delicious everything from salads and sandwiches to tasty cupcakes.

Photo: mtr/Shutterstock.com

Address: Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon

Opening hours: Every day 7am - 7pm

Phone: +95 9 797 008018

Email: [orders@yangonbakehouse.com](mailto:orders@yangonbakehouse.com)

### Shwe Pu Zun Bakery and Cafeteria



This place is claimed to be a "must go" when in Yangon. The Shwe Pu Zun Bakery and Cafeteria offers traditional desserts and ice cream.

Photo: Vahan Abrahamyan/Shutterstock.com

Address: 246-248 Anawratha Road, Yangon

Opening hours: Every day 7am - 9.30pm

Phone: +95 1 222 305

Internet: [www.shwepuzuncake.com/](http://www.shwepuzuncake.com/)

### Lucky Seven



This tea-house chain is much more than a place to rest your feet. Grab a chair and enjoy breakfast or lunch in the small eateries around the city.

Local delights and spicy teas will make your visit a lasting experience.

Photo: Sharkshock/Shutterstock.com

Address: 49th Street, Yangon

Opening hours: Every day 6am - 5pm

Phone: +95 1 292 382

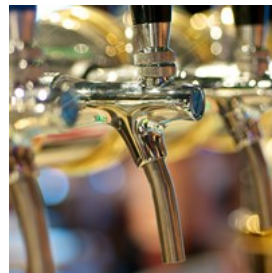
## BARS & NIGHTLIFE



*Perfect Lazybones/Shutterstock.com*

Nightlife is somewhat scarce in Yangon and generally centred in the bigger hotels. So if you want to have a drink or two you can just head to one of the hotels for a good night out. You can always ask the locals and your hotel for good places.

### ABC Country Bar

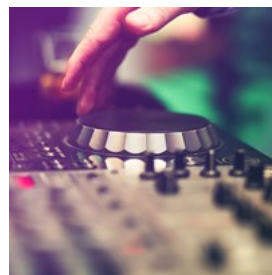


The ABC Country Bar offers live country-western music so if you are a fan of this genre, this is the place to head for. This venue boasts resident bands, serves food and has TV screens in the bar.

Photo: chuckstock/Shutterstock.com

Address: 404 Mahabandoola Road, Yangon

### The Music Club



This is certainly one of the most popular clubs in Yangon. It offers DJ's, a disco and a bar and is open to the smaller hours which makes it one of the few places to go for a night out.

Photo: dmitrymoi/Shutterstock.com

Address: Yaw Min Gyi Street, Yangon



### Pioneer Music Bar



Claimed to be one of the best night-clubs and one of the main entertainment places in the city centre. With dazzling laser

installation, great atmosphere and the reasonable prices, this club attracts fair-sized crowd almost any night of the week.

Photo: karelnoppe/Shutterstock.com

Address: 330 Ahlone Road Dagon Township, Yangon

Opening hours: Every day 9pm - 4am

Phone: +95 9 44316 8886

Email: pioneeryangon@gmail.com

### Karaweik Hall



Karaweik Hall is a very impressive golden restaurant floating in the Kandawgyi lake and is the ideal place which will take you to a cultural

journey. In the evening you can enjoy a large buffet offering international cuisine and watch the cultural dance performance and listen to a Myanmar orchestra.

Photo: Allan Grey/Flickr.com(image cropped)

Address: Karaweik Palace, Yangon

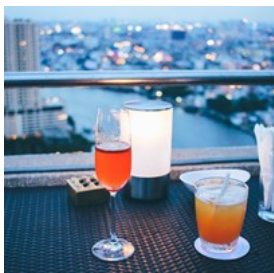
Opening hours: Every day 11am - 3pm, 6 - 8.30pm

Phone: +951 295 744

Internet: [www.karaweikpalace.com](http://www.karaweikpalace.com)

Email: [karaweikpalace@gmail.com](mailto:karaweikpalace@gmail.com)

### Atlas Rooftop Bar & Lounge



Enjoy a stunning view of Yangon in a relaxed atmosphere at Atlas Rooftop Bar & Lounge. Anyone visiting Yangon who is looking for a place

to unwind should definitely check out this place. The drinks are reasonably priced, the food is delicious and the attentive staff will make sure that you are completely satisfied.

Photo: happydancing/Shutterstock.com

Address: Pan Hlaing Street 84 San Chaung, Yangon

Opening hours: Every day 5pm - 11pm

Phone: +95 9 784 151250

Internet: [www.atlas-myanmar.com](http://www.atlas-myanmar.com)

## SHOPPING



PiggingFoto/Shutterstock.com

Yangon is a bustling and colourful place, offering great shopping opportunities for visitors. Some of the most interesting products to buy include textiles, clothes, silverware, artefacts, jewelry and handicrafts. Myanmar is also known for its precious gem production such as rubies, sapphires and jade so you will find plenty of gem and jewelry shops in Yangon.

The best bargains are to be found at local markets and to bargaining is expected at these markets this also includes street vendors. Be aware that starting prices are higher for tourist.

There are fewer shopping malls in the city if you compare with other Asian cities which means less of western style shopping. The malls are little behind in terms of brand names but this could also be seen as charming.



### City Center Shopping



The main shopping streets in the centre of town are Mahamdoola Road and Sule Pagoda Road. Scott/Bogyoke Aung San Market is open all day, and anything and everything can be bought here. You can usually get a better deal here than out on the streets when buying your souvenirs.

Photo: Guillén Pérez/Flickr.com(image cropped)

Address: Yangon

### Shwedagon Pagoda

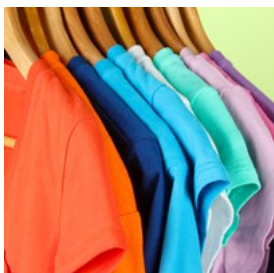


On and around the entrance steps to Shwedagon Pagoda are hundreds of souvenir shops with items of varying quality. In this religiously orientated market, articles having to do with Buddhism can be purchased.

Photo: Jason Eppink/Flickr.com(image cropped)

Address: Dagon, Yangon

### Dagon Center



There are fewer shopping malls to investigate in comparison to the other major Asian cities, which is something of a change. It does mean there is less of a 'global market' feel to shopping in Yangon. If your heart desires a more Western style shopping centre, there is one situated in the heart of Yangon, Dagon Center.

Photo: Africa Studio/Shutterstock.com

Address: 262-264 Pyay Road, Yangon

Opening hours: Every day 9am - 9pm

Phone: +95 1 516 603

### Bogyoke Market



Established in the 1920s, this is the most popular markets among Yangon locals. Come here to experience authentic market life and take in all the scents and flavours of regional delicacies. Next to food and spices you can also buy traditional clothes, jewelry and art.

Photo: Paul Arps/Flickr.com(image cropped)

Address: Bo Gyoke Road, Yangon

Opening hours: Tue - Sun 8am - 5.30pm

### Pomelo



This is the ideal place for souvenirs, gifts and decorative purchases. The non-profit organisation works with disadvantaged people who produce beautiful home accessories, jewelry and toys. There is something for everyone so drop in and find your match!

Photo: Africa Studio/Shutterstock.com

Address: 89 Thein Pyu Road, Yangon

Opening hours: Every day 9.30am - 9.30pm

Phone: +95 1 295 358

Internet: [www.pomelomyanmar.org](http://www.pomelomyanmar.org)

Email: [shop@pomeloformyanmar.com](mailto:shop@pomeloformyanmar.com)

## TOURIST INFORMATION



Prasit Rodphan/Shutterstock.com

### Best Time To Visit



The winter months of November - February are known for their pleasant weather. In February or March each year, the Shwedagon Festival is

held in Yangon. If you don't mind a bit of heat, visiting during Yangon's dry season between March and May is also an option. Rainy season is between June and October, where clouds gather over the Shwedagon Pagoda.

Photo: VectorA/Shutterstock.com

### Passport/Visa



Upon entering Myanmar your passport has to be valid for at least six months beyond the date of intended departure.

Travellers from the US,

EU, Canada, Australia and Britain all require a visa upon entering the country. The easiest way is to apply online for an eVisa. All other nationalities are advised to check with the embassy for further information. You must enter Myanmar at Yangon airport, Nay Pyi Taw or

Mandalay international airports or at Tachileik, Myawaddy, Kawthaung land border checkpoints.

Read more at [www.evisa.moip.gov.mm](http://www.evisa.moip.gov.mm)

Photo: TukTukDesign/Shutterstock.com

### Yangon International Airport



Yangon International Airport is relatively small and located 17 kilometres from the city. No lengthy waits at immigration or for baggage means that

the visitor can be through in 10 to 15 minutes. In the tradition of older Asian airports, there is a throng of 'helpful' people waiting to take you to hotels, taxis and exchange money. Porters hover around hoping for some business.

Taxis are the best way to get into town. The price should be negotiated first.

Photo: Juan Garces

Address: Yangon International Airport, Yangon

Phone: +95 1 533 030

Internet: [www.yangonairport.aero](http://www.yangonairport.aero)

### Transport



You can easily walk around the city, but you can also catch a so called trishaw, a rickshaw tricycle, or bus. Both are very cheap, though buses

are safer, nonetheless very chaotic and crowded.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair



## Taxi



Taxi is the easiest way to get around the city. There are plenty of City Taxis, which are mostly very old Toyotas running way beyond their expected

lifespan. Cars vary in quality from bad to very bad, and common faults include bad steering, bad suspension and parts which fall off. Some cars have all three. Prices are negotiated in advance of the ride and it is worth a small amount of haggling.

Photo: taxi

## Pharmacy



There are plenty of pharmacies around the city, denoted by a large green cross. Mingalar Pharmacy is located here:

Photo: Gemma Garner

Address: Bogyoke Aung San Road, Yangon

Opening hours: Every day 8am - 9pm

Phone: +95 1 298 678

## Post



Your hotel can help you if you want to send a post card. General opening hours are from 9.30am - 4.30pm on weekdays and from 9.30am - 12.30pm

on Saturdays.

The Yangon General Post Office:

Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: 39 Bo Aung Yaw Street, Yangon

## Telephone



Country code: +95 Area code: 1

Photo: Jardson Almeida

## Electricity



220 Volt with the British plug. Any visitor other than from the United Kingdom will need an adaptor.

Photo: Stirling Tschan

## Population

Approximately 5.2 Million

## Currency

Kyats, 1 Kyat = 100 Pyas

Kyat is the official currency, but the US Dollar is traded everywhere, including state run sites such as the main pagodas.

## Opening hours

Shops are generally open from 9am to 9pm, though street markets may close later.

## Newspapers

Myanmar Times

The Light of Myanmar

## Emergency numbers

Emergency: 192

Police: 199

Fire Brigade: 191

## Tourist information

Myanmar Travel Information Media

3R1 MICT Park, Hlaing Campus, Yangon

Mon - Fri 8.30am - 5.30pm

+95 9 506 2481

