



MYANMAR - COUNTRY FACT SHEET

▶ GENERAL INFORMATION

Climate & Weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myanmar generally enjoys a tropical monsoon climate. • Climate conditions differ widely from different places due to varying topographical situations. • March to mid-May are usually summer months. • Mid-May to end of October experiences rain and; • The colder season starts in November and ends late February. 	Time Zone	MMT (UTC +06:30)
Language	Official Language: Burmese Recognized Regional Languages : Jingpho, Kayah, Karen, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan	Currency	Kyat (K) (MMK)
Religion	Theravada Buddhism.	International Dialing Code	+95 / 0095
Population	2016 : 54,363,426	Internet Domain	.mm
Political System	Unitary Parliamentary Republic.	Emergency Numbers	Police Emergency Number: 199 Fire Emergency Number: 191 Ambulance : 192
Electricity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not 100% full power supply around the country yet. • The country runs on 220V 50Hz. • Many hotels have generators (some run at night only). • Local power sources in many towns are scheduled for night hours only. 	Capital City	Nay Pyi Daw



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**What documents required to open a local Bank Account?
Can this be done prior to arrival?**

1. Business Visa page,
2. Passport Copy,
3. Employment Contract with the company which is opened in Myanmar and
4. 100 USD.
5. Please note that bank accounts can be opened only once you have arrived in Myanmar because you will need to provide their business visa and employment contract.

Please confirm how salaries are paid? (eg monthly directly into a Bank Account)

- Payment of salary is normally paid once a month, and at the end of each month.
- Expats normally get their pay in Myanmar via their bank accounts.



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Culture/Business Culture

A diverse range of indigenous cultures exist in Myanmar, the majority is primarily Buddhist and Bamar. Bamar and has been influenced by the cultures of neighboring countries. This is manifested in its language, cuisine, music, dance and theatre. The arts, particularly literature, have historically been influenced by the local form of Theravada Buddhism.

Burmese culture is most evident in villages where local festivals are held throughout the year, the most important being the Pagoda Festival. Many villages have a guardian nat, and superstition/taboo are commonplace.

British colonial rule introduced Western elements of culture to Burma. Burma's education system is modelled after that of the United Kingdom. Colonial architectural influences are most evident in major cities such as Yangon. Many ethnic minorities, particularly the Karen in the southeast and the Kachin and Chin who populate the north and northeast, practice Christianity.

Business Culture

Business in Myanmar requires patience, as well as a willingness to build friendships and foster trust. Attempts to do business in a fast-track way, without sufficient regard for the local culture and procedures, may lead to frustration, and perhaps offence. Often a first (or even second) meeting will simply be an opportunity for parties to get to know each other, as a prelude to more serious or in-depth matters being discussed later.

Furthermore, people do not in general have a strict 'yes is yes' attitude; matters can initially seem ambiguous and you may need to make contact several times before a matter is finalized. Of course this is not always the case, and matters are sometimes concluded more rapidly - but it is an aspect of society that should be born in mind.

Business and politics in Myanmar are dominated by men, but there are increasing numbers of women involved, from running small businesses to board level and cabinet politics - and of course the democracy hero Aung San Suu Kyi is the most revered figure in the country. Also in keeping with other countries in the region, there is a strong tradition of respect for elders, throughout society and in business; when an older person enters a room, it is normal to stand up in deference.



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	<p>Perhaps more uncomfortably for some westerners, the opposite sometimes also holds true: more junior members of staff will enter a room and bow uncomfortably deeply as they pass you, to make as if they are not present at all.</p>
<p>Health care/medical treatment</p>	<p>Facilities and services in Myanmar are limited to Mandalay and Yangon. Routine treatments and basic services are adequate.</p> <p>Cash payment is to be expected prior to receiving any treatment.</p> <p>It is highly advised to secure health insurance that can cover or reimburse the costs of treatment including medical evacuation.</p> <p>It is also recommended to stock up on personal medication, as these can be scarce and difficult to obtain.</p> <p>In case of emergency, expats can go to international SOS clinic or Leo International clinic but most of the expats go to Bangkok or Singapore for their medical treatment.</p>
<p>Education</p>	<p>The educational system of Myanmar is operated by the government agency, the Ministry of Education. The education system is based on the United Kingdom’s system due to nearly a century of British and Christian presences in Myanmar. Nearly all schools are government-operated, but there has been a recent increase in privately funded English language schools. Schooling is compulsory until the end of elementary school, approximately about 9 years old, while the compulsory schooling age is 15 or 16 at international level.</p> <p>There are 101 universities, 12 institutes, 9 degree colleges and 24 colleges in Myanmar, a total of 146 higher education institutions. There are 10 Technical Training Schools, 23 nursing training schools, 1 sport academy and 20 midwifery schools. There are 2047 Basic Education High Schools, 2605 Basic Education Middle Schools, 29944 Basic Education Primary Schools and 5952 Post Primary Schools. 1692 multimedia classrooms exist within this system.</p> <p>There are five international schools acknowledged by WASC and College Board— The International School Yangon (ISY), Crane International School Yangon (CISM), Yangon International School (YIS) and International School of Myanmar (ISM) in Yangon, and the British International School of Yangon (BISY).</p>



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Utilities

Basic housing utilities in Myanmar include electricity, heating and water, and these are normally already set up prior to tenancy. Internet and cable TV can be installed upon request.

Food & Drink

Burmese cuisine has been influenced by Indian, Chinese and Thai cuisines as well as domestic ethnic cuisines. It is not widely known throughout the world and can be characterized as having a mildly spicy taste, with a limited use of spices.

A typical Burmese meal consists of several meat curries, a soup, steamed rice and fermented sauce of preserved fish, along with vegetables for dipping.

Condiments like balachaung, Indian style pickles and pickled vegetables are commonly served alongside the dishes.

Although fish sauce and shrimp paste are commonly used ingredients, as in other Southeast Asian cuisines, Burmese cuisine also makes extensive use of chickpeas, lentils and tamarind, which is used to add a sour flavor rather than the lime juice or vinegar used in other cuisines.

Ethnic cuisines, in particular Shan cuisine, are also prominently found throughout Burma, as are Indian and Chinese dishes, particularly in urban areas. The de facto national dish is Mohinga, rice noodles in a rich fish soup. Salads, especially laphet thoke, which is a salad of pickled tea leaves, are also popular dishes. The Burmese traditionally eat with their fingers, although the usage of Western utensils and chopsticks have become more widespread, especially in towns and cities. Indian breads like paratha and naan or rice noodles are also commonly eaten with dishes, in addition to rice.



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Leisure/Entertainment/ Sport

Football is the most popular sport in Burma.

Chinlone is an indigenous sport that utilises a rattan ball.

Burmese kickboxing called Lethwei is popular and tournaments may be seen at pagoda festivals.

A form of Burmese martial arts derived from the Shan called Thaing, divided into bando (unarmed combat) and banshay (armed combat), rather similar to Chinese Kung Fu, is also practised.

Of the twelve seasonal festivals, regattas are held in the month of Tawthalin (August/September), and equestrian events are held by the royal army in the time of the Burmese kings in the month of Pyatho (December/January).

During British rule, the game of cricket was played, with the Burma national cricket team playing a number of first class matches. The team exists today, although no longer of first-class quality and is an affiliate member of the International Cricket Council.

Burma also has a basketball team, which has qualified for the Asian Games in the past.

Although much of Myanmar's vast outdoor recreation market is yet to be developed for the enjoyment of tourists, there are still a number of activities you can do here.

The beaches to the west and south of the capital are quiet and scenic, especially along the Rakhine coast.

Walking and rock climbing can be found in the east and northwest, while the white water rafting and scuba diving opportunities are incredible in Kachin State.

Ecotourism is steadily growing under the watchful eye of the government, offering trekking into the national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.



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Security

Myanmar is safe enough to go around the country but for housing in particular, we would recommend assignees to get a night guard or security at their properties. This is normal for standalone houses. Serviced apartments normally have their own security.

Personal security

In all the areas that foreigners are allowed to visit, Myanmar is very safe in terms of personal security: incidents of crime against foreigners are extremely low and Yangon is considered to be one of Asia's safest large cities, with no areas that need to be avoided.

You may sometimes be approached by 'money changers' and people trying to sell things (their statements should not always be taken at face value), but this will usually be done in a good-natured manner. In fact, you will often find that people approaching you simply want to take the opportunity to talk to a foreigner and maybe practice their English.

ISSUES TO BE AWARE OF

The vast majority of people in Myanmar are friendly and helpful, but there are various safety and security issues to be aware of:

Roads, pavements and many types of transport are generally in a very bad state of repair. Cars are sometimes driven with little thought to road safety or discipline and vehicles are often driven at night without their lights on.

When walking, particularly at night, you should be careful where you step. Pavements can have big holes in them and, because of bad lighting and frequent electricity black-outs, taking a torch is a good idea.

Whilst the areas in which foreigners are permitted to travel are totally safe, other areas are not. Some parts of Myanmar, particularly border areas, are held by independent national groups that have been at war with the government for many years (although most have now signed ceasefire agreements). Travel to these areas is highly restricted, and roads throughout Myanmar have regular checkpoints for identification purposes.



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It is advisable to avoid large public gatherings and demonstrations, as there is always the outside possibility of clashes and violent incidents.

Tap water is not safe to drink; you should always buy bottled water.

Outside established tourist and top-end restaurants, food preparation is not always up to western standards. It is advisable to take Dioralyte for rehydration and Loperamide for diarrhoea.

It is important to guard against insect bites.

Myanmar has some poisonous and potentially deadly animals – be aware of them! Diseases such as rabies are prevalent amongst animals like dogs and monkeys, and can be extremely dangerous for humans. Snakes bites can also cause illness and death.

Driving

Driving is not very safe in Myanmar for expats.

Expats are advised to hire a driver for the duration of their stay as a neither their domestic or international license is valid in the country. Expats may apply for a Myanmar Driving License at the Department for Road Transport and Administration, now based in Naypyidaw. The process is takes about 1 month (if you have an international driving license, the process could take a day to a week). Only registered foreigners in a long-term visa, like a business visa, may do so.

Myanmar was a British colony until 1948, and drove on the left until 1970, when it changed sides. It is said that in 1970 the ruler of the country at that time, General Ne Win, ordered everyone to start driving on the right side of the road, on the advice of a wizard. However, virtually every vehicle is right-hand-drive, since there are still many old cars and buses driving around and almost all the modern cars are second-hand imports from Japan. You can still even see old traffic lights in downtown Rangoon on the wrong side of the road.



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Public Transport

Larger towns in Myanmar offer a variety of city buses (ka), bicycle rickshaws or trishaws (saiq-ka, for sidecar), horse carts (myint hlei), ox carts, vintage taxis (taxi), more modern little three-wheelers somewhat akin to Thai tuk-tuks (thoun bein, meaning 'three wheels'), tiny four-wheeled 'blue taxi' Mazdas (lei bein, meaning 'four wheels') and modern Japanese pick-up trucks (lain ka, meaning 'line car').

Small towns rely heavily on horse carts and trishaws as the main mode of local transport. However, in big cities (Yangon, Mandalay, Patheingyi, Mawlamyine and Taunggyi) public buses take regular routes along the main avenues for a fixed per-person rate, usually K200 to K300.

Standard rates for taxis, trishaws and horse carts are sometimes 'boosted' for foreigners. Generally a ride from the bus station to a central hotel – often a distance of 1.25 miles or more – is between K1500 and K2000. Short rides around the centre can be arranged for between K1000 and K1500.

Taking Pets

Myanmar does not quarantine healthy pets who meet the following requirements:

Your pet must be vaccinated for rabies between 30 days and 12 months prior to entry into the country.

A USDA (or CFIA) accredited veterinarian must then complete the **Veterinary Certificate** for Myanmar for endorsement by the USDA or CFIA if traveling from the United States or Canada. If you are not traveling from either of these countries, the Governing Authority of your country responsible for the import and export of animals should endorse the forms.

A copy of the Rabies Certificate should also be included for endorsement.

This completes a pet passport for your dog or cat to enter Myanmar.

FYI, serviced apartments in Myanmar normally don't accept pets.



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Expats Groups	American Club, Australian Club
Cost of Living	Cost of living will depend on one's lifestyle which can be costly or inexpensive.
How much is 1 litre milk:	- 2 to 5 USD depending on the brand;
A loaf of bread:	- 1 to 5 USD depending on the brand;
1 litre of petrol:	- 60 cents.

➤ HOUSING AND TENANCY INFORMATION

Do expats tend to live in specific areas/ compounds or standalone properties throughout the city?	Some expats would prefer to stay in specific areas such as Golden Valley and Pyay Road. Some stay in standalone properties throughout the city.
How long does it take between finding and securing a property?	1 months - 3 months
How many days face to face home search package without any unforeseen problems are required for	Single 2 days minimum Couple 3 days minimum Family 4 days minimum
Please advise availability of Furnished and Unfurnished properties and please advise what is normally included in Furnished and Unfurnished (eg. Carpets, curtains etc)	Both types of properties are available. Furnished properties provide almost all the furniture.
What is the length of a normal tenancy agreement?	12 months for normal properties but 6 months for serviced apartments
When are rental payments due?	Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> Yearly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Explain when other:
What is normally the term to give notice?	60 days in advance



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What are usually the tenancy renewal terms?	6 months or 12 months
What break clauses are generally available e.g. business/diplomatic, and what time scale can notice be given eg. 2 months after 6 months	Only the diplomatic clause is available for diplomat and there is no break clause applicable for civilian.
Is a deposit paid and how much will this be? Who holds the deposit and how is this protected?	1 or 2 months of the rent with the proper letter. The landlord holds that security deposit and will refund at the end of the tenancy after clear all outstanding statements.
In what name can the tenancy agreement go? Eg. Individual, company	Depends on tenant request. Individual or Company
When a property has been found - does a holding deposit has to be paid and how much? Will this secure the property What information does a tenant or occupier need to provide before being able to secure the property eg. References, employer's reference, ID copies	Yes, a holding deposit equivalent to 1 month rent has to be paid and this will normally secure the property. Latest business visa and passport copies.
Can properties be taken and rent paid at any time of the month or only on the 1st of the month?	Any time of the month.
Are rents paid in currency of the country	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is short term accommodation available?	Yes, available. These are serviced apartments or hotels.
During tenancy who normally manages the property?	Tenant.
Are there any broker/government/agency fees to be paid	Yes, an agency fee equivalent to 1 month rent is normally required.
Any other cost that client should be aware of when taking on a property? Such as tenancy preparation charges, government and service charges	The stamp duty tax which is 1.5% of the total lease amount.
Are tenancy agreements in English?	Yes in English, but sometimes the landlord would also request a tenancy agreement on local language signed.



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➤ **OTHER SERVICES**

Is Rental furniture available?

No, there is no furniture rental shop in Myanmar up to now.

Is there any information you wish to share with us?