

LOIKAW



Loi-Kaw is the capital of Kayah State and is divided by the Belu Stream that flows from Inlay Lake. It is situated 2915 feet above sea level, and the population is about 20,000. Loikaw is surrounded by beautiful mountain ranges, lakes and waterfalls. The town is pleasant and the suburbs have large wooden houses in lush, green compounds.

Getting There and Getting Around

Normally tourists could travel from Inle lake area using boat and car. Loikaw is linked by the newly constructed Aunban- Pinlong Loikaw rail line. The famous religious landmark of Loikaw is the Thiri Mingalar Taung Kwe Pagoda Hill, scenically built on a hillcock overlooking the vast expanse of the environs. Thiri Mingalar Taung is 129 Metre high over quiet city at prime location to enjoy panoramic view of Loikaw city, its surroundings, and the endless beauty of mountain ranges and Loikaw Plain.

The next interesting place is called Htee Pwint Kan or Umbrellapond. It is situated in DeeMaw Soe Township in the heart of the paddy fields.

Kandayawadi Sao Phya Haw Nan (Kandayawaki Prince Palace) is one and only invaluable heritage to observe Kayah tribe's architectural and historical background. The heritage is now maintained as religious building and it lies only a walking distance from Thiri Mingalar Taung Kwe Zedi, western and quiet place of Loikaw.

Loikaw Cultural Museum is located northern and tranquil Place of Loikaw. Collection of Kayan nine different ethnicities traditional and cultural displays are exhibited. Traditional costume of nine ethnic groups displays are significant of the museum.

Nyaung Shwe Sawbwa Museum

The "Haw" mansion in which Nyaung Shwe Sawbwa had lived. Now it has been opened as a museum. It was built by Sawbwayi Sir Sao-Maung in 1913. The chambers are decorated with marvelous ancient architecture and sculptures can be observed there. From now that will be reopened as the "Museum of all Sawbwayis" and all the thrones, the divans, the royal attires, the personal items and the photographs of all the Saw-Bwas will be displayed there.



Padaung, the Long Necked Nationals

One of the most striking of these people is the long necked Padaung nationals living in Shan State of Myanmar. This unique state attraction is the brass rings on the women's necks. There are two kinds of Padaung: those women who put rings on their necks, called "long-necked Padaungs", and the other women without the rings their necks, called "short-necked Pa-daungs".

Padalin Caves

These caves are located in the western part of the Ywangan Township. There are two caves standing 200 meters apart and facing to the South. The length of the bigger cave is about 269 meters. 1600 pieces of stone implements were excavated from the caves and you can observe wall paintings of the Neolithic Period.

Pa-O Village

Most of the Pa-O tribes live around the Southern Shan State, and there are many Pa-O villages in the Shan State. They live on agriculture, and they especially grow cheroat leaf, garlic, wheat and peas.



PINDAYA

Pindaya is a small quiet town perched on the bank of Ponetaoat lake. The Pindaya cave, containing thousands of Buddha images, is the main destination in this region. The most attractive place in Pindaya is the ancient Shwe U Min cave which contains about 8,000 Buddha statues, collected over the centuries. This cave is a limestone cave and is about 200 million years old, according to the geologists' estimation.

Hamsan Cave

Hamsan cave is located not far from Ho pane, about 26 miles in the east of Taunggyi. The cave was found by a young monk. The trip winds along a snaky road through colourful surroundings. Found on the way to Taunggyi along the Lal-len Highway Road, the nature cave is 586 meter long and 10 meter high. Stalactites and stalagmites can be seen there.

Arts & Crafts

Gold & Silver Smith

Producing gold and silver ware is a long tradition of Myanmar. Ywama village which is located 12 km away from Nyaung Shwe is well-known for its gold and silver ware.

Black Smith

In Se Khong village there is a blacksmith workshop which produces knives and farming tools that are sold at separate 5 day markets around the Inlay region.

Silk Weaving

At In Paw Khan village in the Inlay Region, you can see silk weaving. Silk weaving acheik style which turns the hard-edged Myanmar designs into softer motifs. They also weave pieces of plain silk and scarves in gorgeous rich colours.

Umbrella Workshop

Pindaya is one of the key places where local style umbrellas and Shan paper are made. There are nearly 20 places at Nger Pyaw Daw quarter in Pin-da-ya in Shan State. Tourists can experience the process of making umbrellas and traditional Shan paper.

Tea Plantation

Mostly the Palaung and Danu tribes grow tea plants, especially in the Kalaw and Pindaya townships. For the whole country, famous tea leaves come from the Shan State.

Activity

Trekking in Pindaya-Kalaw and the surrounding hills

On the mountain ranges around Kalaw are villages where trekking can be a one to five day experience. Study the traditional customs of the Palaung people in Taraw village, a tourist attraction which has kept its ancient look. The sight of tea plantations, other seasonal crops and quiet parkways is there. Trekking along the path from Kalaw to Inlay Lake is even more interesting. Enjoy the unspoiled natural scenery of Inlay lake which leads to the Kakku Pagoda Complex.

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Inlay

INLAY LAKE



The heart of the Shan State is located about 30km from Taunggyi, and is surrounded by the beautiful mountains. It is beautiful highland lake, 900 meters above sea level. The lake is 22 km long and 10km across, and inhabited by many different ethnic groups of the area. Phaung Daw Oo pagoda is famous for its annual festival during which Buddha images wander around the villages in the lake. The floating market, the floating farm, the unique leg-rowers (Inthar) and the Inlay traditional style of fishing are very interesting.

GETTING THERE AND GETTING AROUND

Inlay Lake is easily accessible from Yangon, Bagan or Mandalay by Plane via Heho. The flying time from Yangon to Heho is about an hour, and then you must take a (35) km drive from Heho to Naung Shwe, which is on the northern tip of the Lake. It is also possible to reach Heho and Taunggyi by rail or road, and then proceed to Naung Shwe. To explore the Inlay Lake area, a typical trip by motorized boat or the traditional non-motorized one legged rowing canoe is enjoyable.

ENTRANCE FEES

US\$ 10 per person (Inlay)

PLACES OF INTEREST IN SHAN STATE

TAUNGGYI

Taunggyi is the capital of Shan State, Myanmar. As Taunggyi is at an elevation of 4,712 ft(1,436m) above sea level, it is a hill station and gateway to Kakku Historical Zone.

KALAW

Kalaw stands 1320 meter above sea level on the western edge of the Shan Plateau. It is 70km west of Taunggyi, about halfway along the Thazi-Taunggyi road. This was a popular hill station in the British days and it is still a peaceful and quiet place. It is also pleasantly cool and a good place for hiking amid gnarled pines, bamboo groves and rugged mountain scenes.

KAKKU PAGODAS



Kakku Pagodas are Asia's largest and most spectacular wonders. The Pagoda complex has over 2,400 stupas with origins dating back many centuries. Kakku is about 33 miles (53km) from Taunggyi , Shan State.



PHAUNG DAW OO PAGODA MARKET

Phaung Daw Oo Market is adjacent to the Phaung Daw Oo pagoda. You can buy local and lake products, handicrafts and souvenirs. You can observe the tribes' traditional ways of life.

INTHAR TRADITIONAL HOUSE (INLAY)



Inlay is the home of some 80,000 In-thars, native lake dwellers, in 17 villages. Many Inthars live in their huts and wooden bungalows on floating islands, while some live in the villages on the lakeshore. Most houses are built on water and the wood frames are washed with crude oil.

INLAY LAKE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Inlay Lake Wildlife Sanctuary is a wetland sanctuary located in Nyaung Shwe, Pindang and Peh Kan townships of southern Shan State. It covers an area of (642.32) square miles (1663.51km²) and was established in 1985. This sanctuary is to conserve and protect natural vegetation, wetland birds and fresh water fish in Inlay sanctuary. Inlay Lake is not only a cultural-historical-religious site but also one of the designated (21) ecotourism destinations in Myanmar. Nature explorers should not miss out on a chance to experience the world famous wetland ecosystem of Inlay Lake Wildlife sanctuary by cycling and trekking on the Shan plateau. The sanctuary covers Inlay lake and crusting around the hill-rimmed lake and drifting by boat into the floating agriculture of the local Inthar people will complete an incomparably relaxing experience.

FISHERMEN OF INLAY LAKE

In Inlay Lake, various types of fishing methods are used. Fishing by conical shape net trap is different from ways of fishing in other parts of the country.

FLOATING GARDENS

The native people, In-thars, grow vegetables on floating islands which are a collection of floating weed and water hyacinth. These floating islands can be cut, dragged by boats and even be sold like a piece of land. Floating gardens can be found mostly in Kay Lar, Inchan and Zayaygy villages.



FLOATING MARKET

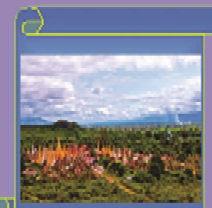
It is situated in Ywama village. Local people around the lake buy and sell on boats. It is an interesting natural market.



ALOTAW PAUK PAGODA

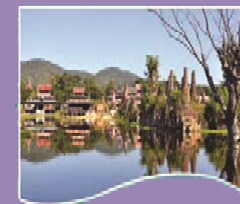
Alotaw Pauk Pagoda, which is situated in the village of Nan Pan is said to have been built by King Asoka. Its ancient handicraft and architecture can be studied there.

SHWE IN DAING PAGODA



One of the 17 small villages of Inlay Lake, is on the west end. Visitors have to take a 5km boat ride from Ywama village, which is next to Nyaung Shwe. A Buddha image is enshrined inside a white washed stupa, on the summit of a hill. Below the stupa around the hill is a cluster of hundreds of ancient stupas.

SAKAR VILLAGE



Sakar is a ruined royal capital with ancient monasteries and pagodas of the southern end of Inlay lake. It is a beautiful, isolated setting far from the villages. It was built in 1479 and the population is about 1300.