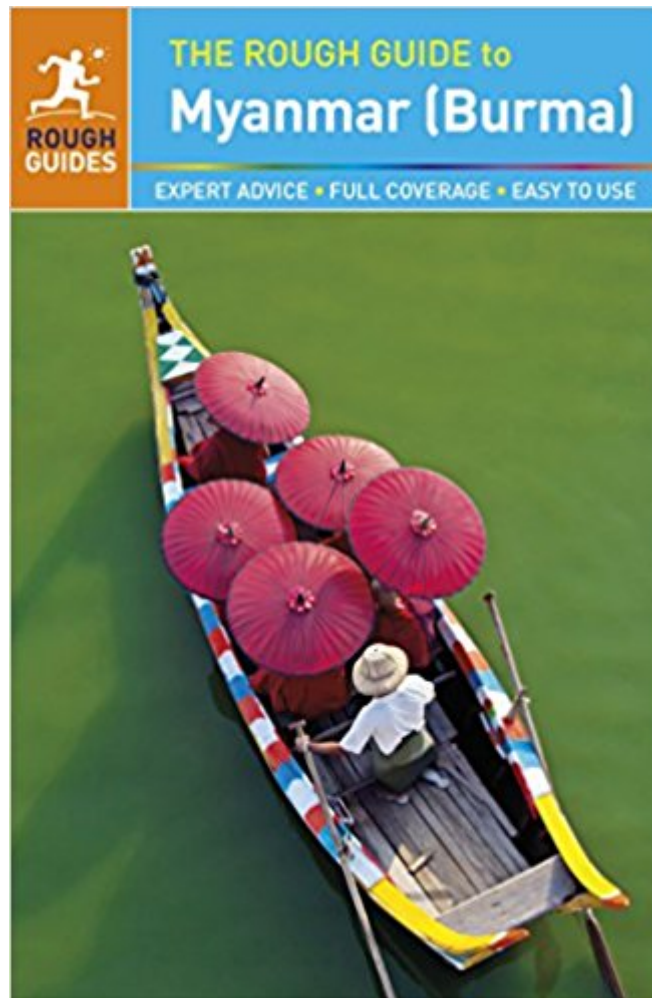




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The Rough Guide To Myanmar (Burma) (Rough Guides)



Synopsis

For so long off the tourist map, Myanmar (Burma) now has thrown open its doors to welcome travelers. More than 2 million people visited this beautiful and beguiling destination last year, and that number is expected to reach 5 million in 2015. The Rough Guide to Myanmar (Burma) is the most up-to-date travel guide to this rapidly changing country. Only guidebook to include hundreds of miles of pristine, untouristed beaches in the southeast, which opened up to travelers for the first time while our Rough Guides author was writing this guide. Showcases regions other guides don't cover, including newly developing ecotourism at Indawgyi Lake and in the northern region. More detailed coverage of key sights, such as Bagan, and the major cities of Yangon and Mandalay. More full-color maps and photography than the competition. Most current listings and prices for hotels, restaurants, shops, bars, and sights. Throughout, travelers will find intuitive cultural content, tips for what to see and what to skip, and practical information on etiquette, transportation, food, drink, costs and currency, and health, plus a handy guide to the Burmese language. Whether travelers look to explore the temple-strewn plains of Bagan, trek through remote villages in Hsipaw, or punt in and around the stilt villages of magnificent Inle Lake, this guidebook gives the honest advice they'll need to plan their trip, navigate the countryside, and make the most of their time in Myanmar (Burma).

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Reliable, readable Rough Guides * Conde Nast Traveller *

I have used the newly-issued guidebook extensively in arranging a trip to Myanmar that I will be making in Dec. 2015. My only criticism, which I hope is constructive, is that the guidebook does not mention any of the travel agencies that have offices in Myanmar (or in Bangkok), but is rather confined to U.K. and other overseas agencies. I know from repeated experience that it is typically possible to save 25 percent or more by booking directly with a firm that is located in or very close to the country one is visiting

I don't think we could have managed our trip to Burma without this book. And Rough Guides give much more than just directions and recommendations - there's a lot of history, a lot of background, very interesting little inserts about all kinds of people and places and odd events. I learned much more from this book than I normally get out of a guidebook, plus enjoyed a lot of side-trips and day trips that I never would have considered or even known about with this Rough Guide.

This item was of limited use since it was found to be often out of date. The country is moving forward very quickly and so unless the guidebook is brand new, proceed cautiously.

great book, does away with all the fluff of some of the others, has well researched and useful information about a country that is changing so dramatically, thoroughly recommend it

Unfortunately, as the Insight guide to Myanmar, this guide is rather superficial, with a rather small content given the size of the country. In particular, it offers almost no information for people who look for nature or want to do independent hikes. E.g., there are several possibilities for day hikes around Kalaw, with a number of well-worn trails that one can explore with a minimum of orientation skills and a GPS, but the only info this guide gives is, "there are hikes, get a guide". Similarly, there is a marked track to the summit of Mount Popa (I mean the actual mountain, not the rock with the temple), which is impossible to get lost on once you know where the trailhead is; yet, again, the only info the book offers is "get a guide at Popa Mountain Resort". This snobbish resort is the only hotel mentioned in Popa, despite the existence of several much more reasonable options in the town and outside (also if you do want a guide, these hotels will arrange one for a much better price than the Popa Resort). Mount Victoria National Park, which is a great trekking and bird watching destination (and where we spent a week without getting bored) gets a short shrift of one paragraph essentially devoid of practical information; again, the message is, pay a lot of money to a travel agent. The

author and publisher apparently miss the fact that the whole point of a travel guide book is to allow one to dispense with package tours. Furthermore, it is misguided to devote about 30 % of the text to detailed descriptions of accommodation options, especially in tourist destinations where the situation is changing very fast, and where much more up-to-date info can be found on Tripadvisor. A final insult is the fact that the maps (at least in the kindle edition) are very small with a tiny font that is simply impossible to read on the screen of a tablet, and at least my kindle app offers no way of magnify them. Luckily, just before leaving I found out about the Stefan Loose "Mynamar" guide book, which, while still having some deficiencies, contains much more and up to date information (but you have to know at least some German).

I've been waiting for months for this book in preparation for my second trip to Myanmar (scheduled for later this year), but only minutes after I received and opened it I saw it was a huge letdown. For my first trip in October 2013 I bought the Lonely Planet 2011 version, which was basically the only guidebook available and which was already hopelessly out of date by then; I realize a newer version has been published but since I always prefer RG to LP guides, I chose RG this time. Unfortunately, it turns out to be not perceptibly more updated than the 2011 LP, and offers precious little more information (with Tanintharyi Region, which has recently and slowly been opened up, being the one notable exception), insight, or new listings. In fact, entire areas that were at least tentatively covered by the 2011 LP and that have since become accessible for foreign travelers (Chin State, for example) are not even mentioned in this book. So it's money wasted as far as I'm concerned, and I will have to stick to the online forums and a couple of useful websites I've found after all.

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