

# Myanmar

**Continent:** Asia

**Languages Spoken:** Burmese

**Population:** 55,227,143

**Currency:** Kyat (MMK)

**Area:** 676,578

## Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Shwedagon Pagoda', 'writeup': 'A gilded stupa in Yangon, considered the most sacred Buddhist pagoda in Myanmar.'}
- {'name': 'Bagan Archaeological Zone', 'writeup': 'An ancient city with thousands of Buddhist temples and pagodas dating from the 9th to 13th centuries.'}
- {'name': 'Inle Lake', 'writeup': 'A freshwater lake known for its floating villages, gardens, and unique leg-rowing fishermen.'}

## Head of State / Government:

Myint Swe (Acting President as of 2024)

## Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Thingyan Water Festival', 'writeup': 'The Burmese New Year celebration involving water throwing to wash away sins and bad luck.'}
- {'name': 'Thadingyut Festival', 'writeup': 'The Festival of Lights marking the end of Buddhist Lent with illuminated decorations and offerings.'}

## Food & Cuisine:

Myanmar cuisine features a blend of flavors influenced by Chinese, Indian, and Thai cuisines, with staples like mohinga (fish noodle soup), laphet (fermented tea leaf salad), and various curries.

## Brief History:

Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, has a history of powerful kingdoms and colonial rule by the British. It gained independence in 1948, experienced military rule for decades, and has faced ongoing ethnic conflicts and political instability.

## Important People:

- Aung San - Independence leader and father of modern Myanmar
- Aung San Suu Kyi - Nobel laureate and pro-democracy leader

## Current Conflicts:

Ongoing internal conflicts involving ethnic armed groups and the military, particularly following the 2021 military coup which led to widespread protests and violence.

## Youtube Links:

- Myanmar: A Land of Golden Pagodas and Rich Culture

- The History and Politics of Myanmar Explained
- Exploring Bagan: Ancient Temples of Myanmar
- Myanmar Food Tour: Traditional Burmese Cuisine
- Inside Myanmar's Ongoing Conflict and Crisis