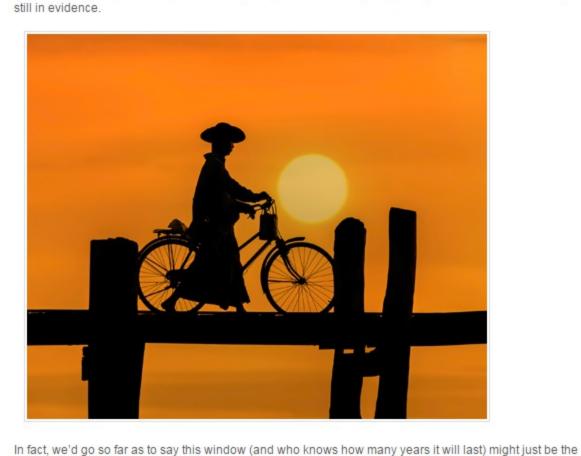
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8 reasons why you should go to Burma right now By Tom Barber on Sep 10, 2015 in Asia, Myanmar, Regions - Read 16571 times

The talk of the travel town in the last year is how Burma has become a victim of its own success. 624 How (apologies for the GCSE-level economic analysis to follow) demand has outstripped supply for guides and quality accommodation and how the country might be over before it has even **Tweet** begun as a luxury travel destination. Well, we can report from the front line and say that this is fortunately for all concerned - not the case. Sure, the surge in Burma's popularity has caused



Yes, we confess, Yangon has a KFC, but the Golden Arches are - to date, and mercifully - entirely absent, and in a country with some great food, long may that last.

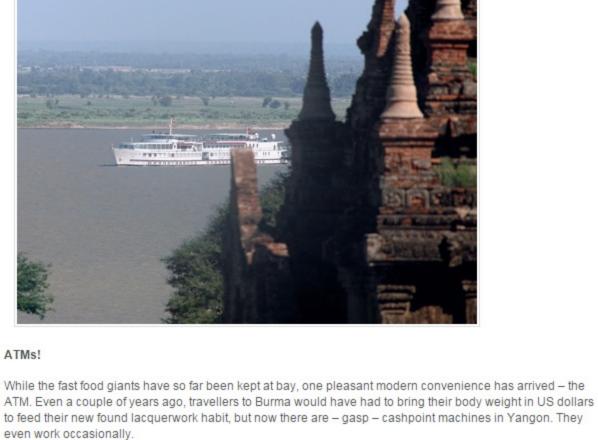
No McDonalds, no Starbucks

Luxury hotels (and liners) have landed The supply/demand conundrum of recent years was worst when it came to luxury hotels, with the best (and often only) boutique hotels booked months in advance. The lack of capacity is one of the reasons for the

huge popularity of the Irrawaddy and Chindwin River cruises. These luxury liners remain a seriously spoiling way to see the country, and the latest arrival - the Sanctuary Ananda - has upped the ante considerably, but

perfect sweet spot time to visit. Here's why:

back on dry land things are improving too. The biggest opening this year will be the elegant Sanctum Inle Resort, slated for a full opening in October, and with 96 rooms on lovely Inle Lake and (according to sources) ridiculously comfy beds. Existing hotels in Inle are also upping their game, such as Inle Resort, which is renovating and adding 180 rooms. In beautiful Bagan, Bagan Lodge - a mere two years old anyway - is adding suites to open this December.



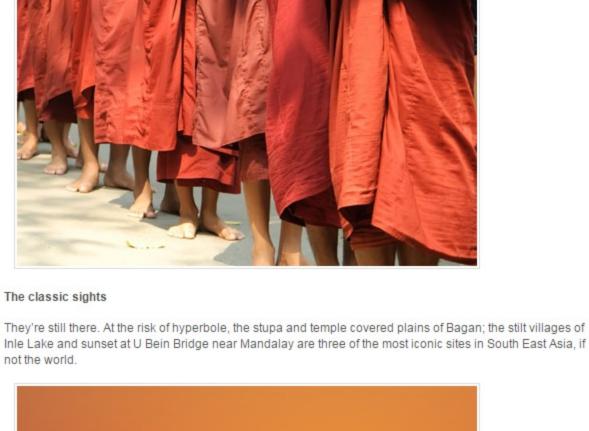
Magical markets Some of the main sites (Bagan, Inle Lake) are starting to feel pretty touristy - albeit not in an Angkor Wat way - but it's still eminently easy to get off the beaten track in Burma, and one of the best ways to do this is to visit a local market. A good guide (on which more later) can bring the whole experience even more to life and

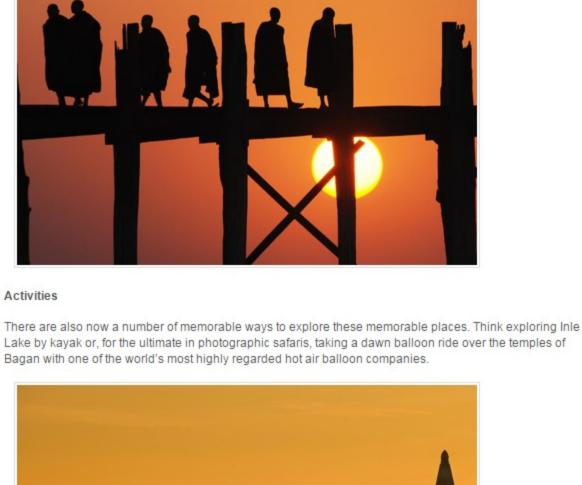
Burma is particularly famous for fabulous lacquerwork. The added bonus? In a country where the military junta has fingers in many pies, paying cash straight into the hands of a market stall owner is a wonderful way

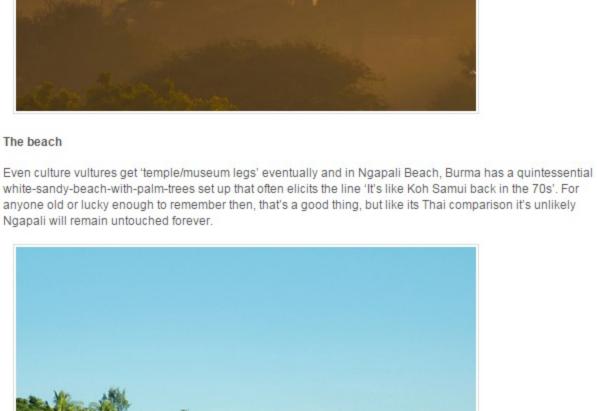
of benefitting the right people. The other added bonus? We can confidently say you will never, ever be hassled to buy something in a market.



with passion about the region because most will likely be local. What the guidebooks don't always mention is the famously wicked Burmese sense of humour, which you'll soon experience from an English speaking







Tom Barber is Co-Founder of Original Travel. If you would like to be a guest blogger on A Luxury Travel Blog in order to raise your profile, please contact Related posts: 1. 6 stops for a colonial tour of Asia 2. Photograph of the week: Hot air ballooning over Bagan 3. Recipe of the week: Shan khao-swe (Shan noodles soup with chicken) Comments (3) Trackback URL | Comments RSS Feed Stuart Forster says: September 12, 2015 at 3:09 pm

Even though it is a nice sum-up of what is really opening right now in Myanmar (or should For example, in the ATMs section, you should mention that you don't find them only in Yangon, but also in many other big cities in the country (Mandalay) and in other touristic places, which is even more convenient and amazing!

Fabien Langeau says: September 17, 2015 at 10:16 pm

And for the classic sights, I think you forgot at least two gems of this delightful country: the Shwedagon pagoda in Yangon and Mount Kyaiktiyo (Golden Rock)!

I would add also that snorkelling can also be a very nice option in this country as well!

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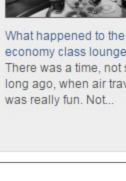
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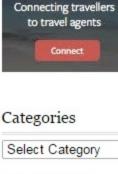






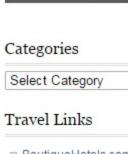






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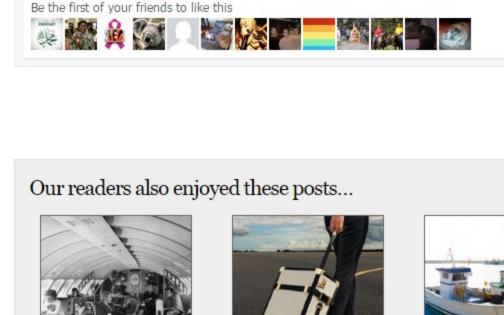
I visited the country during June 2015 and had a great time. It was warm (in every sense of the word) and wonderfully photogenic.

Eleanor Flagler Hardy says: September 22, 2015 at 5:08 pm

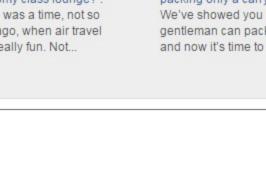
did the Orcaella by Belmond, and it was fabulous.

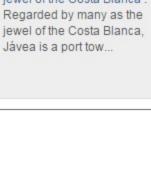
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One more thing to add: the small river cruises are a wonderful way to see the villages. We



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