Gang guilty verdicts at 3%
Stats reveal increase in killings; concern at low conviction rates

A T LEAST 1,886 people have died as a result of gang-related murders in Cape Town in the past five years, according to a report published by the Sunday Times. Gang-related murders have increased dramatically over the last five years, from 89 during 2011/2012 to 651 last year. The report, based on statistics collected from the national police force in response to a parliamentary question, shows that the number of gang-related murders in Cape Town in 2016/2017 are the highest since the official registration of gang-related killings was introduced in 2012, when gang-related murders were first recorded.

Community safety spokesperson Miltadeyengeri, who had submitted the parliamentary questions relating to community safety, said the report was based on statistics collected from the police force. "The increase in gang-related murders is a concern for the community. We need to do more to prevent these murders, and the police need to be more proactive in investigating these crimes," he said.

A spokesperson for the national police force, Captain Raymond, said: "We are aware of the increase in gang-related murders, but we are taking steps to address the issue. The police are working closely with the community to prevent these crimes, and we encourage the community to report any suspicious activities to the police."
Mystical Myanmar

Gilded temples, sounding gongs tinking bells and chanting monks are part of everyday life, writes Gillian McLaren

Great places to stay

The Strand Yangon – set in the heart of the city, surrounded by grand colonial buildings, is steeped in history from the colonial era, with delicious high tea and fine dining. The Strand is a relaxing and soothing place, perfect for breakfast, lunch or dinner.

The Bagan Hotel – set in a tranquil setting, the hotel offers a peaceful and relaxing atmosphere. It features an outdoor pool and a restaurant that serves local cuisine.

The Shwezigon Pagoda – is a popular place for tourists and locals alike. It is a large and impressive structure, with beautiful gold gilded roofs and towering spires.

The Pyin Oo Lwin Golf Club – is a beautiful country club set in a beautiful landscape. It offers a challenging and enjoyable golf experience.

How to get to Myanmar

Cathay Pacific operates the world's safest airline for the past three years. It has numerous direct or connecting flights to Myanmar from various destinations, including Singapore, Hong Kong, and Seoul. The airline offers a comfortable and enjoyable journey.

MULTI-GENERATIONAL TRAVEL

Geraldine Straub, 68, from Toronto, Canada, and her husband, Brian, 70, enjoy travelling together and have been to Myanmar several times. They visited as a couple in 2018 and again in 2020. They are planning to return to Myanmar in 2023. Geraldine says, "We love the history and culture of Myanmar. It's a fascinating place to visit and we always look forward to our next trip."

Geraldine and Brian are both retired and enjoy spending their time travelling and exploring new destinations. They are looking forward to their trip to Myanmar in 2023 and are excited to see the changes that have taken place since their last visit.

Geraldine concludes, "Myanmar is a beautiful country with a rich history, and I'm looking forward to exploring it once again. We can't wait to see what new experiences and memories we'll create on our next trip."

Photo: Courtesy of Geraldine Straub

DEVOTION: A Spirit House on a paintel Banyan tree in Yangon.