BEYOND THE BAY

DELVE INTO MYEIK ISLANDS
 TABLE OF CONTENT
INTRODUCTION

Myeik is known for its delightful batch of unspoilt islands of white sands and clear turquoise waters, rising as some of the world’s best diving spots. It was only opened up to visitors in 1997, and even then, not many people knew about its 800 uninhabited islands. With only 3,000 visitors that stay overnight in the archipelago each year, Myeik is a true wonder of nature.

With a small township, it carries a story of its own. The harbour is a hive of activity with the night market, fishing boats, seafood restaurants and boat tours that offer organised trips to the islands and back. There are walking tours available on land that will take you through the town’s past; in the centre of town, lies a hill perfect for a view overlooking the harbour. Don’t be surprised if you find an active nightlife – there are bars and stalls that are readily open from evening to midnight.

With so much to do, you’ll have an amazing time on land and sea. There are English-speaking guides that will take you on day trips to go snorkelling or if you prefer a cultural touch, visit the sea gypsies. So prepare to get your feet sandy, swimwear wet, and bring your appetite along!
Activities

Snorkelling/Diving

Summary:
Dive in and experience the natural beauty that lies underneath. Look at coral reefs and all types of marine life, accompanied by professional guides and equipment for your safety. There are plenty of photo opportunities to catch sea life such as nurse sharks, manta rays and frogfish, to name a few. You also get the chance to fish for your own dinner!

Theme:
Scuba Diving & Snorkelling

Snorkelling Sites:
115 Island and Phi Lar Island with colourful coral reefs.

Diving Sites:
Black Rock, the Burma Banks and Shark Cave. Guaranteed to see exquisite marine life including sharks and rays.

Difficulty:
Intermediate to Advanced. Experienced for Burma Banks and Shark Cave.

Cost:
For a day trip, 270,000 Kyats - 375,000 Kyats

Season:
October to May is the best diving season and is the only time when liveaboards operate. February to May has the most manta ray and whale shark sightings.

Activities

Cruising

Summary:
There are boats that offer cruises from island to island to visit the sea gypsies, kayaking amidst mangroves, beach-hopping, snorkelling, and many more. There are several tours that offer day trips, island overnight-stay, and package tours if you’re travelling in a large group.

Theme:
Cruising & Island Hopping

Snorkelling Sites:
Dome and Smart Island, Mergui Island, Far Away Island, and Lampi Island.

Diving Sites:
You can hike up to the top of Macleod Island for an amazing view of the archipelago.

Cost:
Fees for all-inclusive five- to nine-day cruises range from around 1,350,000 Kyats to 7,500,000 Kyats.

One-day tour: 105,000 Kyats - 120,000 Kyats (Adult)

Season:
November to April is the best time to visit Myeik. December to February has comfortable weather conditions with a cooling breeze and calm seas. Rainy season is from June to October and may have strong winds and so it is not the best time to visit.
Activities

Walking Tour

Summary:
The small town of Myeik is easy to cover on foot. You can find quaint tea shops, colonial highlights, street snacks along the famous Strand Road and take a casual stroll down to the lake.

Theme:
Walking tour

Highlights:
The old clock tower, Myint Nge market, Mingalar Lake, Mergui Seawall, Theindawgyi Pagoda

Cost:
60,000 Kyats to 90,000 Kyats

DID YOU KNOW

Lampi Island houses Myanmar’s first marine national park where you can find various exotic species of flora and fauna.

Activities

Day Trip in Town

Summary:
In the southern port of Myeik is the old town Tanintharyi. Rich with historical value, this town goes back 2,000 years when it was functioning as an important outpost for a trading centre between India and China. There are still ancient structures standing there to this day and if you book a tour, the guides will explain to you the archives that have been closed off to tourists for several years.

Theme:
Boat/Walking tour

Highlights:
Fishing villages, crab and prawn farms, bird-nest processing, cashew plantation and a traditional shipyard.

Cost:
60,000 Kyats to 90,000 Kyats
Must-Eats

Clockwise from top left:

Burmese-Chinese chop suey, spicy pork soup, Mon-Burmese seafood dishes, fish curry and Myeik-style fried noodles.