

THE ROAD TO DAWEI

Experiences | Dawei



OVERVIEW

Having witnessed Burmese, Siamese, British and Japanese rule—all within a 500-year period—Dawei boasts a fascinatingly turbulent modern history. Since General Ne Win staged a military coup in 1962, the city has remained relatively isolated, having long been overlooked by Yangon’s central, commercial and logistical dominance. Thanks to this, the city now survives as one of Myanmar’s most distinctively unique municipalities, a microcosm if you’d like, of the once great dynasties that came before. During the course of this full, or half day tour, learn about this and more with the help of a well-versed local guide.



PACE

Easy-going



TOUR PERIOD

Half or full day



HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the sights of Dawei with the help of a local guide
- Learn about the city’s rich, intriguing and relatively undocumented past
- Lay eyes on some of the oldest surviving colonial architecture in the country
- Meet with Daweian entrepreneurs before taking in sunset from Maungmagan beach



ITINERARY IN DETAIL

Dawei, formerly Tavoy, is a low-rise metropolis, with its origins dating back to the Tibeto-Burman speaking Pyu people. Since then, administration of the city has yo-yoed between power-hungry Mon, Burmese, Siamese, British and Japanese governments. This, coupled with a 60-year period of relative isolation, has fortuitously led to the making of one of Myanmar's most historically intriguing and fun to explore cities.

To learn about this and more, start with a tour of Payagyi, the largest and most popular Buddhist pagoda in town.

Being one of the first cities the British settled—and having done so for a period of 120-years—most of the colonial architecture you'll find here predates that of even Yangon. Overshadowed by its big sister for quite some time, mass development has passed Dawei by, unintentionally preserving many of the city's grand mansions and leafy thoroughfares. The best way to appreciate these eye-catching remnants is on foot, with some of the highlights being the Morrow Missionary School, the church and the old administrative buildings near the junction of Ye and Arzarni Roads.

People, more so than anything, are at the heart of Dawei, and the best way to appreciate this is by taking a tour of the daily market and the various family-run local businesses. The production of clay pots and the peeling of cashew nuts is a pleasure to observe, as is striking up conversation with the chatty artisans in-charge.

End the day with a visit to Maungmagan beach to watch the sun slowly set over the Andaman Sea.



INCLUSIONS

- English speaking tour guide (for other languages, please enquire)
- Car and driver
- Drinking water



EXCLUSIONS

- Accommodation
- Meals
- Anything not mentioned



NOTES

- The half day tour will vary depending on the time of day – your guide will be happy to discuss options.
- We would encourage you to fill up your water bottles using refill stations in Dawei.

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