





WHERE NATURE MEETS CULTURE

# Kyaing Tong

Kyaing Tong, the humble trading town in Shan State, is known by many other names due to Chinese and Thai influences. Some of the names include Keng Tung, Chiang Tung, Cheingtung and Kengtong. The diversity in the township leads to the emergence of distinctive ethnic groups. There are multiple authentic villages with equally interesting ethnic groups waiting to be explored. The scenic mountain backdrop also provides a great nature adventure for those seeking a relaxing outdoor getaway.



## TRANSPORTATION TIPS

As Kyaing Tong is a rather new tourist destination, the best way to reach this town is through **domestic flight**. A special permit is required if tourists are planning to rent and drive a car in town. The most convenient way of travelling within Kyaing Tong is by **motorcycle**.







#### HIKING

- >> Due to the town's hilly landscape, tourists can hike steep hills and be gifted with a splendid view of yellow rice fields from the peak. The undisturbed 360° view of the town from above provides a great photo opportunity to photography lovers.
- >> There are villages along the way, so tourists can expect to see people of different ethnic groups attending to their daily chores in their traditional outfits

#### **NATURE EXPLORATION**

- >>> Loi Mwe is an attractive timeworn town that is home to breathtaking scenery and mesmerising landscape.

  While ascending towards Loi Mwe, tourists will spot lush forests, wide terraced rice fields and a pristine lake.
- >> Travellers will also pass different villages and they can take a walk around the area to immerse themselves in authentic village surroundings.

#### MAHA MYAT MUNI PAGODA

- >> Tourists can visit the replica of Mandalay's Maha Myat Muni Pagoda here.
- >> The interior of the temple's halls is coated with **gold** lacquer.
- >> Tourists who visit the monastery will witness the monks speaking Khun, a language similar to that spoken by the people of Northern Thailand.

#### **STANDING BUDDHA IMAGE**

- Tourists would love to go to Wat Jom Sak to marvel at the standing Buddha image that is about 18 metres high.
- >> Situated near Naung Tong lake, tourists will love watching the **sunset** here, accompanied by the sight of a **250-year-old tree**.

#### **VISIT LOCAL HOUSES**

- >> Two local houses are available for tourists to visit, where they get to experience the relaxed and laid-back lifestyle of the villagers.
- >> Travellers will be invited to drink tea and eat peanuts and papaya with local families.

#### **VILLAGE VISITS**

- >> Visitors to **Hyo Kyin**village will get to witness
  several exotic ethnic
  groups that reside there.
- >> The Akha group is known to still wear their colourful traditional clothes every day. It takes women an hour to put on their traditional wear, which includes linked silver beads.
- In the Akhu group, women smoke long bamboo pipes, and Ann women like to paint their teeth black as a symbol of beauty.
- >> There are also the
  Palaung people among
  which older women wear
  red and black clothes
  with their trademark
  large silver belts.

### TRADITIONAL WINE TASTING

>> Travellers will get to taste the local rice wine after a visit to the wine factory. The factory is located in the middle of a small forest surrounded with bamboo and small trees. Be prepared – the rice wine is very strong!

#### TRADITIONAL MARKET

- >> Tourists will have to make an early morning visit to the traditional market.
- There are merchants and vendors selling plenty of traditional food and handicrafts, including products from China and Thailand

## HUMBLE VILLAGE STORES

>> Visitors going to villages will come across small stalls set up by villagers who sell trinkets, hand-made jewellery and wallets

#### **BUFFALO MARKET**

- >> Tourists will get to visit this market as they are leaving **Kyaing Tong** or **Taung Gyi**.
- Locals gather at this market to sell and buy healthy and strong buffalos that will be used for their meat, milk and also transportation.