



YANGON MYANMAR

This intriguing capital is the ultimate starting point from which to explore Myanmar's many natural and cultural treasures. Don't miss the many architectural and historical monuments here.



FROM THE AIRPORT

CBD 15km from Yangon

International Airport

Travel time Around

30 mins by car to the centre of town

Taxi Approx US\$6-8 (\$\$7.79-10.39).

Confirm the price before you get in the cab

ON THE GO

1. Walking If you are keen to explore Yangon's downtown area, it's best to do it on foot so you can fully soak up the city's quiet charm and unhurried pace.

2. Taxi No meters, but don't worry, the drivers will quote you the going rate which is usually modest.

3. Cyclo These trishaws are good for short journeys.



SCOTT COATES
Co-founder/cultural travel enthusiast,
Smiling Albino,
www.smilingalbino.com

Great place for dinner: Le Planteur, a gorgeous colonial house, is home to a scrumptious restaurant, bar and teahouse. It's a must for an evening treat.

Must-buy gift: A Burmese parasol — they're handmade, extremely intricate, make great decorations and cost about US\$5 (\$\$6.50) each.

Insider's tip: Burmese hip-hop is catching on and contains a lot of hidden messages. Artists like MC J-Me are well worth a listen.

Survival tip for tourists: Have more than enough local currency on hand before leaving for Yangon — there are few to no ATMs.

Must-eats: A bowl of Shan noodles is a must. Think tasty broth, lots of egg noodles and interesting spices — 999 Shan Noodle Shop is a solid bet.

Local delicacy: *Paan* — a betel leaf wrapped around a mixture of Areca nut, tobacco, lime paste and other goodies that you chew. Stands are everywhere, so spit it out like a local.

Local recreational activity to watch: Jump on the Yangon Circle Train, which takes about two hours to go around the city. It's crammed but so fun.

Best place to hang out with the locals: Have a draft beer at the Diamond White Bar outside the Central Hotel.

Best idea for a family outing: A walk on the elevated wooden walkway around Kandawgyi Lake, where great views abound.



Manila's night scene

MANILA PHILIPPINES

This capital city on the western side of Luzon island showcases skyscrapers mixed with historic Spanish colonial architecture. This is also evident in the country's food, which is anything but boring.



FROM THE AIRPORT

CBD 7km from Ninoy Aquino

International Airport

Travel time CBD is around

30 mins by car

Taxi Approx PHP450 (\$\$13.47).

Prepaid taxis are available inside the airport terminal and save you the hassle of haggling

ON THE GO

1. Taxi You can flag one down at most malls. Always insist on using the meter.

2. Jeepney These lorries ply most major city roads and can take you anywhere along their route.

3. Train The Light Rail Transit takes an east-west route across the city, while the Metro Rail Transit goes north-south.



HEIDE ONG CABUCOS
Businesswoman

Best breakfast: Do not leave Manila without trying the most accessible and very affordable Jollibee (our local Mickey D's). Here you can find Filipino breakfast staples like beef tapa, *longganisa* (sausage) or crispy *bangus* (fish) served with egg, fried rice and coffee.

Best place to party with the gang: Head over to Republic Bar at Resorts World. After partying, opt for some quiet time at Maxim's hotel lobby just a few steps away. Their coffee shop has awesome brews and pastries that will surely bring you back on your feet.

Best buy for under S\$50: Team Manila. Solo or Francism clothing stores offer statement and graphic shirts, featuring Pinoy icons and pop culture. They're perfect for everyday wear and talk. It's all about seriously blending in while paying tribute to these great Filipino heroes and artists.

Must-buy gift: Almost every mall offers proudly Philippine-made, handcrafted products like shoes, bags and apparel.

Insider's tip: Filipinos are generally friendly, polite and approachable, so always wear a smile and you'll surely get one in return. A good majority of them understand and speak coherent English. This means asking for directions should be easy.

Survival tips for tourists: Do not count your money in public. Be careful of your belongings so as not to invite unwanted attention. In public markets, it is okay to haggle.