



The Royal Barge

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 (\$7.73-10.31). 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 are trishaws for short journeys.



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

Best idea for a family outing:

A walk on the elevated wooden walkway around Kandawgyi Lake, where great views abound.

Most unusual thing to do:

Get your fortune told from one of the many soothsayers around Mahabandoola Garden.

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 (\$6.45).

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 around.

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 can chew. Stands are everywhere and the fun is that you can spit it out like a local.

Local recreational activity to watch: Board the Yangon Circle Train, which takes about two hours to go around the city.



Auckland's busy harbour

AUCKLAND NEW ZEALAND

Billed as New Zealand's "most English" city with its fabulous gardens, Christchurch is the oldest established city in the country. It's also the gateway to the fantastic skiing of Queenstown.



FROM THE AIRPORT

CBD 20km from Auckland International Airport

Travel time CBD is around 45 mins by car

Taxi From NZ\$60 (\$59.28)

Shuttle bus NZ\$30 (\$29.64), taking 45–60 mins

ON THE GO

1. Jafa cabs This is a bicycle with bench seats for two. It is free if you board it within the Auckland central business district.

2. Ferry Interislander is the main ferry operator between Wellington, in the North Island, and Picton, in the South Island.

3. The city circuit bus Two bus circuits that will take you safely and easily to the city's attractions.

4. The train A good one is KiwiRail.



RACHEL BROADMORE
Marketing communications manager, The Langham Auckland

Best breakfast: Dizengoff Café on Ponsonby Road. They have the most delicious eggs Florentine and coffee, making this a great way to start a day.

Insider's tip: The luxurious and newly opened Chuan Spa at The Langham is designed to create an ambience of tranquillity for both contemplation and inspiration, and offers an opulent retreat away from the outside world.

Insider's tip: The Link bus is the best. It does a circuit of the city and stops at all the good spots.

Best place to hang out with the locals: Le Cigale French Farmers' Market in Parnell on a Saturday and Sunday.

Best ideas for a family outing: Exploring the rugged and dramatic black-sand west coast beaches and tramping in the Waitakere Ranges.

For history: The iconic Auckland Museum. The museum tells the story of New Zealand, its place in the Pacific and its people. It's a war memorial for the province of Auckland, and a focus for the ANZAC Day activities that take place each year.

Most romantic spot: My personal favourite is the Onetangi Beach on the stunning Waiheke Island. Beautiful beaches and vineyards make Waiheke Island truly memorable, and the best thing is, it's only a short 35-minute ferry ride from central Auckland.