MYANMAR
Be enchanted

"CALLING FOR PIONEERS"

DAWEI
MANUAL FOR TOUR OPERATORS
"Dawei... Gateway to the spirit of Myanmar’s enchanting south"

The Dawei Manual for tour operators was researched and written by Mr Peter Richards, Ms Amaia Garcia Alzugaray and Ms Su Thinzar, under the NTF IV Myanmar Inclusive Tourism Project.

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NB: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the International Trade Centre concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. This document has not been formally edited by the ITC and this first edition was printed in March 2020.

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About the NTF IV Myanmar Inclusive Tourism Project in Tanintharyi Region

This Dawei Manual for tour operators was produced under ITC’s ‘NTF IV Myanmar Inclusive Tourism Project’. The previous phase of the project (NTF III) had successfully developed Kayah State as an important, new, responsible tourism destination in Myanmar.

NTF IV supports the consolidation and extension of this work, by continuing to implement inclusive and responsible tourism product development; and to facilitate respectful partnerships across the whole tourism value chain, from communities and SMEs in Tanintharyi, to Myanmar inbound tour operators, and international tour operators.

Among the three districts of the Tanintharyi Region, Dawei was selected as having the highest potential for cultural tourism development and is the focus of this manual. Further south, Myeik and Kawthaung districts also have fantastic tourism potentials; in particular for marine tourism in the exquisite Mergui archipelago, which offers world-class island hopping, snorkelling, and live-aboard diving.

More about the project and ITC:

www.intracen.org
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Warm welcome to village life around Dawei, Tanintharyi, Southern Myanmar
What is this manual?

Would you like to unlock the natural and cultural potential of Myanmar’s stunning south: from crystal clear rivers to turquoise seas; from traditional fishers’ lives to verdant fruit forests?

This manual is your invitation to learn more about incredible natural attractions; and inspiring, new, cultural tours, which have been developed by the ITC and partners in Dawei district, Tanintharyi region, Myanmar. In Dawei, insightful, cultural tours can be combined with exploring pristine forests, beaches and islands; enabling you to craft inspiring, balanced, unforgettable experiences for your guests.

Curious?

The Dawei district in Tanintharyi region located in the south of Myanmar is a very special destination, with the potential to be considered as one of the best nature, soft adventure and beach destinations in Southeast Asia. As Myanmar continues to open, and the number of quality accommodations and flight connections increase, Dawei has potential to become a top regional destination for beach, nature and culture lovers, soft-adventure enthusiasts, and active families looking for a destination with a dazzling diversity of different activities.

This manual provides information about tourism services and activities in and around Dawei city. This includes hotels, restaurants, local tour organisers, and creative and cultural tours; with a special focus on inspiring community-based tours (CBT), crafted by the ITC team alongside local community members and partners. This manual will help your company get a complete picture of Dawei; enabling you to visualise what guests will experience and put Dawei into your tour programs and onto the tourist map.

The enchanting spirit of the south awaits you in Dawei, Tanintharyi
Who is this manual for?

This manual has been prepared principally as a B2B resource for national (Myanmar) and international tour operators, which are considering developing new itineraries and sending clients to Dawei and need more information.

The manual presents the facts about services and activities in Dawei, along with contact details for service providers. Dawei is a new destination. For the last three years, services have gradually improved and professionalised, including Dawei’s first, well-appointed charming four-star boutique hotels. In 2020, Dawei was recognised with a prestigious ASEAN Clean Tourist City Standard award.

Ground handling services are also in the process of professionalising; as enthusiastic, local, Dawei ground handlers gain more experience providing services to B2B partners in Yangon and Thailand.

Ground handlers are actively looking for DMC partners which want to deliver tourism which is a positive experience for visitors, local people, and the businesses which bring them together.

Dawei will impress visitors who are looking for a pristine destination retaining an authentic, local flavour. To complement Dawei’s verdant forests and world class, white sand beaches; the ITC team have worked alongside community members, the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism (MoHT) and civil society organisations to develop a range of exciting, new, boutique, cultural community tourism experiences.

Feedback from visitors on these experiences during the first season (2019/2020) has been excellent.

Your company can make a meaningful contribution towards the development of Dawei as a sustainable, inspiring, inclusive destination by working patiently and sincerely with local ground handlers, community members and other service providers: helping them to professionalise and grow through experience.

We encourage you to include these new experiences in your offer; and to help promote Dawei as a destination which can deliver stunning nature, culture, history and friendly local flavour to your guests.
About Tanintharyi

Warm welcome to Tanintharyi region

Tanintharyi region, southern Myanmar, is truly one of Asia’s best kept secrets. While the sun, sea and sand of neighbouring southern Thailand have been an icon of Southeast Asian tourism for twenty years; Tanintharyi, sharing the Andaman coast, has remained hidden. However, with the gradual opening up of Myanmar, Tanintharyi region’s breath-taking beauty will now inevitably lead to recognition as one of Southeast Asia’s most exquisite beach, nature and soft adventure destinations. In Tanintharyi, crystal clear, jade green rivers flow through verdant forests and orchards to flawless, turquoise seas. It’s simply gorgeous.

This rich natural inheritance is only one part of the region’s charm. While Tanintharyi is a classic sun and sea destination, local people and their traditional ways of life are what make the region particularly memorable.

ITC’s work to develop cultural tourism in Tanintharyi, focusing on Dawei, seeks to ensure that local people can influence, participate in and benefit from tourism development: giving visitors chances to experience and appreciate Dawei’s rich cultural and artistic heritage, alongside its natural treasures.

As a tour operator, you play a key role in delivering this promise, through mindful product choices.
Inside Tanintharyi

Tanintharyi is Myanmar’s southernmost region, running down the eastern border of Thailand; bordered by Mon State to the north, and the Andaman Sea to the west. The region has a tropical climate and strong, seasonal monsoons. Tanintharyi region covers 43,343 sq km/16,735 sq miles, which are administratively divided into 10 townships. Tanintharyi’s population is estimated to be 1.41 million (UNFPA, 2014). Tanintharyi’s coastline consists of long, sandy beaches facing a stunning archipelago of more than 800 largely uninhabited islands. Tanintharyi’s industries include agriculture (including large areas of rubber, betel nut, cashew nut and palm oil), forestry, mining (including coal, tungsten, tin and iron), fisheries, pearl harvesting and tourism.

Tanintharyi has a rich history, characterised by the ebb and flow of Burmese and Thai empires. Battles for territory have seen this bountiful land pass backwards and forwards between Burmese and Thai control for over 1,000 years. Trade brought foreigners to Tanintharyi as far back as 1545, when a Portuguese expeditionary chronicle referred to Tenasserim, along the northwest coast of the Thai–Malay Peninsula. The modern territory of Tanintharyi was defined following wars with the British, who seized all of Lower Burma after the Second Anglo-Burmese war of 1852. Upon independence from Britain in 1948, the north-eastern districts of Tanintharyi were placed into the newly created Karen State. In 1974, the northern part of remaining Tanintharyi was carved out to create Mon State and Tanintharyi’s capital was moved to Dawei. In 1989, the division’s English spelling was officially changed to Tanintharyi.

Local fishers repair their boats on the mud flats, at low tide.
Why is Dawei district special?

Each district of Tanintharyi has its own distinct charm. Kawthaung, Myanmar’s southernmost district is popular for snorkelling and diving. Myeik is the main departure point for luxury, live-aboard diving explorations of the Mergui Archipelago. What makes Dawei particularly special, and attractive for tour operators, is the sheer variety of experiences which are all available within an hour’s drive from the town centre.

It is an ideal base for travellers who would like to experience all facets of life in Tanintharyi: from the lush orchards of Dawei’s interior, to the local wisdom, fresh air and fresh flavours of fishers’ lives. On the Dawei peninsula, white sand beaches are easily accessible, within an hour’s drive, without needing to rent expensive boats, or to confine fidgety family members inside multi-day, open sea expeditions.

The town itself is easy to explore by car, bicycle or on foot. Visitors will find a peaceful, clean and friendly environment. Serene streets are lined with colourful, well-preserved historic buildings, reflecting different periods of local history; including traditional Dawei, Bamar, British, Chino-Portuguese, and ethnic Karen. Dawei is well known for peaceful coexistence of diverse faith communities. Strolling down its streets, one passes Buddhist, Hindu and Sikh temples, mosques and churches; many of which are open for respectful visitors. Work is underway to develop Vintage House Heritage Trails to explore this living history.

Following the footsteps of Dawei’s rich story
**Heading west**, towards the beautiful beaches of the Dawei peninsula, visitors can be immersed in a variety of atmospheres within an hour’s travel. Maungmagan Beach (45 minutes away) is Dawei’s ‘city beach’, boasting incredible sunsets, and popular with local Myanmar travellers who enjoy eating fresh seafood and sipping on a cold drink in the many small restaurants lining the seafront.

**In Tizit** (one hour from Dawei), guests can visit local homes, experience local fishers’ lives, and savour a unique white sand beach picnic, prepared by the local Community-Based Tourism (CBT) group. See page 67 for more information.

**In San Hlan**, visitors can stay overnight at the simple CBT accommodation, and witness the busy lives of the fishers, and cottage industries processing seafood products for sale in upper Myanmar, Thailand and beyond. See page 73 for more information.

Longer excursions, down the Dawei peninsula, give one the chance to visit untouched and rarely visited white sand beaches such as majestic Grandfather Beach.

**Heading east**, into Dawei’s interior, equally fascinating experiences await. In traditional Dawei villages like **Ka Lone Htar** (1.5 hours from Dawei), visitors can experience how local people tend betel, cashew, cardamom and other orchards. The Ka Lone Htar Community-Based Tourism Club offers an active day trip, which includes a nature trail, a guided exploration of the orchards and forest, a picnic and visit to the unique, youth operated ‘Barefoot Forest Spa’, where visitors can enjoy a soak in a natural hot spring! Half-day tours are also possible, focusing on hiking or the hot spring. See page 62 for more information.
How to get to Dawei?

Dawei is about 681km (381 miles) from Yangon. The best time to travel to Dawei is during the dry season from November to April. The journey takes nearly 12 hours by bus or about 1 hour by flight. Several different companies operate buses, which leave Yangon in the evening and arrive in Dawei early the following morning. Myanmar National Airlines and Air KBZ offer daily flights to Dawei; and Golden Myanmar Airlines fly 3 days (Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday) per week. More adventurous travellers could consider the train, which takes approximately 24 hours from Yangon. Overland travellers often arrive from the north via Mawlamyine and Ye (note: limited accommodation options). Ye to Dawei is also possible by train.

From the south, it’s possible to travel by bus or plane from Myeik and Kawthaung. The full, overland journey to Dawei from Myanmar’s southernmost point in Kawthaung takes about 13 hours. It is also possible to travel overland from Thailand, via the Phu Nam Ron/Tikki border crossing. This journey includes stretches of uneven road with some potholes and takes 5-7 hours. Note that currently, international travellers using the Phu Nam Ron/Tikki border crossing must have a visa from a Myanmar embassy to make this crossing. E-visas are not currently accepted due to unreliable internet connections.
Brief history of Dawei

Dawei, formally known as Tavoy, is established at the head of the Dawei River Estuary, on the northern bank of the Dawei River, 30 km from the Andaman Sea. The city is considered to have been inhabited since before the 11th century AD (Zaw Thura, TTR Weekly, 2016) and established in 1754 by Mayor Min Na Hla. Dawei became the capital of Tanintharyi region (formally known as Tenasserim) in 1974. The current population is estimated at approximately 140,000 people. The area around the Dawei River Estuary has been inhabited by Dawei, Mon, Kayin and Thai mariners for centuries. According to local historians, ethnic Dawei people have been living in this area for approximately 2,000 years. Sagara City, 8 km from Dawei (known as ‘Old Dawei’) is recognised as a provincial capital of the ancient Pyu era.

From the 11th to 13th centuries, Dawei was part of the Pagan Empire. From 1287 to 1564, it became part of the Sukhothai and Ayutthaya Kingdoms. From 1564 to 1594 it was part of the Toungoo Kingdom of Burma. Siam temporarily regained the city between 1594 and 1614. From 1614 to the 1740s, it was the southernmost city under Burmese control. In the late 1740s, during the Burmese civil war of 1740-1757, Dawei, along with the northern Tenasserim coast, was taken over by Siam. Burma regained the city in 1760 and extended its control over the entire Tenasserim coast in 1765. The Tenasserim coast was ceded to the British after the First Anglo-Burmese War (1824-1826).

After independence from the British in 1948, the city became part of the Tenasserim division, which also included today’s Mon State. In 1974, Mon State was carved out of Tenasserim and Dawei became the capital of the new division. In 1989, the city’s English name was changed from Tavoy to Dawei, and Tenasserim became Tanintharyi. Reflecting this colourful history, many colonial and classical buildings can be found in Dawei city centre, including regional government office and municipal buildings, Dawei Education College, and No.3 BEHS. The Myanmar government plans to build the biggest deep seaport in Southeast Asia, 35 km northwest of Dawei. Construction was started but is currently on hold.
Dawei’s peoples and cultures

Dawei is a melting pot of cultures, faiths and languages, including Dawei, Kayin, Mon and Bamar. The town enjoys a reputation for peaceful coexistence between religious communities. Ethnic Dawei people speak the Dawei dialect, which is related to, but considered distinct from Burmese.

Most ethnic Dawei people are Buddhist, caretaking a rich cultural heritage; including Payagyi Temple, which is home to the gleaming, golden Shwe Taung Zar Pagoda; and the reclining Buddha image at Lawka Tharaphulyaung Daw Mu Payagyi, which was completed in 1931 and measures 74 metres long and 21 metres high.

The historic Shin Ko Shin pagodas (nine pagodas), a pilgrimage trail reaching the end of the Dawei peninsula, are a popular route for domestic travellers. Dawei people have their own traditional dance, songs, costumes, foods and customs. Among Dawei traditional dances, Yae O Ywet dance (the pot dance), where young women masterfully balance pots on their heads while dancing, is a unique symbol of Dawei art and culture.
Heading east, towards Thailand, is an area of mainly Kayin communities, including areas which are under mixed control between the Myanmar central government and the Karen National Union (KNU).

These areas require special permission to visit. Inside Dawei town, many vintage houses are built or influenced by Kayin building styles, showing the long historic connections between Kayin and Dawei communities.

Walking around the side streets of Dawei, it is easy to meet people with a variety of fascinating ancestries and histories; including Karen Christians, Muslim communities, Hindus and Sikhs.
Dawei’s resources and livelihoods

A short exploration around Dawei, east to the Andaman sea and west to the forested mountains, quickly illuminates Dawei’s wealth of natural resources and local livelihoods. Coastal communities make a living from traditional fishing, using a variety of tools which have been carefully adapted to the changing tides and times of day and night. At the lowest tide, villagers forage for shellfish on the mudflats. As the tide rises, they wade into lagoons to catch fish and shells with fishing scoops and hand-cast fishing nets. And, at higher tides, the fishers use small boats and a variety of hooks and floating nets, some over 30 metres wide.

Inland, betel, rubber and cashew nut plantations are the most important livelihoods. Villagers also grow seasonal vegetables, coconuts, pineapples and medicinal herbs. This area is rich in valuable minerals (for example, tungsten, tin and iron), which have attracted mining for several centuries. Permission to conduct mining activities is a sensitive issue in Dawei, where environmental impacts can also have serious negative impacts on the local people who rely on a healthy environment to farm and fish.

During the rainy season, (May to October), Dawei has heavy monsoon rains, making it one of the wettest areas in Asia.

Small fishers’ boats waiting for the high tide to head out to sea
Major festivals and celebrations

Dawei shares many traditional festivals with other areas in Myanmar, including traditional homage celebrations, where people pay respect to their elders; the Tazaungdaing festival. Locally, it is marked by a famous 28 Buddhas procession; and the ‘Float Down Alms Bowls festival’, which is held in October, at dawn, on the full-moon day of Thadingyut.

Traditionally, people celebrate the alms bowls festival as an offering to Shin U Pa Gotta (the guardian of the sea in Buddhism), by floating the alms bowls along creeks and rivers. In Dawei, young people pay homage to their elders and seniors during Waso (July), whereas in other areas of Myanmar, people pay respect to their elders during Thadingyut (October).
Nature and geography

Dawei district borders with Ye township, Mon State, in the north, Thailand in the east, Myeik district in the south and the Andaman Sea in the west. Dawei district is composed of four townships: Dawei, Yephyu, Laung Lone and Thayetchaung. Among them, Yephyu and Laung Lone townships are coastal areas, including popular beaches such as Maungmagan Beach and Grandfather Beach. Its climate is humid, with average temperatures between 25°C and 35°C. During the rainy season (May to October), it is one of the wettest places in Asia, experiencing on average 5500 mm (216.5 in) of rainfall per year, or 458.3 mm (18 in) per month.

The driest weather is in December, with an average of only 5 mm (0.2 in) of rainfall (Climbatemps, 2020). To the west, Dawei district forms part of the Tenasserim Hills, a roughly 1,700-km long mountain chain which acts as a natural border between Thailand and Myanmar.

Restricted areas and permissions

There are no restricted areas in downtown Dawei. Some of the areas east of Dawei, reaching the Thai border, are under mixed control between the Myanmar government and Karen National Union (KNU). These areas are not recommended for tourism. Foreigners always need permission from local authorities to go to any area with security concerns or risk of conflict. To the west, Dawei district has three island groups in the Andaman. Tourists are only permitted to visit Laung Lone Bok (Auk Bok) Island, on a day trip. The other two island groups are controlled by the Myanmar Navy and not open to tourists. According to Myanmar law, foreigners can only stay in officially licensed hotels and resorts.
Welcome to Dawei

Getting around Dawei

- It is easy to explore Dawei town on foot, or by bicycle. Many hotels, restaurants and coffee shops are located in the centre of Dawei. Be aware and take precautions for the sun and heat.
- Taxis can also be booked easily through hotels and guest houses. The starting fare for a taxi inside Dawei is 5,000 kyat (about $3.20).
- Outside Dawei, prices depend on the distance and type of vehicle. Different sizes of vehicle are available for different group sizes. It costs approximately $100 to hire a car for the day.
- Dawei ground handlers, and travel and tour companies can organise trips around Dawei Peninsula, and east to Ka Lone Htar and the Thai border.
- Tourists can also move around Dawei town by ‘tuk tuk’. A trip inside Dawei should cost 2,000-4,000 kyat (about $1.30-$2.60).
- Some hotels have bicycles and scooters for hire to their guests.
- Tourists with an international licence can rent a scooter. However, drivers must be aware that some foreign tourists have had major motorbike accidents on the unpaved roads around Dawei, with serious health consequences. So, riding a motorbike can be risky and is definitely not recommended.

Money & banks: There are several banks in Dawei, where money can be withdrawn, by ATM and changed from foreign currencies. Some are: KBZ (Kanbawza Bank), AYA (Ayeyarwady Bank), CB (Co-operative Bank), AGD (Asia Green Development Bank), MWD (Myawaddy Bank), MOB (Myanmar Oriental Bank) or GTB (Global Treasure Bank). There are also some independent money changers. Note that banks will not accept foreign bank notes which have been folded. They only accept clean, smooth notes.

Police: There is a tourist police station in the centre of Dawei Town on Arzarni Road, near the Municipal Market.

Communications: Ooredoo, MPT, Mytel and Telenor provide mobile phone and internet coverage in Dawei town. Outside Dawei town there are areas with no connection.

Health and medical facilities: In Dawei city, there is one Public General Hospital and two private hospitals, Mediland and Myi Mo Oo. Private clinics and pharmacies can be found easily downtown. Township General Hospitals exist in each township. Station hospitals are also provided in remote areas that are located far from the General Hospitals.
Where to stay in Dawei: Accommodation

During the past few years, Dawei’s charm has been complemented by better hotels and guesthouses. A range of options are available to suit travellers’ different tastes and budgets. Most accommodations are found in and around Dawei town centre, rather than on the beach. However, the charm of Dawei’s vintage houses, clean streets, and friendly people provide plenty of incentives to enjoy spending a few nights in Dawei town.

Prices below have been carefully researched and are correct at time of print. However, prices can change. The information below should only be considered as a guideline. Tour operators are responsible to always check updated prices directly with local businesses featured in this manual.

Boutique accommodation

Hotel Dawei

Hotel Dawei is a boutique hotel located in a century-old colonial building. Painstakingly decorated with eye-catching arts, solid teak wood and a beautiful garden, this hotel perfectly meets the needs of corporate, business, and leisure travellers. Facilities include a meeting room, a large swimming pool and a well-equipped health club, which are unique features in the city. It also boasts a spa where guests can choose different kinds of massages, including the Myanmar Traditional massage. Hotel Dawei offers 122 rooms, with prices ranging from $50 to $1,200. The extra bed charge is $30. Contract rates are available on request. Hotel Dawei is also the place to take a culinary journey through the ‘Pola Pola’ Restaurant, which offers high quality Thai, Myanmar and Western dishes. The authentic pizza makes ‘Pola Pola’ a comfort food heaven! Credit cards are accepted. Staff speak English.

Contact: +95 (0)9 920 23923; +95 (0)9 4302 4477
Address: Right next to the City Hall, No.7/A, Arzarni Road, Byaw Taw Wa Quarter, Dawei
Email: info@hoteldawei.com
Website: hoteldawei.com
Facebook: Hotel Dawei
Royal Hotel Dawei

While located right in the vibrant city centre, Royal Dawei Hotel offers a spacious and peaceful environment for all guests. The hotel’s large green garden space offers serenity and privacy for all guests, with access to Dawei’s attractions from the moment you walk out of the hotel gates. Royal Dawei is suitable for both business and leisure travellers. Royal Dawei Hotel has a total of 37 rooms. Pricing is $50 for superior room, $60 for deluxe, $70 for the villa and $130 for the suite. Extra bed is $15 and contract rates are available. Credit cards are accepted. Staff speak English.

Contact: +95 (0)4 4443 3311; +95 (0)4 4443 344
Address: No.297, Hospital Road, Dawei
Email: booking@royaldaweihotel.com
Website: www.royaldaweihotel.com
Facebook: Royal Dawei Hotel
The Mandolis

The Mandolis is the first boutique hotel in Tanintharyi. Two existing modern colonial style buildings have been converted into a small first-class hotel with a restaurant built using only local materials. The design shows loving attention to detail. The existing garden was extended with local plants and divided into zones. The lush existing tree population was integrated into the new design. A separate garden area with a swimming pool and a massage pavilion was designed for the hotel guests. The restaurant also has its own garden area under the existing trees. The use of local materials was taken into account throughout using mainly wood and bamboo. All furniture in wood and rattan was made on site especially for the hotel. The architecture and design are unique and eye-catching. The owner manages the hotel and takes pride in the excellent service provided. Guests and their needs are the main focus, creating a warm ‘family atmosphere’. The owner and the employees look after the guests during the entire stay and organise everything that is desired. There are 11 double rooms (king size bed), from $55 to $110. Corporate rates are available. No extra beds. Credit cards are accepted and the staff speak English.

Contact: +95 (0)9 5920 23857
Address: No.10, Mingalar Thidar Street, We Kyun Htein Le Ward, Dawei
Email: info@themandolis.com; reservations@themandolis.com
Website: www.mandolishoteldawei.com
Facebook: The Mandolis At Dawei
Mid-range accommodation

Hotel Best House

Family run Hotel Best House is conveniently located in Dawei city centre. It offers very clean, modern, spacious, well lit rooms, with super value for money. Among the facilities at this property are a shared lounge and ticket service, along with free wi-fi throughout the property. The accommodation offers a 24-hour front desk, room service and currency exchange for guests. The staff are very friendly and speak English well. Credit card payment allowed. Contract rates are available on request. American and Asian breakfast options are available every morning at the hotel. There is a total of 30 rooms: double, twin and triple rooms, ranging from 30,000 kyat to 45,000 kyat. The extra bed costs 15,000 kyat.

Contact: +95 (0)9 6131 2255; +95 (0)9 8742 842
Address: No.232, Dana Street, Kanyone Township, Dawei
Email: panneleithaw2018@gmail.com
Facebook: Hotel Best House Dawei
Hotel Deluxe

Hotel Deluxe is located in the centre of Dawei, making it easy to get around the city. The hotel is only 10 minutes from DDPC shopping centre, 15 minutes from Shwetaungsar Pagoda and a 20-minute drive from Maungmagan Beach, Dawei airport and bus terminal. The hotel has wide parking spaces and a large garden with pleasant views. It is a great place for people who want to relax. All rooms have A/C, CCTV, complementary drinking water & coffee, hair dryer, medical box, PABX phone, smoking area, free wi-fi, 32” android TV with various channels and a minibar. Their services include a 24-hour reception, room service, laundry service, taxi/air/express bus ticket services and free breakfast. The hotel has a total of 36 rooms with the following prices: $25 for single room, $30 for a double/twin room, $35 for a triple room. Credit cards are allowed. Contract rates are available.

**Contact:** +95 (0)9 4439 71100; +95 (0)9 7772 47500  
**Address:** No.38, San Chi Road, San Chi Quarter, Dawei  
**Email:** hoteldeluxe.dawei@gmail.com  
**Facebook:** Hotel Deluxe
Diamond Crown Hotel Dawei

Conveniently located in Dawei, Diamond Crown Hotel is a great base from which to explore this vibrant city. The venue has a prime location, 10 minutes’ walk from the centre of Dawei, although it also offers a spacious car park. Highlights include a rooftop restaurant from where you can enjoy a panoramic view of Dawei, as well as a meeting room that can accommodate 25 people and a function hall with a capacity of 250 people. The hotel also provides a 24-hour front desk and room service, along with free wi-fi throughout the property. The hotel has newspapers and an ATM machine that guests can use. Diamond Crown Hotel Dawei features 51 air-conditioned rooms, which include a desk, a flat-screen TV and a private bathroom. The prices are: $42 for standard, $63 for superior and $74 for deluxe. A small extra bed is $15 and a large is $20. Contract rates are available. Credit cards are allowed. Staff speak English.

Contact: +95 (0)5 921 117; +95 (0)5 922 516; +95 (0)5 922 517
Address: No.651, Yay Road, Myauk Ywar Quarter, Dawei
Email: diamondcrownhoteldawei@gmail.com
Facebook: Diamond Crown Hotel Dawei
Garden Hotel

The classic, Garden Hotel is ideally located in central Dawei, just in front of the police station. The rooms are big and clean and are equipped with TV, safe deposit, hot water and free wi-fi. The hotel also has 24-hour room service, laundry service and a complimentary breakfast for its guests. There are 52 rooms in total, 10 double rooms with fan and 42 rooms with aircon divided into 4 types: standard, superior, suite and triple. Prices are $15, $30, $35, $40 and $45 respectively. The extra bed costs $15. Staff speak English.

Contact: +95 59 22115; +95 59 22337; +95 (0)9 421865377
Address: No.88, Ye Road Anauk Quarter, Dawei
Email: gardenhoteldawei.info@gmail.com
Facebook: Garden Hotel Dawei City
Golden Guest Hotel Dawei

Set in the heart of Dawei, Golden Guest Hotel is a modern, warmly decorated hotel that offers 40 rooms. Highlights include a morning breakfast buffet, a rooftop bar, and a hotel spa. The Golden Guest Hotel provides 24-hour reception as well as a tour desk, dining facilities, meeting/wedding room and luggage storage. The hotel also provides an airport shuttle, laundry facilities and 24-hour security. Amenities in the rooms include hot water, wi-fi and a flat-screen TV. There are 39 rooms and 4 room types: Superior, Deluxe, Family and Golden Suite rooms. Prices are $30 for the single and $40 to $100 for doubles. The extra bed is $20. Contract rates are available. Credit cards are allowed.

Staff speak English.

Contact: +95 (0)5 920 21351; +95 (0)5 920 23335
Address: No.59, Myotedwin Street, Anauk Quarter, Dawei
Email: goldenguesthoteldawei@gmail.com
Website: www.goldenguesthoteldawei.com
Facebook: Golden Guest Hotel
Maungmagan Beach Resort

Maungmagan Beach Resort offers a family-friendly setting with an array of amenities just metres from the beach. The resort has a spa and KTV. All rooms offer air-conditioning and wi-fi, allowing you to rest and refresh with ease. Maungmagan Beach Resort features a 24-hour front desk, a concierge and room service. In addition, as a valued Maungmagan Beach Resort guest, you can enjoy free breakfast that is available on-site. Guests arriving by vehicle have access to free parking. During your visit, be sure to check out a popular Dawei seafood restaurant. It has 52 standard rooms: $37-$63 for a sea view, $26-$52 for a mountain view. The extra bed is $10 to $20. Staff speak English.

Contact: +95 (0)9 4222 01819; +95 (0)9 2642 44820
Address: Maungmagan Beach, Dawei
Email: mmg.hotel@gmail.com
Facebook: Maungmagan Beach Resort
New Light Hotel

New Light Hotel features rooms in downtown Dawei. Among the facilities of this property are a restaurant, room service and a 24-hour front desk, along with free wi-fi throughout the property. There is free private parking and the property offers paid airport shuttle service. Guests at the hotel can enjoy a free buffet breakfast. All 25 rooms have air-conditioning, a flat-screen TV and a refrigerator. The prices are $20 for standard double or twin, $22 for superior double or twin and $32 for superior triple. Contract rates are available. Credit cards are allowed. Staff speak English.

Contact: +95 (0)59 23951; +95 (0)59 22048; +95 (0)9 2510 00500
Address: No. 29, Arzarni Road, Shan Ma Laeswae Yat, Dawei
Email: newlightdawei@gmail.com
Facebook: New Light Hotel Dawei City
New Power Hotel

The 2-star New Power Hotel is a classic value for money hotel, offering 24-hour, free Wi-fi and free private parking. All rooms have air-conditioning, a flat-screen TV and a refrigerator, and guests can also enjoy a free buffet breakfast. There are 22 rooms. The prices are $22 for deluxe double or twin and $33 for deluxe triple. Contract rates are available. Credit cards are allowed. Staff speak English.

Contact: +95 (0)59 202 3228; +95 (0)59 202 2411
Address: No.250, Corner of Kamyaw Kin Street and Pone Kyun Steet Sin Ou Link Ward, Dawei
Email: newpowerhotel@gmail.com
Facebook: New Power Hotel Dawei City
Shwe Moung Than Hotel

Shwe Moung Than Hotel is located in downtown Dawei. Guests can enjoy free breakfast served on the rooftop where you can see the sunrise and watch the town wake up. In the evening, the rooftop restaurant transforms into a bar where you can feel a cooler breeze. The suites on the second floor come with a spacious bathroom with bathtub and hot shower, a refrigerator and a minibar. Family rooms with one double bed and one single bed are also available. Among the facilities of this property are a restaurant, a 24-hour front desk and room service, along with free wi-fi. The hotel features family rooms. The hotel offers à la carte or Asian breakfast. Shwe Moung Than Hotel has 36 rooms. A single is 15,000 kyat (approx. $11), double/twin is 20,000-35,000 kyat (approx. $14-$24), triple is 45,000 kyat (approx. $31) and family is 50,000 kyat (approx. $35). The extra bed is 7,000 kyat (approx. $5). Note: single and double rooms don’t have hot water and a fridge. Contract rates are available. Credit cards are allowed. Staff speak English.

Contact: +95 (0)59 202 3764; +95 (0)59 202 3763
Address: No.665, Pakhoteku Kyaung Road, Dawei
Email: shwemoungthan22@gmail.com
Website: shwe-moung-than.business.site
Facebook: Shwe Moung Than Hotel
Zayar Htet San Hotel

Zayar Htet San hotel is situated in the peaceful area of downtown Dawei, well located to explore the town. It offers a modern design, alongside a quiet, beautiful green environment, with art decoration and city views. The spacious, well-equipped and comfortable hotel will give you a touch of home. Facilities include a meeting room and delicious restaurant, with an excellent range of dishes, including tasty Japanese bento boxes! It is easy to walk to restaurants, temples, markets, travel agents, and colonial houses. It offers 37 rooms. There are 3 types of rooms: standard ($40), superior ($45-$55) and deluxe ($60). The extra bed is $10. Credit cards are allowed. Staff speak English.

Contact: +95 (0)59 202 3902; +95 (0)59 202 3940
Address: No.566, Ye Yeik Thar Street, Myauk Ywa Quarter, Dawei
Email: hotelzayarhtetsan@gmail.com
Guest Houses & budget accommodation

Coconut Guest House

Located in Maungmagan, just a 10-minute walk from the beach, Coconut is a friendly guesthouse that features a large, shady garden and a rustic terrace. It is quiet and cosy, perfect for relaxing after a day at the beach. Among the facilities of this property are a restaurant, a 24-hour front desk and room service, parking, along with free wi-fi. You can also have a massage at an extra charge. At the guesthouse, every room has a balcony. At Coconut Guest House every room comes with a desk and a private bathroom. Prices range between $20 and $30, and an extra bed is available for an additional charge of 10,000 kyat (approx. $7). There are 5 rooms with A/C, 5 rooms with fan and 3 bungalows with fan. Credit cards are accepted. The staff speak English.

Contact: +95 (0)9 4237 13681; +95 (0)9 7763 35562
Address: Maungmagan Village, Dawei
Email: cocoguesthouse95@gmail.com
Website: www.coconutguesthouse.com
Facebook: Coconut Guesthouse Maung Magan
Golden Triangle Guest House

Conveniently located in downtown Dawei with easy access to all tourist attractions, Golden Triangle Guest House offers 10 rooms with A/C. Their property is large and ideal for those looking for a bit more space. All rooms feature hot water, TV and a mini bar. Free wi-fi access is available throughout the guesthouse. There is a big parking space and car rental is available at the guesthouse. Golden Triangle offers 2 types of rooms: double ($15) and family ($23 for 3 guests, $30 for 4 guests, $35 for 5 guests). The staff speak English.

Contact: +95 (0)9 7858 42511; +95 (0)9 7325 7913
Address: No.524, Thi La Road, Ponkyung Quarter, Dawei
Email: triangleunwg@gmail.com
Facebook: Golden Triangle Guest House and Car Rental Service
Where to eat in Dawei

The restaurants presented in this section were lovingly researched from recommendations, review sites, websites and social media. In addition to the restaurants below, many of the hotels which are featured in the accommodation section also have good quality, in-house restaurants. For example, Pola Pola at Hotel Dawei, The Mandolis and Zayar Htet San.

Restaurants

3D Restaurant

- **Ambience:** 3D serves Chinese, Thai and Malaysian food. This is a great place for anyone who would like to enjoy a Hot Pot and/or BBQ. The decoration of the restaurant is traditional and stylish, and the atmosphere is very pleasant. The restaurant has A/C and parking. It’s a great spot to visit for families as it is located in front of a park with many attractions for children.

- **Recommended dishes:**
  - Grilled duck
  - Steamed lemon fish
  - Kyay-Oh noodles (white noodles)
  - Hot Pot
  - Fish with tamarind sauce
  - Soft crab tempura

- **Contact:** +95 (0)9 7651 38246
- **Facebook:** 3D Hot Pot & Restaurant
- **Opening hours:** 9am to 9:30pm
- **Location:** Next to EDU park, Dawei
- **Suitable to accommodate large groups (+12):** Yes/up to 100. Book in advance
- **Price range:** $$
Bamboo Garden

- **Ambience:** A beautiful, spacious bamboo house surrounded by a large garden and a lake, where customers can also choose to sit outdoors. This is a very cosy place, perfect to relax and have a meal with friends or family in a peaceful atmosphere. Bamboo Garden serves an array of local Myanmar, Thai, Chinese, Malay and European menus. It is an ideal place to organise a private event and impress VIP guests, in a relaxed, spacious outdoor surrounding.

- **Recommended dishes:**
  - Pork or chicken cordon bleu
  - Salty prawn with tartare sauce
  - Chicken chop
  - Prawn bacon roll

- **Contact:** +95 (0)9 788885100

- **Facebook:** Bamboo Garden

- **Opening hours:** 6am to 10pm

- **Location:** In Shwe Wei Thiri Yin Pyin Pat Street, 5 minutes’ drive from the centre of Dawei near the Dawei Golf Club.

- **Suitable to accommodate large groups (+12):** Yes, up to 400 people with advance notice.

- **Price range:** $$/$$$$

Coconut Bar & Restaurant

- **Ambience:** This is a very peaceful restaurant that serves food and drinks directly on the beach. It is nicely decorated with bamboo and wooden furniture. It is run by a friendly family who go out of their way to make your stay pleasant, from offering sunbeds on the beach to letting you use their shower facilities. It is an ideal place to have a drink on the beach, watch the beautiful sunset and listen to relaxing music. Try out their special mojito or piña colada!

- **Recommended dishes:**
  - Grilled crab with fresh Dawei sauce
  - Seafood with fresh garlic and black pepper
  - Spaghetti
  - Cocktails on the beach!

- **Contact:** +95 (0)9 4237 13681; +95 (0)9 7763 35562

- **Facebook:** Coconut Bar & Restaurant

- **Opening hours:** 10am to 10pm

- **Location:** Coconut is in Maungmagan beach, 45 minutes’ drive from Dawei.

- **Suitable to accommodate large groups (+12):** Yes, up to 50 people with advance notice.

- **Price range:** $$/$$$
D Food Restaurant

- **Ambience:** This is a nice casual restaurant to sit outside and have a beer. At dinner time, the atmosphere is fun, lively and busy. It offers a mix of tasty Dawei, Myanmar and Thai food.

- **Recommended dishes:**
  - Pat Ka Poung (basil, spicy chicken/pork/seafood)
  - Pat Plit (long beans, spicy chicken/pork/seafood)
  - Tom Yum soup
  - BBQ
  - Fried vegetables
  - Salads
  - Sweet and sour fish

- **Contact:** +95 (0)9 4204 92197; +95 (0)9 7620 15141

- **Facebook:** No

- **Opening hours:** 8:30am to 10pm

- **Location:** Ka Mwaw Kin Road, Dawei. Near DDPC Petrol Station.

- **Suitable to accommodate large groups (+12):** Yes, with advance notice

- **Price range:** $$/$$
Dream Journey Café

- **Ambience:** This is a popular place for tea, fresh coffee, fruit juices and snacks. It has a nice outdoor area with large wooden tables. There is wi-fi, so it might be a nice place to combine work and relaxation. The staff are young and friendly.

- **Recommended dishes:**
  - Freshly brewed coffee
  - Yoghurt
  - Fruit juices
  - Bread and cakes

- **Contact:** +95 (0)9 5007 091

- **Facebook:** Dream Journey Cafe Dawei

- **Opening hours:** 7am to 10pm

- **Location:** No.661, Pakhoutkhu Kyaung Street, Myout Ywar Quarter, Dawei

- **Suitable to accommodate large groups (+12):** Yes, with advance notice

- **Price range:** $

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![Image of Dream Journey Café](image-url)
ESSO Seafood Restaurant

- **Ambience:** An open and spacious restaurant in Maungmagan beach. A cosy place to eat, the view is great, especially for the sunset. The owner is very friendly and will give you excellent recommendations. ESSO serves fresh fish and seafood at reasonable prices. Dishes are Thai, Myanmar and Chinese.

- **Recommended dishes:**
  - Seafood masala, especially crab
  - Fish with tamarind sauce
  - Prawns with garlic
  - Cashew nut prawns
  - Grilled fish
  - Squid salad
  - Fish-mango salad
  - Shellfish salad

- **Contact:** +95 (0)9 2507 34865
- **Facebook:** Esso Seafood
- **Opening hours:** 7am to 10pm
- **Location:** Maungmagan Beach, Dawei
- **Suitable to accommodate large groups (+12):** Yes, with advance notice
- **Price range:** $$
Hsu Latt Mon

- **Ambience:** A great local gem in the heart of downtown Dawei, Su Latt Mon serves Chinese and Myanmar food. The food is tasty and freshly prepared, and the staff are very friendly. The dumplings and baozi are simply amazing.

- **Recommended dishes:**
  - Dumplings
  - Bao Zi
  - Traditional Tea
  - Mote Lat Thonte and Mohinga
  - Noodle soup
  - Fresh fruit juice

- **Contact:** +95 (0)9 4200 85680

- **Facebook:** Hsu Latt Mon Restaurant-Dawei

- **Opening hours:** 6am to 9pm

- **Location:** No.267, Nibain Road, Myeik Tan Junction, Dawei

- **Suitable to accommodate large groups (+12):** Yes, up to 30 people with advance notice.

- **Price range:** $
Le Bistrot

- **Ambience:** Le Bistrot is a small, cosy French restaurant with modern and stylish decoration, offering some of the best European food in Southern Myanmar. Dishes are home-made and healthy, using only fresh ingredients. In addition to French dishes, the menu includes European favourites such as pasta, and succulent burgers. There are many vegetarian options. For those with a sweet tooth, Le Bistrot serves desserts such as brownies.

- **Recommended dishes:**
  - Burgers (try the ‘French’ with blue cheese!)
  - Poke Bowls
  - Buddha Bowls
  - Vegetarian falafel wraps

- **Contact:** +95 (0)9 6926 98377; +95 (0)9 4582 33872

- **Facebook:** Le Bistrot (@lebistrotdawei)

- **Opening hours:** 9am to 10pm (closed on Sundays)

- **Location:** Central location, Khone Win Datt Quarter, 92 Middle Road, Dawei

- **Suitable to accommodate large groups (+12):** The intimate atmosphere is better suited for smaller groups (2-8). There is no need to book in advance.

- **Price range:** $$/$$
Little Eden

- **Ambience:** Run by a friendly Burmese-Dutch family, Little Eden serves fresh, healthy and mostly organic food in a charming old colonial house with a quiet shaded garden. A great place to relax and retreat for a couple of hours to enjoy the home-made drinks and food. Little Eden serves Western and Asian food, bakes fresh pizzas, their own multi-grain bread and cakes and are especially known for their breakfast and healthy salads. They serve lots of vegetarian and vegan food options too. Little Eden is located in the city centre, near the main pagoda, in a typical Dawei street, where you can observe local daily life and watch monks and nuns pass to collect alms.

- **Recommended dishes:**
  - Multi-grain bread with grilled vegetables and feta cheese
  - Pita with hummus
  - Seafood Pizza
  - Massaman Curry served with organic brown rice
  - Pad Thai Seafood
  - Shan Tomato Salad
  - Waffles with coconut Ice cream
  - Fruit Salad with home-made yoghurt

- **Contact:** +95 (0)9 7501 15 114

- **Facebook:** Little Eden in Dawei

- **Opening hours:** Tuesday-Saturday 7am to 9pm; Sunday 7am to 2pm; Monday 2pm to 9pm

- **Location:** No.354, Phayar Road 354, Dawei. We are located in the centre of town on Phayar Road which is on the west side of the Shwe Thaung Zar Pagoda.

- **Suitable to accommodate large groups (+12):** The intimate atmosphere is most suitable for smaller groups (2-8).

- **Price range:** $$/$$$/
**Monday’s Burger**

- **Ambience:** Originally a small burger stall, Monday’s has grown into a popular, great value for money, ‘mini restaurant’, serving up one of the best burgers in Dawei! It also offers some other western and Asian options including pasta, pizza, salads and noodles.

- **Recommended dishes:**
  - Burgers
  - Pizza
  - Pasta
  - Rice and noodles
  - Salads
  - Toast

- **Contact:** +95 (0)9 7772 63312

- **Facebook:** No

- **Opening hours:** 10am to 10pm

- **Location:** No.3, Niban Road, Dawei

- **Suitable to accommodate large groups (+12):** Yes, up to 15 people with advance notice.

- **Price range:** $$/$$
Old House Café

- **Ambience:** A beautiful, colonial style teak wooden house with a garden and a terrace, nestled into a quiet street in Dawei city centre. This is a nice place to hang out in the mornings and afternoons. Old House serves local Myanmar food, pizza, pasta, salads, snacks, drinks, coffee and desserts. The staff are friendly and speak English. They are happy to share information about the area or just have a chat.

- **Recommended dishes:**
  - Pizza
  - Tacos
  - Chicken Avocado Salad
  - Smoothie Bowls
  - Myanmar Curries food tray

- **Contact:** +95 (0)9 8874 69706

- **Facebook:** www.helodawei.com/oldhousecafe

- **Opening hours:** 8am to 9:30pm

- **Location:** No.174, Anouk Road, Dawei (Behind Golden Guest Hotel)

- **Suitable to accommodate large groups (+12):** Yes, up to 20 people with advance notice.

- **Price range:** $$/$$$$


Pan Mway Mway

- **Ambience:** This good value, local restaurant serves a range of Chinese dishes, with English-speaking staff.

- **Recommended dishes:**
  - Fried fish
  - Fried prawns
  - Duck BBQ
  - Fried vegetables
  - Fried chicken
  - Vegetables soup
  - Fried noodles
  - Seafood

- **Contact:** +95 (0)9 4277 93633

- **Facebook:** No

- **Opening hours:** 9am to 2pm; 4pm to 8:30pm

- **Location:** No.16, Arzani Road, Thin Baw Seik Quarter, Dawei

- **Suitable to accommodate large groups (+12):** Yes, up to 40 people with advance notice.

- **Price range:** $/$$/
Princess Pearl Restaurant

- **Ambience:** Princess Pearl greets customers with a beautiful large garden off the main road, in the centre of town. This is a great place to get away from noise and fumes. Draught beer makes Princess Pearl Restaurant a nice place to go if you want to have a drink, kick back and relax. Princess Pearl offers a selection of Myanmar, Thai and Chinese dishes.

- **Recommended dishes:**
  - Sweet and Sour fish
  - Seafood
  - Basil chicken/pork
  - Cashew nut chicken/pork
  - Fried green leaves
  - Jellyfish salad
  - Crab with masala

- **Contact:** +95 (0)5 920 21780; +95 (0)9 4551 93051
- **Facebook:** Paleikari Restaurant
- **Opening hours:** 7:30am to 10pm
- **Location:** No.572, Ye Yeik Thar Street, Dawei
- **Suitable to accommodate large groups (+12):** Yes, up to 100 people with advance notice.
- **Price range:** $$$
Shwe Wel Thukha Dawei Food

- **Ambience:** A great spot to taste real Dawei and Myanmar food. The restaurant has a classic traditional Myanmar style: simple, comfortable and clean.

- **Recommended dishes:**
  - Grilled fish with banana leaves
  - Grilled dry fish
  - Jackfruit salad
  - Traditional drumstick curry
  - Fried green leaves
  - Fish paste with fresh vegetables

- **Contact:** +95 (0)5 923 977; +95 (0)9 4222 25406

- **Facebook:** No

- **Opening hours:** 10am to 9pm

- **Location:** No.14(20), Ye Road, Wel Kyun Htein Thit Quarter, Dawei. In front of the Chinese temple.

- **Suitable to accommodate large groups (+12):** Yes, up to 90 people with advance notice. The staff do not speak English.

- **Price range:** $
Sunshine and Sunset Restaurant & Bar

- **Ambience:** Located right on Maungmagan Beach, as you would expect, the amazing sunsets do not disappoint! Lots of young people go there, especially on the weekends, and after dusk the place is warmly decorated with charming lights. The restaurant offers mainly seafood, Thai and Myanmar dishes.

- **Recommended dishes:**
  - Seafood salad
  - Crab masala
  - Tom Yum soup
  - Grilled fish
  - Prawn tempura
  - Spicy crab

- **Contact:** +95 (0)9 7933 63361

- **Facebook:** Sunshine Restaurant and Bar

- **Opening hours:** 6am to 10pm

- **Location:** Maungmagan beach, Dawei

- **Suitable to accommodate large groups (+12):** Yes, up to 60 people with advance notice.

- **Price range:** $$
Tavoy Kitchen

- **Ambience:** Tavoy Kitchen is a wonderful place to try tasty Dawei traditional dishes with a modern touch. Don’t miss the signature dish: famous coconut noodles. The space is stylish and is popular both among locals and tourists. It is run by a Dawei family who cook from their heart. Tavoy kitchen have also actively supported responsible tourism for over 5 years.

- **Recommended dishes:**
  - Tavoy coconut noodles
  - Tavoy Kitchen Biryani
  - Avocado Salad
  - Mango Salad
  - Dumpling Soup
  - Gorli Burger

- **Contact:** +95 (0)9 4551 92525

- **Facebook:** Tavoy Kitchen

- **Opening hours:** Monday to Saturday 10am to 10pm and Sunday 5.30pm to 10pm

- **Location:** In the centre of the city! No.234, Pagoda Street and Yay Road, Dawei

- **Suitable to accommodate large groups (+12):** Yes, up to 20 people with advance notice.

- **Price range:** $$/$$$
**Tha Har Ya Tea Shop**

- **Ambience:** Are you looking for a real, classic, local teashop experience? Tha Har Ya is a popular tea shop in downtown Dawei, which celebrates over 30 years of offering local breakfast, coffee, tea and snacks. Great service, speed, food quality, atmosphere and value for money.

- **Recommended dishes:**
  - Steamed Chicken Sichet
  - Steamed Rib Sichet, Wonton (fried/sichet/soup)
  - Kyay Oh (normal or tom yum)
  - Naan with bean soup/steamed pork
  - Bal Thar Mote
  - Dumplings (chicken/pork)
  - Myeik Kat Kyay Kite

- **Contact:** +95 (0)9 4287 4163; +95 (0)5 921 633

- **Email:** thahaya.dawei@gmail.com

- **Facebook:** No

- **Opening hours:** 5:30am to 9:30pm

- **Location:** No.44, in front of the Aung Mingalar Cinema.

- **Suitable to accommodate large groups (+12):** Yes, book 2 days in advance for 100 guests max.

- **Price range:** $
Tha Htone Daw Sam

- **Ambience:** Great to get a real taste of Dawei and Myanmar traditional food. This very local style restaurant is located downtown, near the main attractions and souvenir shops. The staff are friendly, and you will even get a small free dessert!

- **Recommended dishes:**
  - Myanmar traditional curries
  - Vegetable salad
  - Free Dessert

- **Contact:** +95 (0)9 2507 71733

- **Facebook:** No

- **Opening hours:** 10am to 8pm

- **Location:** No.506, Hospital Road, Myoak Ywar Quarter, Dawei

- **Suitable to accommodate large groups (+12):** Yes, up to 50 people with advance notice.

- **Price range:** $
Thein Than San Tea Shop

- **Ambience:** Another recommended spot to experience traditional Myanmar tea shop culture with classic, low seated plastic chairs and wooden tables. Popular among locals, you’ll see lots of Myanmar people sitting and chatting. Myanmar and Dawei local food, specially breakfast and snacks.

- **Recommended dishes:**
  - Dawei Mohinga
  - Naan bread
  - Tea
  - Coconut noodle
  - Noodle salad
  - Fried rice
  - Various traditional Dawei snacks

- **Contact:** +95 (0)9 4221 90646

- **Email:** thahaya.dawei@gmail.com

- **Facebook:** No

- **Opening hours:** 5pm to 10:30pm

- **Location:** No.50, Arzani Road, Dawei

  **Suitable to accommodate large groups (+12):** Yes, up to 70 people, but it is very busy during mornings. The staff do not speak English but speak Thai and Malaysian.

- **Price range:** $
Winner Tea Centre

- **Ambience:** This modern Myanmar Tea shop brings a new twist to tea! Winner Tea Centre offers a spacious open-air structure and is very popular among locals. You will mostly find snack foods and breakfast options. It is located downtown on Arzani road. The food is fresh and served quickly.

- **Recommended dishes:**
  - Dim Sum
  - Dumplings
  - Chinese style noodles
  - Fried noodles
  - Shan noodles
  - Nan Gyi Thot noodles (thick noodles)
  - Nan Byar Thot (flat noodles)
  - Mohinga
  - Kat Kyee Kite (Myelk traditional noodles)

- **Contact:** +95 (0)9 4509 946190; +95 (0)59 22536

- **Facebook:** Winner Tea Centre

- **Opening hours:** 5:30am to 10pm

- **Location:** No.64/A, Arzani Road, Dawei

- **Suitable to accommodate large groups (+12):** Yes, with advance notice

- **Price range:** $
Ya Tha Sone Café

- **Ambience:** A great spot if you are in the mood for something sweet! All cakes are home-made and taste best with a mug of freshly brewed coffee or a fresh fruit juice. This friendly family-run café also offers snacks, sandwiches with home-made French fries and pizza.

- **Recommended dishes:**
  - Freshly brewed coffee
  - Cheesecake (various flavours, such as lemon or blueberry)
  - Banana cake
  - Pizza
  - Sandwiches
  - Burgers

- **Contact:** +95 (0)9 6925 99936

- **Facebook:** Ya Tha Sone Cafe

- **Opening hours:** 7am to 9pm

- **Location:** Central location, No.55, Myotwin Road, Dawei

- **Suitable to accommodate large groups (+12):** Yes, up to 20 with advance notice.

- **Price range:** $$
Night food market

Experience the city the way locals do! Walking around the night food markets is a fun way to experience Dawei food and culture. It is recommended for both local and foreign visitors.

DDPC Night Market

A variety of food stalls located in a spacious outdoor area just behind DDPC shopping Centre. You can find Dawei and Myanmar traditional food, snacks and desserts, as well as Thai and Chinese food. It is a nice, lively place to go see the sunset. The views are beautiful.

Opening hours: The market opens in the late afternoon, around 5pm. Vendors start to close their stalls from 8pm to 9 pm.

Location: Behind DDPC Shopping Mall, Dawei

Price range: $$

Mingalar Night Market

This is a traditional open-air street food market and is the best market to try local dishes, snacks, drinks and desserts. It is smaller than DDPC Night Market, but it is conveniently located in the centre of Dawei, right behind Mingalar Market (day market). It is very popular among locals. Great Thai street food options.

Opening hours: The market opens in the late afternoon, around 5pm. Vendors start to close their stalls from 8pm to 9 pm.

Location: Behind Mingalar Market, Dawei

Price range: $$

Photo: Mingala Boom Creative

Shopping & souvenirs

Dawei has two big markets: Pyan Kya Market (the strand market) on the banks of the Dawei River and Si Pin Thar Yar Market (the Municipal market), which is located on Arzarni Road. These are big, fresh markets, where one can get various kind of local food, snacks, products, clothing, etc. The sellers are generally enthusiastic with a good sense of humour and are happy to see tourists. However, one should be considerate and not spend too much time in front of the market stalls observing and taking photos, as this can block ‘actual’ customers coming to buy their fresh produce for home, local restaurants, etc.

There are also plenty of shops in the downtown area where visitors can pick up interesting local souvenirs, including different kinds of dry seafood, fish crackers, traditional snacks and local attire, etc.
Ground handlers

Professional, responsible, local ground handlers and tour organisers are a crucial ingredient of a sustainable tourism destination. Ground handlers can help national tour operators and DMCs to save time and money through their knowledge of local destinations. Their relationships with local communities and artisans can also lead to a warmer welcome and better experience for visitors.

Ground handlers, which have regularly participated in ITC training programs are:

- **Sam The Man Tours**
  - **Contact:** +95 (0)9 7817 71167
  - **Email:** samthemantours@outlook.com
  - **Website:** www.samthemandawei.com
  - **Facebook:** Sam the Man Travels & Tours
  - **Instagram:** samthemandawei

- **Dawei Panorama Tours**
  - **Contact:** +95 (0)9 4500 09860; +95 (0)9 7818 00181
  - **Email:** daweipanorama@gmail.com
  - **Website:** www.daweipanoramatravel.com
  - **Facebook:** Dawei Panorama Tours - English Version
  - **Instagram:** Dawei Panorama

- **Elegant Myanmar Tours, Dawei Princess Cruise**
  - **Contact:** +95 (0)9 7774 70444; +95 (0)9 7771 70111
  - **Email:** info@elegantmyanmar.travel
  - **Website:** www.merguiprincess.com
  - **Facebook:** Elegant Myanmar Tours
  - **Instagram:** elegantmyanmartours

- **Hello Dawei**
  - **Contact:** +95 (0)9 4436 27636
  - **Email:** info@helloworldawei.com
  - **Website:** www.helloworldawei.com
  - **Facebook:** Hello Dawei Travel & Tours
  - **Instagram:** helloworldawei_tours

- **Other ground handlers can be contacted through the Dawei District Travel Association:**
  - **Contact:** +95 (0)9 7601 33056
  - **Email:** moemoethu1972@gmail.com

  New companies are opening regularly. For updated information, contact:

- **Ministry of Hotels and Tourism (MoHT) Dawei Office**
  - **Contact:** +95 (0)59 2021 098; +95 (0)59 2021 231
  - **Email:** dawei.dht@gmail.com
  - **Facebook:** MOHT Tanintharyi Region
  - **Instagram:** traveltanintharyi
Transport providers

Myat Pwint Transport

**Cars available:** Commuter, Prado, Surf, Super Custom, Double-cab, Grand Cabin-G

**Contact:** +95 (0)9 21763; +95 (0)9 8740763
+95 (0)9 5149394

**Email:** komyothein.org@gmail.com

**Location:** No.31, Arzani Road, Kanyo Quarter, Dawei

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Golden Triangle Car Rental Service Dawei

**Cars available:** Salon, Off-road 4 wheel-drive, commuter (15 seats), 22-seater mini-bus, Alphard

**Contact:** +95 (0)9 4100 4115; +95 (0)9 8742 511

**Email:** triangleunwg@gmail.com

**Facebook:** Golden Triangle Guest House And Car Rental Service Dawei

**Location:** No.524, Thi La Road, Ponkyung Quarter, Dawei
Activities & excursions inside Dawei

Payagyi Pagoda

Dawei’s biggest Buddhist monastery is known as ‘Payagyi’ or the Big Pagoda. The highlight of the temple complex is the central, gleaming, golden Shwe Taung Za Paya stupa. Another important feature of Payagyi complex is a statue of Dharani, the Earth Goddess, which is venerated by local people.

Shwe Thalyaung Pagoda

Completed in 1931 and measuring 240-ft long and 69-ft high, Shwe Thalyaung is the second largest reclining Buddha image in Myanmar. The pagoda is located about 10 km from Dawei town, on top of a pleasant, forested hill, with a nice view of the surrounding countryside.

Take a stroll to see Dawei’s vintage houses

One of the best ways to spend time in Dawei is to stroll around the streets in the city centre, admiring the architecture of traditional houses which come in a variety of styles, among them Dawei, Chino-Portuguese, British and Kayin. For deeper insights into the history behind these houses, contact a ground handler or licensed tour guide.

Local cottage industries

Dawei has many, fascinating small cottage craft industries where local artisans make traditional longyi (sarongs), pottery, wooden shoes and other interesting handmade traditional crafts. Visits can be organised through a local ground handler (see page 58).
Activities & excursions outside Dawei

Maungmagan Beach

Maungmagan Beach, stretching approximately 9 km, is Dawei’s main city beach. The sand is a little darker than beaches further south. However, sunsets here are absolutely stunning, and it’s a fantastic beach to go for a nice, long walk and get fresh sea air. Maungmagan also has a good selection of simple restaurants and sunset bars; where you can enjoy fresh seafood, and a cold beer or glass of wine. There are several simple but cool guesthouses in the area, from which you can explore more remote beaches.

Tha Bouk Seik Fish Market

Not far from Maungmagan Beach and Myaw Yint Pagoda is the atmospheric Tha Bouk Seik, the morning fish market. Visitors with the energy to get up very early (or perhaps stay up all night!) can enjoy scenes of early morning life, as local fishermen arrive on the beach at around 4am in wooden boats, from nights spent on the open sea, to unload their catches directly onto the beach. This is where the market sellers and restaurant owners come at the crack of dawn to find the freshest catch. There are a couple of very simple local tea houses where you can sit and watch the world go by. This is not a place for vegans or vegetarians!
Ka Lone Htar community

Programmes for season 1 November 2019 to 31 October 2020

- Visit a picturesque village, nestled in verdant forest and crystal-clear rivers
- Explore a nature trail into orchard life, livelihoods and secret swimming spots
- Enjoy a forest picnic, and revitalise at the simply unique, ‘Barefoot Forest Spa’

The orchard families of Ka Lone Htar offer full day and half-day tour programmes; illuminating the lives of fruit farmers living in Dawei’s lush inland forests. The tour gives visitors a chance to hike into the orchards with local community guides, learn about forest remedies, enjoy swimming in the heart of nature, and relax in Asia’s first community-based tourism, youth-managed, ‘Barefoot Forest Spa’.

All visitors must book a tour via Ka Lone Htar Community-Based Tourism Club and use the services of a local community guide. Prices can be found on page 65 and 66.
9am: Welcome by Ka Lone Htar CBT Club. Visit the ‘forest pharmacy’

On arrival in Ka Lone Htar, you are met by a local community tour guide, who will give you a quick briefing. Then, you head to the ‘forest pharmacy’, a local initiative to collect and plant a huge variety of traditional herbal medicines. From there, you hike past the village monastery. You stop outside to learn about the community work initiated by the revered local community monk.

10am: Hike down the nature trail, through orchards, into the forest

You head out of the village, and into the local fruit orchards where villagers grow a great variety of fruits and crops including cardamom, betel nut, pineapple, cashew nuts, sweet potatoes and banana. The forest is also a living repository of traditional herbal medicines. Your guide will stop along route, explaining about these medicines and how they are harvested and used. Hiking is not very strenuous, but guests should bring suitable shoes.
Approximately 12:30pm: Forest picnic, river swimming in jade green water

You arrive at the Ka Lone Htar picnic spot, to enjoy either a delicious, home-cooked picnic lunch with several dishes or a simple one-dish packed lunch. There is time to relax, and it is usually possible to swim in the cool, green river. If there have been heavy rains, the local guide may recommend against swimming. After lunch, there is a 1-hour hike back to Ka Lone Htar village, or you can continue on for a further 30 minutes to the ‘Barefoot Forest Spa’ experience.

4:30pm: Ka Lone Htar ‘Barefoot Forest Spa’ experience

This unique community-based experience invites you to bath or soak your feet in in mineral water at the local hot springs, or rest by the serene riverside. The Ka Lone Htar spa group will serve a healthy snack and herbal drink. You can also try applying Myanmar’s most famous natural cosmetic, Thanakha.
Note: To avoid creating unnecessary waste, guests should bring their own drinking water in reusable bottles. Free refill stations will be available. Bottled water is also available, at an additional cost.

Contact: All bookings must be made through Ka Lone Htar CBT Club, at least 24 hours in advance, by calling Aung Kyaw Thet (Alu): +95 (0)94 5190 1887 (Myanmar language).

Package prices per person (Myanmar kyat):

Note: prices are higher for small groups of 1 to 3 guests, for packages which include the forest picnic; because the Ka Lone Htar cooking group has established a minimum number of 3 guests to book these food services. This is due to the significant work needed to buy, prepare and set up picnic activities.

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Included:
- Local community tour guide (1 per 8 guests)
- Visit to the ‘forest pharmacy’
- Hiking on Ka Lone Htar Nature Trail
- Special forest picnic (at least 4 different dishes)
- Entrance and access to hot spring at the ‘Barefoot Forest Spa’
- Healthy welcome snack and drink
- Coordination fee of 1,000 kyat/guest

Not included:
- Transportation to Ka Lone Htar
- Licensed, regional, English-speaking tour guide
- Bottled water, soft drinks or alcohol
- Souvenirs
Package 2: Ka Lone Htar hiking & spa programme with simple 1 dish packed lunch

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**Included:**
- Local community tour guide (1 per 8 guests)
- Visit to the ‘forest pharmacy’
- Hiking on Ka Lone Htar Nature Trail
- Simple, one-dish packed lunch
- Entrance and access to hot spring at the ‘Barefoot Forest Spa’
- Healthy welcome snack and drink
- Coordination fee of 1,000 kyat/guest

**Not included:**
- Transportation to Ka Lone Htar
- Licensed, regional, English-speaking tour guide
- Bottled water, soft drinks or alcohol
- Souvenirs

**Additional programmes are available on request to local ground handlers or the village CBT Coordinator.**

**Please note:** Villagers in Ka Lone Htar started to develop community-based tourism in 2018, supported by the United Nations International Trade Centre (ITC). Community members discussed and decided which aspects of local life, culture and nature they feel proud and comfortable to share with visitors. These were developed into fun, active tour programmes. Community members received training in tour guiding, food hygiene, how to take bookings and accounting. Local guides lead visitors. Visitors pay modest fees for food, activities and guide fees. There are cheaper ways to visit local villages. However, CBT aims for a better local experience and real local benefits. Please respect the villagers’ work by using their CBT services.
Programmes for season 1 November 2019 to 31 October 2020

- Learn how local fishers use fascinating fishing gear, from low to high tide
- Try your hand at casting a fishing net or searching for shellfish with a local guide
- Swim and relax on Tizit’s white sand beach, with a sunset seafood picnic

Tizit’s half-day tour programme offers you fascinating, fun insights into the lives of the fisher families who live along the stunning Dawei peninsula. The tour gives visitors a chance to deep dive into local fishing livelihoods, combined with a warm home welcome, hands-on fishing experience and delicious local food.

All visitors must book a tour via Tizit Community-Based Tourism Club and use the services of a ‘local community guide.’ Prices can be found on page 71 and 72.

NOTE: The tour is a half-day programme, starting at 2pm and ending at approximately 6pm-6:30pm. This timing has been purposefully designed to enable visitors to enjoy home visits and hands-on fishing activities during the cooler mid-afternoon, with free time to enjoy swimming and a lovely sunset picnic. We do not recommend starting this tour in the morning, because the sun can be uncomfortably hot to enjoy activities and beach picnic at midday.
2pm: Fishers’ Life Greeting Gallery and taste a traditional snack

On arrival, visitors receive a warm welcome to the village by a local community guide, who is a member of Tizit’s Community-Based Tourism (CBT) Club. Your local guide will demonstrate how to use a fascinating variety of small-scale fishing gear. Various nets, rods and traps are carefully selected by the fishers, based on tides, time of day, and the types of fish which they hope to catch. During the Fishers’ Gallery experience, guests enjoy a selection of tasty, traditional Dawei snacks, prepared by the Tizit CBT Cooking Group.

2:45pm: Visit a traditional Dawei Home and try on local Dawei dress

Next, we visit a typical Dawei home. The homeowner will welcome us with betel nut, which is a Daweian tradition, before introducing some interesting aspects of Daweian house design and local beliefs. At the end of the house visit, we have the chance to try on traditional, Daweian dress.
3:30pm: Simple, hands-on fishers’ life experience!

Next, our local guide leads us through the village for approximately 30-60 minutes, to the sandflats and beach. Exact activities depend on the tide. We can either learn how to hunt for shellfish and crabs or learn how to cast a fishing net into the sea. Joining daily activities with the villagers is good fun but be aware that this is not sports fishing - our catch is usually quite small!

5pm: Free time to relax and swim by the beach

Before enjoying our sunset picnic, there is plenty of time to enjoy a cool swim in the beautiful blue sea, or just relax on Tizit’s stunning white sand beach.
6pm: White sand, sunset beach picnic by Tizit Cooking Group

A highlight of Tizit’s program is a sumptuous beach picnic, cooked by Tizit’s Community-Based Tourism Cooking Group. There are 2 options; either Special Seafood Picnic, which is mainly seafood; or Grandma’s Recipes Picnic; which only has one seafood dish for people who prefer meat or vegetarian menus.

**Note i:** To avoid creating unnecessary waste, guests should bring their own drinking water in reusable bottles. Free refill stations will be available. Bottled water is also available, at an additional cost.

**Note ii:** Tour operators and regional tour guides need to use their own vehicles to collect guests from the beach area after the picnic.

**Contact:** All bookings must be made through Tizit CBT Club, at least 24 hours in advance, by calling Tizit Community-Based Tourism Coordinator: Mr Aung Myint Htoo: +95 (0)94 2220 2987 (Myanmar language)
Package prices per person (Myanmar kyat):

**Note:** Note: prices are higher for small groups of 1 to 3 guests, because the cooking group has established a minimum number of 4 guests to book food services. This is due to the work needed to buy, prepare, and set up the food activities.

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**Included:**
- Local community tour guide (1 per 10 guests)
- Entry to Fishers’ Life Greeting Gallery and taste a traditional snack
- Visit a traditional Dawei home and try on local Dawei attire
- Simple, hands-on fishers’ life experience
- Free time to relax and swim by the beach
- White sand, sunset seafood beach picnic by Tizit cooking group
- Coordination fee of 1,000 kyat/guest

**Not included:**
- Transportation to Tizit, and pick up from Tizit Beach
- Licensed, regional, English-speaking tour guide
- Bottled water, soft drinks or alcohol
- Souvenirs
Package 2: Tizit half-day CBT tour with Grandma’s Recipes picnic:

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- Visit a traditional Dawei Home and try on local Dawei attire
- Simple, hands-on fishers’ life experience
- Free time to relax and swim by the beach
- White sand, sunset Grandma’s Recipes Picnic by Tizit cooking group
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San Hlan community

San Hlan is a bustling fishing village, located approximately 1 hour from Dawei. In San Hlan, small, cottage industries line both sides of the main street, where visitors can see different kinds of seafood packaging and processing. San Hlan is also the main departure point for day snorkelling trips to the Moscos Islands.

A government sponsored community-based lodge can accommodate up to 16 visitors in 8 double rooms which cost 30,000 kyat (approx. $20) per night. Accommodation is simple and basic, with good quality mattresses, mosquito nets and cold showers. The lodge is great fun for a night or two for adventurous travellers, who don’t require hotel standard services.

The CBT Lodge has a great view of the sea, with a vista of fishing boats coming and going. There is also a small restaurant, with a fantastic view, selling local Myanmar food. Bookings can be made through the Dawei District Travel Association, by contacting Daw Moe Moe Thu on +95 (0)97 6013 3056 or on moemoethu1972@gmail.com.

Stunning sea-views at San Hlan CBT
Snorkelling in the Moscos Islands

Dawei District Travel Association, and Dawei ground handlers can organise day snorkelling trips to the very beautiful southern Moscos Islands. Different ground handlers offer different styles of boats, from sturdy dive ships to smaller, long-tailed fishing boats. These trips are great fun, and the islands and beaches are very beautiful. Safety standards do vary between operators. Always ask ground handlers in detail about the type of boat, food and drink inclusions, briefing and safety features on board.

Exploring the Dawei peninsula

Exploring the whole Dawei peninsula is another great day trip, which takes 5-8 hours depending on how long visitors wish to stay in the many beautiful beaches and fishing villages dotted along the coast. Grandfather Beach is a particularly spectacular destination, with a huge, sweeping, white sand beach.
Visit Myanmar and

Be enchanted

Together, Everyone Achieves More! Yangon and Dawei tour operators helping to test new community-based tourism experiences in Ka Lone Htar village
To stay up to date with our activities and see more photos of Tanintharyi, please follow us on our official channels

Facebook: MOHT Tanintharyi Region
Instagram: traveltanintharyi

#traveltanintharyi
#MyanmarBeEnchanted

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