

Welcome to Kayah! Are you hoping to meet local people, and experience life and culture in our local villages?



Would you like your visit to benefit the local communities you visit?



Community based tourism (CBT) is your best choice to ensure a great local experience with real local benefits!

Most local people living around Loikaw are farmers. They live a traditional life, practicing and preserving local occupations, arts and traditions. Some local villages offer small-scale, cultural tours. Through these community-based tours, local people aim to share their unique culture with visitors, and earn some useful, extra income.

Villagers in Pan Pet, Hta Nee La Leh, Htay Khu and Daw Ta Ma Gyi villages started to develop community based tourism in 2015 and 2016. Supported by a United Nations project, the community members discussed and decided themselves which aspects of local life, culture and nature that they feel **proud and comfortable** to share with visitors. These 'local highlights' were developed into fun, active tour programs.

Local community members received training in tour guiding, food hygiene, how to take bookings and accounting. Local village guides lead visitors to explore special places and meet local families and artisans. Visitors pay modest fees for village services: meals, village guide fees and contributions to artisan demonstrations.

The village tour guides explain in Myanmar language. **Professional, licensed tour guides** who accompany visitors to the villages help to translate into English.

There are cheaper ways to visit local villages, such as hiring a taxi. However, you will not have such a good experience, or be able to communicate with local people.

Community based tours can be booked through your hotel, which can help you to contact a regional tour guide, based in Loikaw; or a local, Loikaw tour operator.

Please respect villagers' efforts to manage tourism, by using their local services.