

## **Tourist Attractions in Mandalay Hill**

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### **Abstract**

The Mandalay Hill which has many religious buildings is presented from the tourism point of view. The aim is to keep the Mandalay Hill, one of the tourist attractions, which is full of natural beauties. It is presented why tourists are interested in the Mandalay Hill. This is because they want to learn the ancient and historic works of arts. What's more, they want to enjoy eagerly the view of Mandalay city and the twilight or sunset from the Hill. The Mandalay Hill is presented not only from ecotourism point of view but also from the points of view of Buddhist Art & Architecture, Culture, History, Geography and Religion. This paper will be useful in a part in keeping natural environment and natural resources in Myanmar. One can study not only the mind-set of keeping the natural resources of our country and responsibilities but also the improvement of tourism business at different times.

Key words: Buddhist Art & Architecture, tourist attractions, ecotourism, Culture, natural Resources.

### **Introduction**

Myanmar is rich in natural resources. Among them, the Mandalay hill which has natural beauties and tourist attractions is explored. It is situated on the north-east of Mandalay. The height is 776 feet above the sea level. It is high 500 feet from the ground level. In 1221, the King Mindon regarded three portions such as the golden palace, the golden city and the Shwe Kyoe Thet region.

The Mandalay Hill lies in the portion of golden city on the north of the golden palace. From the Mandalay Hill, one can enjoy different beautiful sceneries such as Shan ranges of mountains, and the mountains of Nat Htate, Yaytagon, Yankin, Mae Oo, Sakyin, Kyet Yet, Sagaing, Min Win, Mingun, then, the Lakes of Mahānanda, Aungbinlae, Zaungkawlaw,

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the eighteen places of garden which are situated along the bank of Yadana Nadi such as Thrihaymawon, Mahamaygawon and royal Mingalar garden, the peaceful sceneries of Amarapura, Innwa, Sagaing, the Ayeyarwaddy. Then, one can also enjoy the natural beauties of twilight. These are the reasons of attractions for tourists.

Mandalay Hill can be ascended through four stairways. The Southern Stairway starts from the two large crested lions facing south. There are over 20 pagodas along this stairway.

## **1. Tourist Attractions in Mandalay**

Mandalay is traditional cultural works of art, ancient buildings, famous pagodas, and natural beauties foreign visitors are coming into Myanmar to study them. International visitors spent most of their time visiting cultural sites, sought to observe locals' cultural practices, lifestyles and traditional handicraft businesses, including gold embroidery and gold foil workshops. There are many tourist attractions in Mandalay. There are,

- (a) Mandalay Hill
- (b) Shwe Nandaw Monastery
- (c) Kuthodaw Pagoda
- (d) Kyauk Taw Gyi Buddha Image
- (e) Mahamuni Buddha Image
- (f) Mandalay Royal Palace
- (g) Atumashi Monastery
- (h) Second Shwe-In-Pin Monastery
- (i) Shwe Kyin Monastery

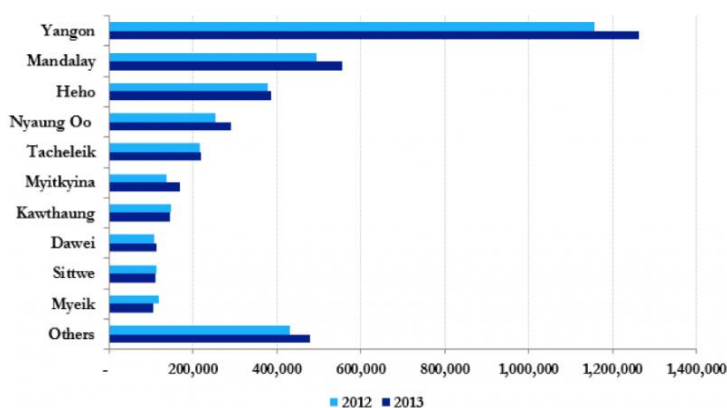
### **1.1 Tourist attractions in the Mandalay Hill**

Many tourists come to the Mandalay Hill. According to their words, the reason of their visiting are being an ancient building, having interesting architecture, natural beauties and to watch the sunset.

## 1.2 Tourist arrivals in Mandalay

From the beginning of 2016, tourist arrivals have been on the rise in Mandalay, according to the Department of Hotels and Tourism Development of Mandalay Region. Tourist arrivals have increased from October 2015 to March 2016. Most of the tourists are American, French, German, Dutch, Japanese, Thai and Chinese. The department expects 5 million tourists to come to Myanmar in 2016 and about 500,000 of them will travel to Mandalay and the Bagan Cultural Zone. Mandalay International Airport is directly linked with Thailand, India and China. Over 120,000 tourists entered Mandalay in 2015 on direct flights from those countries.

Moreover, foreign travelers have been arriving at Mandalay by vehicles and motorbikes through the Mandalay-Muse Union highway and the Mandalay-Tamu highway. Tourists coming to Mandalay visit Myanansankyaw Golden Palace, Mandalay Hill, Mahā Muni Pagoda, Second Shwe-In-Pin Monastery, U Bein Bridge, the Golden Temple, Ahtumashi Monastery, the Thatahtarna Pagodas, gold embroidery businesses and gold foil businesses. It is heard that the rate of tourist entry into the region has increased from 99,016 to more than 160,000 in Mandalay during the same period. The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is announcing a target of 4.5 million to 5 million visitors for 2015.



<b>International Tourist Arrivals to Mandalay, 2008-2015</b>								
<b>Year</b>	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Tourist</b>	5553	8861	13442	20912	32521	69596	242566	306432

### **1.3 Tourist arrivals in the Mandalay Hill**

Majority of tourists who visit to the Mandalay Hill, many visitors are very interested in art & architecture, natural beauty and the sunset. Then one can also enjoy the natural beauties of twilight. These are the reasons of attractions for tourists.

## **2. Mandalay Hill**

Mandalay Hill can be ascended through four stairways. The Southern Stairway starts from the two large crested lions facing south. There are over 20 pagodas along this stairway. Notable pagodas are two Pada Pagodas, Sambhuddhe Pagoda, Lwun Zedi Pagoda, Kusināra Sal Grove Pagoda, Pyilonechantha Pagoda, Saingtamot Pagoda, Byaditta Pagoda, Myat Saw Nyi Naung Pagoda, Chinthe-min Pagoda, Sin-min Pagoda, Sat-min Pagoda, Kyet-min Pagoda, Ngon-min Pagoda, Phut-min Pagoda, Bilu-ma Pagoda and Sutaungpyi Pagoda, the two Great Serpents, Thinkanet Pagoda and Swetaw Taik Pagoda. Twenty- seven notable places<sup>2</sup> on Mandalay Hill will be presented.

### **2.1 U Khanti Monastery and Museum of Sacred Relics**

U Khanti Monastery is located in the compound of Moehti Monastery at the western foot of Mandalay Hill. It is a two-storey building with nine compartments and six compartments on each side. It is built of dimension stone, iron grill-works and mortar. The ground floor has four by four compartments. The compartment of the porch is used as a museum for

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<sup>2</sup> Field study from(2.4.2016) to (1.5.2016)

displaying sacred relics and other various articles. The large devotion hall, 9 compartments on each side is occupied by a large Buddha Image of copper.

## **2.2 Kusināra Sal Grove**

In commemoration of the Buddha's passing away into Mahāparinibbāna on Tuesday, the full-moon day of Kason in 148 B.E., a devotion hall, nine compartments on all sides, houses a reclining Buddha image on the right side with the head directed towards the north between two Sal trees, one at the head and the other at the foot, in the posture of passing away into Mahāparinibbāna.

## **2.3 The Two Foot-print Pagodas**

U Khanti the Hermit made two Foot-print Pagodas, the Lower Footprint Pagoda and the Upper Footprint Pagoda. At the foot of the pagodas, the donors from the U.S. Stores on the Thirty-fourth Street, Mandalay added the figures of Naga and Arahat in the posture of request.

## **2.4 Golden Standing Sambuddhe Buddha Image**

On the right side of the Upper Footprint Pagoda is the Golden Standing Sambuddhe Buddha Image, 18 cubits in height, is housed in a two-storey devotion hall of brick, nine compartments on each side. In the inside of the brick devotion hall are painted charts warning the devotees to observe morality.

## **2.5 Lwanceti Pagoda**

Lwanceti Pagoda and a Pond are situated to the north of Golden Standing Sambuddhe Buddha Image.

## **2.6 Pyi Lone Aye Pagoda**

Three Buddha Images named "Pyi Lone Aye Pagoda" together with the devotion hall are situated at a higher level of the Upper Footprint Pagoda.

### **2.7 Auk Shweyattaw (called) Pyi Lone Chantha Pagoda**

U Khanti the Hermit built the golden Standing Buddha image, 18 cubits in height, called “Pyi Lone Chantha” together with devotion hall, 9 compartments on all sides with tiered graduated roof intending for the fulfillment of the wishes of Myanmar country people.

### **2.8 Saingtamot Pagoda**

Saingtamot Pagoda is situated at a higher level of Pyi Lone Chantha Pagoda.

### **2.9 Shwe Pyi Aye Pagoda**

It is situated at a higher level of Saingtamot Pagoda. It is built for bearing of peace to the whole country of Myanmar.

### **2.10 Byadeikpay Buddha Image**

It is situated at a higher level of Shwe Pyi Aye Pagoda. The original donor of the Buddha Image was King Mindon. In M.E. 1221, King Mindon assigned Myataung Myosa, the Master of the Ordnance together with famed sculptors to build a standing Buddha Image facing the golden city in the posture of uttering preordainment. The figure of younger brother Ānandā Thera in the posture of supplication to the Buddha with an up-turned face is housed in a wooden devotion hall gilded compactly and surmounted with tiered graduated roof. This account is described in the stone inscription within the compound of Kuthodaw Pagoda.

In M.E.1245, as the whole Mandalay Hill was burnt, Sayadaw U Nandiya had the Byardeikpay Buddha Image reconstructed in M.E.1263. It is known that it was sculpted by famed sculptors for one year and eight months. The Gadhakuṭī (Perfumed Chamber) Taik with masonry tiered

graduated roof was floored with stone slabs measured 18 feet in length, 9 feet in width and 3 inches in thickness under the personal supervision of U Khanti the Hermit.

The Nagayon Pagoda is found in the arched recess in the rear of the Standing Buddha Image. The figures of the great four omens (the Aged, the Sick, the death and the recluse) created by celestial beings to cause Prince Siddhattha to renounce and the sculpted figure of Prince Siddhattha looking at his newly born son, Rāhulā by lifting the canopy are displayed in front of the Nagayon Pagoda.

### **2.11 Myat Saw Nyi Naung Pagoda**

Myat Saw Nyi Naung Pagoda is situated at a higher level of Nagayon Pagoda. There are (a) 348 iron posts, (b) 15 east-west 11 by 12 feet compartments and 19 north-south 11 by 12 feet compartments, (c) east-west width 165 feet, and north-south length 228 feet, (d) the height from the cement floor to the ceiling is 27 feet. The height of upper storey is 19 feet.

On the upper storey is the Buddha Image in the style of winning over the Bodhi Tree and the Golden Throne. (a) There are figures depicting the eight glorious victories of the Buddha in the west room of Gandhakuṭī Taik (b) There is a Panpaung Buddha Image which was worshipped by King Mindon in the same room. At the time of King Thibaw's exile, this pagoda was taken to England. When misfortunes were experienced due to disrespect to the Buddha Image, it was sent back to Myanmar. The fragments of the Buddha Image remodeled as the former Buddha Image. It is called England-pyan Panpaung Buddha Image. (c) There are large paintings of the famous Buddha Images that were created by U Khanti the Hermit on the lower storey. (d) There are ponds for the people to drink and bathe against the west wall of the hill. (e) This was the main hosting pavilion for the pilgrims from the whole country during the time of U Khanti. Close to the east the three storey Piṭaka Taik was then under construction.

### **2.12 The Cave Housing Twenty-eight Buddha Images**

At a higher level of Myat Saw Nyi Naung Pagoda, an amazing cave was created to house Twenty-eight Buddha Images.

### **2.13 Sin-min Pagoda**

According to the Jātaka stories, the Bodhisatta had been an elephant for seven times. Sin-min Pagoda was built in commemoration of the Bodhisatta's existences as an elephant king.

### **2.14 Chinthay-min Pagoda**

According to the Jātaka stories, the Bodhisatta had been a lion king for ten times. Chinthay-min Pagoda was built in commemoration of the Bodhisatta's existences as a lion king.

### **2.15 Sat-min Pagoda**

According to the Jātaka stories, the Bodhisatta had been a king of sambur for three times. Sat-min Pagoda was built in commemoration of the Bodhisatta's existences as a king of sambur.

### **2.16 Kyet-min Pagoda**

According to the Jātaka stories, the Bodhisatta had been a king of fowls for two times. Kyet-min Pagoda was built in commemoration of the Bodhisatta's existences as a king of fowls.

### **2.17 Viewpoint Senilone Community Hall**

The Viewpoint Senilone Community Hall is situated between Sat-min Pagoda and Kyet-min Pagoda at the southern extremity of Mandalay Hill. It was donated by Saya Maung Senilone of Yangon. This community



hall is decorated with grand paintings illustrating the life story of Venerable Bākula Thera who disease won the etadagga title for longevity.

### **2.18 Ngon-min Pagoda**

According to the Jātaka stories, the Bodhisatta had been a king of quails for four times. The Ngon-min Pagoda was built in commemoration of the four existences as a king of quails.

### **2.19 Shwe Theintaw (Phutmin Pagoda)**

According to the Jātaka stories, the Bodhisatta had been a king of iguana for three times. This pagoda was built in commemoration of the Bodhisatta's existences as a king of iguanas. As there was a simā (ordination hall) at the site of the pagoda, it is also called Shwe Theintaw Pagoda. As the king of elephants, the lion king, the king of fowls, the king of quails, the king of iguanas and the life a hunter passed through the round of rebirths at this noble hill as described in the great chronicle of the Buddha, it is stated that the seven pagodas were built in commemoration of the Bodhisatta's lives in the round of rebirths.

### **2.20 Biluma Pagoda**

The figures within the compound of the Biluma Pagoda are: (a) Candamukhi Ogress in the posture of donation of her pair of breasts to the Buddha on the east front (b) the four ogre brothers, Nga Taunggyi, Nga Taung Thaman, Nga Taung Myint and Nga Taungpyon in the posture of worshipping the Buddha together with 25 sons each from the four corners of the pagoda compound; an Arahat in the posture of worshipping the Buddha on the southern front; King Kyansittha in the posture of worshipping the Buddha on the west front and a huntsman (the Bodhisatta) with his dogs in the posture of worshipping the Buddha from the northern front. There is a footprint on rock at a lower level of the hill to the south of the devotion hall. It is said that the footprint and spear-print were left

behind on the rock when Prince Kyansitha jumped from Sagaing Hill onto the Mandalay Hill while he was searching for hunter Nga Sint.

### **2.21 Sutaungpyi Pagoda**

With reference to the fulfillment of prayers, this pagoda came to be called “Sutaungpyi Pagoda”. The pagoda was repaired by successive kings. After the reparation of U Khanti the Hermit, the pagoda has four arched recesses on the four sides. The four Buddha Images representing the four previous Buddhas: Kakusanda, Koṇāgamana, Kassapa and Gotama who appeared in the Bhadda Kappa are enshrined in each of the four arched recesses. A grand devotion hall, nine compartments in extent, was also built.

(a)The height of the pagoda site is 776 feet above sea level and 500 feet from the foot of the hill. (b) There are 356 compartments of the covered stairway (apart from devotion halls) and over 900 stair-steps from the arched entrance gateway with two large lion images to the Sutaungpyi Pagoda at the summit of Mandalay Hill. (c) In the west, the western stairway running down from the Sutaungpyi Pagoda to Thit Seint Taik at the foot of the hill in the west has 381 compartments of covered stairway. On the south-eastern side facing Aungpinle, the large Buddha Image together with the covered stairway is called “Tawet Pagoda”. The covered stairway descending from the the Sutaungpyi Pagoda to the north (towards Shwe Kyin Nga Taik) has 942 compartments. (e) At the arched entrance gate, the figure of Mai U is elegantly sculpted in her shrine. The paintings depicting the biography of Mai U are displayed. (f) There is a large natural cave, about 20 feet in length, to the west of the half-way of the northern stairway where the Shwe Kyin Sayadawgyi and U Khanti the Hermit practiced insight meditation. The cave contains a figure of U Khanti the Hermit.

### **2.22 The Two Large Serpents of Mandalay Hill**

U Khanti cast the two large figures of serpents at the head of the northern stairway. They are housed under a structure with an iron roof.

### **2.23 Sutaungya Pagoda**

Sutaungya Pagoda is situated to the east of Byadeikpay Buddha Image. A covered passage connects the Sutaungya Pagoda with Saingtamot Pagoda.

### **2.24 Dhattaw Taik Pagoda**

The Dhattaw Taik Pagoda is situated to the south of the Sutaungya Pagoda. U Khanti built Gandhakuṭī Taik with nine tiered roofs with the contributions of the people all over Myanmar. The sacred relics of the Buddha from Preshwah in Northern India were enshrined in this pagoda. The brick buildings are decorated with paintings depicting the ten great Jātaka stories.

### **2.25 Thinkanet Buddha Image**

There was a 31-abode Zayat (Resthouse) built by King Mindon to the west of the arched entrance of Dhattaw Taik covered pathway. When this Zayat was in ruins, U Khanti moved the Buddha Image made of genuine Thinkanet wood from the ruined Zayat and placed in an edifice with graduated tiered roof.

### **2.26 Swetaw Taik Pagoda**

The devotion hall with graduated tiered roof was built with four porches on the four sides. It comprises 108 compartments measuring 15 by 9 feet. The devotion hall is grandly built with brick pillars, two and half foot on each side. It was built at a cost of nearly a hundred thousand kyat yearly.

### **2.27 Bodawgu and Kyauksin Cave**

The shrine of Bobogyi (the Grand Patron) is situated at the foot of the covered stairway in the south-eastern side of the hill. It is the midway between Kyauktawgyi Pagoda and Kuthodaw Pagoda. The figure of rock elephant is located near the cave shrine housing the Grand Patron (Bo Bo Gyi).

There are 360 compartments of the covered stairway from the Byadeikpay Pagoda to the end of the South-eastern Dhattaw Covered Stairway.

### **Discussion**

From the geographical point of view Mandalay hill is situated on the north-east of Mandalay city. The height is 776 feet above the sea level. It is high 500 feet from the ground level. In 1221, the King Mindon regarded three portions such as the golden palace, the golden city and the Shwe Kyoe Thet region.

From the history point of view, an ogress called Sandamukhi cut her breast and offers it to the Buddha because she admired him very much when the Lord of Buddha came to the top of the Mandalay Hill together with his younger brother, Ānanda. According to the history records, the ogre, Sandamukhi, became the King Mindon later then. So, the Mandalay Hill was called the Mountain of Ogress.

From the Buddhist Art & Architecture point of view, the two religious structures are found cetiyas (without front entrance to the vaulted base) and stupas (with front entrance to the vaulted base).

From the religious point of view, they are included not only Buddhism but also Hinduism.

From the culture point of view, their paintings and sculpture have high standard. The standards of culture and different periods can also be seen.

From the tourism point of view, the lifelong process and the structures of the ancient statues and religious buildings can also be studied. The culture can also be guessed according to the history of images. As some of the pagodas are very ancient, especially, people from different countries come to us and study them. They study the decoration of the ancient arts and the significant of the things which have been used.

From the ecotourism point of view, all of us should be careful not to destroy trees and forests around us, not to cut them, to throw rubbish into the dustbins systematically and to travel in ease without destroying the natural resources and the beauties of nature. So, all of us are in charge of keeping the natural beauties of the Mandalay Hill.

Therefore, all of us are in charge of keeping the mountain area clean, not to destroy the natural resources, to throw rubbish into the dustbins, not to destroy forests, to keep the green and to keep the historic works of arts on the hill where many tourists around the world are attracted.

## **Conclusion**

According to the history records, there are 27 famous places on the Mandalay Hill. They are 24 images of Buddha, one holy Relic chamber, the two big snakes, a cave of a good old man and a cave of stone elephant. On the hill, most of the pagodas are built according to the historical records of being the kings of elephant, lion, iguana, cock, quail and a son of hunter when the Lord of Buddha was young. Most of the pagodas, pavilion, spire, and rest houses are the good deeds of a hermit, U Khantee. Moreover, we can see U Khantee's wonderful religious works. What's more, one can enjoy the view of Mandalay city and the sunset from above the hill. So, all of us should be careful not to destroy the natural beauties and natural resources, to throw rubbishes into the dustbins systematically, to keep where clean, should not to destroy trees and forests, to keep the hill green.

Furthermore, all of us are in charge of keeping the historic works of arts on the hill where many tourists throughout the world are attracted.

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### References

အေးမောင်၊ ဦး။ ဦးခန္တီထေရုပုတ္တိနှင့်ရွှေမန်းတောင်သမိုင်းအကျဉ်း။ ကြီးပွားရေးပုံနှိပ်တိုက်၊ မန္တလေး၊ ၂၀၀၀။  
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<http://consult-myanmar.com/2016/03/19/tourist-arrival-up-in-mandalay/>