



Mingalabar!

Dear guests and friends of Myanmar,

After working one year at Bayview – the beach resort and six years for Uniteam Tours & Travel, Carsten Schmidt has decided to accept a new professional challenge in Shanghai.

Carsten Schmidt did an excellent job at Bayview and UTT and was very popular amongst his colleagues as well as amongst our guests.

“To say that working in Myanmar was “an interesting experience” would be a huge understatement. During the last couple of years there were different kinds of events, developments and changes and I had the privilege to meet some truly amazing people”, Carsten Schmidt said.

We are sorry to see him leaving and wish him the very best for his future.

We also would like to introduce and welcome his successor, Ms. Svea Lampe. Svea Lampe worked as General Manager at Bayview – the beach resort and later on as General Manager at the Savoy Hotel. We wish her good luck in her new function as General Manager at Uniteam Tours & Travel!

With best regards,
Your UNITEAM TOURS & TRAVEL - Team



Svea Lampe & Carsten Schmidt

INTERESTING INFORMATION:

Wine Growing in Myanmar

Asia and wine – can both actually be brought together in the same sentence? Absolutely; in the last twenty years, the wine growing culture in China, India and Thailand has developed rapidly. So too has the wine growing culture in Myanmar. Whilst still in its early stages; Myanmar’s domestic entrepreneurs and aspiring wine makers have ambitiously set themselves to work to produce good wines.

Located nearby the famous Inle Lake, in southern Shan State, the “Red Mountain Estate” (www.redmountain-estate.com) and bit further north near Taunggyi, lies the “Myanmar Vineyard” (www.myanmar-vineyard.com).

Both wineries had a good reason to choose this area: The general climate of Myanmar is tropical, but the Inle Lake is located in the mountains of Shan State at an altitude of 1,000 metres above sea level. This altitude provides specific weather conditions which are favorable for growing wine. The beautiful countryside often reminds Myanmar tourists of the idyllic Tuscany region in Italy.

For visitors of the Inle Lake region, a trip to these wineries indeed provides another attraction besides taking a boat ride, trekking or visiting nearby ethnic villages.

Upon arriving at the estates, one will find that the wines are following the tradition of western wines with all new technologies and modern equipment. Some wine tasting of the latest Shiraz, Pinot Noir, Tempranillo as well as Rose and Sauvignon Blanc vintages is obligatory!

A variety of wines from both estates can be found throughout Myanmar in many hotels and restaurants. Francois Raynal vineyard manager and winemaker from Red Mountain Winery explains what makes Myanmar wines so attractive to people visiting the country:

“Western travellers in particular want to try local wine at least once, while they are here. They usually choose us over a wine from Bordeaux or Australia because they can drink those any time at home.” A representative of Myanmar Vineyard adds to this by proudly stating: “Myanmar is now definitely a member of the family of wine-producing countries in the world.”



New instructions for Arrival and Departure

The Ministry of Hotels & Tourism officially announced that all tourists must enter and depart the Union of Myanmar via the same immigration office. For example, if guests arrive in Myanmar via the International Airport in Yangon, they also have to depart Myanmar via the International Airport in Yangon. If they arrive in Myanmar from Thailand, at the border crossing point between Mae Sai and Tachileik, then they also need to leave Myanmar at that border point. Same goes for the border point in Muse, at the Chinese border.

Genky Introduction

We would like to introduce Genky, a Japanese Physiotherapy Clinic in Yangon which is the first clinic of its kind in Myanmar. The special feature about this clinic is that all techniques and massages are done by blind therapists who were specially trained for this job.

Genky is located on the 5th floor of the Sakura Tower, opposite the Traders Hotel. A foot massage costs Kyats 7.000 (approximately USD 9,-), a body massage (90 minutes) costs Kyats 10.000 (approximately USD 12,-).

Hot Air Balloon Festival in Taunggyi

Taunggyi is the capital of Southern Shan State and a bustling mountain town on one of the major trade routes to China. Its market is a magnet for tribal people from all over the region. South-east of the city, a two-hour drive away through Pa-O tribal villages, you will find the famous but little-visited site of Kakku with 2.478 stupas surrounding a 2.000-year-old pagoda.



The most interesting time to visit Taunggyi is the Full-Moon Day of Tazaungmon (November) when the whole town comes alive with many festivals. The first is the Khatein Ceremony when holy robes are offered to the monks, the second is the Hot Air Balloon Festival and the third is the Parade of Lights.

Please contact us for further details or itineraries.

HOTEL NEWS:

Bayview – the beach resort

Valentine at Bayview – the beach resort

If you are looking for a very special Valentine’s present providing pure romance, decorations with roses and candles, an intimate 4 course Valentine dinner on the beach, Myanmar full body oil massages and much more – then the Valentine Package is the perfect choice.

More information can be found at www.bayview-myanmar.com under “events & packages”. Also still available: “the honeymoon” and “the retreat package.”

Special guest at Bayview – the beach resort

The monsoon time has started and it is now raining a lot in Myanmar. In Bayview - the beach resort the monsoon time is a silent time. But Saturday June 11th the Bayview-Team had an interesting surprise. At the Thandwe Airport landed a pilot with his small aircraft because of the bad weather conditions prevailing, on his way to Yangon. All the Myanmar citizens at the airport were surprised, that a person flew alone with such an aircraft big distances.

This modern times adventurer is the British paraplegic pilot David Sykes. On April 28th 2011 David set off on his epic solo, breaking journey from York (England) to Sydney (Australia) with a microlight. During his challenge he will fly 11600 Nautical Miles and pass 18 different countries. If he reaches Sydney in a few weeks he will be the first paraplegic flying from England to Sydney in a microlight ever. This journey is dedicated to raising money for the charity *Yorkshire Air Ambulance*.

After the unexpected landing at the Thandwe Airport David was really impressed with the kindness, friendliness and the support from the local people. He got everything for a successful restart, but the weather conditions were too bad. The Bayview-Team extended David a warm welcome, and tried to make everything possible for him to relax and feel comfortable in the resort for concentrating on his flights in the next days. David said that the Myanmar citizens he met were so friendly and kind. He did not see this courtesy often before in other countries. And he will come back for visiting different places.

If you like to follow David Sykes’ journey to Sydney, please have a look at his own website. www.soloflightglobal.com.



AIRLINE NEWS:

Air Bagan flights to Bhamo

Starting from 8th June 2011, Air Bagan flies twice per week to Bhamo (BMO) on every Wednesday and Saturday. The flight numbers are W9 253/254 and the flights are operating from Yangon via Mandalay to Bhamo and back (RGN-MDL-BMO-MDL-RGN).

Air KBZ acquires new aircraft

The recently launched Air KBZ plans to expand its local destinations in August, following the acquisition of an additional aircraft.

The airline received a new ATR 72-500 aircraft with 72 seats on May 27. It is a similar type of aircraft to the one that they are using already.

Having two aircrafts now, the airline will start operating flights to Myitkyina and Kawthoung from early August.

Yangon International Airport

The capacity of the Yangon International Airport is set to increase by 40 percent under an expansion plan revealed in state media last week.

The *New Light of Myanmar* reported that the government planned to increase the capacity from 2.7 million passengers a year to 3.8 million. No timeframe was given for upgrading the international terminal, which opened four years ago. The main terminal opened in May 2007 and was built by Asia World, which now handles ground services at the airport.