

Myanmar

Yacht Agency

Advice for Yachts intending to visit Myanmar

Agency

UNITEAM YACHTING

Contact

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When to contact us

You are of course welcome to contact us at anytime to ask about our services or about visiting Myanmar. However it should be noted that once you have definitely decided to come then you will need to inform us at least 2 weeks before arrival. It takes this long to arrange the required government paperwork for entering Myanmar waters and arranging a cruising permit.

Why come to Myanmar?

In the south of the country there is the perfect yachting destination, the Mergui Archipelago. Over 800 islands nearly all uninhabited, virtually no tourism and no industry – an unspoiled paradise. Many beautiful and safe anchorages, perfect sandy beaches and world class diving opportunities.

Each yacht that uses the services of Uniteam Yachting can be provided with a description of the main islands in the Archipelago including the best anchorages and dive sites.

When is the best time to visit?

Between November and April.

Points of Entry

There are 2 main ports in the Mergui Archipelago – Kawthuang in the south and Myeik (Mergui) in the north. Yachts must clear in at one of these ports before cruising the Archipelago.

Entry Requirements

At least 2 weeks before arrival in Myanmar send to UNITEAM YACHTING

- Yacht Details – flag, length, breadth, tonnage, etc
- List of crew
- List of guests

- Myanmar Visas – if all crew and all passengers will arrive and leave Myanmar on the yacht then ‘visas on arrival’ can be granted. If any crew member or any guest will leave or join the yacht in Myanmar they must have a Myanmar visa in their passport obtained from a Myanmar embassy or consulate.

- Crew – all crew members must hold valid Seaman’s Books.

- Guest Cruising Permit – a permit must be obtained for each guest onboard.

If entering and leaving Myanmar via Kawthuang a Guest Cruising Permit costs US\$100 per guest for 5 the first 5 days and then each additional day costs US\$20.

If entering Myanmar via Kawthuang and departing via Myeik (or vice versa) a cruising permit costs US\$150 per guest for the first 5 days with each additional day costing US\$30.

➤ **Government Guide**

All yachts cruising the Mergui Archipelago must have a government guide onboard. This guide costs US\$30 per cruising day. A few of the islands have military installations and the guide is there to keep the yacht away from these. In practice these guides can also be used for local knowledge and to generally help the yacht have a positive cruising experience.

Port Information – Kaw Thuang and Myeik

UNITEAM YACHTING CAN PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN ALL OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- **Port Dues**

Any yacht intending to berth or anchor within port limits will be subject to port dues of approximately US\$200.

- **Berthing**

Kaw Thuang – 1 x 80m and 1 x 40m

Myeik – 2 x 80m

Berths have to be booked in advance through UNITEAM YACHTING, fees are based on size of yacht and length of stay. All berths are floating pontoons. In reality these are busy berths with a lot of noisy passing traffic. Berths are subject to a large rise and fall of tide (up to 5m) and strong tidal currents (up to 5 knots). In general it is not recommended to use the berths, unless maybe for a quick stop for stores or crew / guest pickup. Usually a better alternative is to find a suitable anchorage and have the yacht serviced by local tenders.

- **Fuel**

Diesel can be obtained in both Kaw Thuang and Myeik, however it should be noted this is not of the low sulphur variety. In general we would not recommend taking fuel in Myeik which is from a Myanmar refinery and can be of questionable quality. In Kaw Thuang the fuel comes from Thai refineries and this is of good quality. Fuel is supplied by barge in quantities up to 50,000 litres.

- **Fresh Water**

Fresh Water can be obtained in both Kaw Thuang and Myeik. This would be by tender in a stainless steel tank filled at the local bottled water plant. Therefore quantities maybe limited and some notice is required.

- **Waste oil / Sewage / Garbage Disposal**

It is possible to dispose of all these items in both Kaw Thuang and Myeik. They would be taken away by barge.

- **Provisions**

UNITEAM YACHTING can help with the supply of provisions. Fruit and Vegetables are obtainable locally in both Kaw Thuang and Myeik. It should be remembered that Myeik is the fishing capital of Myanmar and therefore good quality seafood is plentiful and at reasonable prices. Kaw Thuang is best for processed provisions such as soft drinks, tinned food, etc as these are easily available from Thailand. For more specialist foods such as imported meats, cheeses, etc then these are available from Yangon. Uniteam Yachting can arrange for the supply of most items and then for these to be flown down on the daily flights. It is not recommended for yachts to arrange for the delivery of provisions from abroad, these may be subject to delays at customs.

- **Spare Parts**

Important smaller spare parts are normally best collected from Singapore and then hand carried to the yacht in Myanmar, this can be arranged by Uniteam Yachting. It should be noted that larger spare parts may be subject to delays at customs, please consult with Uniteam Yachting and we will help you find the best way to get your spare parts to you.

- **Liferaft and Fire Extinguisher servicing**

There is not an approved liferaft servicing facility in Myanmar. Fire extinguisher servicing can be arranged.

- **Local Manpower**

It is possible to hire local persons from basic cleaners, to persons with more skills such as carpenters, masseurs, dive instructors up to service engineers. Rates start at US\$3 per day for a basic cleaner and increase depending on the skill of the person and their proficiency in English.

- **Guests arriving / leaving and crew changes**

Flights - both Kaw Thuang and Myeik have airports. These are serviced by daily domestic flights from Yangon.

Private Jets – both Kaw Thuang and Myeik will accept private planes and can provide parking space. It should be noted that facilities at both airports are very basic. Kaw Thuang has a runway length of 4,200 feet and Myeik 5,000ft.

Helicopters – if a yacht arrives with a helicopter onboard then permission can be obtained for flights within Myanmar airspace. Flying over towns and military installations is not allowed.

Hotels – In Myeik there are 2 simple and cheap, but clean hotels. These may suffice for short stays by leaving / joining crew. In Kaw Thuang itself there are no satisfactory hotels but a short boat ride away there is an upmarket resort which would be suitable for more important visitors.

Ground Transportation – no limousine services are available, but reasonable minibus and car transport can be arranged.

Crew Changes – to comply with local regulations crew changes have to involve a government agent.

- **Communications**

Myanmar has a GSM telephone system, however there are no roaming agreements with overseas operators. Myanmar SIM cards work in most mobile telephones, however the sale of these cards is restricted when the network becomes overloaded and so may not be available during your visit. In Kaw Thuang town (not at the airport) a Thai GSM signal maybe received and these networks have roaming agreements with most major overseas operators. There is no GSM signal in the Mergui Archipelago. It should be noted that overseas calls are quite expensive from Myanmar. For various reasons yachts may choose to use their satellite communications when operating in this region.

- **Money Matters**

Credit Cards are not accepted in Myanmar. Items purchased and services rendered have to be paid for in cash. The only currency widely accepted is the US Dollar, these can be used to pay for items directly or after conversion to the local currency, the kyat (pronounced 'chat'). In Kaw Thuang the Thai Baht can often be used for purchases.

UNITEAM YACHTING can pay for items purchased and services rendered to visiting yachts, but as credit is not usually available it is necessary for funds to have been received in advance by bank transfer or credit card. Cash can be supplied to yachts if this is required.

- **Medical Matters**

Both Myeik and Kaw Thuang have reasonable medical facilities and it may also be possible to get a local doctor to visit the yacht. For more serious cases there is modern private hospital in Yangon.

For crew requiring a Seafarer's Medical Certificate then a trip to Yangon would be necessary. Doctors with approval from the Norwegian, German and UK maritime administrations are available.

- **Myanmar away from the Mergui Archipelago**

If guests or crew want to experience other parts of Myanmar UNITEAM YACHTING can arrange this through its sister company Uniteam Travel and Tours which is a Myanmar specialist. Trekking in the eastern Himalayas, ballooning over the temples of Bagan, golfing holidays and beach vacations are a few of the possibilities available.

- **A final word**

Myanmar is a fantastic yachting destination and once out in the Mergui Archipelago you will have a great time enjoying nature at its best. However Myanmar is a developing country so entering the country and getting services whilst you are there can sometimes be difficult, but it will be worth it once you get out into the islands. Uniteam Yachting will help you in any way they can and most things are possible, often just a little time is needed, so give us as much notice of your requirements as is possible.

- **Our Agency Fees**

An initial agency fee of US\$800 which will include all the administration required for arrival and departure.

Thereafter agency time will be charged on an hourly basis at US\$50 per hour.

Services rendered and items purchased on behalf of the yacht will be charged at cost.