

B U R M A

TRAVELLERS TO THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN
COUNTRY, LONG SHROUDED FROM THE
WORLD'S GAZE, WILL DISCOVER A STUNNING
LANDSCAPE OF ANCIENT TEMPLES,
FARMS AND FISHERMEN. WORDS AND
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER ADAMS >>



I'M SHOOTING IN THE OLD CITY OF BAGAN WHERE OX CARTS WEAVE THEIR WAY BETWEEN ANCIENT PAGODAS. OUTSIDE MANDALAY I WALK ACROSS THE WORLD'S LONGEST TEAK BRIDGE (NEARLY A MILE) AS LOCAL GIRLS WITH FACES PAINTED IN SANDALWOOD PATTERNS ENCOURAGE ME TO BUY THEIR WARES. ON THE STILL WATERS OF INLE LAKE, I WATCH THE INTHA FISHERMAN WITH THEIR UNUSUAL ROWING STYLE (ONE LEG WRAPPED AROUND THE OAR TO FREE BOTH HANDS FOR FISHING). >>





THERE'S A WONDERFUL TIMELESSNESS TO BURMA AND A DEEP-SEATED BUDDHIST SENSIBILITY. THIS IS MY THIRD VISIT HERE. BUT DESPITE THE KEEN MEDIA SPOTLIGHT AND 'UP-AND-COMING TOURIST DESTINATION' TAG, LITTLE SEEMS TO HAVE CHANGED SINCE MY FIRST VISIT IN THE MID-1980S. >>

Clockwise: Buddhist Monks approach Shwezigon Pagoda, Nyaung-U, Bagan; Maha Ganayon Kyaung Monastery, Amarapura





FROM THE GREAT GOLDEN STUPA IN YANGON (TOP) TO BAGAN'S STANDING BUDDHA STATUE (LEFT) AT ANANDA PAHTO TEMPLE (RIGHT), BURMA IS FILLED WITH UNPARALLELED SIGHTS. ALTHOUGH I DON'T ENVISAGE BURMA CHANGING AS QUICKLY AS OTHERS HAVE PREDICTED, I WOULDN'T DELAY YOUR VISIT. □