Tour operators and transport providers

Tourism has only recently began to develop in Loikaw. Previously, some companies offered transport services, but not full tour programs. Three local tour operators have started operating in Loikaw, during 2015 / 16.

Why work with local ground agents?

Local ground agents can significantly improve the quality of your tours. Community members in Loikaw and the surrounding area have very little experience welcoming tourists. The local tour operators in Loikaw have participated in over 12 months of trainings, to develop cultural, community based tours. Their close proximity to local villages assists communication and trust with the local villagers. Local operators can help community members to prepare for your guests, and to source quality, regional guides for your tours.

Amazing Kayah

- Friendly, family owned business;
- Own their own super-custom minivans;
- Services: package tours, transport, guide services, hotel reservations, boat, bike and trekking trips;
- Have joined training to work effectively and responsibly with local communities;
- Can arrange visits to local communities for cultural exchange, trekking, etc.;
- Facebook Amazing Kayah Travel and Tours;
- Contact Person: Mr. Sai Pan Pha / Ms. Zune Zune Pyae Phyo
- E-mail: amazingkayah.loikaw@gmail.com
- Tel. +95 9 560 0315; 0930800500 ; 09254936770
- No(17).Nandar Street, Minsu Quarter, Loikaw
Nine Generation Force Co. Ltd

- Friendly, family owned business;
- Own their own super-custom minivans;
- Can arrange hotels, tour guides and other types of transport (e.g. off-road, saloon);
- Have joined training to work effectively and responsibly with local communities;
- Can arrange visits to local communities for cultural exchange, trekking, etc.;
- Facebook: 9 Generation Force;
- Contact Person: Mr. Nay Moe Aung 9generationforce.office@gmail.com;
- Tel: 09256502908.

Meticulous Myanmar

- Friendly, family owned business;
- Main services are transportation (bus, car, minivan, off-road, train, boat), accommodation reservations (hotel / guesthouse) and airline ticketing;
- Joined training to work effectively and responsibly with local communities;
- Cultural tours to local communities;
- Facebook: Meticulous Myanmar Travels and Tours;
- Contact Person: Mr. Htet Lin Shein;
- E-mail: meticulousmyanmartravel.lkw@gmail.com;
- Tel: 09-780166815; 09-41008080,083-22471.

Ground handlers generally charge a 10% service fee in addition to ground costs.
Transport providers

In addition, some companies offer transport services.

Bardo

This company offers cars and buses.

Tel. 083-22 745 / 09-79 232 0373 / 09-360 432 91

Facebook: Bardo Travel and Transport Company

Kayah Htar Ni

This company offers off-road cars and mini-buses.

0949403030, 0931431133, 0949403241

Tour guides

Below are the contact details for some licenced regional tour guides, based in Loikaw. These guides have participated in trainings organised by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism (MOHT) and the UN International Trade Center (ITC).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mr. U Htay Aung</td>
<td>9428001621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mr. U Win Naing</td>
<td>9795572847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mr. U Ko Latt</td>
<td>9780009742/09428002006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mr. U Martino Htay Aung</td>
<td>9977907659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mr. U Lwin Htet Aung</td>
<td>9428000312</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Activities and excursions inside Loikaw

Taung Kwe Pagoda (Broken Mountain)

The most famous religious landmark of Loikaw is the Thiri-Mingalar Taung-kwe Pagoda. Taung Kwe means broken mountain. It is also called Thirimingalar Taung Zedi as it was built on the hillock called Thirimingalar. The pagoda is 380 ft high and it was built on 9 natural hillocks. It is called ‘Phaw Pye’ in Kayah language. You can enjoy great views of the marvellous landscape of Loikaw from the top.

Fees

- Camera - 300 Ks
- Parking fees:
  - Bicycle: 300 ks
  - Motorcycle: 200 ks
  - Bus: 500 Ks
  - Mini van: 300 Ks
- You can give donation for taking the elevator.

Haw Nan Monastery

Haw Nan Monastery, known as Kandarawwady Haw Nan is one of the most ancient buildings in Kayah. It was built during the First World War (1912-1916) by Zaw Bwa Saw Pyar Du Sat Khun Li, the Chief of Kayah. Three stairs lead up to the monastery. Old photos and furniture from Zaw Bwa’s family transport visitors 100 years into the past. In 1994, relatives of the last chief donated the building as a monastery.
**Naung Yah Lake**

Naung Yah lake is a very popular spot for local people to enjoy a stroll in the morning and evening, or a picnic with family and friends. Some paddle boats are available, and some people also enjoy fishing. In the evening, local people enjoy eating on the lakeside, where there are several tasty, local restaurants.

![](image1)

**Loikaw cultural museum**

Loikaw museum is well worth a visit. It has an interesting collection of historical artefacts, including sacred frog drums, which are a symbol of Kayah identity. Other exhibits include a colourful collection of traditional costumes, worn by Kayah’s different ethnic groups. English language media is under development. Opening hours are 9 AM to 4.30 PM. A visit takes approximately 45 minutes.

![](image2)
Local, fresh markets in Loikaw

**Thirimingalar Market** is open every day from 6 AM to 5 PM except full moon days. The market has a good variety of items local foods, vegetables, fruits and spices with wonderful contrasting colours and fragrances. Visitors can also find household goods and clothing which make special mementos of a visit to Kayah.

![Market scenes](image1.jpg)

**Baho Zay Market** on Daw Na Street has plenty of tasty, local food and typical Myanmar tea shops. It is possible to buy hot, fresh food. However, use your discretion. If this is your first time in Myanmar, you should choose with care.

![Food scenes](image2.jpg)

**Naung Yah Market** is a small market, just outside Loikaw, which is opens from 5.30 AM to 11 AM. Most vendors sell local foods. The market is not open every day, so it is best to check with a local hotel or tour operator before visiting.
Loikaw Weaving Center and natural dying path tour

This tour takes you around the organic garden of the weaving center to discover and experience the process of natural dyeing and learn about traditional weaving.

Introduction to the “Natural dyeing path” in Loikaw Weaving and Vocational Training Center: This pilot initiative is managed by the Loikaw weaving and vocational training center, with close support of the International Trade Center (ITC), which aims – through the benefits from the tour – at improving the learning environment of young trainees and at enriching your experience in Kayah State.

Departures: The tour can depart any day of the week with a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 6 people. The tour can be adapted to suit tourists’ requirements.

Price: US$ 3 / person (1 hour). The price includes a cup of local tea, the visit to the center and its organic garden, and a chance to practice natural dyeing, with hands-on guidance and explanations by a master in natural dyeing techniques.
**Itinerary:** A master trainer from the weaving center will take you for about one hour around the weaving center’s garden to discover and experience natural dyeing. The visit includes:

- A walk in a local organic garden with the opportunity to discover the origin of the natural colours of the traditional Kayah longyi;
- You will personally experience and practice the steps of natural dyeing;
- A tour of the workshop where young trainees are learning the different techniques of weaving the traditional Kayah longyi;
- A visit to the local shop where you can browse / buy handmade products.

**How this activity makes a difference:** The benefits of both the tour and your potential purchase of end products are equally shared to improve the learning environment and buy materials for the trainees from vulnerable families, as well as to create a Trainee Start-Up Fund to support trainees in the first steps of their professional career (e.g. purchase of materials and machines). By visiting the weaving center, where tourists are usually not likely to go, this tour helps with:

- Building professional skills of young local guides (partners of the project);
- Raising incomes and stimulating investments in the weaving center;
- Raising the level of quality of life for the trainees of the weaving center;
- Raising the importance of natural dyeing techniques for young trainees;
- Creating a Trainee Start-Up Fund;
- Raising self-esteem and appreciation of the trainees.

**Contacts**

*Mrs. Daw Aye Han – 092 5235 7792  Mr. U Aung Pein Thein Aye – 093 609 4222*

**NB: Local, Loikaw tour operators can book this tour for a 10% service charge.**
The Kayah Sausage Experience

This tour takes you into the home of one of two Loikaw Kayah sausage producers, willing to offer international and national visitors a safe and unique cooking experience in Kayah State. You will discover and experience the process of making the original Kayah sausage and taste the subtle balance between spices!

Introduction to the “Kayah Sausage Experience” in Loikaw: This pilot initiative is managed by two local Kayah Sausage producers, with close support of the International Trade Center (ITC), which aims to enrich your experience of Kayah culture and social life.

Departures: The tour can depart on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8:00 to 12:00 AM, with a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 6 people, so that you receive personal attention. Variations of this tour are available to suit your requirements.

Price: Each group pays a fixed charge of US$ 15 for the price of the sausage ingredients (2 to 6 people), plus US$ 5 per person for the cooking class (2 hours). This tour can run with a minimum of two or more participants (the minimum cost is US$ 25). The price includes local tea, all sausage ingredients and the guidance and explanations for the cooking class by a local master of Kayah sausage!
**Itinerary:** A local sausage producer will welcome you and introduce you to cooking Kayah sausage with plenty of flavour. The experience includes:

- A presentation of the Kayah Sausage recipe and its ingredients including discovery of the unique Kayah Pepper;
- A creative experience, as you will personally prepare, cook and taste your own Kayah Sausage;
- A visit to the adjacent garden where you can discover local plants.

**How this activity makes a difference:** The Kayah Sausage experience takes you into a unique and delightful environment, and allows you to share part of the life of local households. The sausage making families are passing down traditional recipes. Providing cookery experiences for tourists helps to provide additional income for the sausage producers, and keep these delicious recipes alive.

**Contact**

*Daw Palawnia - 09428000535 (by the lake)*
*Daw Teresa - 09428005199 (authentic kitchen)*

**NB: Local, Loikaw tour operators can book this tour for a 10% service charge.**
Activities and excursions outside Loikaw

Kayah Community Tourism Programs and Prices (2016)

Hta Nee La Leh, Kayah Community

These community based, cultural tour programs offer fascinating, fun insights into local life and culture in Hta Nee La Leh, Kayah community. Activities were developed based on special elements of local life, culture and nature, which community members feel proud and comfortable to share with guests.

All programs begin with a quick welcome at the Hta Nee La Leh community center. Guests are met by members of Hta Nee La Leh’s community tourism club. They are given a friendly introduction to the community, and important cultural do’s and don’ts.

All programs include a visit to Hta Nee La Leh ‘Kayhtoebo’ hall and shrines, where animist traditions are practiced. Community members consider these sites to be the heart of life in Hta Nee La Leh and a ‘must see’ for visitors. Guests learn why the sites are important for local people, and about festivals and events, which are held here during the year. Guests also learn about the tradition of ritual hunting. They visit the local hunting shrine, and can try their hand using a catapult!
The ‘Kayhtoebo’ hall plays a key role in local identity.

Test your skills with a traditional, Kayah catapult!

Fixed costs include a ‘local community guide fee’ of 5000 Kyat per guide, per half day; or 8000 Kyat per guide per full day. In addition to these activities, other, optional activities can be selected, which make the tour into a half day program.

Visitors can eat lunch or dinner at a local restaurant (paid according to menu prices). Or, you can book a special Kayah Barbecue. To eat the Kayah barbecue by the lake costs a minimum of 30,000 Kyat (total) from 4-6 guests, and an additional 5,000 Kyat per guest thereafter. It is also possible to eat the Kayah barbecue in a local home, for a cost of 5,000 Kyat per person (minimum of two guests).
Choices of programs and prices are described below:

**Half-day tours** (apr. 3.5 hours)

**A:** Welcome guests at the Community Center. Visit the Kayhtoebo site and Hunting Shrine, to learn about local beliefs and spiritual life. In addition, guests visit the *Lotus Pond*. This is a sacred and scenic site. Here, visitors listen to the local legend of Tsudanu, a prince and princess who finally ascend to heaven as mythical *Kinaree* birds...

**Price:** Local guide = 5,000 Ks (1 to 10 guests)

**B:** Welcome guests at the Community Center. Visit the Kayhtoebo site and Hunting Shrine, to learn about local beliefs and spiritual life. In addition, enjoy a fun Ox Cart ride, via the Lotus Pond to the scenic 7 Lakes. Relax by the lake and enjoy the forested, mountain scenery.

**Price:** Local guide = 5,000 Ks (1 to 10 guests) + Ox Cart rental @ 5,000 Ks (1 cart per 3 guests)

**C:** Welcome guests at the Community Center. Visit the Kayhtoebo site and Hunting Shrine, to learn about local beliefs and spiritual life. In addition, enjoy an Ox Cart ride, via the Lotus Pond to the scenic 7 Lakes. Here, guests enjoy a delicious *Kayah Barbecue* with cultural exchange. (Note 1 to 3 guests, will eat in a local home).

**Price:** Local guide = 5,000 Ks + Ox Cart 5,000 Ks (1 cart for 3 guests) + BBQ 5,000 Ks / guest (Note: Kayah Barbecue charges start at 30,000 Ks (for 4-6 guests).
Half day ‘deep insight’ into local arts and music

D: During this program, you will visit two homes. First, you visit a local musician’s house, listen to traditional Instruments and try your hand playing them. Then, you visit another house to learn about traditional Kayah dress.

Price: Coordination fee = 2,000 Ks to inform the artists about the visit in advance and to remind them. Plus, 5,000 Kyat contribution towards the musicians’ time (shared between two musicians) and 3,000 Kyat contribution towards the local dress activities. Note that it is also possible to rent a Kayah costume to try on, for an additional 5,000 Kyat / costume (this takes approximately 45 minutes).

A local guide can accompany the group all day for 8000 Kyat.

Contact: Hta Nee La Leh Community Tourism Club

Htwe Myar 09961467685 (Myanmar language)

NB: Local, Loikaw tour operators can book this tour for a 10% service charge.
Pan Pet, Kayan Community

These tour programs offer fascinating, fun insights into local life and culture in Pan Pet, Kayan community. Activities were developed based on special elements of local life, culture and nature, which community members feel proud and comfortable to share with guests.

A: Half day trip.

Guests arrive at Pemsong village. On arrival, guests are welcomed in a local home where you will enjoy a hot drink and a simple, local snack. After this, you will head off on a Short Trek, of 1.5 to 2 hours, lead by local community tour guides.

Along the way, your local guides will stop and explain special cultural and natural sites, which are important to local people and their way of life. These include the village monument, and pagoda. A highlight is a breathtaking, 360 degree view of the surrounding, mountains. Enjoy pack lunch or a special Jungle picnic.

Difficulty grade: easy trek, with moderate steep sections.

Price: Local Community Trekking Guide = 5,000 Ks (1 to 8 guests) Tea and local snack @ 1,500 Kyat per guest + Pack lunch @ 3,000 Ks / guest, or Jungle Picnic @ 5,000 per guest. Jungle picnic includes at least 3 dishes.

Following the short trek, guests can also visit Salong Kana hamlet, to meet a local Kayan artisan, and enjoy a hands-on demonstration about how to make traditional, Kayan bracelets. Guests can also have a go at making a bracelet themselves. The additional cost of this workshop is 10,000 Kyat (total).
Finally, the trip ends in Rang Ku hamlet, where guests can visit small crafts shops, run by the famous Kayan people (popularly known as Long Neck Karen). Enjoy learning a few words of Kayan language and interacting with these fun-loving and artistic people. There are opportunities to buy local handicrafts.

**B: Full day trekking trip: Trail of the Ancestors**

Guests arrive at Pemsong village. On arrival, guests are welcomed in a local home where you will enjoy a hot drink and a simple, local snack. Next, you will set off on a moderately challenging trek, through lush, shady, forest. After quite a steep climb (approximately 40-60 minutes), guests will enjoy over 3 hours of continual, great views. En route, local guides will show guests various edible plants and herbal medicines, used by community members in their ‘jungle larder.’
A highlight of the trip is arriving at the original settlement of Pan Pet, perched on a mountain top, where evidence of past habitation is visible. This is considered one of the first Kayan settlements of Kayah State. Guests also enjoy a pack lunch or jungle picnic. The trek ends in Rang Ku hamlet, where guests meet the famous Kayan people (also known as Long Neck Karen), who are a symbol of Kayah State. Enjoy learning a few words of Kayan language and interacting with these fun-loving and artistic people. There are opportunities to buy local handicrafts.

Price: Local Community Guide = 8,000 Ks (1 to 8 guests). Tea and local snack on arrival @ 1,500 Kyat per guest + Pack lunch @ 3,000 Ks / guest, or Jungle Picnic @ 5,000 per guest. Jungle picnic includes at least 3 dishes.

**Difficulty grade:** Moderately challenging (apr. 4-4.5 hours), with steep sections (30-40 minutes).

Contact : Pan Pet Tourism Group: Mg Tha: **099778684082**

Please note: Contact in Myanmar Language Only.

**NB: Local, Loikaw tour operators can book this tour for a 10% service charge.**
Other beautiful local attractions near to Loikaw

**Demoso Market** is located to the South of Loikaw. It takes 30 minutes to travel by car or bike from Loikaw. The market is open 3 days a week (Monday, Wednesday and Saturday) in the morning. The best time to visit is 06.00 to 10.00. The market is famous for traditional millet/rice wine. The vendors are from the local area, allowing visitors to taste a large variety of local dishes. For example, Kayah Sausage, meat balls made using a special recipe, and unique Kayah Pepper.

![Demoso Market](image1)

**Kyet Cave** (*Ya Sa Ku* in Kayah language) is located 12 miles far to the east of Loikaw, 2990 metres above sea level. It is an impressive natural cave, made of Limestone and Dolomite. Ancient, wooden coffins can be seen inside the cave. These coffins are from 2 to 15 feet long. According to local legends, these coffins used to contain skeletons, however these can no longer be seen in the cave.

![Kyet Cave](image2)
Htee Se Kha Waterfall is a one hour drive, west of Loikaw. It is a natural waterfall which flows from Nant Tan Bat Creek, on the border of Shan and Kayah States. Local people enjoy visiting the waterfall, especially around the New Year in April. Visitors should wear shorts and t-shirts to swim, rather than bathing costumes.

Lawpita waterfall and hydropower plant is located about 12 km’s to the east of Loikaw. It has beautiful scenery with the water cascading down the falls. Many fishes can clearly be seen in the beautiful, blue water. There is also a hydro power plant which supplies electrical power to different parts of the country. Permission is required for foreign visitors to visit Lawpita falls (through local tour operators).
**Aung Tha Pyay Cave** is located near Htee Se’ Kha waterfall. There are about 10 sitting Buddha Statues inside the cave. The cave is approximately about 1000 ft long. Many bee hives can be seen on the cliffs of the cave.

**Lwel Ta Mu Cave** was found in 1948. According to legend, a local person saw the cave in a dream, and went to find it. The cave is 110 feet deep, 100 feet wide, 300 feet long to the east, 500 feet long to the west and 30 feet high. People started to build a pagoda near the cave. After 2013, some pilgrims built more pagodas to bring good health, education and wealth. Nowadays, there are 15 pagodas and 254 statues in the cave. This cave is considered a sacred place. Visitors should dress modestly.
**Ngwe Daung Dam** is located in Demawso Township, 12 miles south of Loikaw. It was built in 1962. It is the main dam for irrigation in the Demawsoe area. It is a beautiful spot to take pictures, against the background of the Golden, Silver and ruby mountains.

**Phaya Pyu, or ‘white pagoda’ village** can be reached by a scenic boat journey from Loikaw, which takes about 1 hour and is most pleasant in the early morning. The journey is very beautiful, passing local farmers on the banks of the Belu river. In the village, visitors can see the White Pagoda which the village is named after.

**Htee-pwint-kan or Umbrella pond** is situated in Demosoe Township in the heart of the paddy fields. It is a small pond, around a hundred feet in circumference. The pond is famous because its’ mud bed bubbles up in the shape of an umbrella. It is said that if you see the umbrella coming up, you are a lucky person!
About the Kayah Inclusive Tourism Project

This Kayah Sales Manual was produced under ITC’s Inclusive Tourism project in Myanmar, funded by The Netherlands. The project addresses the whole tourism value chain by overcoming bottlenecks at each point from product development through market linkages to destination branding: bringing all players together towards sustainable tourism. A single project that truly connects all players in a sustainable manner, with the aim of enhancing Myanmar’s tourism industry as a way out of poverty.

More information: [www.facebook.com/groups/Kayahinclusivetourism/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/Kayahinclusivetourism/)

Contacts:

- Giulia Macola, Associate Program Advisor, ITC: [macola@intracen.org](mailto:macola@intracen.org)
- Mr. Peter Richards, consultant on cultural tourism tour development and market access: [Peter.e.richards@gmail.com](mailto:Peter.e.richards@gmail.com)

Below: ITC Kayah familiarization trip for tour operators, February 2016.