



British Embassy
Yangon

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www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/myanmar

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Dear Members,

Welcome to this new Facebook Group. I thought this would be a good way to keep the British Community in Myanmar up to speed with latest developments.

As you will know, we have been advising British Nationals to leave the country for the past two weeks. The vast majority of those who wanted to leave have now done so. As a result we have no plans to arrange any special government organised flights for those people who remain.

The Myanmar Government announced that as of 23:59 on Monday 30 March, no international commercial passenger planes would be allowed to land in Myanmar. Exceptions would be made for relief flights, all-cargo flights, medevac flights and special flights. It will therefore be very difficult to leave the country from now on. We are still working with other Embassies and with some airlines to obtain permission for them to run a few additional services for fare-paying passengers. If these materialise we will advise you using social media.

Some European countries still have many nationals in Myanmar who want to leave. They may be arranging “rescue flights” to do this. If you still want to leave, I suggest you keep an eye on what those Embassies are doing: they will normally offer up any remaining seats once their nationals have been booked. But please make sure you have planned your onward travel from any European capital. You can also email us on ReturnfromMyanmar@fco.gov.uk to inform us of your intention to leave. We can let you know if we hear of spaces on flights.

For those people who are staying please try to stay safe. You might want to see the latest guidance from Public Health England as well as following the latest advice from the Myanmar Government.

You will know that healthcare systems around the world have come under extraordinary pressure from COVID-19. That is likely to be the case here too. So although, at this stage, there are relatively few confirmed cases in Myanmar, the situation could become extremely serious. **We are not qualified to offer medical advice I can only suggest that if you are displaying COVID symptoms you present yourself to your regular healthcare provider who will refer you to a Myanmar government testing facility.**

Please be careful with normal health issues too. We have heard reports of foreigners being refused entry into private hospitals. Hospitals are not allowed to do this; but it doesn't stop it happening. And you may have heard that the 11th floor clinic in Parami has been quarantined because someone with COVID-19 went there. Dr Olivier Cattin is in self-isolation.

I have been asked about whether people should be stocking up. I understand that City Mart has good supplies, and sources much of its food locally – with supply chains still holding up. So there is no immediate pressure. That said, you will have seen the situation in other countries as the self-isolation rules become stricter, so you might want to think what that would mean if that were to happen here.

Lastly, I have been asked about the new rules about extending visas and the need for an Embassy letter. We are talking to the Myanmar Government about this requirement to see if there could be a less bureaucratic way forward. I will update you as soon as I hear anything.

Please look after yourselves and stay safe. The Embassy remains open for now.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Chugg', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Dan Chugg
British Ambassador to Myanmar