

Nature Walks in First Ramsar Site and Kelatha Wildlife Sanctuary



Kelatha Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in Bilin Township, Mon State lying between N17° 13', E 97° 07'. It is a small sanctuary whose boundaries are demarcated by a ringed road running all around the site. The ringed road is 14 miles in length and 8 miles was tarred and 6 miles section metalled. This was done in the past 15 years due mainly to the dedicated and relentless effort of the late Kyaikhti Saung Sayadaw, who has presided at Zokthok village, 7 miles away from Kelatha WS. It is 6 miles away from Kyaikhto to the nearest northwestern edge of Ayetthima village and 8.5 miles from Bilin to the southeastern edge of Taung Zun village.

Due to the existence of famous pagodas such as Buddha's sacred hair-enshrined Kelatha, Mya Thabiek, Kelathapha and Kyaik Dae Yon on the mountainous ranges, the area has become a popular tourism site, second to the Rock Pagoda of Kyaikhtiyo in Mon State. As Mount Kelatha is 1181' high at the edge of the Sittaung lowland valley, which also makes it as a seascape view point for further attraction of tourism.

Moeyungyi Wetland

WS is the first Ramsar Site in Myanmar and located in the southern part of Bago Region; plenty of freshwater vegetation surrounded by agricultural land not far from the capitol Yangon. A good and tranquil place to obtain insights into rural life, where ox and water buffalo are used to plough the fields.



Amherstia nobilis (Thaw ka gyi)



Flying fox



What can expect?

To observe ...

- *Water bird species include Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Lesser Whistling Duck, Purple Swamphen and numerous Purple Herons, Oriental Darter*
- *Some mammal species (Near Threatened large flying fox, Black Giant Squirrel)*
- *Endemic plant Amherstia nobilis (Thaw ka gyi)*
- *Freshwater wetlands ecosystem and Orchard farms around the Kelatha Wildlife Sanctuary*
- *Archeological landmarks*
- *Learn more about biodiversity conservation in EESC*



Controversial tomb of King Alaung paya



How can reach there?
3 Days trip!

Day 1: Leave from Yangon to Environmental Education and Sustainability Centre (EESC) in Bilin Township by car (On the way to EESC, visits to Moeyungyi Wetland for birdwatching by boats)

Day 2: Visits Kelatha Wildlife Sanctuary and villages (overnight at EESC)

Day 3: Return back to Yangon in afternoon.

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