

# A GREAT WONDER OF KYAIKHTIYO, THE GOLDEN ROCK



The Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda or the Golden Rock as it is popularly known, is situated in Kyaikhto Township of the Mon State, on a line of hills that run parallel to the Sittaung Mocketama rail and motor road. It is only four and half hour drive from Yangon. The Pagoda is located is over 3600 feet in height and the original trek route from the base camp (Kinmun Sakan) is over seven miles.

According to legend, Buddha's sacred relic is enshrined within the pagoda. Although the upper boulder appears to be attached to a ledge of the base rock, the two are actually not joined together at all. Legend states that there was a time when the top boulder was levitating absolutely free from the base rock, to the extent that a hen could sit between them. There is motor road access till the pagoda's platform.

It is also strongly believed that if one is able to make three pilgrimages, good fortune will be brought. The scene of the surrounding forests and the plains below is breath-taking. The air is pure and the temperature comfortable. Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims and tourists flock to this sacred place each year in the dry season, especially from October to April.



**Panoramic view of Kyaikhtiyo**

## **New Pilgrimage Tours**

Business Tank has learnt that new pilgrimage tours are inaugurated during January. In order to get the information, BT has contacted the agent of popular tours, which is Phoenix Travel and Tours Co., Ltd. Since early 2001, Phoenix has inaugurated Adventure Tours and Ecotourism tours mainly. Every year in the second week of January the company has arranged trips to Naga Festival and this year was the third time Phoenix had arranged this kind of trip.



**Two incredible rocks**

It had also started arranging trips to Mogok, Phakant and Jewel land. Beginning Mid January 2004, it has started the Kyaikhtiyo pagoda tour and many pilgrims from Thailand had made this trip. With the aim of getting 1000 guests a month these trips are being arranged and Airport

Phoenix with the cooperation of Phoenix Travels have given full service from the time the guests leave the Airport and started on the trip for the convenience of all the guests.

Arrangements are being made for the smooth and convenient tours for Thai pilgrims who came on a charter flight to make three- night and four-day visit to this country and visit Kyaikhtiyoe and many pagodas in Bago, Thanlyin and Yangon.

It is found that these pilgrims were so fascinated by the wonders of the Shwedagon Pagoda and an unbelievable glory of the Kyaikhtiyoe to which they really believed in and paid their homage to these wonders of the world.



**From a helicopter view**

For these guests who were on the package tours, Phoenix Travel and Tours have taken the full responsibility for food and lodgings as well as their transport needs. At present, extended pilgrimage tours are being arranged to start direct flights from Bangkok to Bagan by PB Air for Bagan-Mandalay pilgrimage tours.