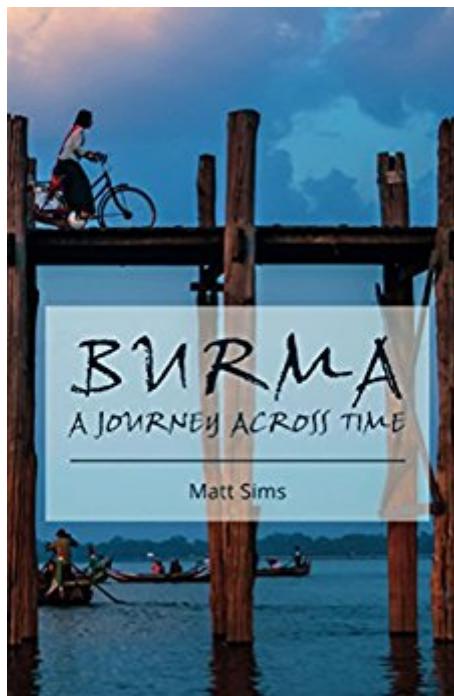


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# Burma: A Journey Across Time



## **Synopsis**

The most comprehensive and up-to-date book on Myanmar available. A Burma, also known as Myanmar, has held an allure for adventurous travelers since it was opened up to tourists after decades of isolation and oppression. During her 15 years spent under house arrest, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi urged travelers to stay away, but now urges them to come see this exotic and unique land for themselves and witness the changes that are taking place. But are the promises of reform by the military backed government for real? Are the people of Burma finally free? And can their culture survive the onslaught of tourists and new development to come? Author and photographer Matt Sims travels across the length of Burma to find out. His journey by rail, river, and road across the country from north to south has resulted in a new travel book rich in humor, history, and keen observation. Includes photographs by the author. If you like the witty and sarcastic writing of Bill Bryson and Anthony Bourdain, you'll enjoy *Burma: A Journey Across Time*.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Each year I take a long sabbatical. Generally my sabbatical is twigged a touch from the previous year agenda. One thing that remains the same is during my sabbatical is to read a good book that will hold my interest and teach me something new. This year I came across a book written by an American author Matt Sims, "Burma A Journey Across Time." I chose this book because I really did

need to read a book like this because I am one of those who as a young girl enjoyed traveling. And even though I still enjoy adventure, as I grew older I found traveling more work than fun. I wanted to read a book from a travel enthusiast to ignite me. I found this book as a unique, passionate, and eclectic series of travel. Burma's culture, history, and events covered what the "real Burma" is and that a regular traveler would never experience. This book is for those who can appreciate and respect an adventure. The book transports me to another part of the world in an mysterious and exotic kind of way. I felted as if I was on a tour across Burma with the author. The authors wide-range of interests really brought this book together with the people of different ages, various talents he had with the locals, and different persuasions leading me as the reader on an enticing journey across Burma. The book also includes twelve images of his travels. This was not just the authors journey and a report back to his readers kind of book. There is warmth and humor in this book. At times I would find myself laughing long lengths of time with the author as he rode on the local buses, joined in a festival game, visited temples or simply observed the driving skills of Burma's cab drivers. It felt real. It felt kind. It felt comfortable. It felt hip. And it felt magical. I fully enjoyed the writers sense of humor, his observations and opinions of Burma politics he struck up with those he met on his journey. This book is the authors affections toward Burma and his love for traveling as he brings his readers along with him and the locals he met experience real life living in a country that has beauty, distress, charm, and a deferred hope for a better future. Matt Sims has captured several imageries in this book to remind himself and explain to the reader "This is why you travel". The author writings is more than travel. He is much more concerned about the people who he meets on his way than with the places themselves. He is more interested in Burma remaining its own authentic culture than turning it into a tourist development. He is more interested in telling the story of the people of Burma than to filling his camera's memory card. He is not merely talking about the places he journey to. He is bending his ear to those who live, struggle, and fight for democracy in Burma. This type of traveling is new to me and makes me excited to start my own travel journey in a new way!

When a book starts off with, "I found a girl in the garbage..." Great things await. Sims' approachable style gently, humorously guides you through some often unpleasant, foreign experiences in, Burma: A Journey Across Time. After reading this second work of his, I found myself much more informed about the politics and culture of a country, I knew virtually nothing about. With poignant insight, Sims made me keenly aware of my own frivolous interests with the relaxed intelligent conversational style of a trusted friend. Like all good literature, Burma: A Journey Across Time makes you feel all the

emotions, anger, humor, fear, satisfaction. This really good book made me want to be a better person. I bought several copies to share with my dear well-read friends, not that they need to be better people, but I am better for sharing it.

Burma: A Journey Across Time combines the best of travel experts, the best of travel books, and combined with great history and descriptions of Burma. But what it does best is it puts a face on a people who for so long have been persecuted by their own government, it is this *“face”* that the author has developed about the Burmese people that makes this book special and that makes me want to visit Burma. I hope this is not the last we hear from the *“Chimney Sweep”*. Marvin Estes

Reading this book is so delighting. It's like traveling with the author. He explained every little things to the point we can picture at those particular places. I believed, after reading his book he make us all want to go to travel in Burma from north to south. Thanks to the great book.

Great reading and help learning about the customs of other countries. The author me of humerakes you feel like you are experiencing the trip with him. Great sense of humor.

Great book!

Burma is an ambitious book which attempts to describe a relatively unknown country in all its facets, and in that, it is more than a mere travelog. Matt Sims travels the length of the country and his observations are interesting although not overly revealing. He does not have the eye of the classic travel writers but his descriptions are adequate. He obviously loves what he sees and his feelings are evident. Also evident are his love for US-style freedom and democracy which, like a square peg, he tries to ram into the Burmese round hole. I can't speak for Burma, but having lived most of my life in countries in the third world and under several military dictatorships, I can say with near certainty that what the Burmese have most sought was freedom from corruption, inequality and inefficiency, which do not equate yearning for democracy. Simms keeps dropping hints and snapshots of the Burmese in their pagodas but does little to describe the power and pervasiveness of Theravada, the strain of Buddhism practiced in Burma and how it dictates day-to-day behavior. A missed opportunity. On the positive and what Simms does exceeding well is insert all sorts of fascinating, and occasional obscure, historical details of the Burmese past. Some

true gems there!

Matt Sims is a gem of an author!A few years ago I've read his first book Peaks and Valleys: A Solo Hike Across Alps and loved it.While reading Burma: A Journey Across Time I found myself instantly transported to a far away land and living thought it's political, historical and cultural complexities.This is a skillful weave of Burma's past, present and the potential future. The author tells the story with humour and above all else a heart, there is a lot of heart in Matt Sims writing.I highly recommend this book to any student of life. Bravo Mr. Sims!

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