

# BURMA'S SACRED GOLDEN ROCK

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Some three hours' drive east of Rangoon brings you to Mount Kyaiktiyo, at the top of which (3,600ft) is a gigantic granite boulder covered in gold leaf perched on the edge about to fall off. But it never does, held in place, legend says, by a strand of the Buddha's hair put underneath it 2,500 years ago. Ever since, the Golden Rock has been a sacred pilgrimage site for the Burmese people and Buddhists around the world.

There are very few people here other than pilgrims, who devoutly pray, circumambulate the rock, and reverently place small strips of gold leaf upon it. It's a marvelous experience to be among them. I plan to be here once again in an expedition soon – you might consider joining me. (*Glimpses of Our Breathtaking World #112* photo ©Jack Wheeler)

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