

# THE UNIQUE BEAUTIFICATION OF KAYAN WOMEN

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The Kayan tribal people live in a

remote roadless valley in the Shan Hills of Burma. Kayan women practice their tradition of beauty starting at age five. The young girls have a few brass coils placed around their necks, adding to them progressively as they grow until in older adulthood they are wearing as many as two dozen – becoming what the world knows them as *Giraffe women*. (The Shan people call them “Padaung” meaning “long-necked,” but they call themselves Kayan.)

We are not here to gawk. We are here to make friends, treat them respectfully, and learn about their traditions. It is an intensely memorable experience to meet these ladies. We’ll be here again in early March next year. (*Glimpses of Our Breathtaking World* #58photo ©Jack Wheeler)

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