

# WANDER to WONDER by MARTINA NICOLLS



The world will never starve for wonder, but only for want of wonder. G.K. Chesterson

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## editor's note

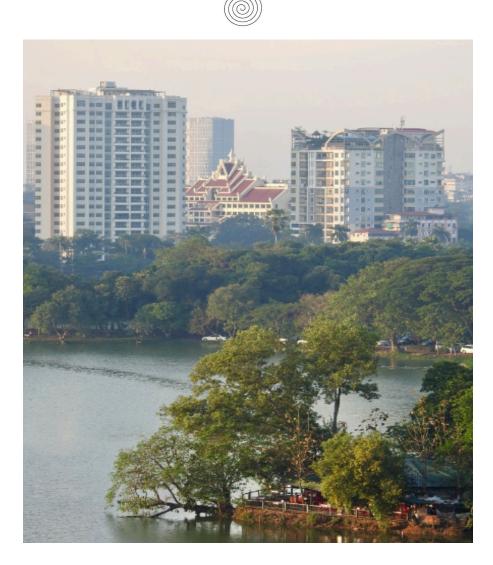
Welcome to the 29th edition of WANDER to WONDER

This edition of Wander to Wonder focuses on Myanmar, specifically Yangon (the commercial hub and previous capital) and Nay Pyi Taw (the new capital).

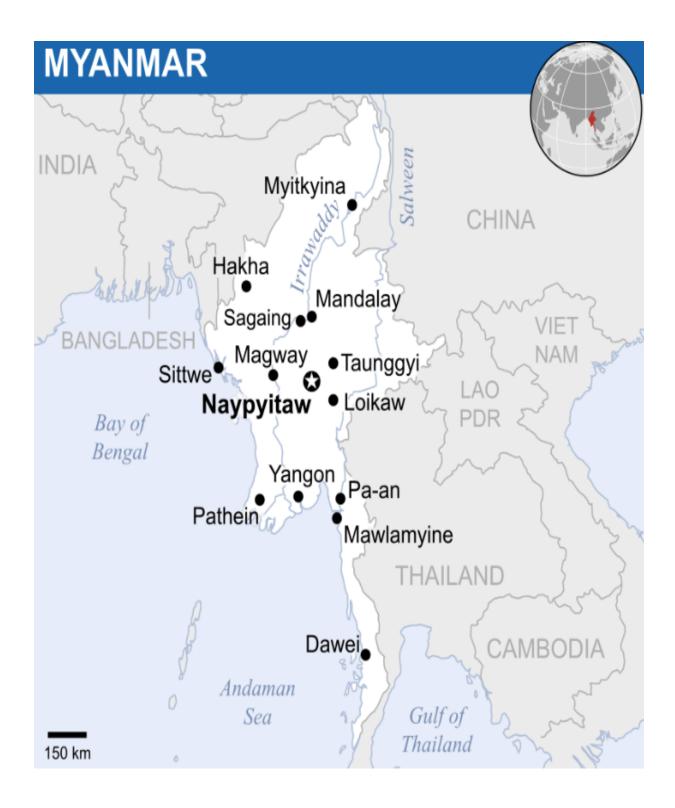
Until next edition, with another theme,

Martina

#### MARTINA NICOLLS



map

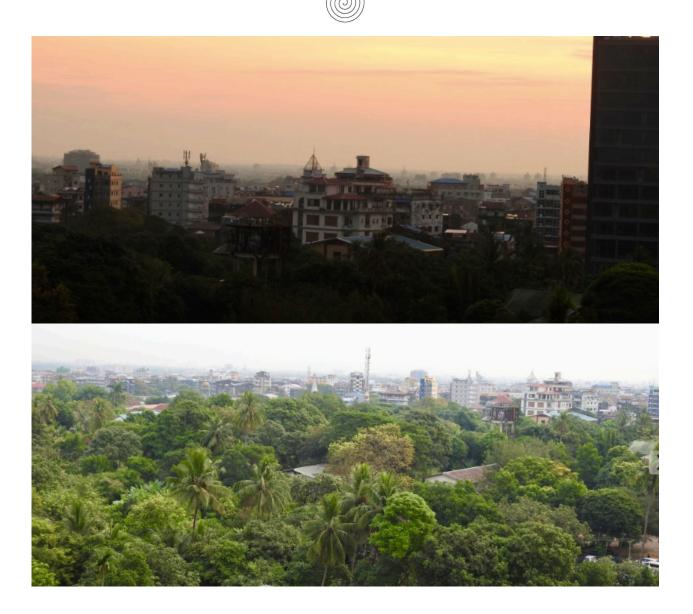


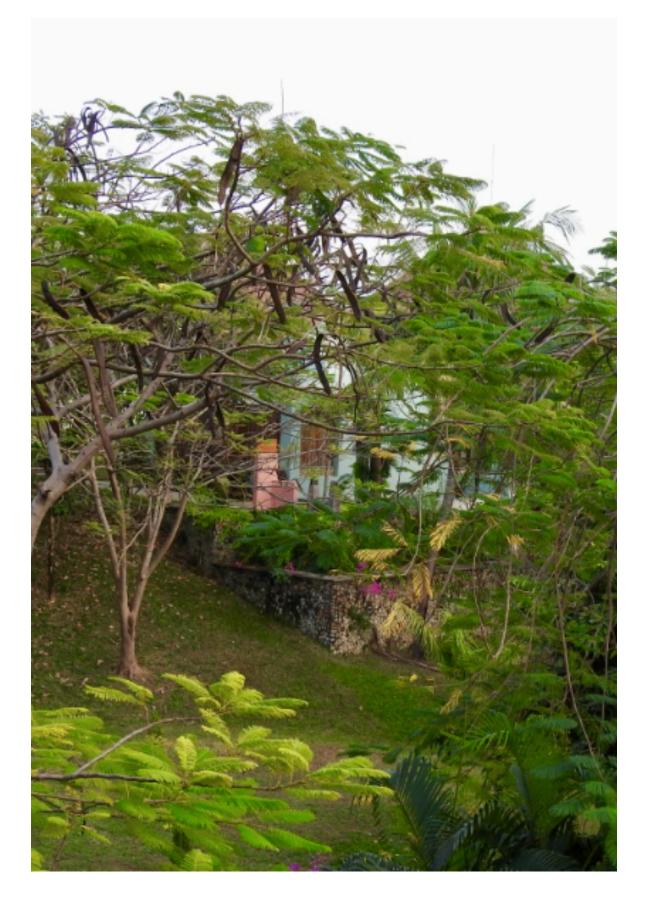
#### myanmar

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar was formally called Burma. Both versions are accepted although, more and more, the use of Myanmar is becoming the norm.

Myanmar is a country in Southeast Asia, bordered by India and Bangladesh to its west, Thailand and Laos to its east, China to its north and northeast, and the Andaman Sea to its south. Its population is about 51 million (2014 census).

Myanmar is 676,578 square kilometres (261,228 square miles) in size. Its capital city is Nay Pyi Taw (also spelled Naypyidaw), and its largest city and former capital is Yangon (formerly called Rangoon).

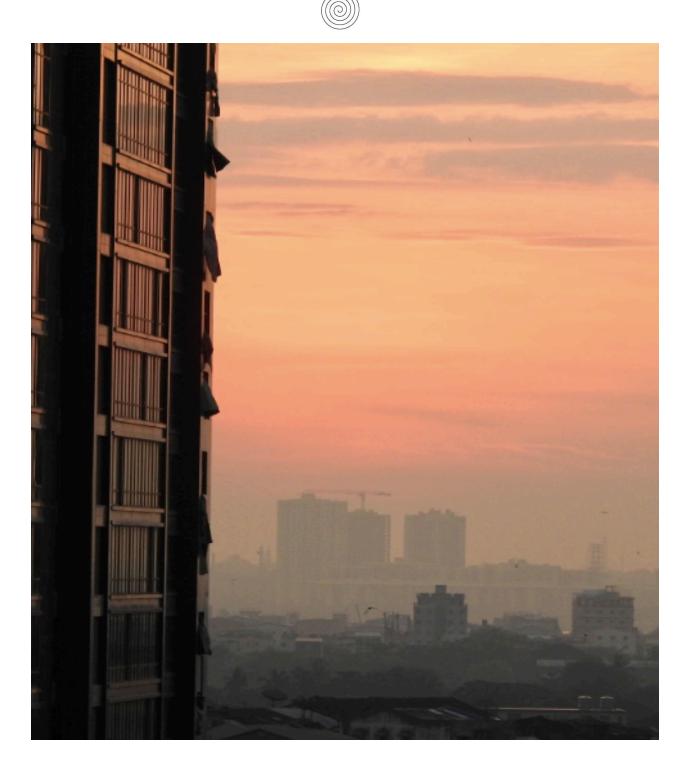


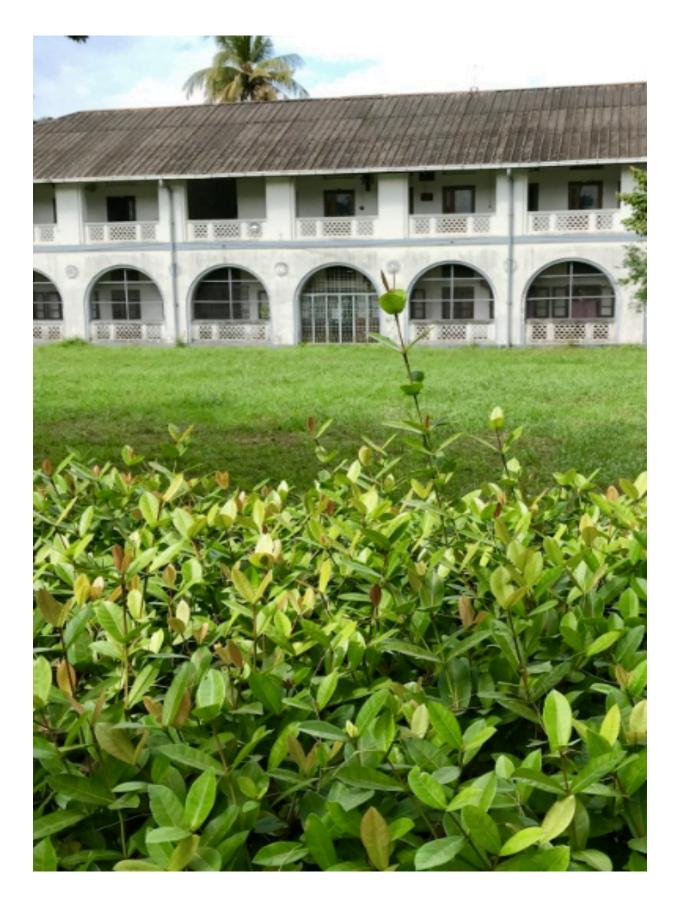




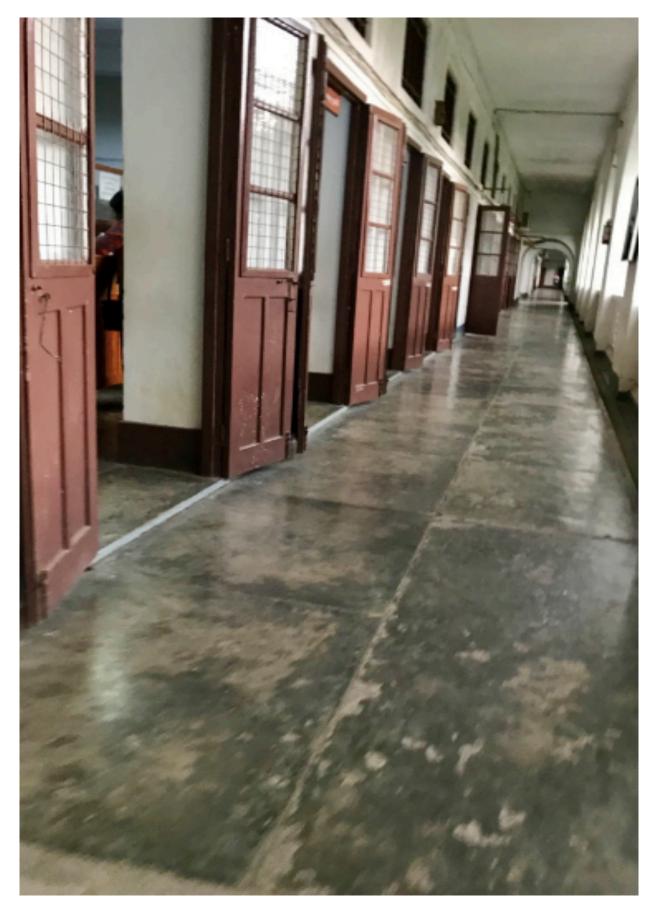
#### yangon

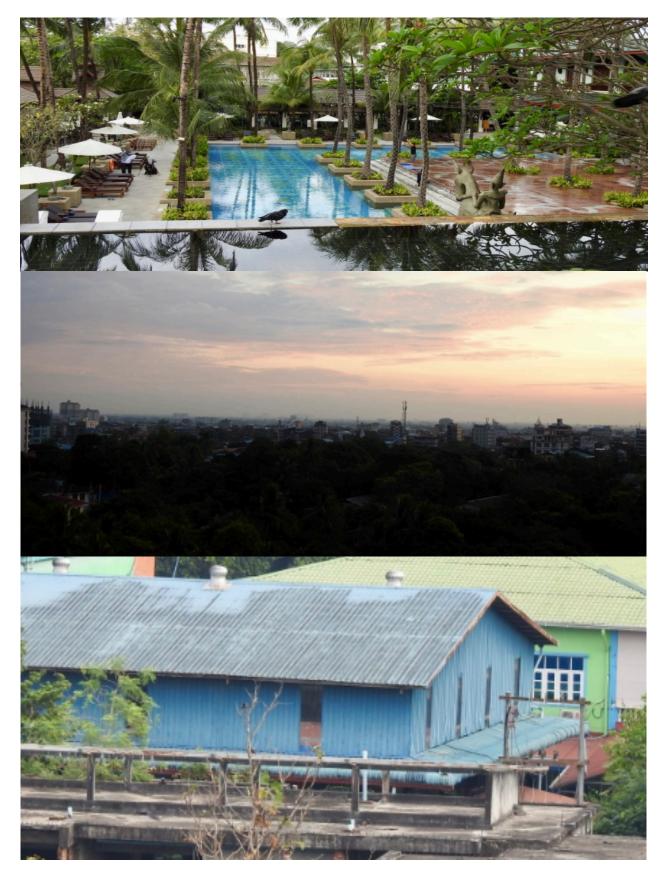
Yangon, also known by its former name Rangoon, literally meand "End of Strife." It was the capital of Myanmar until 2006.





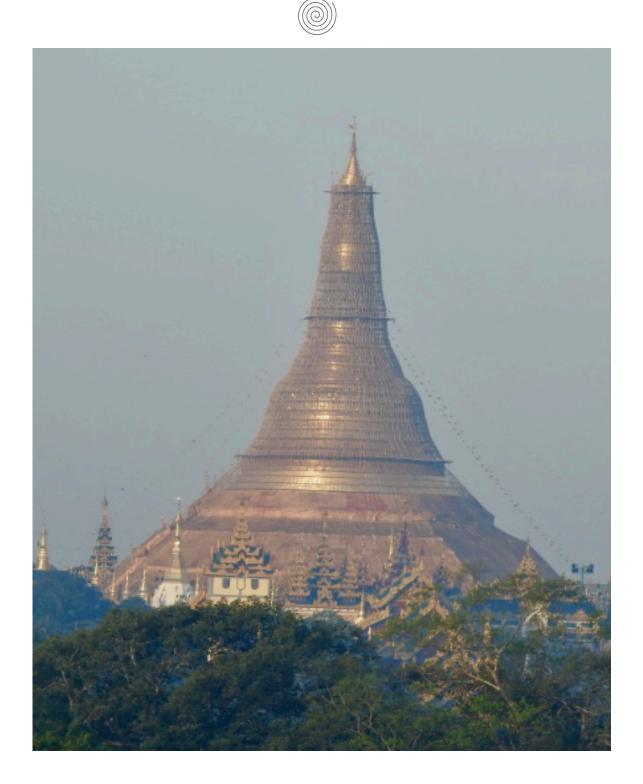


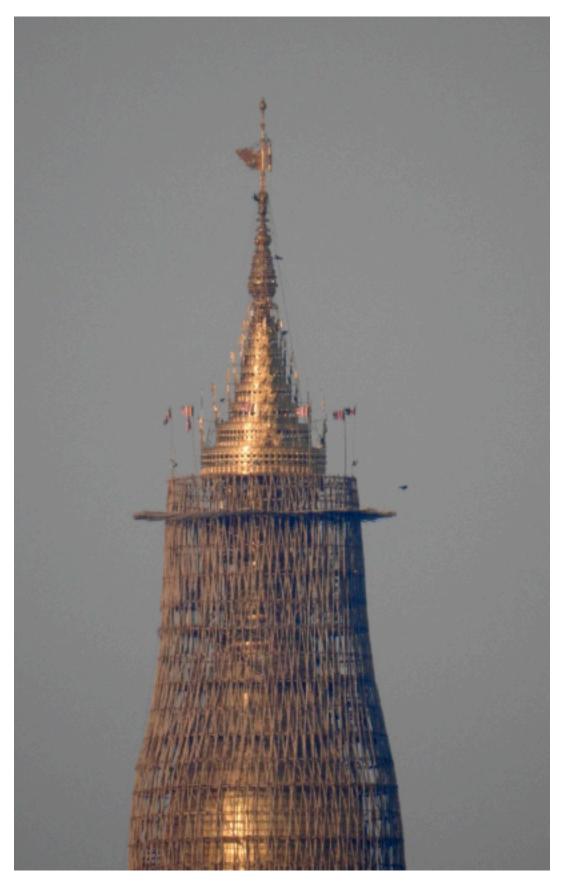


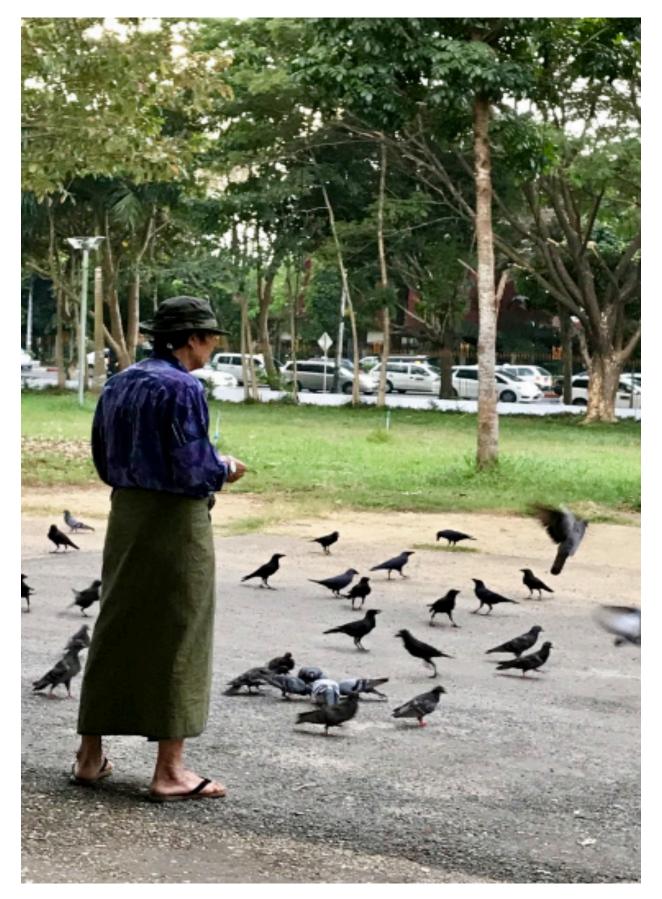


### shwedagon pagoda

Yangon is home to the gilded Shwedagon Zedi Daw Pagoda, Myanmar's most sacred Buddhist pagoda. It is 99 metres (326 feet) high.







#### nay pyi taw (NPT)

Nay Pyi Taw (NPT), or Naypyidaw, is the capital of Myanmar. It is a newly-built, planned city as the seat of government, similar to Canberra in Australia, or Washington DC in America. It is the home of the government of Myanmar, the Supreme Court, the Presidential Palace, and many government ministries.

NPT is about 320 kilometres (200 miles) north of the old capital, Yangon. Construction started in 2002, and on 6 November 2005, the administrative capital of the country was relocated from Yangon to the new site. It was completed in 2012.

NPT is located between the Bago Yoma mountain range and the Shan Yoma mountain range. The city covers an area of 7,054.37 square kilometres (2,723.71 square miles) and has a population of slightly less than one million people.









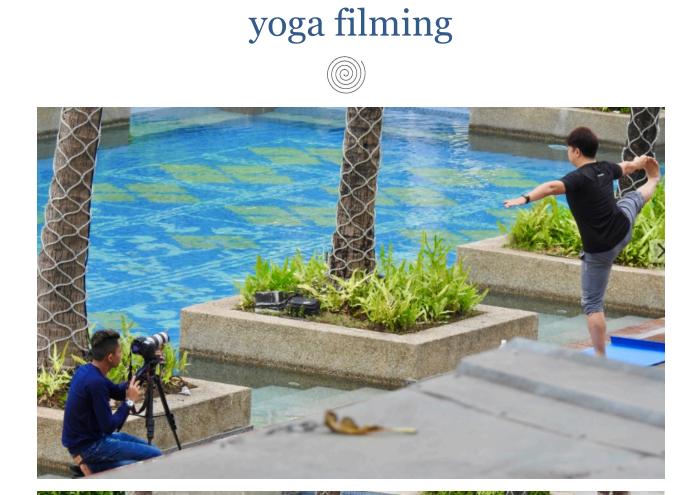


# cooking show filming

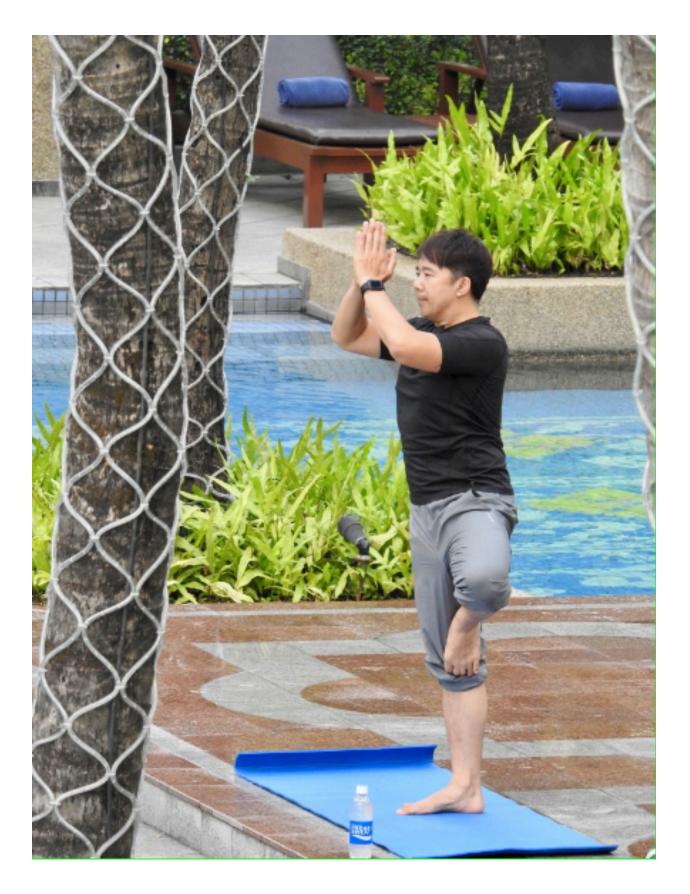


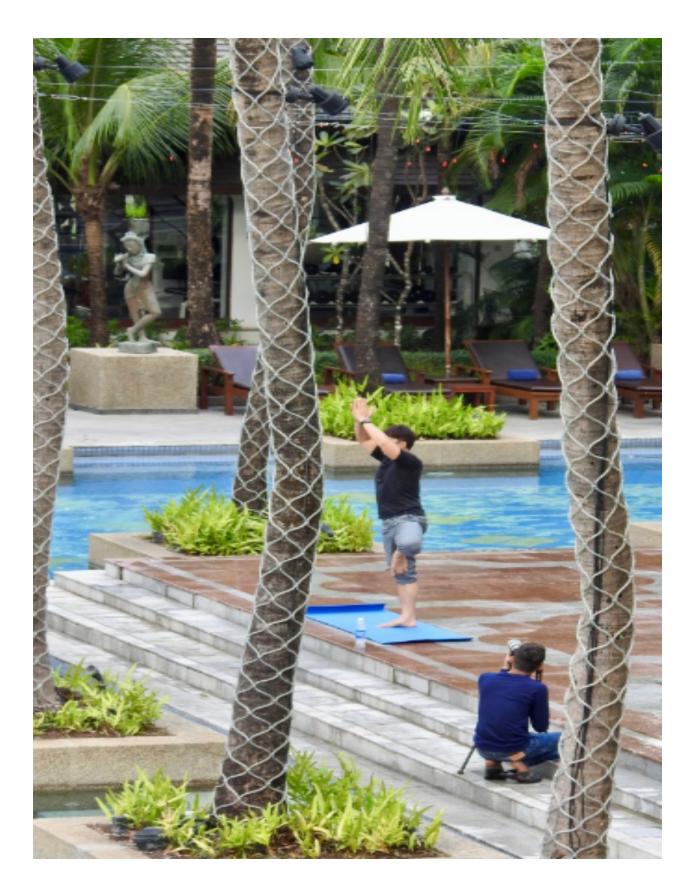




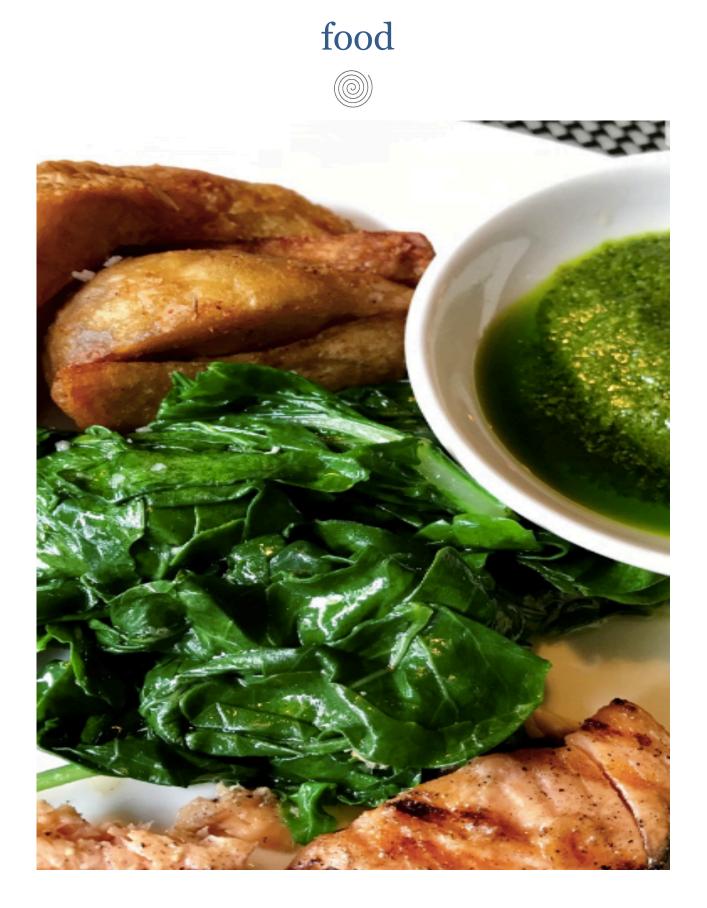






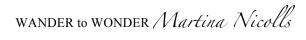


















### black drongo

The Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*) is a small songbird. It is all black with glossy feathers and a distinctive forked tail. It has a small white dot at the base of its mouth. It measures about 28 centimetres (11 inches) tall.

The Black Drongo is native to southern Asia, from Iran to India and from Sri Lanka to Cambodia, Myanmar, and Thailand. It is also found in Indonesia. It prefers tropical regions, light forests, and open areas. It feeds on insects, such as grasshoppers, cicadas, termites, wasps, bees, ants, moths, beetles, and dragonflies.

Both the male and the female Black Drongo make a cup-shaped nest, which takes a week to build. The female lays 3-4 eggs, which hatch after 14-15 days. Both the male and female sit on the eggs until they hatch. The chicks are born altricial – blind and featherless. Their eyes open after 8 days, and they leave the nest after 16-20 days. They gain the forked tail after about 21 days.











### the author: Martina Nicolls

I am an author and humanitarian aid consultant with over 30 years' experience in the management, implementation, and evaluation of international aid development projects, particularly in post-conflict environments and countries with transitional governments, such as Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Darfur, Afghanistan, Kashmir, Pakistan, Iraq, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Georgia, Kosovo, Rwanda, and Sri Lanka, and also Mauritius, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia – and others. I provide technical advice on areas such as peace-building and conflict mitigation, education, poverty reduction, human rights, child labour, data quality and financing models.

But mostly I am a wanderer. Wherever I am and wherever I go, I take photographs and I write. My books include:

Similar but Different in the Animal Kingdom (2017) A Mongolian Lament (2015) The Komodo Verses (2012)

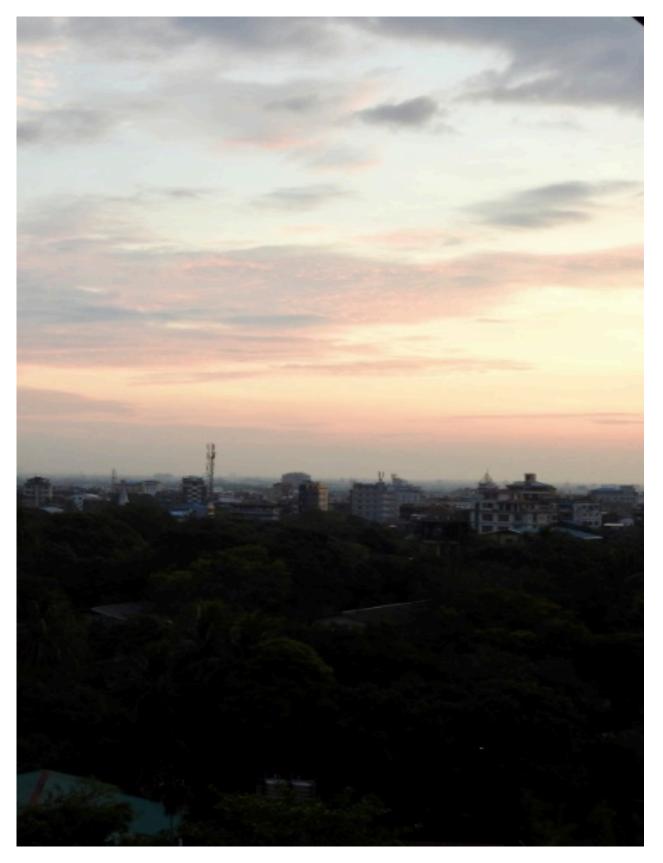
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Liberia's Deadest Ends (2012) Bardot's Comet (2011) Kashmir on a Knife-Edge (2010) The Sudan Curse (2009)

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