Best Buddhas: How Thais are driving tourism next door

Authorities in Yangon are keen to build on the popularity of local pilgrim tours to boost its share of the global travel market

JUN. 30: Every day dozens of tour buses stop outside Yangon's Chauk Htat Gyi Pagoda and unload their cargo of Thai tourists eager to view the 65m-long reclining Buddha inside.

Brought to the site in 1966 after decades of neglect, the Buddha image has been restored with the help of foreign donations. Its porcelain head with kindly blue-shaded eyes made from Japanese glass has...

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