

## Salween River

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### Salween River Latest News

Recent discoveries have indicated severe arsenic pollution along the Salween River, with unregulated mines in Myanmar, especially Shan State, being the prime suspects.

### About Salween River

- The Salween River, also known as the **Nu River in China** and **Thanlwin River in Myanmar**, is a **transboundary river in Asia**, shared by **China, Thailand, and Myanmar**.
- Approximately **2400 km** long, it is the **longest undammed/free-flowing river in mainland Southeast Asia**.
- **Course:**
  - The Salween River **originates** approximately 4,000 m above sea level in the **Tibetan range of the eastern Himalayas**.
  - The river **passes through western Yunnan, China, Myanmar**, and then forms the **border between Myanmar and Thailand** before it turns west and **drains into the Gulf of Martaban in**

**the Andaman Sea.**

- The **upstream portion** of the Salween **flows in parallel with** two of **Asia's mightiest rivers, the Mekong and the Yangtze.**
- The location where **three gorges carved by these rivers come together** – the **Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan** – was designated as a **World Heritage Site** by the UN in 2003.
- Since Salween **flows primarily through rugged terrain with dangerous rapids** along its course, **only small parts** of the river **are navigable** by large water vessels.
- Its **major economic use** is in **floating teak logs from the forests of southeastern Myanmar to the sea.**
- More than 10 million people live in the Salween basin, and the river is home to more than a **dozen ethnic minorities.** Some of the major groups include the **Shan, Karen (or Kayin), Karenni** (or Kayah), Wa, Lisu, Lahu, Kokang, Akha, and Hmong.
- In the Salween basin, there are over **200 species of fish, a third of which** are **found nowhere else** in the world.
- It is believed to support over **25% of the world's and over 50% of China's animal species.**

**Source: TOI**

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Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/salween-river/>

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