



Myanmar

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Every season more luxury river cruise vessels set sail in Myanmar (this year look out for the Cruisco Explorer, Sanctuary Ananda and Avalon Myanmar), so travellers keen to encounter something of the Burma described by Orwell and Kipling should go now before the political reforms begun four years ago (and subsequent flood of international investment) bring a rush of tourists and the temple city of Bagan becomes as busy as Angkor Wat. The gateway city of Yangon (formerly Rangoon) is already changing. Even so, this is a magical place of gilded pagodas, faded colonial buildings and red robed monks where the teahouse tradition is alive and well and sundowners still means pink gins at the old Strand Hotel. Watch for new hotels springing up everywhere including The Lake Garden, MGallery in Nay Pyi Taw and Sanctum Inle Resort on Inle Lake in Shan State.