



## *Yangon*

### GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

Our favorite period hotel along with the Metropole in Hanoi, La Residence in Luang Prabang, and the Raffles in Phnom Penh. The Governor's Residence is a romantic oasis situated in the heart of leafy Embassy Quarter of Yangon operated by the renowned Orient Express (now Belmond). A unique luxury property created from an imposing Burmese teak mansion restored to its pristine glory. It stands amidst a lotus garden and lagoon-like swimming pool. Its spacious, though somewhat dark teak rooms are stylishly decorated in tropical cottons and silks, looking over the lush foliage, and each has a large handmade, free-form bath.



Governor's Residence was exactly that in 1920s as the former Yangon home of a governor of the state of Kaya. The lush gardens separate it from a neighborhood of embassy houses that are already a little world unto themselves in Yangon. Our take: This all-wooden mansion tastefully transports guests back to the British era, but the real standout is the tranquil setting, unlike the historic Strand which is located on a busy central boulevard (if you have interest in the Strand, we recommend stopping in for tea during your Yangon sightseeing). For a more central with views over the city from the 19-story high-tower, we recommend the Traders which was recently renovated.

June 2013 inspection stay: Attentive service and tranquil setting both make the Governors the only place like it in Yangon. We especially liked the new, staff-hosted cocktail hour during which travelers can discover more about Yangon from expat staff living here.

Governor's Residence  
35 Taw Win Road, Dagon Township, Embassy Quarter  
Tel: +95 1 229860 Web: [www.governorsresidence.com](http://www.governorsresidence.com)



 **AUREUM BAGAN**

Bagan's newest and only luxury resort, with an exceptional location right on the temple's plain. This sprawling property of 87 rooms & villas overlooks Bagan's pagoda-studded landscape across a lotus-dappled lake. The towering teak-pillared grand lobby and the restaurant are very impressive and open.

The 42 deluxe rooms are situated at the back of the hotel with their own large swimming pool, whereas the villas have better views of the landscape.



The hotel is complete with an extensive spa facility, banquet facilities, a fully equipped fitness center, a sauna, a nightclub and a huge swimming pool which has a stunning view of Bagan's pagoda dotted landscape. A very comfortable hotel to return to after visiting the temples. Our take: Bagan's only luxury property with an Aman like-setting.

Aureum Bagan  
Near Bagan Viewing Tower, Min Nanthu Village, Nyaung Oo  
Old Bagan, Myanmar  
Tel/Fax: (95-61) 60046/7  
Web: [www.aureumpalacehotel.com/bagan.html](http://www.aureumpalacehotel.com/bagan.html)



*Mount Popa*

 MOUNT POPA RESORT





An unforgettable hotel experience, high atop a mountain situated in a lush jungle, overlooking Mount Popa and affording unparalleled views of plains, valleys and distant mountains. The rustic lodge set midway up the mountain feels as if you are on top Mount Kilimanjaro. Comprising tastefully designed chalets perched on the hill with magnificent views across the ravine, traditionally furnished and fully equipped with modern facilities amidst the lush hillside location. The extensive terracing and even infinity pool provide the perfect place to relax and take in the breathtaking scenery. The resort is committed to eco-tourism with the kitchen supplied by the organic produce from the resorts organic farms. From here, it is a mere 20 minute hike through the jungle to Popa.



*Kalaw*

 AMARA MOUNTAIN RESORT





Atop a hill, set within a forest of trees with views over the area, the European-run hotel is Kalaw's charming favorite, with immaculate light-filled tudor style buildings. Inside is spacious, with tranquil grounds to wander and Kalaw town center a walk fo 15 minutes away or using the hotel's high-end Trek mountain bikes.







## *Inle Lake*

 AUREUM INLE



Aureum Palace Resort & Spa is located in a nice location further up from the Inle Princess in the center of Inle Lake. A true world-class resort offers excellent service in an Aman-like setting. The resort sits on the edge of the lake with public spaces and front-row villas directly over banks of the lake. The bedrooms are over 100 square meters, elegantly decorated in a contemporary Shan tribal design with spacious bathrooms. Each room has its own outdoor terrace which is the perfect viewing platform for the pleasant sunsets over the lake. The outdoor pool provides the ideal place to cool off from the afternoon heat and the resort's spa offers traditional treatments and therapies. With indoor and outdoor seating, the resort's restaurant also provides scenic views of Inle Lake. Local Shan specialties are its highlights with Burmese and international dishes as well.

*Our take: By incremental renovations, the Aureum has become the finest property on the lake, surpassing the longtime favorite and now showing its age, Inle Princess. If staying more than a night, consider boating to the French Inle Lake View for one of your lunches.*



Aureum Inle Lake

Mine Thauk Village, Inle, Nyaung Shwe

Tel: (95-1) 399 341~5

Fax: (95-1) 399 346

Web: [www.aureumpalacehotel.com/inle-lake.html](http://www.aureumpalacehotel.com/inle-lake.html)



## *Pyin-U-Lwin (Maymo)*

 **AUREUM GOVERNORS**



As in Yangon, this mansion was the British Governor of Upper Burma's residence. Aureum Palace is in the hill station of Pyin Oo Lwin. The main building is the former governor's house, a gracious colonial mansion with lovely teak balconies, wooden beams and large windows situated within the city's famous, sprawling botanical gardens.

Although the stately Governor's House features Colonial-style accommodation, there are modern conveniences. The limited social areas are here and include the coffee shop, bar and indoor swimming pool. A lane runs down from the main house to Maymyo Restaurant, a lovely high-ceilinged room, filled with light that serves Burmese, Asia and European cuisines and has a large selection of wines. In summer the hotel often hosts a BBQ in the garden. Situated around the restaurant in the surrounding gardens are

the three dozen newer bungalows and six suites featuring hand-made furniture, glossy wooden floors with large balconies.



Each has a large en-suite bathroom with both bath and shower. There is satellite TV, phone and Wi-Fi internet access. Each buglaow enjoys views of the flower and tree-filled gardens from the veranda. The mansion is marked by elegant service from a bygone era. The property is set within botanical gardens and with a vineyard, destinations in their own right.

A choice of accommodations from deluxe rooms to the Governors Suite all well-appointed and classically designed with bespoke furniture. The ultimate indulgence is the Presidential Suite replete with grand lounge and dining room, all the space of having a seperate house with a private outdoor swimming pool.





*Our take: This Governor's, under the Burmese Aureum management, cannot compare with the one in Yangon. It shows its age, and due perhaps to a lack of significant visitors passing through Pyin Oo Lwin, not much effort has been made to restore the mansion to its former glory nor provide high-quality service or dining. Expect a stay of mixed quality.*



*Hsipaw*

 HSIPAW RESORT



Hsipaw Resort is the newest and nicest addition to the mix of simple hotels in Thipaw (Hsipaw). The resort is located in the Old Hsipaw Shan Village on the eastern bank of the Dokhtawady River. It offers 20 large (40 sqm) comfortable river view en-suite rooms located in 10 duplex bungalows.





The resort features a car park, well-maintained garden, bar, and a river view restaurant offering Myanmar, Shan, Western, and Chinese cuisines. Free Wi-Fi is available in public areas. The resort is equipped with fire extinguishers and features a fire assembly area.

The new Hsipaw town is located on the west bank of Dokhtawady river. Guests are provided with the complimentary boat transfer (one minute boat ride) to the other bank of the river on request.

The resort can organise a wide range of half day and full day tours specifically designed with its clients capabilities in mind. Overnight treks with local house visits are also an option.

Hsipaw Resort is located 5 hours drive from Mandalay, and 1,5 hours from Lashio, where a nearest airport is located.

Hsipaw Resort

No. 10, Inya Yeiktha Road,

Mayangone Township,

Phone: (951) 665 126, (951) 657 050

Web: <http://hsipawresort.com/>



## Mandalay

### MANDALAY HILL RESORT

An unexceptional larger chain hotel, the Mandalay Hill is nonetheless at the moment Mandalay's finest with recent renovations (oddly, the resort does have two suites set in a lotus pod that are amongst the most stunning in all Asia). The hotel does boast an ideal location near many of the city's most significant temples, Buddhist University, and convenient location below Mandalay Hill and facing the Royal Palace. The sprawling property features a spacious outdoor pool and gardens area. The rooms are richly decorated with Burmese textiles, teak carvings and furniture, and traditional artwork along the walls.



Although it's likely the last reason you've come to Myanmar but if you've got the urge, adjacent to the hotel lies an 18-hole golf course with driving range. Mandalay, more than any other destination in the country, has the least inspiring cuisine perhaps a reflection of its deeper spirituality, and the Mandalay dining venues are nothing special though if the marvelous chapati restaurants and tea shops do not call out to you, then don't be dissuaded from dining at the hotel.



## Ngapali

### AMARA





The secluded, immaculate location is everything about the Amara. The smaller resort (only 28 bungalows) is set upon a remote 2-mile beach well away from the two clusters of other resorts on Ngapali (the Aureum and Sandoway are about 5 miles to the south along a wider stretch but more busier beach).



The rooms are individual bungalows, tastefully built from teak and well designed and thought out with large verandas. All the lodges are air conditioned. The pool and bar area are pleasant and the deep end of the pool looks out over the beach. It is not uncommon for guests to have the pool area to themselves much of the time and the same for the beach in the afternoons.





There is a concerted effort to provide a real escape and peaceful stay, thus the resort has no TVs, clocks, or music. Though technically a 4-star property, location, service and dining make this the top choice in Ngapali.

Amara

Ngapali Beach, Thandwe

Tel: (95-1) 652 191

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 SANDOWAY



Myanmar's original and longtime favorite resort right close up on the sand and the clear blue waters of the Bay of Bengal in full view. Very reminiscent of the Governor's Residence in Yangon, the dark wood exteriors of the main building and villas and rich wood interiors transport you to another period. The resort is nestled among groves of coconut palms and other tropical foliage. Feast on fresh seafood in the restaurant or take refreshments by the oversize swimming pool – with further recreations including a spa, private cinema and well-stocked library.





*Princess Chalet*

**BACK**



## Dive Discovery

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