

Things You Should Know

Top Travel Destinations for 2012

Burma's Irrawaddy River



Burma has received a noticeable amount of attention this year, owing to its welcome but tentative democratic reforms and Secretary Clinton's recent visit.

Luxury choices here remain happily limited (there's not that many of them, but they are all excellent). In Rangoon, we recommend a stay at the fabled **Strand**, set amid the crumbling imperial buildings downtown, or the stately **Governor's Residence** in the residential diplomatic quarter.

The Orient-Express Road To Mandalay river cruise, which plies the upper Irrawaddy River between the ancient capital Bagan and the former imperial seat of Mandalay, is a mandatory experience for lovers of Southeast Asia. The serene and mirror-like Inle Lake and Ngapali Beach (along the Bay of Bengal) do not have any Harper-worthy properties yet, but there are perfectly suitable hotels at both, and they are recommended destinations for those eager to explore **Burma** before it turns into another Thailand.

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