

# Burma's Most Historic Hotel Is Getting Its Own Cruise Ship

Where: [Myanmar](#)

June 23, 2015 at 9:05 AM | by [juliab](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)



As you may know/remember, [The Strand](#) in [Rangoon/Yangon](#) is one of Burma's/Myanmar's most historic hotels. Built by the Sarkie brothers (of Raffles fame) it actually [resembles Raffles in Singapore](#) – except with a more authentically faded glam feel and far lower room rates.

The big difference between the Strand and [Belmond Governor's Residence](#), the other super-luxury hotel in Rangoon, used to be that Belmond has two river cruise boats and Governor's Residence is the obvious place to stay pre or post trip.

But now the Strand is upping the ante with **The Strand Cruise**, a cruise ship which will take to the Irrawaddy River in January or February next year.

The traditional teak boat will have 27 cabins and promises the same standards as you get in the hotel: butler service, signature Strand cocktails in the lounge bar, and afternoon tea (hopefully traditional Burmese as well as western). There will also be a pool and sun deck, wellness center, beauty salon and “reflexology station” – NICE.

The boat will take the traditional Irrawaddy route – Bagan to Mandalay over three or four days. It'll have various stops (as the other ships that do that route have), complete with a

private sandbank where they'll serve you a farewell dinner.

Although you don't have to be a hotel guest to cruise (and you'll have to get from Rangoon to Bagan/Mandalay in order to start it), there will be various special deals – book a suite on the ship, for example, and you'll have a night pre- or post-cruise thrown in at the hotel, as well as airport transfers.

Three night Mandalay to Bagan journeys start at \$1782, or four nights the other way round from \$1976. Expensive, yes, but pretty standard for posh Irrawaddy cruises. Don't forget, if you don't have that kind of money you can always slum it with a [\\$45 day cruise](#).

Rooms at the Strand proper currently start at \$180.

*[Rendering: The Strand cruise]*