

SOUTH EAST ASIA & THE ORIENT



THE ULTIMATE EXPERIENCE





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THE ULTIMATE EXPERIENCE

Welcome to 'Experience South East Asia & The Orient', the third in our range of destination brochures, but now updated and expanded to further inspire and excite you about the places where we love to travel.

Asia is described overleaf by our guest contributor, Stanley Stewart, as 'a world of overwhelming sights and senses, thrillingly different from our own, and from each other'. It is a world we know well - we have been planning holidays to Asia for some 25 years now and can call upon a wealth of information and expertise that is second to none.

However, it is service that really makes us tick here. I said as much in the first two of these brochures, on Africa and Australasia, and I will say so again. Everything we do is driven by a single-minded focus on providing the very best for you, our customer. From the first conversation you have with one of our travel specialists to the moment you arrive home, we promise to do everything that we can to deliver a truly Ultimate experience.

First-hand, in-depth knowledge and unqualified enthusiasm from your consultant is, of course, a given. But as important is the reliability and dedication of our in-country representatives and guides who will, without exception, go that extra mile and beyond to give you a holiday of a lifetime. And that is certainly true of Asia, where 'no problem' actually means just that!

That's why we say that, wherever you choose to go, travelling with us is not simply an experience. It's the Ultimate Experience.

With best wishes,



NICK VAN GRUISEN

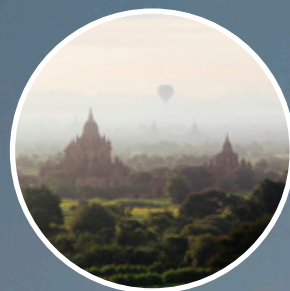


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*“Asia is full immersion, a world
of overwhelming sights and senses,
thrillingly different from our own,
and from each other.”*

STANLEY STEWART





WHY I LOVE ASIA



BY STANLEY STEWART



Award winning author and travel writer Stanley Stewart is a regular contributor to the Financial Times Weekend and its sister magazine, *how to spend it*. He also writes for Condé Nast Traveller and The Sunday Times.



Drifting down the Mekong, there is a moment when you round a bend and the old royal capital of Luang Prabang appears on the banks. It is day's end. A cluster of golden temple roofs, catching the last sun, emerge from the jungles of central Laos. A man poles a sampan through his own trembling reflection. Women appear beneath the mango trees descending the long steps to bathe in the river.

It is an iconic Asian moment - elegance, surprise, spirituality - focused on an old fashioned river town where colonial cafés and Buddhist temples rub shoulders. It is one of hundreds of such moments I savour from Asian travels. The world's largest continent offers a dense mosaic of different cultures and landscapes, from the Great Wall on the fringes of Manchuria to Java's surreal volcanic splendour, from the headhunters of Borneo to the nostalgic echoes of the Raj in the subcontinent. But what binds them together, other than an astonishing beauty, is the elegant sophistication with which these old civilisations approach everything, from the Divine to dinner.

Asia is full immersion, a world of overwhelming sights and senses, thrillingly different from our own, and from each other. Stepping into this bewildering mosaic, you can shop in glamorous boutiques in Singapore or the floating markets of the Mekong. You can stay in the cutting edge, high rise luxury of downtown Tokyo or elegant wooden villas in upper Burma. There are hill tribes that you encounter on foot and empty beaches that you can only reach by private motor launch. There are temples of chanting monks and alleys smoky with rich aromas from sizzling woks. There are silent vine-draped ruins and teeming cities where every street corner offers dozens of human stories.

They say that the 21st century will belong to Asia. Come and see it while it is still its old self - colourful, chaotic, vibrant, hospitable, a treasure trove of exotic surprises.





MYANMAR

AN IMPRECISE CHARM

Bagan

'It's perfect and for the life of me I cannot see where the precise charm lies.'
So wrote Rudyard Kipling on the steps of the Kyaik-than-lan pagoda at Moulmein during his travels through Burma at the end of the 19th century.

The same sentiment could be used to describe the country as a whole, and the aim of any journey here is to define its mysterious allure. Most though will include Yangon, Bagan and Mandalay, the beguiling names of the famous 'golden triangle' and ancient cities whose religious monuments reflect the spectacular legacy of Myanmar's unswerving Buddhist traditions.

It was Kipling again who immortalised the Irrawaddy River when he penned 'On the Road to Mandalay where the flying fishes play...', and a cruise on this mighty thoroughfare, sailing past bamboo villages and pagodas soaring above the forest canopy, is a wonderful way of linking Bagan with Mandalay. You can choose from a number of departures of varying durations in either direction, and from a fleet of shallow draught paddle steamers and river boats.

To escape the heat of the Irrawaddy plain, head up to Inle Lake in the cool of the Shan Hills. Famous for its Intha rowers who propel their boats across the lake's shimmering waters with one leg wrapped around an oar, it's a beautiful spot and will give you a wonderful insight into Myanmar's scenic and pastoral heritage.

You wouldn't immediately twin Burma with beach, but set amidst coconut palm and landscaped tropical gardens on a vast unspoilt stretch of white sand at Ngapali beside the Andaman Sea, there are one or two first class resorts whose charms are anything but imprecise! The perfect finale therefore...

But wherever you go in a country that has become one of the decade's 'must see' destinations, you can be sure of one thing. Like all those who have gone before, you will be captivated by its seductive magic and its delightful peoples.



“But wherever you go in a country that has become one of the decade’s ‘must see’ destinations, you can be sure of one thing. Like all those who have gone before, you will be captivated by its seductive magic and its delightful peoples.”



THE MYANMAR EXPERIENCE 15 DAYS



INCLUDES

2 nights at Belmond Governor's Residence, Yangon
4 night Irrawaddy cruise on Belmond Road to Mandalay (Bagan to Mandalay)
3 nights at Villa Inle Resort & Spa, Inle Lake
3 nights at Amara Ocean Resort, Ngapali

PRICES FROM

£6,125 per person
Includes flights

WHEN TO GO

Rains May - Sep, and Apr can be oppressively warm, so best from Oct - Mar

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

MORE TO SEE

Irrawaddy River Cruises

Belmond has just the one river cruiser, Road to Mandalay, but there is no shortage of other boats plying their trade on Myanmar's great rivers. The Irrawaddy Flotilla Company's Pandaw fleet, for example, comprises no fewer than ten colonial style paddle steamers.



The 'Golden Rock'

Delicately balanced and gravity defying, thanks to the weight of just one of Buddha's hairs placed in its stupa. One of Myanmar's most enduring attractions.



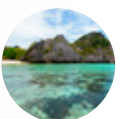
Kalaw

The classic colonial hill station from the days of Empire. Within easy reach of Inle Lake and with some lovely walks in the Shan Hills.



Mergui Archipelago

Sail the Andaman Sea with Burma Boating through some of the most remote islands in the nautical handbook, or enjoy total seclusion at the magical new resort of Wa Ale within the Lampi Marine National Park.



Inle Lake



Ngapali



[illegible][illegible]

The world of Belmond is synonymous with luxury. With style and flair. With intimacy, atmosphere and an unmistakeable sense of place. You'll always know where you are with Belmond.

Of Belmond's global collection of iconic hotels, trains and boats, two can be found in Burma. One hotel and one boat, each of them offering a travel experience that is uniquely Belmond.

Belmond Road to Mandalay brings all the glamour associated with their hotels to river cruising, offering timeless journeys along Burma's great waterways that reveal a true, behind-the-scenes perspective on one of Asia's most beguiling destinations.

Let your senses be stimulated by the scents, sounds and sights along the river banks. You'll stop at rural villages, barely changed over the centuries, visit pagodas, golden temples and monasteries, watch saffron-robed monks perform their daily rituals....

To further enhance your sense of place, on-board experts will deliver informal lectures on all matters Burmese.

Cookery classes, classical dancers and traditional marionette performances will keep you entertained. And open decks will allow you to sit, cool drink in hand, and watch Burma's river life slide slowly and magically by.

All journeys to Burma begin and end in the capital Yangon. An opportunity therefore to extend your experience and take a step back in time at **Belmond Governor's Residence**. Sit in one of the teak armchairs on the fan-cooled veranda here and you half expect the old 'Governor' to join you for sundowners.

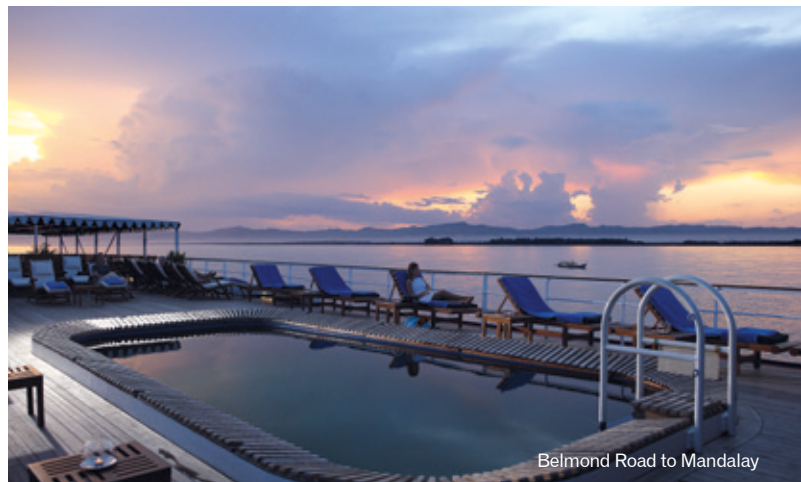
This 1920s colonial style mansion in the 'Embassy Quarter' and within strolling distance of Yangon's fabulous Shwedagon Pagoda has just 49 rooms and suites, al fresco dining under the soft glow of lanterns, gorgeous gardens with romantic lotus ponds and, of course, a Kipling Bar. Classically, wonderfully Belmond!

BELMOND ROAD TO MANDALAY SOME KEY FACTS:

- Operates two to four night cruises on the Irrawaddy between the pagoda studded plains of Bagan and the ancient royal city of Mandalay.
- Also operates the occasional longer expedition north through the gorges of the upper river towards Bhamo near the Chinese border.
- Carries a maximum of 82 guests in spacious en suite cabins, fully air-conditioned and furnished with beautiful fabrics and the finest linens.
- Serves acclaimed gourmet meals, combining the finest eastern and western cuisine, either in the main dining room or 'al fresco' on top deck around the swimming pool.

BELMOND GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE SOME KEY FACTS:

- Carved teak and sumptuous silk add timeless elegance to wonderfully spacious rooms and suites, which all have large terrazzo baths, courtyard or garden views, separate seating areas, writing desks, mini-bars and wireless internet.
- The main Mandalay Restaurant offers traditional Burmese and classic European dishes in a menu that is alive with colour.
- The Mindon Lounge serves fragrant curries buffet-style and 'art'ernoon tea' with a contemporary twist overlooking the flower-filled gardens.
- There is also a beautiful fan-shaped pool in the gardens and The Governor's Oasis, an exclusive spa set in a world of botanical bliss where ancient healing practices will leave you feeling relaxed, rebalanced and revitalised.



Belmond Road to Mandalay



Belmond Governor's Residence



Belmond Governor's Residence

BEYOND BURMA

Belmond's beautiful world extends beyond Burma to four other key destinations in Southeast Asia:

Belmond Jimbaran Puri - 'people come here to slow down, escape, clear their minds and leave feeling recharged' at this beachfront hideaway in the old Balinese fishing port of Jimbaran.

Belmond La Résidence D'Angkor - an oasis of luxury in the very heart of Siem Reap, yet just a 10-minute drive away from the jewel in Cambodia's crown that is Angkor Wat.

Belmond La Résidence Phou Vao - built as a royal palace in Laos' spiritual capital of Luang Prabang with gorgeous gardens and sweeping panoramic views.

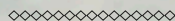
Belmond Napasai - a hidden gem of a resort on the island of Koh Samui, its 68 hillside villas built to resemble a traditional Thai village overlooking the Gulf of Thailand.

Eastern & Oriental Express - echoing the sumptuous style of the 1920's, this legendary train recreates the railway's golden age on its two to three day journeys through the Malay Peninsula between Singapore and Bangkok.

Be sure therefore to add a 'bit of Belmond' to your next journey through Southeast Asia.



JAPAN



THE 'LAND OF THE RISING SUN'



Torii Gate, Miyajima

It's Japan's 'otherness' that makes it such a fascinating place to visit. The unfamiliar signage, the reverence for tradition, the meditative gardens, the cleanliness and cool efficiency, the wonderful food...

Linked by high speed Bullet Train (keep an eye out for Mount Fuji on the northern horizon), the cities of Tokyo and Kyoto are likely to form the backbone of any Japanese journey; the one an exciting, modern, high octane, neon bright capital and the other the historic and spiritual home to temples, gardens and geishas.

However, you might want to stop off en route in Takayama to explore the Japanese Alps and in Kanazawa, the newest 'cool' destination with its renowned Samurai district and stunning Kenroku-en Garden.

The Bullet Train also links Kyoto with Hiroshima, its Museum and Peace Park dedicated to the dark legacy of the atomic bomb, and with the island town of Miyajima, a laid back world where you can rent bikes and explore its delightful little streets. It is here that a vermilion Torii gate 'floats' on the sea in one of the country's most iconic and enduring images.

Although travel in Japan can be confusing at times, you'll find many signs are in English and people are very friendly, courteous and considerate to 'gaijin' (strangers). Crime rates are also reassuringly low.

Prices are often a source of concern, but they are comparable to those in the UK, even in the larger cities. There is also a wide choice of places to eat, from Michelin-starred haute cuisine to the many pub-like and highly affordable 'izakaya' that offer excellent quality and value for money.

The most popular time to visit is from the last week in March to the first week in April, when the cherry trees blossom in spectacular profusion. The demand for hotel rooms, however, is at a premium.



THE JAPAN EXPERIENCE 16 DAYS



INCLUDES

4 nights at Palace Hotel, Tokyo
2 nights at Hanaougi Bettei Iiyama, Takayama
2 nights at Hotel Nikko, Kanazawa
1 night at Sheraton Grand Hiroshima Hotel
2 nights at Iwaso, Miyajima Island
3 nights at Hyatt Regency, Kyoto

PRICES FROM

£7,490 per person
Includes flights

WHEN TO GO

Summer can be wet and winters cold,
so best Mar - May and Oct - Nov

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

MORE TO SEE



Mount Koya

Stay, meet and eat with the resident monks in a temple lodge deep within the rural heartland of Buddhism to the south of Osaka.



Ryokan 'homestay'

Try to spend at least one night in a traditional 'ryokan' inn, an utterly foreign, highly confusing but richly rewarding opportunity to experience a way of life long lost to concrete and computers.



Hakone

Break your journey back to Tokyo at Hakone, famous for its 'onsen' thermal baths, volcanic landscapes and classic views of Mount Fuji's distinctive snow-coned profile.



Ski Hokkaido

The northernmost of Japan's main islands is principally known for its skiing, with the mountains above the resorts of Sapporo and Niseko boasting the world's lightest and fluffiest powder snow.



AMANEMU

GO AMAN IN JAPAN

Ancient hospitality meets contemporary expression at Aman's ryokan-inspired retreat, set amidst the rolling hills of Ise Shima National Park overlooking pearl-studded Ago Bay.

Those lucky enough to wend their way to this remote southwestern corner of Japan can look forward to a unique 'wellness experience imbued with a deeper cultural sensibility'. It's no idle boast. **Amanemu** is surrounded by pilgrim trails and sacred forests, and imbued with the rich pearl diving culture of the Pacific. It is also built around natural hot springs, or *onsen*, whose mineral water is the essential ingredient in many of the spa treatments.

Suites and villas are guided by classical ryokan tradition, with large glass windows, timber sliding shutters to embrace the glorious outdoors, natural materials that blend seamlessly with the surrounding forest, and soaking *onsen* bath tubs. Nourishment too is a key part of the **Amanemu** experience, and in a region famed for rare delicacies, The Restaurant dazzles with its offerings of spiny lobster, marbled Wagyu beef and foraged herbs.

Days can be spent soaking up the views or soaking your cares away in one of the spa's bathing pavilions, but for the more active there are sacred shrines and trails to explore, fishing in the sheltered waters of Ago Bay - **Amanemu's** chefs will then prepare tempura and sashimi from your catch, and championship golf at spectacular Nemu nearby.

One thing's for certain, however. You'll leave feeling refreshed, rejuvenated and re-nourished. In a way that only Aman can make you feel!

SOME KEY FACTS:

- From the nearest airports at Nagoya and Kansai, it's going to take you from three to four hours by train and then a 20-minute drive to reach **Amanemu**. Or it's a four hour drive from Kyoto. But it's so worth the journey!
- Each of the 27 suites measures 99 square metres and has a private terrace with either bay or garden view and a private *onsen*. The three larger villas boast a second bedroom, kitchen, private dining for up to six guests and their own garden,
- Adjacent to the outdoor infinity pool, which measures 33 metres and overlooks Ago Bay, a lounge with an outdoor sunken terrace serves cocktails (try a Pearly Salty Dog or Yamamomojito) throughout the day.
- The 2,000 square metre Japanese Spa is designed around a large *onsen* and features two private pavilions, a watsu pool, four treatment suites and a fitness centre. There's also a glass-walled studio and outdoor deck for your morning yoga.



AMAN, JAPAN

Aman's peerless reputation has been largely built on its unique collection of hotels in Asia. A reputation that has only been enhanced by their Japanese portfolio. In many ways Aman and Japan are a perfect fit, with minimalism, aesthetics and hospitality very much part of their respective DNA's.



The company's first urban retreat, **Aman Tokyo** provides a sleek sanctuary at the top of the Otemachi Tower in the heart of the city's Financial District, with 84 ryokan-style rooms and suites, spectacular views of the Tokyo skyline and Mount Fuji, fine dining and a magnificent spa.



After nearly twenty years of planning, **Aman Kyoto** will open at the end of 2019 in a secret garden at the heart of the country's most beautiful city. With just 26 wonderfully spacious rooms and pavilions, each with floor-to-ceiling windows framing the beautiful views, it might just be their best one yet.

CHINA

AN IMMENSE
AND REMARKABLE LAND



Li River, Guilin

Even those who have never set foot in China will be familiar with images of such global icons as the Great Wall, the Terracotta Warriors and the karst landscapes of Guilin. But everywhere you go, you'll tap a rich seam of culture.

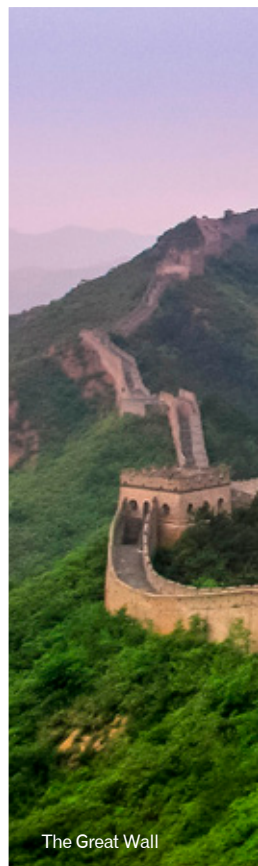
Journeys will often begin in Beijing with essential visits to Tiananmen Square, the intimidating Great Hall of the People, the Forbidden City, Imperial Palace, Temple of Heaven and Summer Palace (one of whose 19th century pavilions is now an Aman hotel). But don't miss the Hutongs of old Beijing, best explored on foot or by rickshaw.

The Great Wall is of course the city's biggest draw. This world wonder hugs the rolling hills to the north of Beijing and attracts millions of visitors a year, so best to drive out to Jinshaling, a remote section of the wall where the crowds are fewer.

From Beijing you can take the fast train south to Pingyao, a characterful 14th century Han city famous for China's first bank and trading shop, then on to the ancient capital of Xi'an to meet its world-famous Terracotta Army. Make time, too, for Xi'an's Islamic Quarter and Great Mosque, as well as cycling the three miles of fortified walls.

Yet further south is Guilin, whose dramatic watercolour landscapes and limestone peaks have been the inspiration for generations of China's painters. Guilin is not a place to rush, but three nights will give you the chance to cruise the stunningly beautiful Li River.

Journeys will often end in Shanghai, a cosmopolitan kaleidoscope that stands, or rather rises, in sharp contrast to Beijing. The grand 1920s and 30s architecture of the city's Bund will be more of a surprise than the towering glass towers dwarfing it, as indeed will be the sensational Maglev Train which hits 430kph and covers the 19 miles from downtown to airport in a blurring seven minutes.



The Great Wall



Shanghai



Terracotta Army



THE CHINA EXPERIENCE 14 DAYS



INCLUDES

3 nights at Hilton Beijing Wangfujing
2 nights at Jing's Residence, Pingyao
2 nights at Sofitel Xi'an on Renmin Square
3 nights at Shangri-La Hotel, Guilin
2 nights at The Yangtze Boutique Shanghai

PRICES FROM

£4,295 per person
Includes flights

WHEN TO GO

Summers are hot and humid and winters bitterly cold, so best Mar - May and Sep - Nov

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

MORE TO SEE

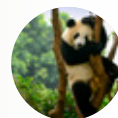
Datong

Take the train from Beijing to Datong, where 50,000 Buddhist statues stand within the Yungang Grottoes and the jaw-dropping Hanging Monastery perches precariously on the side of a cliff.



Chengdu

Pandas and spicy cuisine top the billing here in Sichuan Province.



Lijiang

The cobbled streets, arched bridges and canals of this enchanting town in Yunnan Province date back to the Ming dynasty.

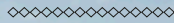


Hong Kong

Break your journey home with a couple of indulgent nights, and possibly a little shopping, in one of Hong Kong's many world-class hotels.



MONGOLIA



'LAND OF THE BLUE SKY'

"...home to nomadic families who are as welcoming as they are proud of their beloved 'land of the blue sky'."

Bordered by Siberia to the north and China to the south, Mongolia is a wild, untamed land of endless expanse where horses still outnumber people and a largely nomadic lifestyle echoes the days of Genghis Khan.

More than half of Mongolians continue to follow this traditional, pastoral way of life out on the grasslands, bounded only by far horizons. The rest mostly live in the country's capital and only city, Ulaanbaatar, a curious mix of crumbling Soviet-era architecture and vibrant café culture where all journeys begin.

To the south of Ulaanbaatar are the brooding ruins of Ongiin Hiid and the Buddhist monastery of Erdene Zuu Khiid, its temples built from the rubble of Kharakhorum and legendary 13th century capital of the Mongol Empire. For that quintessential grassland experience, stay here in one of the *ger* camps - a sustainable, nomad-run collection of yurts that come with eco-showers, hand-painted beds and yak's wool blankets. Mongolian glamping at its finest!

Further south, across vast steppe, are the wondrous desert landscapes of the Gobi where bearded vultures circle above the spectacular Yol Valley, Flaming Cliffs tower over the sands, ancient rock paintings dating back to 8,000 BC litter the craggy hills, and the "Fighting Dinosaurs" fossil was thrillingly discovered.

But you don't have to travel far from Ulaanbaatar to discover the true magic of Mongolia. Just to the west and the north of the city respectively are Gorkhi-Terelj and Hustain Nuruu, home to the world's last remaining species of wild horse (takhi). The lush valleys and rolling hills of these two national parks not only define the country's unique natural beauty but are also home to nomadic families who are as welcoming as they are proud of their beloved 'land of the blue sky'.



THE MONGOLIAN EXPERIENCE

15 DAYS



INCLUDES

2 nights at HS Khaan Resort, Hustain Nuruu
 2 nights at a *ger* camp, Kharakhorum
 1 night at a *ger* camp, Ongiin Hiid
 4 nights at Three Camel Lodge, Gobi
 1 night at Terelj Hotel, Gorkhi-Terelj
 2 nights at Shangri-La Hotel, Ulaanbaatar

PRICES FROM

£8,975 per person
 Includes flights

WHEN TO GO

Winters are long and bitterly cold, so best from May - Oct

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

MORE TO SEE



Lake Hovsgol

Northern Mongolia's pristine 'dark blue pearl' is an incredible spot for riding, kayaking and meeting the nomadic Tsaatan, who herd domesticated reindeer and still embrace shamanism.



Naadam Festival

Held every July at the National Stadium in Ulaanbaatar, competitors compete in the 'three manly sports' of horse riding, wrestling and archery.



Golden Eagle Festival

2019 marks the 20th anniversary of this remarkable October festival in the Altai Mountains of Western Mongolia which celebrates the golden eagle and the traditional practices of local Kazakh hunters.



Beijing

There are daily flights between Beijing and Ulaanbaatar, so easy to combine Mongolia with a few days exploring the myriad attractions of China's fascinating capital city.

A photograph of a stone wall with a small plant growing from a crack. The plant has green and yellow leaves. The wall is made of large, dark stones with some moss or lichen. The text 'INDOCHINA' is overlaid in white, serif font.

INDOCHINA

THE VERY BEST OF
VIETNAM, CAMBODIA AND LAOS

Vibrant cities and remote hill tribes, ancient temples and mighty rivers, colonial heritage and hauntingly beautiful landscapes...the diversity of Indochina is boundless. And just when you feel the need to take time out from all the exploring, you can indulge in the carefree pleasures of gorgeous beaches and relish, even learn how to cook, Asia's exotic cuisine.

Indochina comprises Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, but it is surprisingly easy to move from one country to another and in a little more than two weeks you can expect to see the very best the entire region has to offer.

You could, for example, begin in Laos at magical Luang Prabang and end at the world-famous Cambodian temples of Angkor, with a north to south journey through Vietnam sandwiched in between, but the permutations are as varied as Indochina's myriad charms and the choice is ultimately yours.

*“Angkor Wat, glorious legacy
of the Khmer Empire and true
ancient wonder of the world.”*

THE INDOCHINA EXPERIENCE 16 DAYS



INCLUDES

3 nights at Sofitel Luang Prabang
2 nights at Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi
1 night on luxury junk, Halong Bay
2 nights at Azerai La Résidence, Hue
2 nights at Anantara Hoi An Resort
1 night at Park Hyatt Saigon
3 nights at Belmond La Résidence D'Angkor, Siem Reap

PRICES FROM

£5,955 per person
Includes flights

WHEN TO GO

Best and driest from Nov - Apr, but with marked regional variations in Vietnam

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC



Luang Prabang, Laos



VIETNAM

ASIA AT ITS MOST COMPELLING

Patchworks of brilliant green rice paddies divide mist-shrouded mountains. Deserted, stunningly beautiful beaches frame a dramatic coastline. Imperial and colonial cities vie with secluded fishing villages and remote hill tribe settlements for your attention. Vietnam is hauntingly beautiful and utterly compelling.

Given the country's long thin frame, it makes sense to begin in Hanoi and end in Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh), hop scotching north to south along the way. Vietnam's two main cities are very different, Hanoi's grand villas and tree-lined boulevards a reminder of its French colonial past while Saigon is glitzy, brash, a fast growing tiger of a town, but both are equally enthralling with wonderful cuisine, great hotels and terrific shopping.

From Hanoi, you can drive out to Halong Bay for an overnight junk cruise through the distinctive limestone pinnacles that rise like dragons' teeth above the clear emerald waters of the South China Sea, before flying south to Hue. Straddling the banks of the Perfume River, Hue's former imperial stature is reflected in its iconic Citadel which is built along the

lines of Beijing's Forbidden City and enclosed by a 10-kilometre long, 10-metre thick, red brick wall.

South of Hue, across the stunning 'Pass of Clouds', is the intriguing port of Hoi An. Little changed since its 17th century 'golden age' (before the Thu Bon River silted up and terminated its lucrative trading in spice, silk and tea), Hoi An's wonderful wooden merchants' houses, markets and workshops are best explored on foot.

Vietnam is fast growing a reputation as a winter sun destination, with some real beaches, so make time for some serious indulgence before heading down to Saigon. A private pool villa at Six Senses' stunning hideaway within the dramatic sweep of Ninh Van Bay will tick all the boxes!

THE VIETNAM EXPERIENCE

14 DAYS



INCLUDES

2 nights at Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi
 1 night on luxury junk, Halong Bay
 2 nights at Azerai La Résidence, Hue
 2 nights at Anantara Hoi An Resort
 3 nights at Six Senses Ninh Van Bay
 2 nights at Park Hyatt Saigon

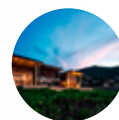
PRICES FROM

£5,220 per person
 Includes flights

MORE TO SEE

Six Senses Con Dao

Six Senses also has an exclusive retreat in the stunningly beautiful Con Dao island archipelago, so you can choose between the two. Aman junkies, however, might prefer the cutting edge comforts of Amanoi to the south of Nha Trang.



Mai Chau and Ninh Binh

To the south of Hanoi and well worth a side trip. H'mong tribal villages to explore and classic landscapes of karst mountain and paddy field to enjoy.



Cu Chi tunnels

If war memorabilia is your thing, then a day trip from Saigon to the Viet Cong's infamous network of tunnels is a must.



Sofitel Metropole

The hotel of choice for heads of state and the likes of Graham Greene, Charlie Chaplin and Fidel Castro since 1901 remains Hanoi's, indeed Vietnam's, most coveted address.



Halong Bay



Hoi An



LAOS

AN EARTHLY PARADISE

Landlocked, untouched and unspoilt. A place of deeply held Buddhist faith and rural tradition set against a mysterious and enigmatic canvas of mist-veiled mountains, impenetrable forests and silent rivers.

This 'earthly' paradise is also home to Luang Prabang, magical jewel of Indochina, UNESCO world heritage site and best preserved city in Southeast Asia. Time seems to stand still here, and it would be all too easy to watch life slowly drift by for days from one of the many small restaurants perched high on the banks of the Mekong, but there are numerous temples to explore as well as the mysterious Pak Ou Caves, a long-tailed boat ride away downstream and sanctuary to thousands of gold-lacquered Buddhist statues.

And with the opening of La Folie Lodge near Pakse, you can now combine Luang Prabang with the 4,000 Islands, the Mekong's mythical river archipelago.

Laos is ideally 'book-ended' by an overnight cross border cruise from northern Thailand and a few days to explore the archaeological treasures of Angkor Wat in Cambodia.



Luang Prabang



“...a mysterious and enigmatic canvas of mist-veiled mountains, impenetrable forests and silent rivers.”

THE LAOS EXPERIENCE 14 DAYS



INCLUDES

2 nights at Anantara Golden Triangle, Chiang Rai
1 night at Luang Say Lodge (Luang Say cruise)
3 nights at Sofitel Luang Prabang
3 nights at La Folie Lodge, Pakse
3 nights at Jaya House River Park, Siem Reap

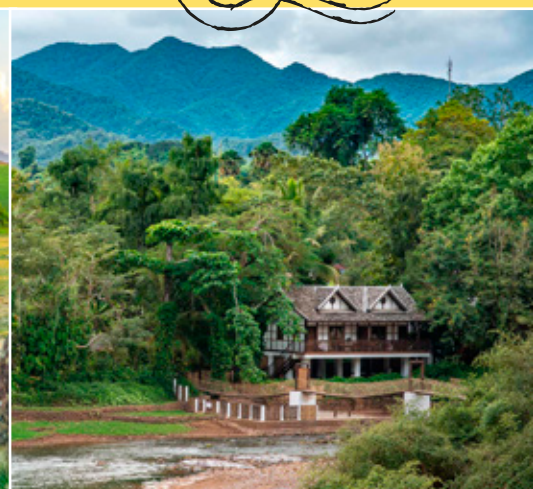
PRICES FROM

£5,825 per person
Includes flights

MORE TO SEE



PhaThatLuang



Vientiane

Laos' riverside capital is a charming Asian potpourri of crumbling French colonial mansions, steaming noodle stalls and glittering Buddhist antiquities.

Plain of Jars

Not an easy exercise to get there, but this megalithic and unexplained archaeological landscape will certainly add a degree of mystery to your experience!

Muang La Lodge

A beautiful boutique retreat in the untouched hills of northern Laos where you can hike, mountain bike and explore colourful tribal villages.

CAMBODIA

THE SMILING FACE OF INDOCHINA

Angkor Wat

Discover a strangely beautiful country eager to banish its turbulent past, openly hospitable people, and a cultural heritage defined by Angkor Wat, glorious legacy of the Khmer Empire and true ancient wonder of the world.

Between the 9th and 13th centuries, the Khmer Empire ruled over vast tracts of modern day Indochina from their seat of power at Angkor and a detailed history of Khmer might was carved into the many walls of this vast, fortified temple city. Years and years of neglect only added to Angkor's mystical appeal before the site was reclaimed from the jungle in 1860, and many of the more prominent ruins are still embraced by giant creepers and enormous fig trees.

You can of course fly to Siem Reap (gateway to Angkor), but for a unique insight into the renowned water culture of Asia's greatest river, take the scenic route and book your berth on a 4-day Mekong cruise from Saigon to Phnom Penh. And round the whole magical experience off with a few days of indolent luxury at Song Saa Private Island.



THE CAMBODIA EXPERIENCE 15 DAYS



INCLUDES

2 nights at Park Hyatt, Saigon
4 nights on Aqua Mekong cruise
3 nights at Phum Baitang, Siem Reap
4 nights at Song Saa Private Island

PRICES FROM

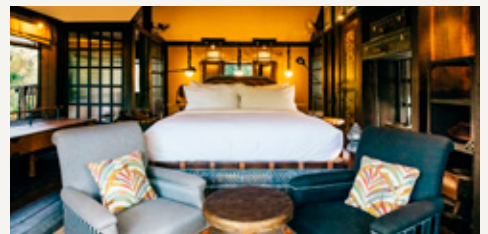
£8,695 per person
Includes flights

MORE TO SEE



Mekong River Cruises

Extend your cruise to seven nights and continue north from Phnom Penh across the vast expanse of Tonle Sap Lake, where floating villages are built on stilts for the seasonal floods. If water levels are with you, it's possible to sail all the way to Siem Reap.



Shintu Mani Wild

Glamping at its finest deep in the heart of the Cambodian rainforest. Days can be spent exploring the jungle trails and waterways of Kirirom, before returning to the polished teak and outdoor bath tub of your picture-perfect, riverside tent.



SOME KEY FACTS:

- You can fly from Siem Reap and Saigon or drive from Phnom Penh (4 hours) south to Sihanoukville, where Song Saa's speedboat will pick you up for the 45-minute transfer to the resort.
- The 24 one and two bedroom villas, many of them overwater and with outstanding sea views, are the ultimate in luxury. Each has a plunge pool, outdoor shower and secluded private deck.
- Facilities include a spa and wellness centre on the eastern shore, so ideal for sunrise yoga, and a large infinity pool. You can also sail, kayak, paddle board, snorkel and dive, as well as explore the archipelago with local Koh Rong fishermen.

INDONESIA



'LAND OF THOUSAND ISLANDS'



Borobudur

Little is known of Indonesia beyond Bali, but the world's largest archipelago has so much more to offer. There are actually more than 17,000 volcanic islands, each very different but collectively home to magnificent landscapes, wondrous ancient temples, palm-fringed white sand beaches of pure perfection, the legendary orangutan and even 'dragons'.

So much to offer indeed that you are spoilt for choice, but we suggest that you begin with a couple of gentle days in Singapore before flying to Yogyakarta on the island of Java, where you can combine the cutting edge comforts of Amanjiwo with the temples of Borobudur. Within walking distance of the resort and ringed by volcanoes, this spectacular ancient site is the largest Buddhist monument in the world.

Continue east to Bali, but instead of following the well beaten trail to the trend-setting beach scene at Seminyak on the south coast, head inland to the island's cultural heart of Ubud where verdant hills are tiered by emerald rice and more traditional ways endure. Although Indonesia is the world's

most populated Muslim country, Hinduism remains the essence of Balinese life, a daily and harmonious embrace of ceremony, ritual and artistry. Stay here at The Chedi Club, an exclusive private retreat in the rural paradise of Tanah Gajah.

The beach is best left to last and to Lombok, slowly emerging from its sleepy, back packer reputation and with far fewer visitors than its more illustrious neighbour. There are now a number of excellent resorts at Senggigi on Lombok's west coast that offer fantastic value for money, but you'll find greater seclusion at Hotel Tugu further to the north as well as a winning formula of pristine white sand beaches that stretch for ever, snorkelling heaven in the nearby Gili Islands and majestic sunrises over Mount Rijiani.

THE INDONESIA EXPERIENCE
16 DAYS



INCLUDES

2 nights at Six Senses Maxwell, Singapore
3 nights at Amanjiwo, Yogyakarta
3 nights at The Chedi Club, Ubud
5 nights at Hotel Tugu Lombok

PRICES FROM

£5,100 per person

Includes flights

WHEN TO GO

Tropical throughout the year, but at its best and driest from Apr - Sep

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

“Ringed by volcanoes, this spectacular ancient site is the largest Buddhist monument in the world.”

MORE TO SEE

Tanjung Putting National Park

The jungles of this vast sanctuary in Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo) are home to 75% of the world's wild orangutans as well as an astonishing array of flora and fauna.



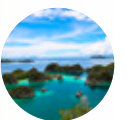
Komodo Dragons

Three metres long and weighing up to 100 kg, these fearsome monitor lizards roam the rugged confines of Komodo Island in the Lesser Sunda chain. They are of course the main attraction, but Komodo also boasts some of the most diverse coral and marine life on the planet.



Phinisi Sailing

Charter one of these traditional but very comfortable boats and explore the remote eastern end of the Indonesian Archipelago. Most ply their trade in Raja Ampat, a breathtakingly beautiful chain of islands where the snorkelling and diving in the 'coral triangle' is out of this world.



Mount Bromo

When in Java, find time if you can for the Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park. Volcanic landscapes at their most dramatic and surreal.



BORNEO



AN INTREPID ASIAN ADVENTURE

Semenggoh

Vast areas of virgin rainforest, incised by snaking rivers and hidden waterfalls. A unique wildlife cast that includes Proboscis monkeys, flying squirrels, pigmy elephants and orangutans. Nowhere does tropical jungle adventure quite like Borneo.

The world's third largest island is home to two Malaysian enclaves, Sabah and Sarawak, and each has its own share of natural wonders. Sarawak's jewel in the crown is undoubtedly the Mulu National Park with its gruyere-like cave systems, some big enough to house St Paul's, which stage an amazing nightly exodus of millions of bats. Across the border in Sabah, the Danum Valley and Kinabatangan River will also dazzle you with their array of flora and fauna.

Well worth a detour from Sarawak's riverside capital of Kuching is the Semenggoh orangutan sanctuary, and where better to end your adventure than on the white sand beaches of Gaya Island, just offshore from Sabah's capital of Kota Kinabalu.



Kinabatangan



THE BORNEO EXPERIENCE

19 DAYS



INCLUDES

3 nights at Kuching Hilton
 2 nights at Aiman Batang Ai Resort
 2 nights at Mulu Marriott Resort & Spa
 1 night at Four Points by Sheraton, Sandakan
 2 nights at Sukau Lodge, Kinabatangan River
 3 nights at Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum Valley
 3 nights at Gaya Island Resort

PRICES FROM

£6,100 per person
 Includes flights

WHEN TO GO

Hot and humid throughout the year, but driest from Apr - Sep

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

MORE TO SEE



Mount Kinabalu

Tackle this challenging 2-day ascent and you can watch the sun rise over the jungle from South-East Asia's highest point.



Bako National Park

Sarawak's oldest park, and a wetland paradise of mangrove, coastal rainforest and pristine beach, can be easily explored on a day's boat trip from Kuching.



Headhunters Trail

A demanding 4-day trek deep into the jungle in the footsteps of the Kayan headhunter parties, who dragged their longboats through the forest from the Melinau Gorge to the Terikan River.



Langkawi Island

Break your journey home in Kuala Lumpur and hop north to Langkawi Island for a few indulgent days at either The Datai or Four Seasons.



THAILAND

A LAND OF SMILES

Thailand is a feast for all the senses, an alluring blend of Buddhist wats, remote hill tribes, white sand beaches, floating markets, colours, aromas and exotic tastes.

All journeys begin in Bangkok whose star attraction is the Grand Palace - a walled, magical, inner city retreat filled with a fantasia of statues, murals, gold leaf lacquer, multi tiered roofs, mother of pearl inlay, dreaming spires and the Emerald Buddha. Although made of jade, the image is the most revered of Thailand's many Buddhas.

Make time as well for a water taxi ride along the broadly snaking Chao Phya River and through the labyrinth of Klongs (canals) that give Bangkok its nickname, 'Venice of the East'.

In the far north of the country is Chiang Rai, gateway to the Golden Triangle. Defined by the Mekong, where Thailand meets Myanmar and Laos, this small town with its temples, night bazaar and laid back charm offers ready access to the surrounding hills and jungles.

Here too is Chiang Mai, which means 'new town' but is 700 years old with its original moat and chunks of medieval

walls still in evidence. There are some 300 temples to explore, including 13th century Wat Chiang Man and mountain-top Doi Suthep. But don't miss the opportunity to browse Chiang Mai's Night Market where lacquered boxes, celadon ceramics, wood carvings and parchment parasols are hidden among some worthless tourist tat!

Chiang Mai is also famous for its unique hill tribes, six distinct ethnic minorities who have migrated from Burma, China and Laos to establish roots in the highlands and who retain their individual language and customs.

To the south are the beautiful islands of Phuket and Koh Samui, each an Indian Ocean pearl of palm-fringed beach, aquamarine sea and lush, verdant scenery. World-class hotels such as the Six Senses Resort of Yao Noi abound in this tropical paradise and provide the perfect antidote to the rigours of Bangkok and the far north.



Chiang Rai



Wat Pho Temple, Bangkok

THE THAILAND EXPERIENCE 16 DAYS



INCLUDES

2 nights at The Siam, Bangkok
3 nights at 137 Pillars, Chiang Mai
3 nights at Anantara Golden Triangle, Chiang Rai
5 nights at Six Senses Yao Noi, Phang Nga

PRICES FROM

£8,430 per person
Includes flights

WHEN TO GO

Rains May - Oct, so best Nov - Mar
(Apr is dry but oppressively hot)

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

MORE TO SEE



Eastern & Oriental

Recreate the golden age of rail travel aboard Belmond's luxurious Eastern & Oriental Express. Two and three day journeys through gently unfolding rural landscapes link Singapore with Bangkok via the infamous Kwai River Bridge.



Mekong River

Sail the mighty Mekong on a two day Luang Say cruise from northern Thailand to Laos' spiritual capital of Luang Prabang. A great way to begin your adventure in Indochina.



Resorts of Thailand

There are any number of options - the Surin on the island of Phuket; the Sarojin on the sublime Khao Lak coast; Anantara Rasananda on Koh Phangan; or Rayavadee, set amidst the spectacular limestone karsts of Krabi. The choice is yours.

SIX SENSES YAO NOI

OUR FAVOURITE THAI GETAWAY

“...you’ll feel as if you’ve stepped into the final scenes of a James Bond film...”

No matter how many tropical hideaways you have stayed in, we guarantee that you'll find this Six Senses gem of a resort on the lush island of Yao Noi utterly, beguilingly amazing.

For a start, the setting is jaw-dropping. Perched on a cliffside with uninterrupted views of the fantastical limestone karsts that rise from the emerald waters of Phang Nga Bay, you'll feel as if you've stepped into the final scenes of a James Bond film when you arrive, by means of an exhilarating speedboat ride from the mainland.

The additions curated by man, but inspired by the natural wonder of it all, are equally amazing. Surrounded by luxuriant tropical gardens, and offering chic contemporary refinement, each of the 56 villas has its own pool and sun terrace for drinking in those views in blissful seclusion.

Small wonder James Bond was impressed. But Phang Nga Bay is more than a backdrop to a film. It's a magical world where you can kayak through limestone caverns, dive and snorkel in spectacular marine gardens, and island hop on a traditional long-tail boat in search of deserted beaches.

SOME KEY FACTS:

- Yao Noi is a 30-minute drive and then a 45-minute boat ride from the international airport at Phuket.
- There are 56 pool villas, some with their own spa *salas*, as well as an expansive two bedroom beach villa.
- You have a choice of three restaurants - the split-level Dining Room with a waterfall at its centre and a Chef's Table upstairs, the beachside Living Room and Terrace where buffet breakfasts are served, and the more exclusive Hilltop Reserve which boasts its own swimming pool and stunning views across the bay.
- Resort facilities also include a world-class Six Senses spa, gymnasium, aerial yoga, fully equipped water sports centre and bike trails.



SIX SENSES, SOUTH EAST ASIA

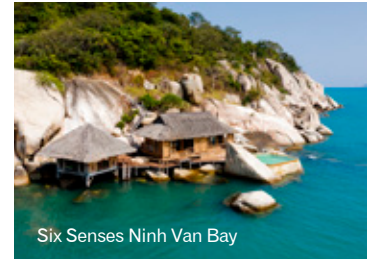
There are seven other properties in South East Asia that belong to this unique hotel and resort brand, each defined by Six Senses' commitment to 'total harmony with the natural environment'.



Six Senses Samui is set on a gently sloping headland at the northern tip of the island with just 66 private villas and glorious views across the Gulf of Thailand.

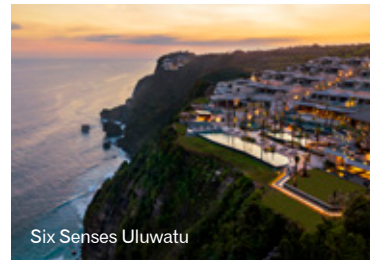


Six Senses Con Dao

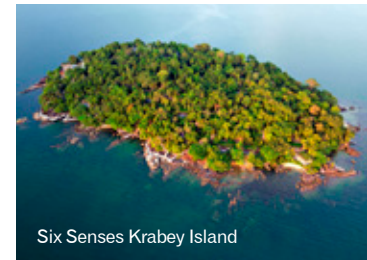


Six Senses Ninh Van Bay

In Vietnam, the island resort of **Six Senses Con Dao** sits in glorious seclusion within a protected marine park and echoes the design of a traditional fishing village, while towering mountains and white sand beaches are the backdrop to the stunning overwater villas of **Six Senses Ninh Van Bay**.

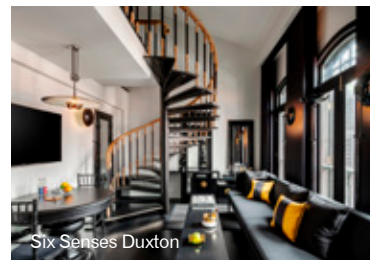


Six Senses Uluwatu

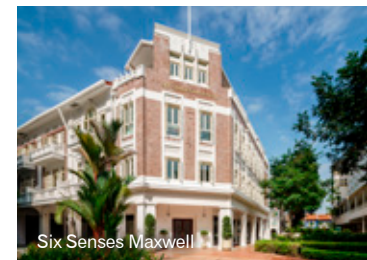


Six Senses Krabey Island

Six Senses Uluwatu boasts a dramatic clifftop location on the southernmost point of Bali where the sacred temple of 'Pura Uluwatu' is considered one its core spiritual pillars. **Six Senses Krabey Island** offers the definitive private island experience amidst azure waters off Cambodia's south coast.



Six Senses Duxton



Six Senses Maxwell

Completing the set are **Six Senses Duxton** and **Six Senses Maxwell**. Both in Singapore and both beautiful restorations of heritage houses, these boutique hotels are destinations in their own right or the perfect stopover on the way to and from Australasia or elsewhere in Asia.

MEET THE TEAM

AND SHARE THEIR
'ULTIMATE EXPERIENCES'



AYESHA CRONIN

“Climbing to a viewpoint high above the Danum Valley. Quite a struggle in the sticky heat, but worth sweating it out for the spectacular views across Sabah's pristine lowland jungles.”



NEIL DUNHAM

“Net fishing for my supper on the Thu Bon River near Hoi An in central Vietnam. Not a bite and not as easy as it looks, but great fun!”



ROB KENT

“The Six Senses hideaway of Yao Noi on Thailand's awesome Phang Nga Bay is the perfect spot to end any journey through Southeast Asia.”



HOLLY BRIGHTWELL

“The world-famous Buddhist temples of Borobudur are of course a must, but make time too for the wondrous collection of massive Hindu shrines at Prambanan on the Indonesian island of Java.”



DAN MILLS

“There are more than 5,000 reasons for following the magical Torii gate road that stretches for ever at the Japanese Shinto shrine of Fushimi Inari in southern Kyoto.”

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ALASKA



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