



BELMOND

**LA RÉSIDENCE PHOU VAO**

LUANG PRABANG

*Welcome To Belmond La Résidence Phou Vao*

As dawn breaks,  
monks wander  
between glistening  
temples. Follow  
them. Be seduced  
by this sacred city.

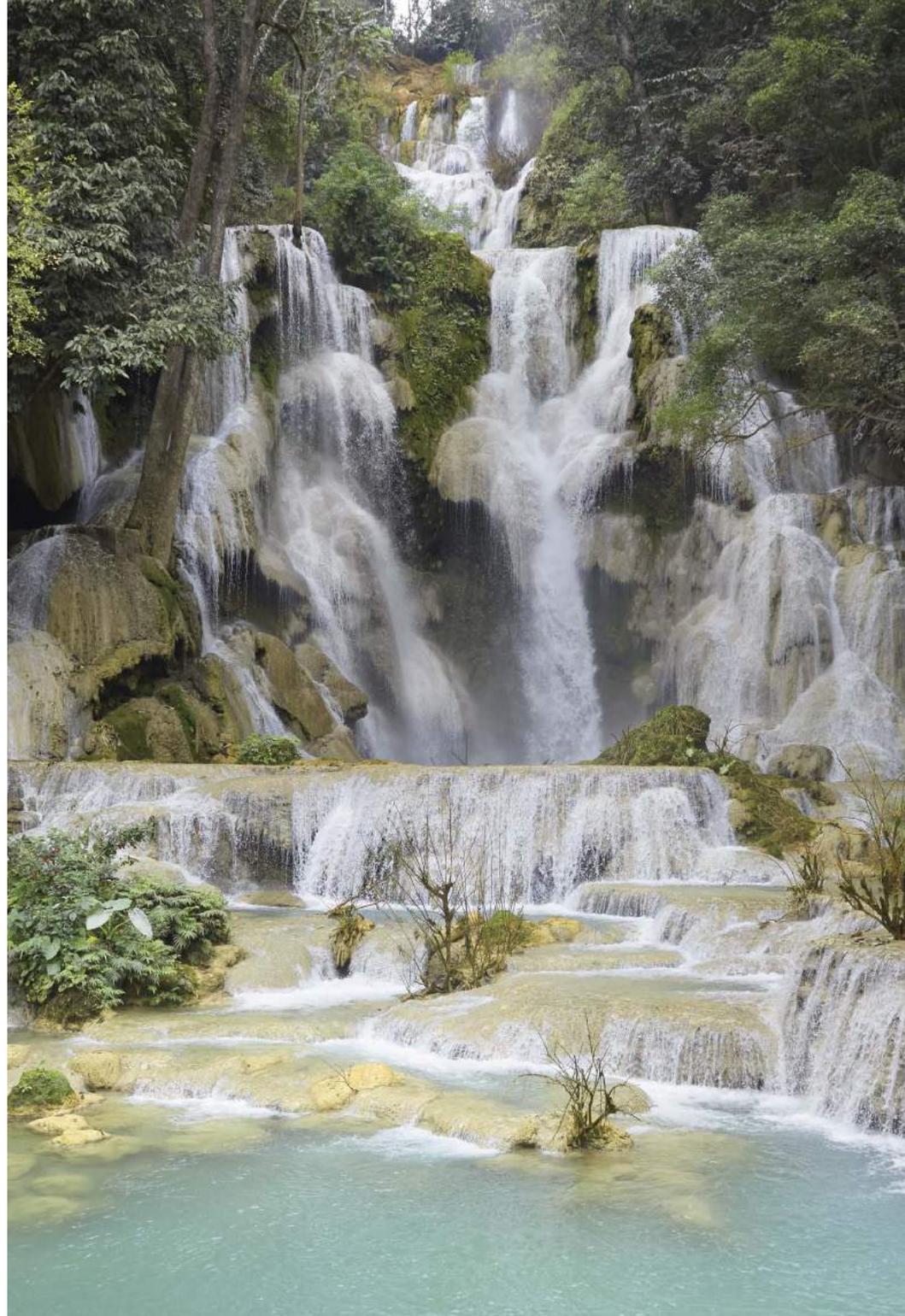
# Discover Laos

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*Tea leaves glisten like emeralds on mountains. Palms sway over aureate temples. Majestic stretches of the mighty Mekong give way to cascading waterfalls*

Often overlooked in favour of its better-known neighbours, Laos is the crossroads of Southeast Asia – and one of the region's best-kept secrets. From the jungle-clad hills of the north to the islands far south, it is a kaleidoscope of natural and cultural diversity. Like an artery coursing across the landscape, the Mekong is the country's lifeline. Around it, tribes populate mountains abundant with wildlife while shimmering rice paddies feed peaceful cities. There's a rustic charm in this so-called Kingdom of a Million Elephants; people are renowned for their kindness and humour. Now you can sample the laid-back life.

To approach Luang Prabang by slow boat is to experience one of the world's greatest river journeys. Nestled in the mountains, this romantic town is barely touched by modernity. Saffron-robed monks collect alms between colonial shophouses and red-roofed temples. Moments away, Belmond La Résidence Phou Vao is your perfect launchpad into this relic of Indochina. From our hilltop vantage point, we offer a serene retreat after days spent exploring. Gather beside our lily pond as the sun dips behind Mount Phousi and raise a toast to this sacred land.





*“I would love to live like a river  
flows, carried by the surprise  
of its own unfolding”  
– John O’Donohue*



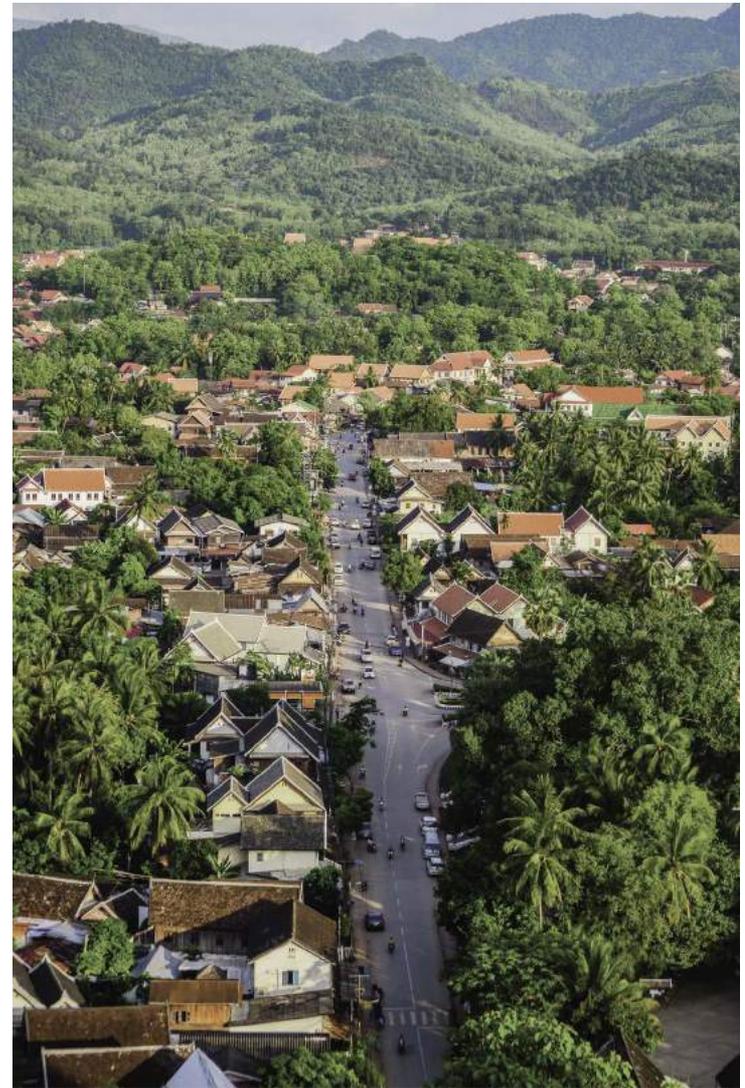
# Uncover Luang Prabang

*As dawn breaks, monks in amber-hued robes collect alms. Between faded Indochinese villas, a waft of freshly brewed coffee mingles with exotic aromas*

Framed by hazy mountains, Luang Prabang is a symphony of natural beauty. Positioned at the sacred confluence of the Mekong and Nam Khan rivers, its abundant countryside is threaded with meandering hiking trails and aquamarine waterfalls.

Once the ancient royal capital of the Lan Xang Kingdom, today Luang Prabang is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The town's ancient temples, former royal palaces and colonial architecture breathe a spiritual nostalgia into our modern era and invite visitors to cross a threshold into Laos' past.

The population may have grown in recent years, but the town remains as if in a time capsule, as friendly and as slow-paced as a welcoming village. Society operates here much like it has for centuries. Monks rise with the sun and process through the streets as shrines glisten and street vendors yawn into life. Its captivating, unspoiled atmosphere promises to seduce even the most well travelled among us.



## A Warm Welcome

*Enter a world where time stands still. Our tranquil hill-top sanctuary immerses guests in the culture and countryside surrounding this historic town*

Long ago, Lao princes would climb Phou Vao hill close to Mount Phousi to fly kites. As the colourful tails danced in the breeze, the young men practised the art of spatial meditation. Today the spot is known as 'the hill of kites' and is home to Belmond La Résidence Phou Vao.

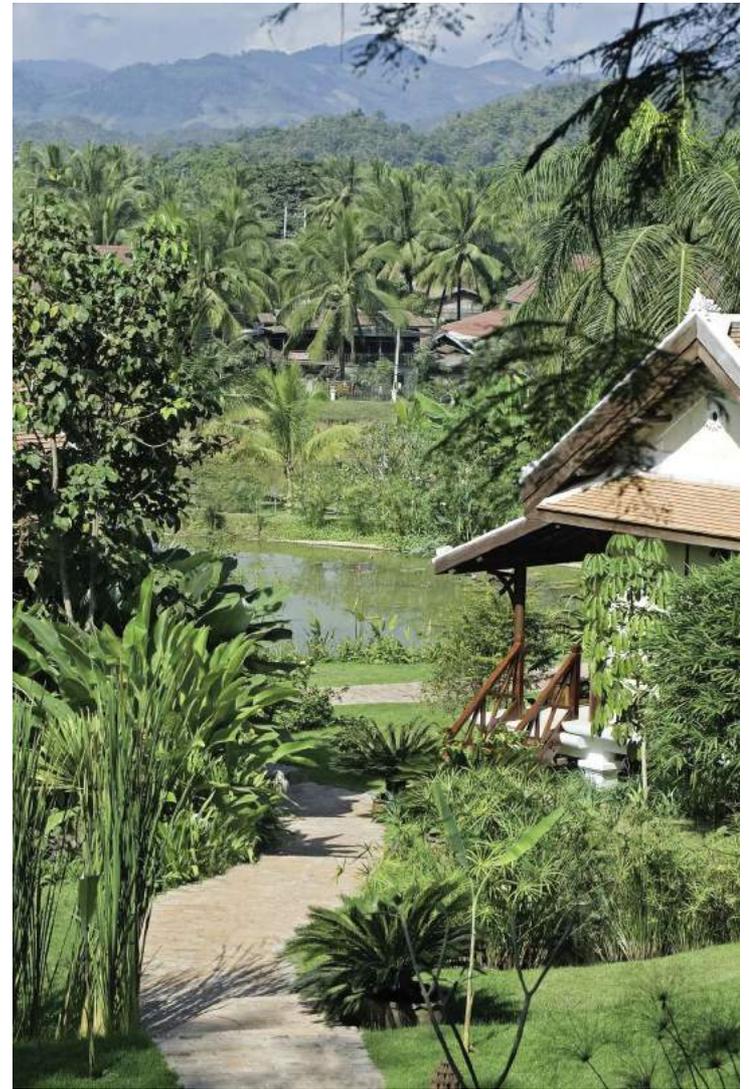
Step inside this colonial-style retreat and your spirits will soar as high Mount Phousi. Be greeted at our open-air reception where low-slung tables and inviting chairs evoke the feeling of a home away from home. Indeed, guests quickly acclimatise to the air of serenity here. Visitors are often found at peace, soaking up vistas in the sheer luxury of silence.

We approach nature with a spirit of reverence, and you're sure to feel it too. Outside, bougainvillea and frangipani are framed by distant mountains. Inside, the decor is a palette of traditional Lao materials: the warm tones of teak and rosewood are softened with furnishings of silk and cotton. With us, your stay promises to be one of authenticity and connection.



*Discover more about what makes our hotel unique. Take a look inside our walls at [belmond.com/laresidencephouvao](https://belmond.com/laresidencephouvao)*





# Junior Suites

*Marrying Laotian charm with the elegance that has become a hallmark of Belmond, our Junior Suites offer a truly immersive retreat*

To stay at Belmond La Résidence Phou Vao, is to experience true connection. In our airy Junior Suites, large windows ensure that guests feel at one with the land. Against rosewood furnishings, traditional handmade textiles, bright flowers and fresh local fruits reflect the vibrant spirit of Laos. Stretch out on a king-size or twin beds after relaxing in your free-form terrazzo bathtub. Our entertainment system, meanwhile, offers all the comforts of home. Wander across polished parquet floors and out onto your sun-soaked private balcony. Surrounded by lush foliage, our ground-floor **Garden View Junior Suites** give guests a front-row seat to the exotic gardens. Meanwhile, our **Mountain View Junior Suites** offer dramatic views of the old city of Luang Prabang. For the best of both worlds, opt for a **Mountain Pool View Junior Suite** where guests can gaze across our infinity pool to the magnificent Phousi Temple. As night falls, views of the glittering temple and illuminated pool are beyond compare.



## Phou Vao Garden Suites

*Escape to an intimate haven after days exploring. Modern indulgence, colonial style and Cambodian materials are brought together in these suites*

Little says luxury quite like our two **Phou Vao Garden Suites**. Each space offers the ultimate retreat. Stretch out on a large, plush cotton sofa in the comfort of your living room and savour fresh fruits or perhaps indulge in the mini bar. Natural textiles crafted locally adorn the auburn flourishes of rosewood furnishings while striking flowers add pops of colour. Our iHome docking system will keep you entertained – though few guests can tear their gaze from our spiritual garden outside. Large windows make sure that you get the best view in the house. Come evening, our king-size beds coax you into a restful slumber. Travelling with friends or family? Additional roll-out beds are available in the living room.



## Within Our Walls

*Spiritual nourishment meets supreme comfort in this one-of-a-kind retreat. Stay with Belmond and experience true cultural immersion*

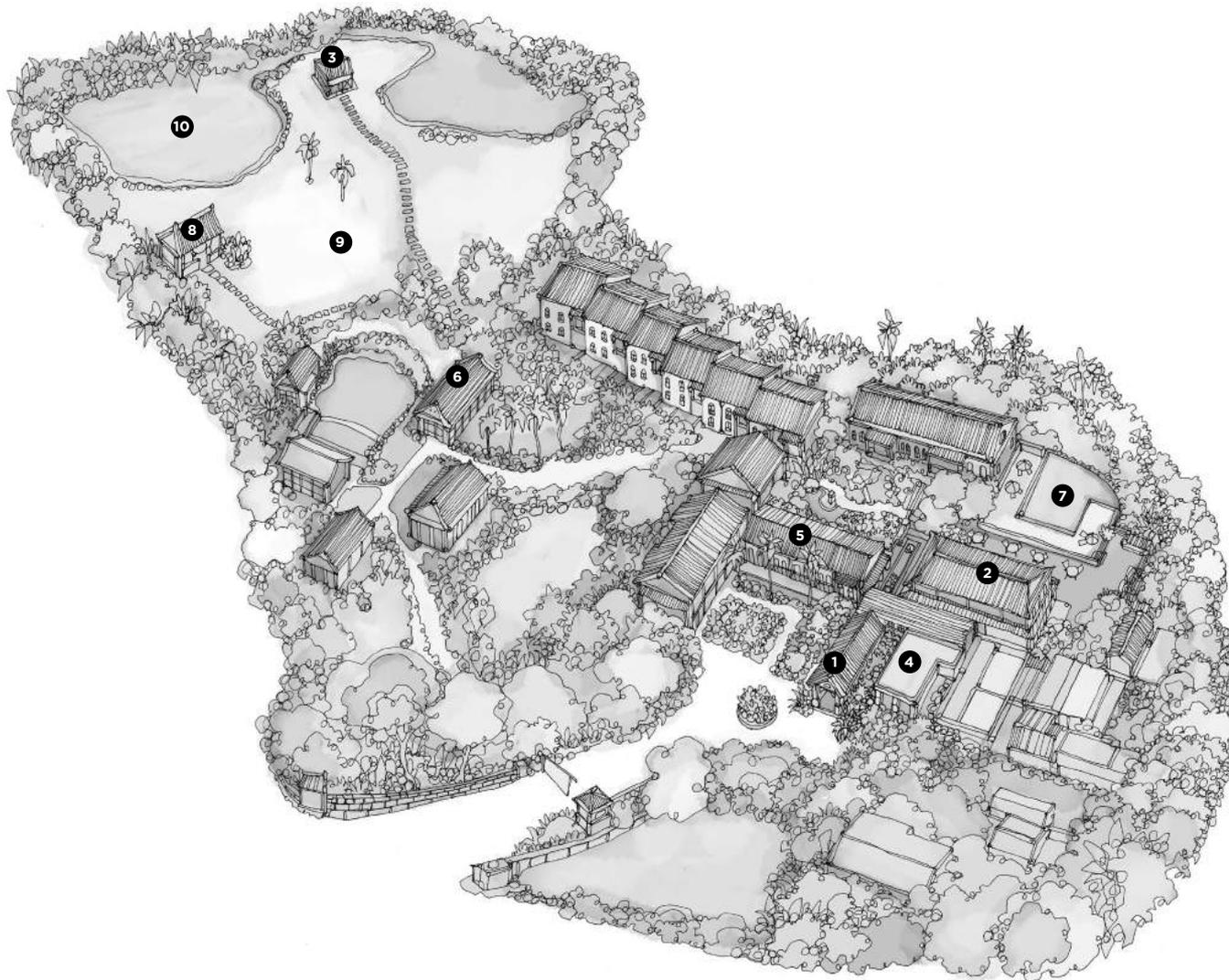
Overlooking the jungle-clad mountains of central Laos, Belmond La Résidence Phou Vao echoes the calming, restorative ambience of Luang Prabang. Nestled in the hilltops, we pride ourselves in elevating guests both physically and mentally. It's small wonder that we're known as the city's most serene hotel.

Here, the Lao way of life is respectfully honoured and shared. Partake in ancient ceremonial customs or delight the palate at our authentic restaurant. Our expert chefs can even help you prepare your own meal with produce fresh from Phousi Market. In the spa, a massage guided by the principles of Buddhist philosophy promises to release any tensions you may have brought on your getaway.

Relaxed, let the cool waters of our dramatic cliff-edge infinity pool coax you in for a dip. Should you be in need of a little poolside company, our library is well-stocked with books. In our boutique, we have curated some of the finest souvenirs Luang Prabang has to offer. Local handicrafts, traditional textiles and jewellery will serve as a blissful reminder of your journey for years to come.



*Peek into our world of fine dining and unforgettable experiences at [belmond.com/laresidencephouvao](https://www.belmond.com/laresidencephouvao)*



- 1 Lobby
- 2 Mountain Terrace Restaurant & Mountain Bar
- 3 Yardbird House
- 4 The Library & Meeting Room
- 5 Boutique Shop & Fitness center
- 6 Mekong Spa
- 7 Swimming Pool
- 8 500 Candle Dinner
- 9 Rice Farming Experience
- 10 Archery



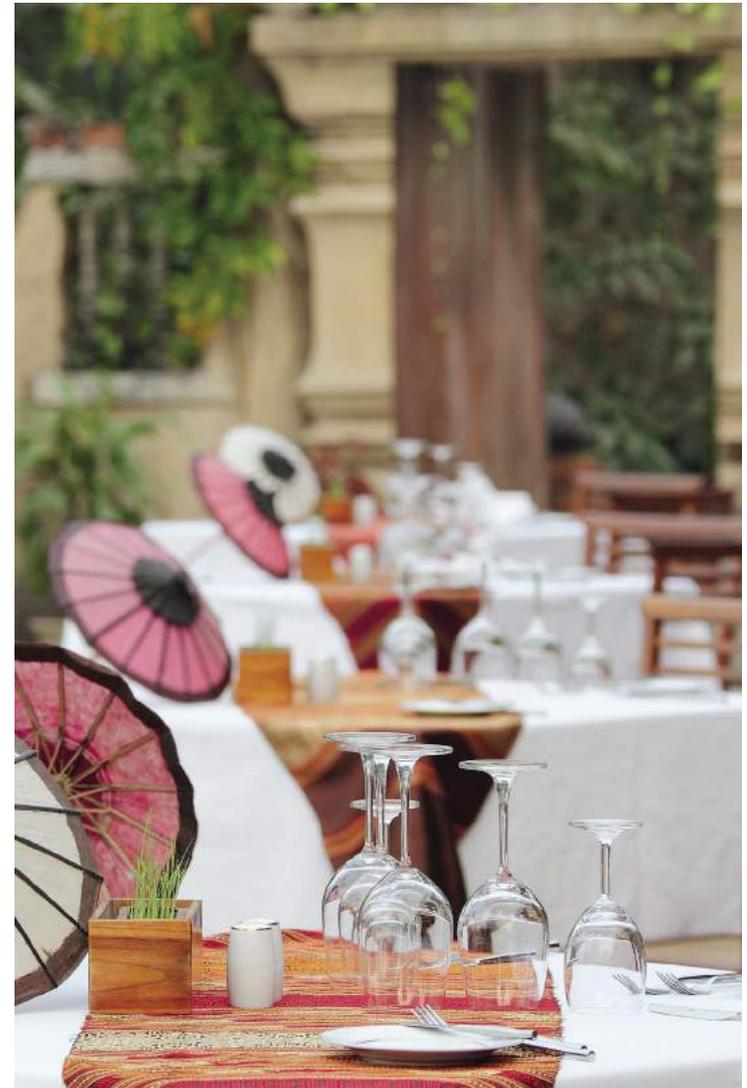
# Memorable Dining

*Dining at Belmond La Résidence Phou Vao awakens guests' palates to a fusion of flavours that span the globe. Join us for a culinary adventure*

Renowned as one of the best restaurants in Luang Prabang, the **Mountain Terrace** restaurant invites you to revel in a menu where geography and gastronomy collide. French cuisine is enhanced with a Laotian accent. Take a seat in our sophisticated restaurant or venture outside where captivating views of Mount Phousi make for a one-of-a-kind accompaniment to dinner. Come evening, candles and lanterns suspended from nearby flora set the restaurant aglow.

One of the most enchanting experiences is the romantic **500 Candle Dinner** in which glimmering candles illuminate the area surrounding the lotus pond as guests tuck into a private dinner. Local musicians set the mood with traditional melodies as guests enjoy either Laotian or Western barbecue. With a personal waiter catering to your every need, this will be an Asian affair to remember. Alternatively, you may wish to sample our newest private dining experience, **Yardbird House**, which serves a Laotian-Japanese fusion menu for up to eight diners beside our lush lotus pond.

Drink in the laid-back vibes of Laos at the **Mountain Bar**. With enveloping armchairs and an open-air lounge, it's a great place to meet friends and fellow travellers for pre- or post-dinner libations. Take to the terrace, whisky sour in hand, and soak up the spellbinding sunset.



# Mekong Spa

*Still. Calm. Quiet. Such tranquility is the essence of our award-winning spa. Here, time-honoured treatments nurture body and soul*

Marrying traditional Laotian craftsmanship with all the comforts of a contemporary spa, our pavilions clustered around a blooming lily pond are the place to heal and harmonise. Here, across lemongrass-scented treatment rooms, a sauna, plunge pool and serene yoga spaces, guests are invited to enrich the synergy between body and nature.

At the Mekong Spa, ancient practices are elevated by modern technique. Authentic Laotian therapies packed with locally sourced botanicals and fragrant oils visibly lift the skin - and mood - of our guests. Browse our menu for the perfect treatment or consult the team should you wish to try something bespoke. Among the best-loved experiences is our signature Sip Sen massage. Once reserved for royalty, this sublime Lao practice draws on Buddhist philosophy with its choreographed strokes designed to free your body's energy channels. Enjoy solo or make the most of our couple's treatment room. Relaxed, rejuvenated, and totally in balance, you'll leave feeling as though floating on a cloud by Mount Phousi.



# Unique Experiences

*Guests needn't stray from Belmond La Résidence Phou Vao to experience the best of Laotian customs and culture*

## Traditional Baci Ceremony

The ancestral Baci ceremony is one of the oldest of Lao customs, traditionally used to commemorate special events. Create lasting memories and join a senior village shaman as he ties cotton threads on participants' wrists and bestows blessings for prosperity and health. Celebrating life, community, and forgiveness while paying homage to heavenly beings, such an experience will leave guests feeling renewed.

## Laotian Farm Experience

Witness life through the eyes of a rice farmer as you dress in the traditional uniform for an informative, hands-on tour in our on-site rice paddies. Learn the 13 stages of rice growing and take part in ploughing the land with buffalo before tucking into various rice dishes.

## Archery

Archery holds a special place in the hotel's history. The activity was initiated by a former general manager who was

a competitive archery teacher. Join our experts for a complimentary lesson. Aim your bow and arrow at a distant target board, our tranquil gardens make meditative concentration easy.

## Cookery Class

Among the best ways to discover a country and its people is through food. Explore the bustling Phousi Market, abundant with local flavours before returning to the hotel to collect fresh produce from the organic kitchen gardens. Roll up your sleeves and join our chef who'll guide you through the preparation of an authentic three-course Laotian meal. Sampling your creations makes for a delicious finale.

## Traditional Lao Dance Show

A village dance group wows guests in the hotel grounds with performances that echo ancient Lao legends. Whether a classical court dance that once entertained the Laotian royal family or a traditional folk production, such acts are imbued with meaning.



## Special Occasions

*A milestone reached. An intimate honeymoon.  
An office retreat. Whatever the occasion, Belmond  
La Résidence Phou Vao guarantees lasting memories*

Nestled in the mountains, mere moments from the buzz of Luang Prabang, this tranquil setting ranks among Southeast Asia's most otherworldly venues. Our tropical gardens set the stage for enchanting celebrations. Gather your nearest and dearest for a family reunion, mark a birthday or raise a toast to a special anniversary. Honeymooners can revel in the unadulterated romance of Laos. Cycle among picturesque streets, indulge in luxe spa treatments and clink glasses on a celebratory sunset cruise. Together with our inspired team of event planners and refined menus, the hotel makes the perfect party effortless. All that's left for you to do is sit back and enjoy the magic of your special day.

What's more, Belmond La Résidence Phou Vao knows there's no such thing as separating business and pleasure. Here, in fully-equipped rooms that channel the unspoiled Lao environment, meetings and incentive trips ignite your next big idea. Agenda accomplished, your next strategic move is to reboot with some laps of the infinity pool – or soak up that spectacular sunset with a glass of champagne.



## Out & About

*Each morning Buddhist monks rise with the sun and humbly parade through the streets. Follow their lead; strolling through this town is a journey for the senses*

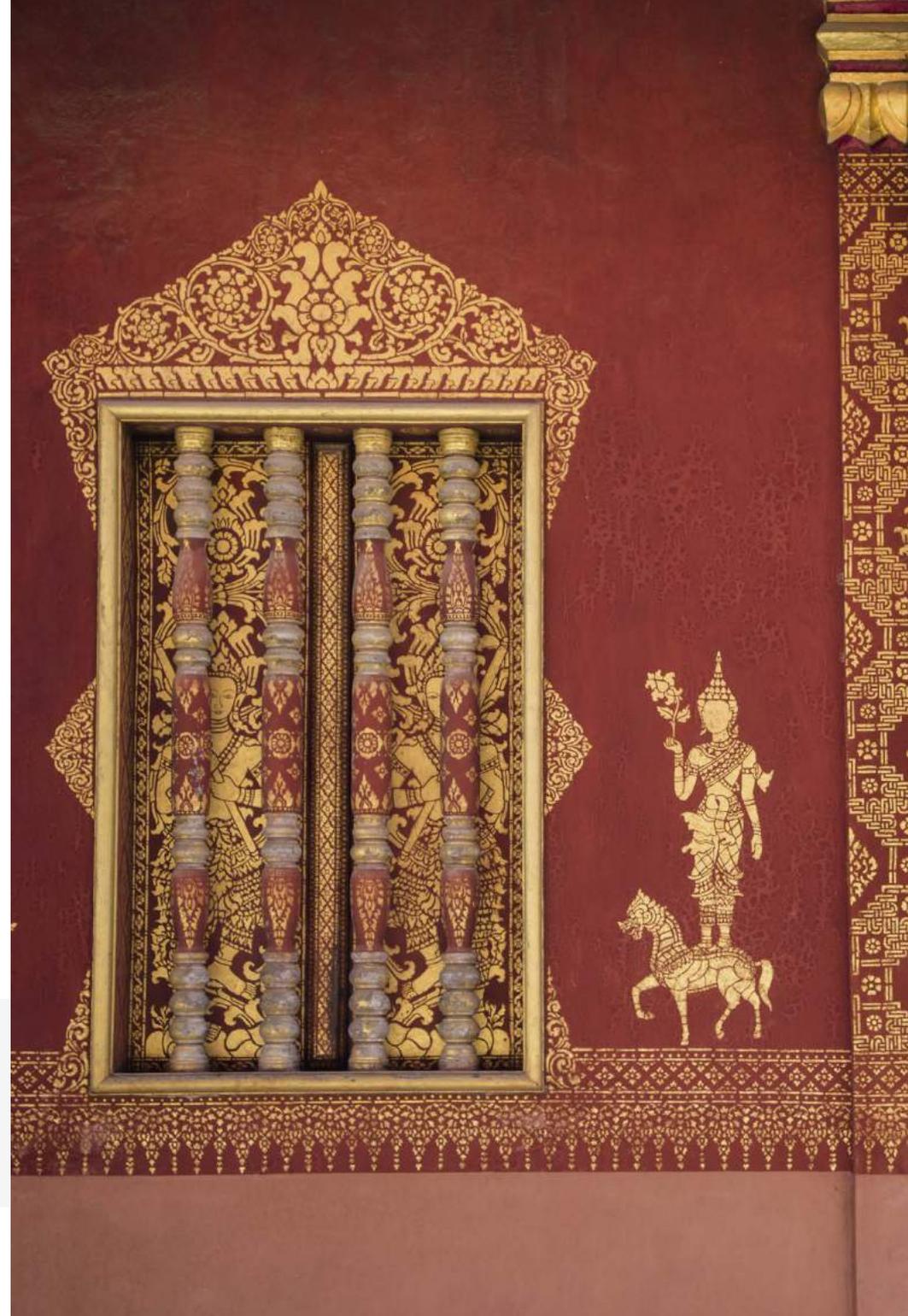
Blessed with our hilltop location, Belmond La Résidence Phou Vao immerses guests in the Lao countryside. Yet within a five-minute tuk-tuk ride, vibrant Luang Prabang beckons. Hop in our shuttle van or borrow a bicycle – our team will be delighted to help you plan your adventure.

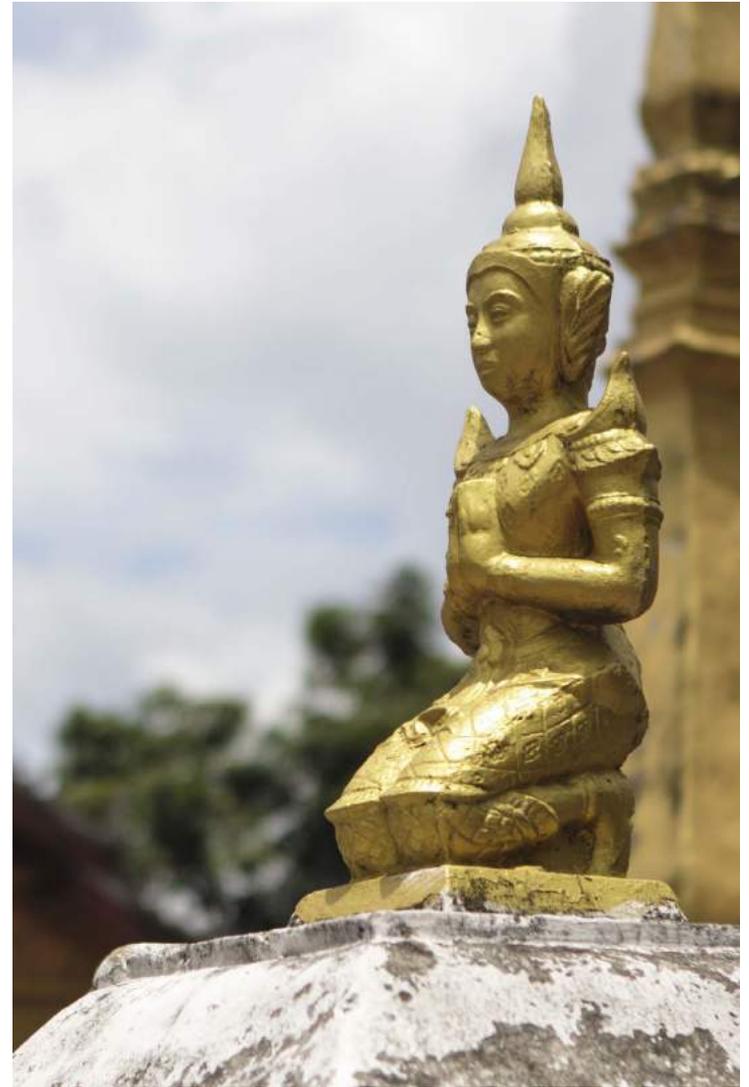
Admire the dazzling temple of Wat Xieng Thong or be charmed by the colonial Old Quarter. Amble through the Pha Tad Ke Botanical Garden, taking time to pause for for a tea tasting. Discover artisanal wares at Ock Pop Tok or pick up a memento along The Sisavangvong where boutiques sell a cornucopia of local handicrafts. Markets offer a fascinating window into Lao life. Stalls brim with everything from bowls of pho to snacks of Mekong riverweed. Indeed, Luang Prabang's food scene is exquisite. People-watching from a café terrace is deliciously delightful. Should you wish to explore further, the countryside beyond is prime for hiking, cycling, raft tours and more.

Summit Mount Phousi at sunset; splendid panoramas make the 300-step climb well worth it. Later, a cocktail at the Icon Klub makes for the ideal nightcap.



*Belmond holds the key to the wonders of Laos. Unlock your next adventure at [belmond.com/laresidencephouvao](https://www.belmond.com/laresidencephouvao)*





# Discover More

*Our prime location makes Belmond La Résidence Phou Vao the ideal launchpad for your Laotian adventure*

## Kuang Si Waterfalls

Navigate picturesque villages, emerald forests and mountain tops on your journey to these waterfalls. On the way, meet local tribes, rare animals and even stop for a refreshing swim.

## Luang Prabang Tour

Mere moments from our front door, discover charming boutiques, towering temples and shimmering pagodas of Luang Prabang. Come sundown, haggle a bargain at the night market.

## Sunset Cruise

Aboard a traditional boat, raise a glass of champagne as you bask in golden evening rays along the Mekong.

## Mystery Dine Around

Embark on a gastronomic journey around Luang Prabang. After a Laotian

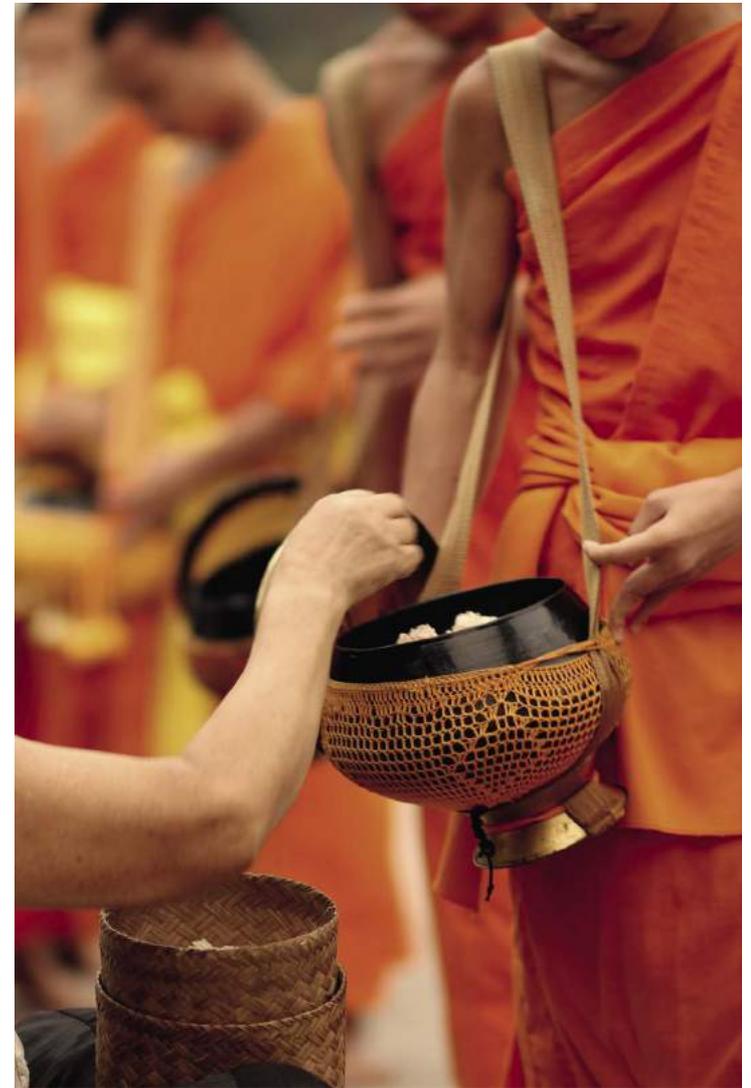
cocktail and canapés at the Mountain Bar, a tuk tuk takes you to sample some of the city's most delicious dishes.

## Tak Bak

The tradition of almsgiving is among the most enduring images of Luang Prabang. As dawn approaches, accompany hotel staff into town and make offerings of sticky rice to a procession of local Buddhist monks in their vibrant saffron robes. Peruse the bustling morning market before boarding a private longboat on which you'll enjoy a champagne breakfast along the Mekong River.

## Pak Ou Caves

Our private boat takes you to the famed "Buddha Caves", cut into a limestone cliff. Enjoy a picnic along the Mekong before visiting villages renowned for traditional crafts and Ban Xang Hai, producer of Lao-Lao whisky.





## Support Our Community

*Over the years, Belmond La Résidence Phou Vao has forged strong connections with the local community so your visit can be one that gives back*

We believe that tourism should benefit not just travellers, but the places they visit too. That's why Belmond is driven by building strong relationships with – and opportunities for – the communities surrounding our hotels, trains and river cruises across the world.

The team at Belmond La Résidence Phou Vao is fiercely proud of the surrounding area of Luang Prabang and the countryside beyond. It's for this reason we pioneered the Green Thursdays initiative, in which staff set out on tuk-tuks to collect any litter and ensure that the city remains pristine. Along the way, we take time to strike up a conversation with local people and raise environmental awareness.

Belmond La Résidence Phou Vao also works with the Luang Prabang Government Orphanage School, providing blankets, books, stationery, food and drink as well as organising activities for the children. Visit our hotel and you may meet one of its graduates undertaking a hospitality internship.



## CHAPTER FOUR

# Continue Your Asian Adventure

*From golden pagodas to lively cities, lush jungles to sun-kissed beaches, Southeast Asia is a beguiling region of rich and colourful culture*

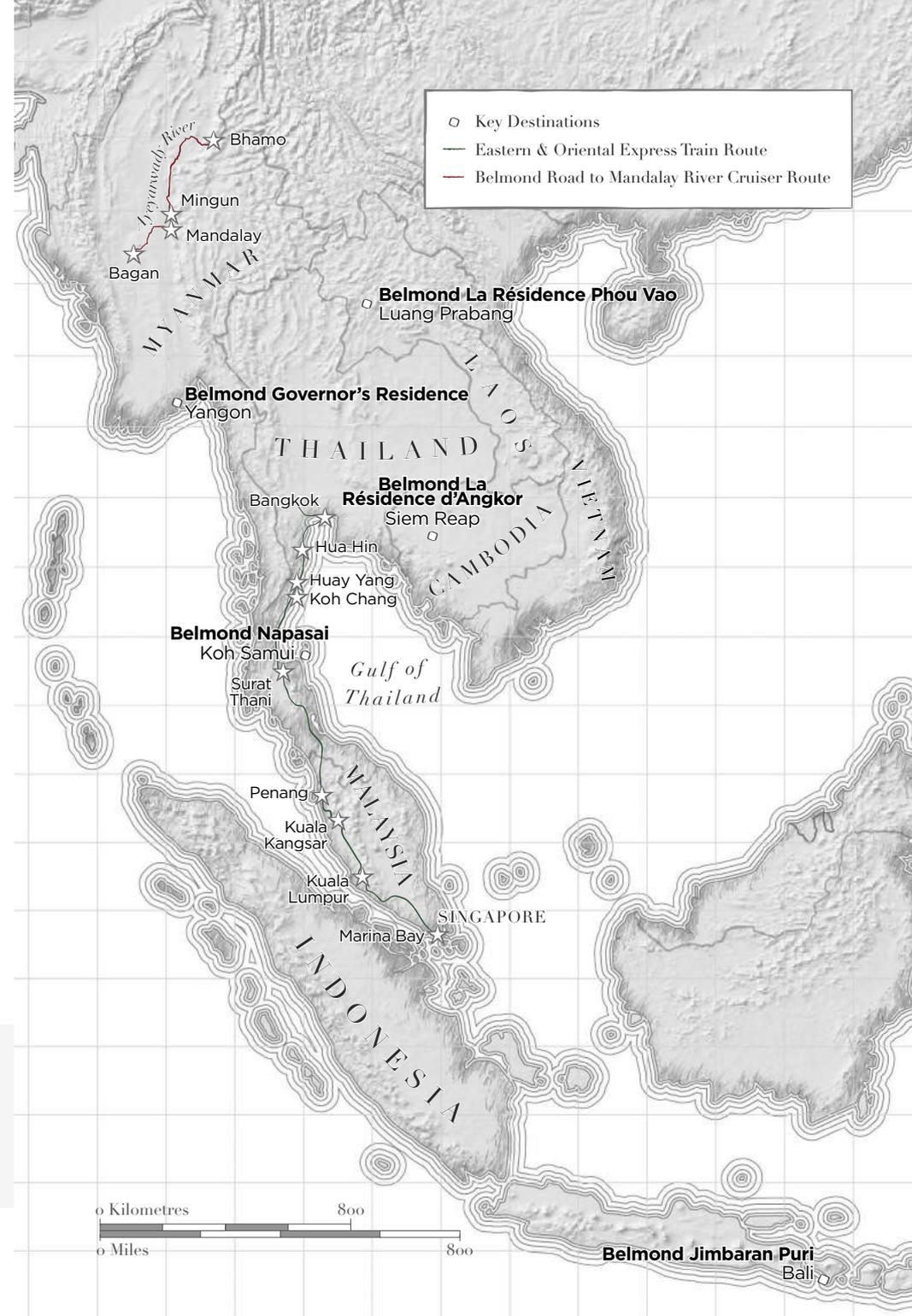
Southeast Asia marries the vibrancy of dynamic, modern cities with ancient monasteries, bejeweled temples and inspiring landscapes. Its glittering attractions include tea plantations, royal towns and coastal villages. From hawker stalls and markets to Michelin-starred restaurants and designer malls, this fabled region beckons the curious traveller.

Thailand's colourful capital, Bangkok, sings with energy. Cruise along the River Kwai or discover the pristine island of Koh Samui. Dive into a melting-pot of cultures in Singapore before relaxing on Sentosa Island. In Myanmar, explore the storied ruins of Yangon or glide along the Ayeyarwady River to Mandalay. Take time to connect in spiritual Laos, cradled by waterfalls and mountains. Bali needs little introduction, with sugar-white beaches and peaceful temples framed by volcanoes, jungle and rice terraces.

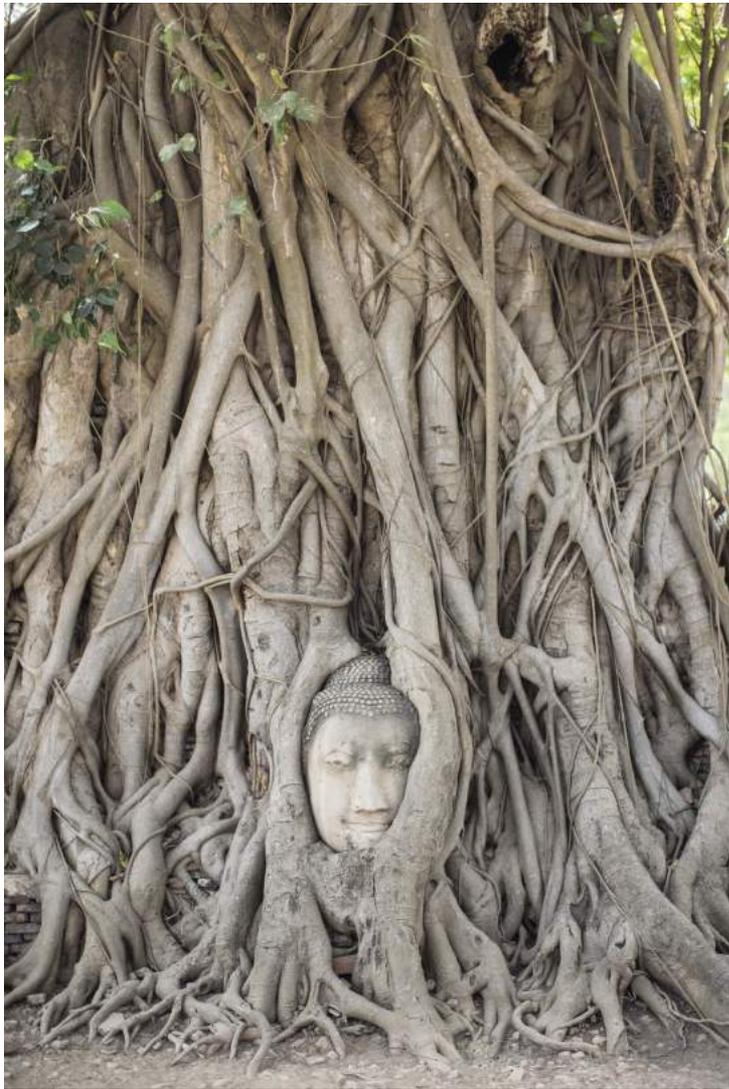
To fully experience Southeast Asia is to reconnect with serenity and wonder. Each of our tailor-made itineraries, combining hotel stays, river cruises and rail journeys, offers a unique chance to explore this captivating region, safe in the knowledge that a luxurious haven is always close by.



*Read on to discover more about our Asian escapes. For more information, visit [belmond.com/asia](http://belmond.com/asia)*



0 Kilometres 800  
0 Miles 800



## Eastern & Oriental Express

*At once leisurely and luxurious, intimate and eye-opening, the Eastern & Oriental Express train invites you to a world where travel and style are synonymous*

To step on board the Eastern & Oriental Express is to enter a bygone era in which fine company, cocktails and delicious food are matched only by the luxurious cabins and spectacular views. As if on a film set, the tropical breeze tousles your hair on the open-deck Observation Car as dramatic scenery unfolds. Work up an appetite on a sightseeing excursion before pulling up a seat in our ornate Restaurant Cars, where eastern and western specialities delight diners. Later, join new-found friends for a drink in the Piano Bar car. This is where memories are made.



## Belmond Napasai

*Caught between jungle and sea, these serene villas are your slice of Thai paradise. Wander our peaceful gardens and meet our resident water buffaloes*

A short flight from Bangkok, Koh Samui is a lush island fringed by turquoise waters and pristine sands. Perched on its northern shore, Belmond Napasai's traditional villas are nestled among 17 acres of palm-shaded gardens. Enjoy our infinity pools, tennis courts and spa – a truly relaxing sanctuary. Adventure seekers can discover the natural wonders of Ang Thong National Marine Park, take boat trips or try snorkelling. Venture out to attractions such as the Big Buddha, or explore the jungle interior and waterfalls. For lovers of golf, there is an excellent hilltop course with outstanding views.



# Belmond La Résidence d'Angkor

*Launch into an otherworldly Cambodian adventure at this tropical retreat where ancient Khmer traditions meet contemporary style*

Millennium-old ruins rub shoulders with a vibrant entertainment scene in thriving Siem Reap. Belmond La Résidence d'Angkor is but a short journey from the temple of Angkor Wat, the city's crown jewel, and yet guests here feel as if a million miles away. Surrounded by bountiful gardens, this riverside oasis invites you to slow down and savour the serenity. Arranged around a beautiful courtyard, our suites are your personal haven with carved furnishings and jewel-toned silks. Unwind with traditional Cambodian therapies at our award-winning spa or dine on hawker cuisine. Belmond is the perfect launchpad for an immersive adventure.



# Belmond Jimbaran Puri

*Hemmed by jungle and lulled by the lap of the Indian Ocean, this idyllic retreat makes the most of Bali's sugar-white sands and crystal-clear coves*

Arriving at Belmond Jimbaran Puri is like stumbling upon a secret garden. With local bamboo, teak and alang-alang thatching, a private swimming pool and a terrace, each luxury lodging is an ode to Balinese culture. Take a dip in the free-form pool as you soak up uninterrupted sea views or make the most of the resort's library, boutique and spa. Dine in one of our excellent restaurants such as Nelayan, where you can savour just-caught fish as you watch the sun sink beneath the water. Belmond Jimbaran Puri is Bali in its most pure state. Visit this spiritual heartland and leave feeling transformed.



## Belmond Governor's Residence

*Journey back to a more gentle time in this 1920s mansion which echoes the colonial era. Timeless elegance meets rich Burmese beauty*

At the heart of Yangon's leafy Embassy District, Belmond Governor's Residence is a haven of calm. Wake to birdsong and greet the day on your private veranda. Savour iced tea by the fan-shaped pool as tropical flowers fragrance the breeze or relax with a spa treatment. Come dusk, enjoy our Mandalay Sour cocktail before a candlelit alfresco dinner. Expert tours give guests a unique glimpse into Myanmar. The Shwedagon Pagoda is awe-inspiring. Stroll markets laden with local produce and hand-woven fabrics or take a round of golf in the tropical sun.



## Belmond Road to Mandalay

*Find tranquility aboard this intimate river cruiser as you glide along the fabled Ayeyarwady, passing ancient pagodas and charming fishing villages*

To step aboard Belmond Road to Mandalay is to voyage to the peaceful heart of rural Myanmar. On deck, sink into a rattan chair in our canopied lounge and sip a cocktail as sunlight dances on the water. Here practise yoga, cool off in our open-air pool or visit the spa and indulge. Fine, pan-Asian cuisine is followed by marionette shows, Burmese plays and riveting lectures. On carefully curated excursions, Myanmar's history comes to life as guests encounter amber-hued spice markets, lush green tea fields and saffron-robed monks as they wind their way through the countryside's mazy streets.



## Our Belmond World

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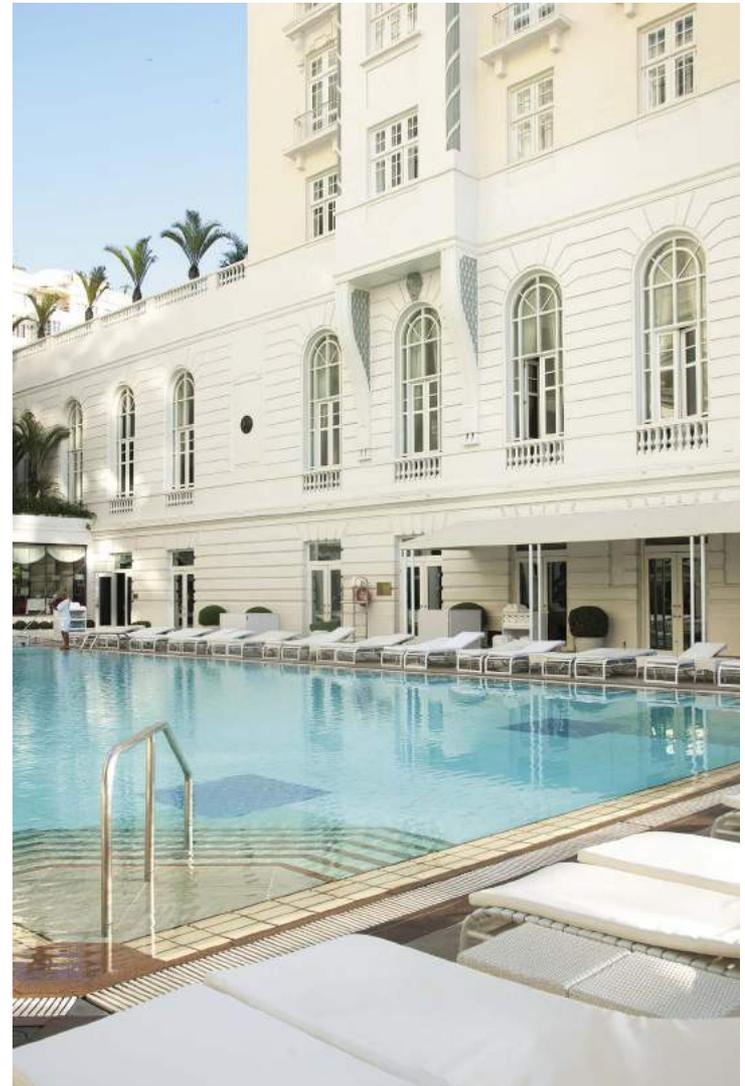
Having spent decades travelling the globe, Belmond invites you to join us for your next adventure. Transcend the everyday with inspiring retreats set among the world's most celebrated destinations.

Our legendary hotels, luxury train journeys, safari adventures and pioneering river cruises each have a story to tell. Join us as it unfolds.

HOTELS | TRAINS | RIVER CRUISES | JOURNEYS

[BELMOND.COM](https://www.belmond.com)

*#TheArtOfBelmond*





The pattern and colour shown on and inside this booklet's cover evoke the ancient art of Laotian silk weaving, active since the 14th century. Suppressed during the communist era, this craft is flourishing once again. Natural dyes, such as the tamarind bark used for dark red, make this fabric exceptionally desirable. The intricate designs, many of which are seen around the hotel, are often derived from Buddhist imagery and the natural world.

## CONTACT US

Australia Tel: 1800 316 635

New Zealand Tel: 0800 440 497

China Tel (China North toll free): 108 007 142 374  
(China South toll free): 108 001 402 395

Hong Kong Tel (toll-free): 800 906 756

Taiwan Tel: 00 801 127 829

Japan Tel (toll-free): 0066 3381 3732

South Korea Tel: 00 7981 4203 0099

Singapore Tel: 800 852 6206

Thailand Tel: 1800 012 145

Malaysia Tel (toll-free): 1800 818 595

Indonesia Tel: 00 1803 016 3099  
or 00 7803 016 3099

Philippines Tel: 1800 1110 2323

India Tel: 0008 0004 01871

### **Email**

[reservations.asia@belmond.com](mailto:reservations.asia@belmond.com)