

## A CRUISE MAY BE THE BEST WAY TO GET AROUND THESE PARTS

### ► Old-School Elegance

Think of the Strand Cruise down the Irrawaddy River as an extension of its namesake Yangon hotel, but afloat. With only 50 passengers, there's plenty of room on deck for sundowners.

### The Wild Side

On Windstar's *Star Legend*, sailing from Singapore to Hong Kong, you can visit orangutans in Malaysia's Semenggoh Wildlife Center and Brunei's remote mangrove-covered Ulu Temburong National Park.

### Play Explorer

Regent's Grand Spice Route Quest is a two-and-a-half-month journey bookended by Barcelona and Auckland, with stops that include Penang and Komodo.

### The Greatest Hits

Each of the 465 cabins on Viking's new *Orion* has a private balcony, which means you can watch Hạ Long Bay come into view in your robe on this 15-day cruise from Bangkok to Hong Kong.

### Find Balance

On Seabourn's sail from Sydney to Singapore, meals at a Thomas Keller restaurant are balanced by a Dr. Andrew Weil–designed wellness plan.

BETSY BLUMENTHAL



## The Hotel That Changed Everything

► When Adrian Zecha stumbled across an overgrown coconut plantation during a hike around Phuket in 1986, his first thought was to build a home there. His second thought proved more consequential: The Dutch-Indonesian decided to create a hotel, with 40 villas clustered on the hillside above a forgotten beach. He hired the architect Ed Tuttle, whose design hearkened to the ancient temples of Ayutthaya while also feeling entirely up-to-date, graceful, and spare. Amanpuri—meaning “place of

peace”—opened in 1988 and changed the rules for luxury hotel design, service, price, and, most of all, location, proving that a beautiful resort could be a destination in itself. Thirty years on, Amanpuri has unveiled six new pool villas, a cool kids' center, and a reconceived wellness program. And while Phuket has transformed around it, when you gaze out from that hillside at the Andaman Sea, this still feels like the island's first and only resort.

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