

6. THE STRAND CRUISE IN BURMA

It's not just ocean cruises that are catching holidaymakers' imaginations, river cruises are showing phenomenal growth, especially in south-east Asia.

Last year, Burma saw a 40 per cent rise in passengers keen to see the fairytale Buddhist shrines and learn about everyday life along the river. Luxury boutique river cruiser ships include The Strand Cruise, which operates a schedule of three- and four-night itineraries on the Ayeyarwady River (also known as The Elephant River), between the ancient cities of Bagan

and Mandalay. The 27-cabin vessel has a swimming pool, you can have a relaxing massage on board, and the upper deck is the perfect place to enjoy a sundowner.

The vessel has access to private moorings and a highlight of the itinerary is an exclusive overnight call at Ava, allowing passengers access to the beautiful temple of Maha Aungmye Bonzan. When the crowds have gone, Strand Cruise guests can visit the temple to enjoy a peaceful evening.

WHO SAILS THERE?

● Cleveland Collection (clevelandcollection.co.uk, 0203 111 0812) offers a three-night Stand Cruise from Mandalay to Bagan from £1,369pp, sharing a Deluxe air-conditioned cabin. Price includes three meals during full sailing days, breakfast on day of disembarkation, sightseeing and English speaking guide.

JOIN AN EXCLUSIVE W&H TOUR OF BURMA

Follow in the footsteps of the editor from 16-27 October 2017 with Cleveland Collection. Find full details and your itinerary at womanandhome.com/travelburma

Sail in style along Burma's Ayeyarwady River on The Strand Cruise

