

河內大都市索菲特傳奇酒店及檳城 Eastern & Oriental Hotel (右圖) 是亞洲現存的殖民地風格酒店中的佼佼者
The Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi Hotel and Eastern & Oriental Hotel in Penang (right) are classic examples of Asia's historic colonial hotels

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在亞洲，創立於殖民地時期的豪華酒店，除了有豐富的歷史，還接待過許多傳奇住客，成了窺探昔日旅遊風氣的一扇窗戶

With vibrant histories involving colourful characters, Asia's grand colonial hotels embody a world of travel from a bygone age

酒店傳奇

ASIA'S GRANDE DAMES



蘇

蘇彝士運河於1869年通航，隨即將中國及倫敦之間的航海路線縮短3,300海里，促使到遠東旅遊成為新的風潮。接下來的幾十年，前往加爾各答、暹粒、仰光、檳城和河內等城市的交通愈加便利。在住客都是商賈名流的亞洲

豪華酒店，作家、演員、名人與商人和亞洲殖民地政府官員於奢華派對裡觥籌交錯的場面，時有所聞。

今日，這些豪華酒店已紛紛換上現代新裝，但同時亦保留了舊日的歷史和個性，為住客提供一扇窗，窺探昔日旅人眼中的風光和經歷。

加爾各答

在1911年前的英治時期，加爾各答一直是印度首都，多年來，Grand Hotel都是加爾各答「最頂級的酒店」。酒店由伊朗人Arathoon Stephen創立，他初到加爾各答時身無分文，靠著手推車兜售珠寶為生。不久他就賺到足夠金錢購入一間位於Chowringhee Road的劇院。1911年，劇院遭大火焚毀後，他收購了鄰近四幢宿舍大樓，並於原址重新發展，建成Grand Hotel。

酒店建築屬新古典主義風格，富麗堂皇，很適合讓Stephen舉辦非比尋常的豪華派對。Grand Hotel最為人津津樂道的是每年於宴會廳舉行的除夕派對，據說當時鐘敲響午夜12點時，就會有12隻小豬被放進宴會廳，小豬在大廳尖叫狂奔，任何人成功抓住小豬的話，新年晚餐就有燒乳豬吃了。

Grand Hotel以Stephen的壞脾氣及無懈可擊的服務水平聞名。曾經有怒火中燒的住客衝進他的辦公室，投訴早上在茶壺中發現一隻蟑螂時，Stephen卻嚷道：「500間客房500個茶壺才有一隻蟑螂，平均來說表現相當出色。」

今天，昔日的Grand Hotel已成為Oberoi Grand Kolkata酒店。酒店的傳訊經理Nazreen Ahmed表示，酒店依然保留舉辦慶祝新年盛會的傳統，而當中最具格調的，首推在酒店內庭舉行的晚宴，出席賓客可享用生蠔、青口及現烤的bekti魚肉及羊肉等。

暹粒

位於柬埔寨暹粒的Grand Hotel d'Angkor酒店於1932年開業，當其時，前來吳哥窟遺址觀光的海外遊客不斷攀升（單單是1934年就有近3,000名遊客到訪暹粒），平房賓館已無法應付，這間裝飾藝術風格酒店於是應運而生。

Alfred Messner於1932年接管酒店後，引入充滿異國風情的活動，包括請來高棉舞蹈員在火炬襯托中起舞、騎大象遊覽及開設偌大的高爾夫球場。Messner於1936年聖誕再作出突破，安排以燈飾照亮吳哥窟，配合音樂及舞蹈表演。同年，《摩登時代》的男女主角差利卓別靈及Paulette Goddard到吳哥度蜜月，之後轉到河內的Metropole酒店。

1997年底，新加坡的萊佛士酒店集團為這家老牌酒店進行全面翻新後重新開業。翻新工程不僅洗去歲月及內



戰留下的痕跡，還新增了多間套房，以及一個參照吳哥窟皇家浴池建造的35米泳池。酒店還保留了昔日的華麗傳統：於除夕夜，泳池會漂浮著4,000支蠟燭，賓客一邊呷著以椰酒、coconut passion椰子甜酒、青檸汁、香蕉甜酒及菠蘿椰子汁調配而成的招牌Airavata雞尾酒，一邊欣賞眼前的浪漫美景。

仰光

這些大酒店除了以奢華招徠，入住的客人和附設的酒吧同樣重要。1948年，《LIFE》雜誌一篇關於仰光Strand Hotel夜生活的文章寫道：「十人菲律賓樂隊每個晚上演奏助慶，身穿筆挺亞麻布西裝的種植園主、滿臉通紅的英國上校，以及頭戴白色頭巾的印度富商在酒吧裡細味粉紅氈酒，一邊搖著骰子筒嘎嘎作響。」這間酒吧經常有作家捧場，包括George Orwell、Noel Coward爵士、Rudyard Kipling及Somerset Maugham等。

Strand由亞美尼亞裔的Sarkie兄弟於1901創立。他們挾著1884年及1885年在當時的英屬馬來亞檳城開設Eastern及Oriental酒店，以及1887年開辦新加坡萊佛士酒店的成功經驗，創辦Strand Hotel。

檳城

1889年，Eastern及Oriental兩家酒店合併為Eastern & Oriental Hotel，簡稱E&O。作家George Bilainkin於回憶錄中描述1920年代在馬來西亞檳城的日子，形容酒店為「文明世界中的綠洲」。這個綠洲吸引一眾名人、作家及

✈️ 航程 FLIGHTS

港龍航程
加爾各答：每周有五班航機
金邊：每周有12班航機
暹粒：每周有四班航機
仰光：每周有七班航機
檳城：每周有十班航機
河內：每周有十班航機

DRAGONAIR
Kolkata: 5 x Weekly
Phnom Penh: 12 x Weekly
Siem Reap: 4 x Weekly
Yangon: 7 x Weekly
Penang: 10 x Weekly
Hanoi: 10 x Weekly

WHEN THE Suez Canal first opened in 1869, it shaved 3,300 nautical miles off the route between London and China, ushering in a new wave of leisure travel to the Far East. Over the ensuing decades, cities such as Calcutta, Siem Reap, Rangoon, Penang and Hanoi became ever more accessible. Writers, actors and celebrities mingled with merchants and colonial officials across Asia in grand, luxurious hotels that were renowned for their extravagant parties and high-profile clientele.

Having since been updated to embrace the modern world, these grand hotels of Asia nevertheless retain their history and character. Today, they offer a unique and exciting window into the sights and experiences of globetrotters of a bygone age.

KOLKATA

For years the finest hotel in Calcutta, the capital of British India until 1911, was arguably the historic Grand Hotel. When its Iranian founder Arathoon Stephen arrived in the city, now known as Kolkata, he was penniless and hawking jewellery from a wheelbarrow, but he was soon able to buy a theatre on Chowringhee Road. After a fire in 1911 destroyed it, he bought up four neighbouring boarding houses and redeveloped the site as the Grand Hotel.

Photos: The Eastern & Oriental Hotel (previous spread); Jeremy Horner

印度新古典風格酒店Oberoi Grand Kolkata (最左圖)，以及柬埔寨裝飾藝術風格酒店萊佛士Grand Hotel d'Angkor (左圖及上圖)，奢華依舊

Extravagance and luxury still feature strongly at the neoclassical Oberoi Grand Kolkata (far left) in India and Cambodia's Art Deco-inspired Raffles Grand Hotel d'Angkor (left and above)

The hotel was built in an extravagant neoclassical style, matching Stephen's own flair for throwing magnificent, if slightly offbeat, parties. His legendary New Year's Eve parties were held in the Grand's ballroom and at midnight, 12 piglets would be released squealing into the ballroom; whoever could catch one was allowed to roast it for New Year's Day dinner.

The Grand was known for Stephen's occasional irascibility as well as its impeccable standards. Once, faced with an irate guest who stormed into his office after finding a dead cockroach in his morning pot of tea, Stephen exclaimed: "Five hundred rooms, 500 teapots, one cockroach: very good average."

Today the Grand is known as the Oberoi Grand Kolkata. Communications Manager Nazreen Ahmed says it still keeps up the tradition of fabulous New Year celebrations. The chicest is the dinner held in the interior courtyard, where guests feast on oysters, mussels and grilled bekti fish and lamb.



許多亞洲豪華酒店，如Eastern & Oriental Hotel (最左圖)、河內大都市索菲特傳奇酒店 (左圖) 及仰光的Strand Hotel (左下圖)，均經過大規模的翻新工程，回復昔日美態

A number of Asia's grand hotels, such as the Eastern & Oriental Hotel (far left), Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi (left) and Yangon's Strand Hotel (below) have undergone significant refurbishment to return them to their former glory

The Strand Hotel was founded by the Armenian Sarkies Brothers in 1901, building on their success with the Eastern (1884) and Oriental (1885) Hotels in Penang, then in British Malaya, and Raffles Hotel in Singapore (1887).

PENANG

In 1889, the Sarkies Brothers' two Penang hotels merged to become the Eastern & Oriental Hotel, known popularly as the E&O. In his memoirs of life in Penang during the 1920s, author George Bilainkin called the hotel an "oasis of so-called civilisation" that drew celebrities, writers and politicians, namely Dr Sun Yat-sen, Singaporean leader Lee Kuan Yew and the Sultan of Brunei. The maître d' of this Malaysian hotel from 1972 to 1996, J. L. Lim, served many distinguished guests, including Britain's Princess Margaret. "The day I donned by uniform was a proud day for me," he says. Like many of the grand hotels, an extensive renovation completed in 2001 unveiled an E&O that combined modern conveniences with heritage architecture and symbolism, including khaki-clad doormen wearing solar topees (pith helmets).

HANOI

During the colonial era and beyond, the grand hotels were centres of social life. The Metropole in Hanoi, now the Sofitel Legend Metropole Hotel, was as popular with government officials and the local elite as it was by writers and movie stars since its opening in 1901. In 1916, the hotel was the first venue to show motion pictures in Indochina.

Writers Somerset Maugham and Graham Greene wrote novels about the Western experience in Southeast Asia while staying at the Metropole. During the Vietnam War, the hotel was owned and operated by the government and renamed as Thong Nhat Hotel (Reunification Hotel). Throughout the war, the hotel stayed open and operating and in 1968 staff built a bomb shelter for guests under the bar, which has recently been restored and opened to the public. ■

政客，當中包括孫中山、新加坡領袖李光耀及汶萊蘇丹。1972至1996年間擔任酒店領班的J.L. Lim，曾招待不少大人物，包括英國的瑪嘉烈公主。他說：「每天一穿上這身制服，就會讓我深感自豪。」E&O跟其他大酒店一樣經過全面翻新，並於2001年重新開業，成功將現代化的便捷與歷史建築的特色融為一體。身穿卡其色制服、頭戴遮陽白帽的門僮，正好展現酒店源遠流長的傳統。

河內

在殖民地時期以至解殖之後，大酒店都是社交生活的中心。河內的Metropole Hotel (現為河內大都市索菲特傳奇酒店) 於1901年開幕，當時除了大受政府官員及當地名流紳士歡迎之外，亦是著名作家及電影明星的聚腳地。1916年，該酒店更成為在印支半島最先播放電影的場地。

作家Somerset Maugham及Graham Greene均曾於Metropole酒店，寫下以西方人在東南亞的生活體驗為題材的小說。越戰期間，酒店由政府接管經營，重新命名為Thong Nhat Hotel (重新統一酒店)。酒店在戰爭期間依然開門營業，1968年，職員更於酒吧下面挖建了防空洞供住客使用。防空洞早前修復後，現時開放予公眾參觀。

SIEM REAP

The Grand Hotel d'Angkor in Siem Reap opened in 1932, partly in response to the growing number of foreign tourists visiting the ruins of Angkor Wat. The Art Deco-influenced hotel largely replaced the bungalows which could no longer accommodate the numbers of tourists to this part of Cambodia – in 1934 alone, nearly 3,000 arrived in Siem Reap.

In 1932, Alfred Messner took over the running of the hotel, introducing exotic attractions including Khmer dancers performing by torchlight, elephants for excursions and a large area for playing golf. At Christmas in 1936, he arranged to have Angkor Wat illuminated along with music and dancing. Earlier that year, Charlie Chaplin and Paulette Goddard, his leading lady in the film *Modern Times*, spent part of their honeymoon at Angkor, and another part at the Metropole hotel in Hanoi.

At the end of 1997, Singapore-based Raffles Group re-opened the hotel as the Raffles Grand Hotel

d'Angkor following a thorough refurbishment, erasing the effects of time and civil upheaval. An annexe of suites was added, as was a 35-metre-long pool modelled on the royal bathing ponds at Angkor Wat. The grand traditions continue: on New Year's Eve, 4,000 candles float in the pool while guests sip Airavatas, the hotel's signature cocktail of rum, coconut passion, lime juice, crème de banana and pineapple and coconut juice.

YANGON

The grand hotels were often as famous for their guests and their bars as their luxury. In 1948, *LIFE* magazine reported on the nightlife scene at the Strand Hotel in Rangoon, now known as Yangon: a "ten-piece Filipino band played nightly [and] planters in starched linen suits, red-faced British colonels and wealthy white-turbaned Indian merchants lingered over pink gin and rattled dice cups at the bar". The bar was often held up by writers such as George Orwell, Sir Noel Coward, Rudyard Kipling and Somerset Maugham.