

PAST Present

Wherever possible we always encourage our clients to stay in properties with at least a degree of character as they do so much to enhance the experience. Taking this one step further, a stay in a hotel with history can become an experience in itself. We asked our specialists to name some of their favourite historic hotels.

Cheong Fatt Tze Mansions Penang

In the historic heart of Georgetown is the home of one of Asia's most famous entrepreneurs. At the tender age of 16 Cheong Fatt Tze left his native China and headed for Penang, where he became known as the 'Rockefeller of the East' by the New York Times. His Penang mansion has been beautifully converted into a luxurious boutique hotel, winner of a UNESCO Conservation Award in 2000. Dating back to the 1880s, the

The home of one of Asia's most famous entrepreneurs, the 'Rockefeller of the East'

building is set around airy tropical courtyards, and now offers 16 themed guest apartments, each varying in size and individually furnished with antiques. Its elegant sense of space, the stained glass, exquisite mosaics, and the feeling of being a living part of Penang's long history makes this a wonderful place to stay away from the crowded beaches.

Specialist: Isabel – 01869 276 231



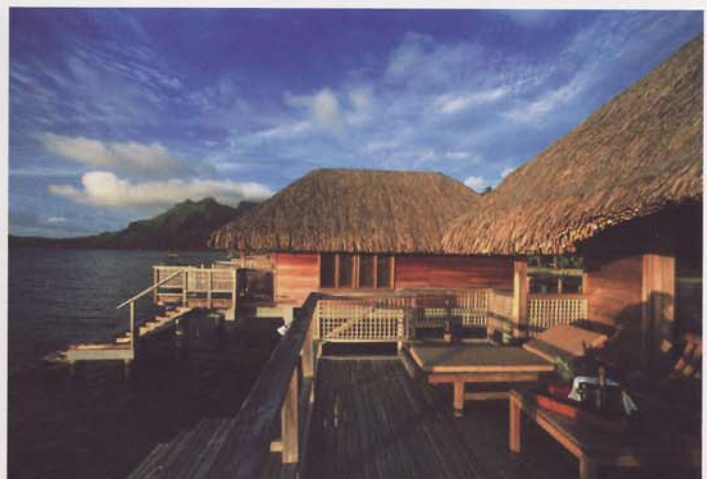
Copacabana Palace Rio de Janeiro



Visitors to the Copacabana Palace, the hotel that introduced Rio de Janeiro's most famous beach to the world, will join a guest list of film stars, princesses and politicians spanning eight decades. Opened in 1923, this impressive art-deco landmark is Rio's most traditional and luxurious hotel. Designed by the French architect Joseph Gire, who was inspired by the Negresco in Nice and the Carlton in Cannes, the Copacabana Palace has only ever changed hands once, retaining all its grandeur and unique character.

Specialist Jenny – 01869 276 244

Hotel Bora Bora French Polynesia



Bora Bora – the ultimate icon of paradise. The Hotel Bora Bora was the original hotel on the island, and over the years has defined Bora Bora's development. Built in 1961, its 'historic' connection is that it pioneered travel to this far-flung corner of the globe: despite many subsequent imitators it still remains the best to this day. Sitting on the edge of a turquoise lagoon and nestled beneath lush green volcanic peaks, the resort was the first ever to feature the over-water bungalows for which the region is famous.

Specialist Patrick – 01869 276 208



Neemrana Palace & Fort *Shekawati*

The majestic Neemrana Palace & Fort is one of the oldest heritage resorts in India, built in 1464 and located in the Shekawati region. Over the years, the palace has been lovingly restored to reflect its historical past. The rooms are an eclectic mix of colonial and Indian furnishings. The grand public rooms are welcoming and filled with fascinating *objets d'art*. Nestled on a high plateau, the palace has an array of building with various wings and corridors. It also boasts 25 acres of gardens and stepped walkways, with the stunning swimming pool providing guests with dramatic views of the Aravali hills.

Specialists Jeff and Clare – 01869 276 218



Emerson & Green *Zanzibar*

Emerson & Green in Stone Town dates back to the early 19th century and was once the mansion house of a prominent Swahili merchant called Tharia Topan. Thick walls and steep wooden stairs lead you to ten spacious rooms with canopy beds, Persian baths and deliberately no television, telephone or fridge. At the top of the hotel the roof-top restaurant has some of the finest views in Zanzibar.

Specialist Richard – 01869 276 272



The Old Cataract *Aswan*



When this Egyptian stalwart first opened its doors in 1899, the hotel was simply known as The Cataract Hotel. By the time the famous 1902 restaurant opened its doors, there were tents in the grounds to cope with the demand. The Agh Khan III honeymooned here, and it inspired Agatha Christie to write *Death on the Nile*. You can have a meal on a small outcrop over the river that was favoured by Farouk, the last king of Egypt. Although much of the furnishings appear not to have been refurbished since he was last here, it has the most character and best location of any hotel in Egypt.

Specialist Johanna – 01869 276 270