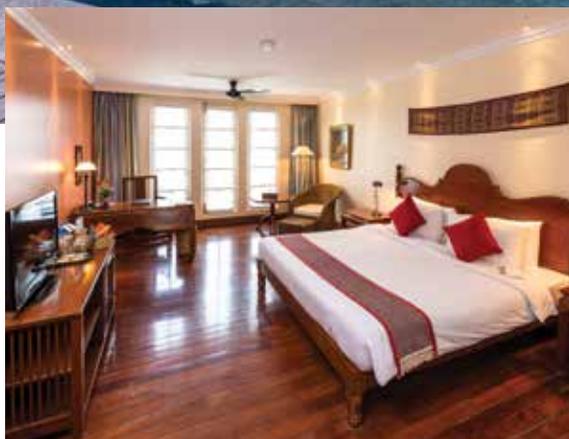


The Savoy Hotel in Yangon, Myanmar offers all the glamor of days gone by — as well as the latest ultra-convenient amenities of today.



PHOTOS COURTESY THE SAVOY HOTEL

FEW HOTELS EVOKE THE PAST like the Savoy Hotel in Yangon. With swirling overhead fans, polished teakwood floors and traditional Myanmar antiques, the colonial-style hotel takes you back to the days of the British Raj. And don't ask how many vases of fragrant roses we saw — let's just say...many!

Its 24 rooms are large, with floor-to-ceiling windows and opulent ensuite bathrooms. All come with individually-controlled air-conditioning, fruit baskets and bathrobes and slippers. But for that “home away from home” feeling, upgrade to one of the Savoy's six indulgently spacious suites. We had a mini-kitchenette in the entrance hall, where we made tea to sip while relaxing in the unique, reclining cane-and-wood antique chairs in our living room. Mullioned windows opened to a Juliet balcony, and we could bathe in a clawfoot tub as well as a separate shower.

An oasis in a hectic city, the hotel's pool, shaded by tall trees and pink and

orange parasols, is the perfect place to cool off at the end of a busy sightseeing day (the famous gold Shwedagon Pagoda is nearby). It could do with a few more teak lounge chairs though, as it's popular in late afternoon. Tip: While relaxing, order a fresh coconut juice served in its husk.

Come evening, the Captain's Bar with its wicker armchairs is a favorite haunt for embassy staffers and expats who gather to socialize while drinking gin-and-tonics. For breakfast (included), we liked to sit in the upstairs dining room terrace framed by bougainvillea, overlooking the pool.

The Burmese staff is warm and helpful and the German hotel manager makes an effort to meet guests to see how your stay is going.

Bottom line? The Savoy is a delightful, intimate, four-star hotel that's half the cost of some other, better known, colonial-style hotels in Yangon.

— JANICE AND GEORGE MUCALOV