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THE HOTELS ISSUE
Where the World Checks In Next

The Billion-Dollar Neighborhood Reshaping Your Favorite Destination

From Melbourne to Miami, ambitious mega-developments are transforming the urban fabric—and giving travelers new reasons to return. **By Chris Dong**

A CRITICAL MASS of city-within-a-city neighborhoods is now cropping up worldwide. These evolving districts, often backed by deep-pocketed developers, are built around arts, entertainment, and sports—three big drivers of travel today. They also tend to have excellent walkability and deliver cohesive experiences for both visitors and locals. Take my home city of Los Angeles, for example, which is in the midst of a major rebirth. I'm particularly excited about the ongoing transformation of Century Plaza, where new restaurants—and a forthcoming Metro Rail station—are creating fresh energy. Here's a closer look at several new areas on the rise.

FOR ASIA AFICIONADOS

Bangkok

THE PRICE TAG $3.2 billion

Located in the city's central business district, the 42-acre **One Bangkok** megadevelopment is one of the most ambitious projects in Southeast Asia. The massive undertaking will eventually be home to tower after tower of hotels, residences, arts venues, shops, and offices. Bookending it all will be two of Bangkok's most notable parks, Lumphini and Benjakitti, which will eventually be connected through the neighborhood's tree-lined promenades. Already open in the district are Thailand's first **Andaz** *(doubles from $375)* and **Ritz-Carlton** *(doubles from $429)* hotels.

HOW TO GO One Bangkok's central location makes it easy to reach by public transit, and it's served by the MRT and the BTS Skytrain, both of which are handy for avoiding the city's notorious traffic gridlock.



MICHIAN DUANGSRIDEE/TY IMAGES



RIGHT *A rendering of Miami Freedom Park.*



LEFT *One Bangkok, with Lumphini Park in the foreground.*

FOR SOCCER FANS

Miami

THE PRICE TAG $1 billion

Miami Freedom Park is the centerpiece of what promises to be a 131-acre mixed-use neighborhood built around soccer. The namesake stadium, which opened in April, has 25,000 seats for Inter Miami CF, the team that's co-owned by David Beckham. As even casual fans may know, it's also the club of Lionel Messi, the superstar who is set to remain with the team through at least 2028. In the years ahead, the broader development will eventually have more than a million square feet of dining, shopping, and other entertainment venues—along with what will soon be one of Miami's largest public parks.

HOW TO GO Located right next to Miami International Airport, the stadium district will be just a couple of minutes from the terminals by car. The area will also have regional rail links, including to downtown Miami. While hotels are part of the overall development plan, there's no word yet on what brands will choose to team up with Beckham et al.

FOR OLYMPICS OBSESSIVES

Los Angeles

THE PRICE TAG More than $10 billion

At nearly 300 acres, **Hollywood Park** is set to become one of the world's foremost competition venues when the 2028 Summer Olympic Games touch down in Los Angeles. Not that fans need to wait that long: the district already houses SoFi Stadium (the home of the Los Angeles Chargers and Los Angeles Rams), which opened in 2020. The venue will also serve as a host for this summer's FIFA World Cup, including at least two games featuring the U.S. Men's National Soccer Team. The broader neighborhood will eventually include more than 25 acres of parks, 2,500 residences, retail outlets, and office space. Come 2028, the district will cohost the Opening Ceremony before turning into the largest swimming venue in Olympic history.

HOW TO GO Hollywood Park's first hotel, the 300-room **Kali Hotel & Rooftop** *(rates not yet available)*, is slated to open this fall as part of Marriott's Autograph Collection. Nearby, the **Anthem Hotel** *(doubles from $154)* is part of Hilton's Tapestry Collection. The area's public transit connections are still thin, but Los Angeles International Airport is just a few miles away.

IT



LEFT *Kai Tak Sports Park, in Hong Kong.*

FOR ENTERTAINMENT ENTHUSIASTS

Hong Kong

THE PRICE TAG $3.8 billion

Built on the site once occupied by Hong Kong's original international airport, **Kai Tak Sports Park** is now the city's largest sports and entertainment complex. Spanning roughly 70 acres, the property officially opened last year, centered around a 50,000-seat, retractable-roof stadium built to host everything from rugby matches to big-name concerts, which have so far included Coldplay and the K-pop act Blackpink. Elsewhere, a series of gardens and green spaces offer room to roam—including a park built on the footprint of the old airport's runway. A sprawling retail and dining complex overlooking Victoria Harbour rounds out the waterfront amenities.

HOW TO GO Situated in Kowloon, the park is served by two Mass Transit Railway stations, as well as a ferry terminal that connects to Hong Kong Island. The luxe **Dorsett Kai Tak Hong Kong** *(doubles from $105)* is next door to the stadium.



ABOVE *The Century Plaza district in Los Angeles.*

FOR PLEASURE SEEKERS

Los Angeles

THE PRICE TAG $2.5 billion

Slated to fully open this summer, **Century Plaza** is a reimagined mini-neighborhood in L.A.'s Century City. While relatively compact in size, at six acres, it aims to become a buzzy culinary and wellness hub for the Westside, centered as it is around the recently renovated **Fairmont Century Plaza Hotel** *(doubles from $512)*. "We'd like to be the town square of Century City," says Jordana Yechiel, residential head of design for Reuben Brothers Group, which developed the parcel. Dining highlights will include a new outpost of Sushi Noz, the high-end New York omakase restaurant, and the first L.A. location for Kyu, an Asian-cuisine hotspot with locations in Las Vegas, Miami, and New York. A preventative wellness and longevity center, the Estate, from hotelier Sam Nazarian and entrepreneur Tony Robbins, is scheduled to open in 2027.

HOW TO GO A new Metro Rail station directly across the street is expected by 2027, a rare convenience for car-centric L.A.

FOR PERFORMING ARTS PATRONS

Melbourne

THE PRICE TAG $1.7 billion

Melbourne Arts Precinct aims to transform this popular seaside city. Backed by the government of Victoria, the redevelopment has been billed as the largest cultural infrastructure investment in Australia's history. The goal is to knit together the area's existing performing arts venues and new green space in the heart of the city.

"There's a huge amount of potential to amplify and lift what is already a successful precinct," says Katrina Sedgwick, director and CEO of the Melbourne Arts Precinct Corporation.

A major centerpiece is the Fox: NGV Contemporary, set to become Australia's largest gallery dedicated to contemporary art and design. Then there's Laak Boorndap, a 200,000-square-foot raised urban garden that will wend through the precinct. Later this fall, the refurbished Ian Potter State Theatre will reopen as the home of the Australian Ballet, marking a major milestone in the transformation, which will run through 2029.

HOW TO GO The Arts Precinct sits just south of the Central Business District, along the Yarra River, and is well connected to public transit. **Hannah St. Hotel** *(doubles from $238)*, a design-forward property that opened in late 2025, is a trendy home base, showcasing works by Australian contemporary artists.