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Resorts in Japan
and China**



11/2025





CHECKING IN

For discerning travellers seeking refined retreats, 2026 heralds a new chapter of extraordinary hotel debuts.

Words: Haziq Yusof

FOR TRUE-BLUE SINGAPOREANS, travel is a national pastime. With 2026 ushering in a slate of exceptional hotel openings worldwide, wanderlust has never been easier to indulge. From vibrant urban enclaves to secluded retreats, the journeys ahead promise an idyllic respite that feels worlds away.



Amanvari

Located on Mexico's East Cape, Amanvari promises Aman's characteristic intimacy within the Costa Palmas development. Boasting a unique proposition of three surrounding landscapes—desert, gulf, and sea—the resort will envelop guests in sweeping views of the Sea of Cortéz and the Sierra de la Laguna mountains. While the architecture is expected to exude contemporary sophistication, rendered in clean lines, the interior spaces will combine white concrete, stone and tropical hardwoods in a sand-toned palette to reflect the natural terrain.

As always, guests can look forward to the full spectrum of Aman's signature lifestyle and wellness-focused experiences. Aman Spa, for example, will feature a contemporary take on the traditional *temazcal*, a spiritual Mesoamerican ceremony that sees participants sit in a dome-shaped structure while water is poured over hot rocks to create a sauna-like environment. Beyond this offering, the resort offers Aman's signature Spa Houses, an open-air yoga pavilion, and spaces designed to induce a leisurely repose.

PHOTOGRAPHY: AMAN GROUP S.A.R.L.



Mandarin Oriental Desaru Coast

Frequent travellers to Desaru Coast will be well acquainted with the range of luxury hotel brands that have established a presence there in recent years. Now, well-heeled visitors can add Mandarin Oriental to the list.

Originally developed and opened under the One&Only brand in 2020, the resort occupies 52 hectares of rainforest and beachfront on Johor's southeastern coast, with direct views of the South China Sea. More than that, the property—Kerry Hill's final completed project—holds architectural significance and follows his established approach to tropical modernism: spatially generous, understated, and attuned to its surrounding landscape.

Within this canvas, the 44 suites and villas are designed as intimate sanctuaries, many with gardens and plunge pools that draw the landscape inward. The spa, soon to become The Spa at Mandarin Oriental, will extend the brand's well-established wellness philosophy, offering a restorative escape imbued with architectural splendour.





★★★★★

1 Hotel Tokyo

A fan-favourite for many Singaporeans, Japan is far from uncharted territory. Tokyo, in particular, has long been a tourism powerhouse, replete with celebrated names in its luxury hospitality space. So, it says a lot about the enduring allure of the city that the debut of 1 Hotel Tokyo is generating anticipation.

It, of course, helps that the hotel looks set to bring the brand's signature biophilic design and sustainability-first philosophy to the capital for the first time. Anchoring Mori Trust's Tokyo World Gate Akasaka development, the property will occupy the upper floors of Akasaka Trust Tower, with a lobby on the 38th floor framing sweeping views of the city. Sporting interior spaces that lean into wabi sabi aesthetics, the hotel will feature Oya stone, reclaimed timber, and living greenery to create a sense of balance and calm against the city's intensity.

The 211 rooms and suites are conceived to offer respite high above the skyline, complemented by a spa inspired by Japanese gardens, an indoor pool, and dedicated wellness studios. With Rank S CASBEE certification, the top distinction in Japan's rigorous green-building standards, 1 Hotel Tokyo looks to be a thoughtful interpretation of urban luxury in one of the world's most familiar capitals.



★★★★★

Kaia Koh Phangan

For those seeking an alternative to Thailand's famed islands, Kaia Koh Phangan offers an intriguing proposition. Opening in the first quarter of 2026, the resort marks the debut of Kaia, a new outdoor hospitality brand by Bound and Beyond and Cloud Collective. Positioned on the island's verdant northeastern coast, it is bordered by protected national parkland and enjoys a secluded beachfront accessible by a 30-minute speedboat from Koh Samui.

The resort distinguishes itself as the only ultra-luxury beachfront tented property on Koh Phangan, with 31 private tented suites and four two-bedroom villas. Each suite, at 77sqm, pairs ocean views with private outdoor decking, a teak-panelled shower, and locally inspired detailing such as textiles by Thai designer Dao Vichada. The villas, meanwhile, come with their own pools, extending the sense of privacy and seclusion.

Kaia's philosophy centres on a design that works in dialogue with the landscape, using natural and recycled materials, and culinary experiences rooted in fire cooking and local produce. More than an intimate retreat, Kaia positions itself as a social sanctuary, where connection with land and community is interwoven within the experience.



PHOTOGRAPHY: 1 HOTEL TOKYO/STARWOOD HOTELS, KAIA KOH PHANGAN/BOUND AND BEYOND PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED.





Chatrium Rawai Phuket

Phuket's southern coastline may not draw the same spotlight as Patong or Kamala, but Rawai offers stunning landscapes of its own. With long sandy stretches and the Andaman Sea on the horizon, Chatrium Rawai Phuket is set to make the most of this setting, bringing a five-star resort that frames the sea at every opportunity.

Designed in a fish bone configuration, the property's 303 rooms and suites maximise ocean views, each with a private balcony that opens to natural light and sea breezes. For those seeking an intimate sense of opulence, the resort's eight pool villas provide a heightened degree of privacy, pairing contemporary comfort with direct access to the outdoors.

Multi-generational families will find themselves well accommodated, with facilities that extend from a children's club, activity pools, and a fitness centre to a panoramic swimming pool and full-service spa. And while we're yet to receive a confirmed opening date, Chatrium Rawai Phuket is looking to be a compelling reason to venture to the island's south.



PHOTOGRAPHY: CHATRIUM RAWAI PHUKET/CITY REALTY CO., LTD., HYATT HOTELS CORPORATION.



Park Hyatt Phu Quoc

Fans of Park Hyatt can look forward to the brand's first resort in Vietnam, slated to open in 2026 on Phu Quoc's secluded southwest tip. Set across 65 hectares of land, the property is framed by low hills, a meandering stream, and a 1.6km-long white sand beach. Though just 15km from Phu Quoc International Airport, the setting is designed to feel distinctly apart.

The resort will feature 175 keys, a blend of guest rooms and private villas, complemented by a branded residences component under the Park Hyatt Phu Quoc Residences banner. Architecture and interiors are being conceived with reference to the forms and textures of traditional Vietnamese villages, employing materials such as rattan, lacquer, and bronze to root the project in its natural and cultural setting.

Park Hyatt Phu Quoc signals a significant expansion for the brand in Asia, bringing its hallmark understated luxury to one of the region's fastest-rising island destinations.

