

SANYA

Attractively melding tropical rainforests and beaches with such cultural draws as ancient temples, Sanya, found on the southern end of Hainan Island, has emerged as one of China's most sought-after tourist destinations. It's also a top global market in the Asia Pacific region, with 53 hotels and 17,231 guestrooms, according to Lodging Econometrics. With interest booming in this resort-like city, numerous global hotel brands have fittingly planted their flags here, including Park Hyatt, Rosewood, Autograph Collection, and EDITION. W, Andaz, and Waldorf Astoria also have properties under development, while the recent openings of an Atlantis and a Hyatt Place underscore how Sanya's natural surroundings provide design inspiration for those seeking an otherworldly experience.

A sand-colored and undulating corridor in Hyatt Place mimics ocean waves

Atlantis Sanya → Located along Haitang Bay, the Atlantis Sanya is a massive 1,314-room hotel (with five underwater suites) that spans a waterpark and retail and restaurant collection. Sibling to Atlantis Ko Olina in Hawaii and Dubai properties Atlantis, the Palm, and the forthcoming Royal Atlantis Resort & Residences, this outpost depicts the ancient myth of Atlantis via a 48-story building with an undulating façade united by two fin-like forms thanks to architecture firm HOK. Featuring a podium

envisioned as spiraling vortexes of water, the tower maximizes ocean views in guestrooms and illuminates a connection to the aquatic life that is “both symbolic and literal throughout the property,” says Greg Cranford, senior principal at HOK’s New York office. Having worked on the Dubai resort, Jeffrey Beers, principal and founder of New York-based Jeffrey Beers International, was already immersed in the Atlantis ethos, but for Sanya’s interiors, it was time for a “new and futuristic narrative that was aimed at a completely

different demographic,” he says. Studying the South China Sea’s marine life led to dressing public spaces and corridors in deep blue and turquoise and etching purple sea fan coral and Chinese lacebark elm onto glass and bronze surfaces. Zitan, Hongmu, and Jichimu, hardwoods native to the province, were also embraced.

Hyatt Place Sanya City Center →

Situated in the Woods Bagot-designed Sunshine Insurance Financial Plaza, the tallest building in Sanya, the 238-room Hyatt Place Sanya City Center also calls to mind its locale. Honglei Liu, cofounder of the Chinese firm BLVD International, with offices in Beijing and Shenzhen, served as design director for the project. For her, weaving in “visual symbols like the beach and forest” was important in capturing the essence of Sanya. A hemispherical metal chandelier at reception and a fan-shaped wooden grille in the restaurant, for example, are married with elements like a seashell ceiling, bamboo basket partitions, sandstone walls, and fishing basket-shaped seating to “give people a touch of the sea,” adds Liu. Gravel, greenery, and wood blur the indoors and outdoors in the open-air pool area, while textural wave-patterned carpets in guestrooms complement calming artwork and mirror seaside vistas savored from the terrace. “We used a fresh color palette, light gray interspersed with blue and brown,” says Liu. “Together they create a dynamic resting place.”



Hyatt Place’s serene rooftop pool is marked by oversized basket-like cabanas



Atlantis Sanya’s podium is conceived as spiraling vortexes of water to maximize ocean views



Expansive windows in Hyatt Place’s lobby allow bar guests to take in the cityscape

Photos by OWEN RAGGETT and DIRK WEIBLEN