

A wide-angle photograph of a modern, minimalist interior space. The dominant feature is a large, curved white staircase with a glass railing and a metal handrail, spiraling upwards. The walls and ceiling are white and feature intricate, light-colored Arabic calligraphy. The floor is highly reflective, showing the silhouette of the man in the foreground. On the left, a man in a white thobe and ghutra is walking away from the camera. The overall atmosphere is clean, bright, and architectural.

# ART AND SOUL

WHETHER IT'S THE GREAT MASTERS, MODERNISTS OR ARCHAEOLOGISTS THAT EXCITE, HERE ARE SOME OF THE TOP ART AND CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS, AND AWAITED MUSEUM OPENINGS, TAKING PLACE AROUND THE WORLD IN 2023.

*Words by* **KATRINA HOLDEN**

**MAJOR EXHIBITIONS AND FESTIVALS**

**PARIS**

PARIS MUSÉES/PETIT PALAIS

SARAH BERNHARDT: AND THE WOMAN CREATED THE STAR  
14 APRIL - 27 AUGUST 2023

To mark the 100th anniversary of the death of painter, sculptor and actress Sarah Bernhardt, Petit Palais in Paris will host an exhibition to present the legacy of her life and influence. Bernhardt was dubbed a 'sacred monster' by Jean Cocteau and was idolised in her day for her theatrical performances in plays by Racine, Shakespeare, Edmond Rostand and Alexandre Dumas. Nearly 400 exhibition pieces will trace her life, including posters, programs, costumes and props – which she collaborated on with Alphonse Mucha in the 1890s, representing the pinnacle of the Art Nouveau movement.

[petitpalais.paris.fr/en](http://petitpalais.paris.fr/en)

**WHERE TO STAY** La Réserve Paris – Hotel and Spa

**CHICAGO, US**

THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

VAN GOGH AND THE AVANT-GARDE: THE MODERN LANDSCAPE

14 MAY – 4 SEPTEMBER 2023

This exhibition pulls into focus the years between 1882 and 1890 when Dutch artist Vincent Van Gogh, and fellow Post-Impressionist artists Georges Seurat, Paul Signac, Émile Bernard, and Charles Angrand, based themselves in villages on the outskirts of Paris. The industrialised suburbs sparked artistic experimentation in colour and brushstrokes. The exhibition will feature more than 75 paintings and drawings from this period, including many from private collections and some that are rarely displayed publicly. Among the works are 25 by Van Gogh, including two triptychs that will be shown together for the first time.

[artic.edu](http://artic.edu)

**WHERE TO STAY** Kimpton, The Gray

**LONDON, UK**

V&A, SOUTH KENSINGTON

GABRIEL CHANEL. FASHION MANIFESTO  
16 SEPTEMBER 2023 – 25 FEBRUARY 2024

If you missed catching Gabriel Chanel. Fashion Manifesto at NGV in Melbourne in 2022, you now have an excuse to head to London instead. The exhibition is entirely dedicated to Gabrielle 'Coco' Chanel, French couturière (1883-1971). Presented with the support of CHANEL and in partnership with Palais Galliera, the fashion museum of the City of Paris, Paris Musées, the exhibit includes more than 100 outfits as well as jewellery, accessories, cosmetics and perfumes that span the entirety of her long career, in which she rewrote the fashion rule book for women. V&A is preparing for the opening of V&A East Storehouse (2024) and V&A Museum at East Bank (2025), a new arts, innovation and education hub in Stratford's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London.

[vam.ac.uk](http://vam.ac.uk)

**WHERE TO STAY** Number Sixteen, Firmdale Hotels

**LONDON, UK**

TATE MODERN

HILMA AF KLINT & PIET MONDRIAN: FORMS OF LIFE  
20 APRIL – 3 SEPTEMBER 2023

Swedish painter Hilma af Klint and Dutch painter Piet Mondrian never met, however both created their own expressions of abstract art rooted in nature. Both artists shared a desire to understand the forces behind life on earth. At this exhibit at Tate Modern, view Mondrian's iconic grids and rarely exhibited paintings of flowers, which he continued to create throughout his life. Also on display will be enigmatic works by af Klint (who was also a medium), creating large-scale, otherworldly masterpieces that she believed were commissioned by higher powers.

[tate.org.uk](http://tate.org.uk)

**WHERE TO STAY** Shangri-La The Shard, London



**OPENING PAGE** The lobby of Dubai's Museum of the Future.

**ABOVE** Historic photo of Sarah Bernhardt, courtesy of Petit Palais, Paris.

**RIGHT, TOP** Vincent van Gogh. *Fishing in Spring, the Pont de Clichy (Asnières)*, 1887. The Art Institute of Chicago, Gift of Charles Deering McCormick, Brooks McCormick, and the Estate of Roger McCormick, 1965.

**RIGHT, CENTRE** V&A Exhibition, Gabrielle Chanel. Fashion Manifesto. Copyright: Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

**RIGHT, BOTTOM** Piet Mondrian. *Composition with red, black, yellow, blue and gray 1921*. Copyright Kunstmuseum Den Haag.



**SPAIN, FRANCE AND INTERNATIONAL**

**PICASSO CELEBRATION 1973-2023**

**VARIOUS DATES 2023**

The 50th anniversary of the death of legendary Spanish artist Pablo Picasso was commemorated on 8 April 2023. To celebrate his prolific body of work and his artistic heritage in France, Spain and internationally, the governments of France and Spain have collaboratively created an international program titled 'Picasso Celebration 1973-2023'. The celebration revolves around 50 exhibitions and events hosted at renowned cultural institutions in France, Spain, other European destinations, and North America. The festivities will coincide with the opening of Centre d'Études Picasso in Paris.

At the age of 13, Picasso attended the School of Fine Arts in Barcelona where his father was a teacher. The Spanish city will host Miró – Picasso from 19 October 2023 to 25 February 2024 at the Picasso Museum. Between June-September the exhibition titled 'But is it possible that they could have done this before me? Picasso and Spanish ceramics in the Museu del Disseny de Barcelona Collections' will also run at the Picasso Museum. The Principality of Monaco will host 'Modernity and Classicism' at the Palais Princier de Monaco from 9 September until 15 October 2023.

[celebracionpicasso.es/en](http://celebracionpicasso.es/en)

**Where to stay** Serras Hotel Barcelona

**MUSEUM OPENINGS**

**DUBAI**

**MUSEUM OF THE FUTURE**

A recent opening, the Museum of the Future in Dubai debuted in February 2022.

Founded by the Dubai Future Foundation, the museum invites visitors to explore how society might evolve in the coming decades using science and technology. The 'living museum' experience incorporates immersive theatre and themed attractions. Clad in stainless steel and glass, the low-carbon project, featuring passive solar architecture, was designed by architect Shaun Killa, co-founder of Killa Design, who wanted the structure to represent Dubai's vision of the future. The void in the centre is meant to symbolise the unknown and what we don't know about the future. The museum stands at 77 metres high, made up of 1024 separate panels – each one specially created by robots and algorithms.

[museumofthefuture.ae](http://museumofthefuture.ae)

**Where to stay** JW Marriott Marquis Hotel Dubai

**SYDNEY**

**SYDNEY MODERN PROJECT**

**ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

Another recent opening, unveiled in December 2022, the Sydney Modern Project is a new standalone building and art garden that has joined the existing, historic Art Gallery of New South Wales structure. The AUD\$344 million project, that has nearly doubled the gallery's display space, was designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architects SANAA, and marks the most significant cultural development to the harbour city since the opening of the Sydney Opera House in 1973. Visit to explore a collection of works by prominent Australian and international artists, as well as extensive outdoor spaces. The building is Australia's first art museum to be awarded the highest rating for sustainable design.

[artgallery.nsw.gov.au](http://artgallery.nsw.gov.au)

**Where to stay** Ovolo Woolloomooloo

**OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP**

**LEFT** Museum of the Future, Dubai.

**TOP RIGHT** Pilar Aymerich and Picasso. Credit: The Picasso Museum, Barcelona.

**LEFT** Sydney Modern Project. Credit: Art Gallery of NSW.



ABOVE, TOP TO BOTTOM  
teamLAB Borderless  
in Tokyo; Buffalo AKG  
Art Museum; mask of  
Tutankhamen (credit:  
Robert Thiemann).

**CAIRO**

**GRAND EGYPTIAN MUSEUM**

With a scheduled late 2023 opening, after being in development for 20 years, the US\$1 billion Grand Egyptian Museum will become the world's largest archaeological museum complex and scientific, historical, and archaeological study centre. The original designs were completed by heneghan peng architects, who adopted a pyramid motif. The museum site will occupy around 500,000m<sup>2</sup> adjacent to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Pyramids on the Giza Plateau. More than 3,500 years of ancient Egyptian history will be showcased through a collection of more than 100,000 artefacts — many of which will be displayed for the first time.

[grandegyptianmuseum.org](http://grandegyptianmuseum.org)

**Where to stay** Marriott Mena House, Cairo

**TOKYO**

**TEAMLAB BORDERLESS**

Relocating from Odaiba in Tokyo Bay to central Tokyo, teamLAB Borderless: MORI Building DIGITAL ART MUSEUM will reopen in 2023 as part of the Toranomon-Azabudai Project. The new museum will unveil works by art collective teamLab that explore the concept, “wander, explore, discover in one borderless world.” The original complex in Odaiba, which opened in 2018, attracted 2.3 million visitors from 160 countries in its inaugural year. Artworks are seamlessly connected, moving in and out of rooms, creating an immersive, borderless experience.

[Teamlab.art](http://Teamlab.art)

**Where to stay** Janu Tokyo (opening later in 2023)

**BUFFALO, NEW YORK**

**BUFFALO AKG ART MUSEUM**

Reopening in May 2023, the former Albright-Knox Art Gallery was designed by Shohei Shigematsu at OMA, with Cooper Robertson selected as the executive architects. The new Buffalo AKG will house a world-renowned collection of modern and contemporary art and is comprised of more than 4645m<sup>2</sup> of state-of-the-art exhibition space, five classrooms, an interior community gathering space, and vast, public green outdoor zones.

[buffaloakg.org](http://buffaloakg.org)

**Where to stay** The Edward Hotel, Buffalo



# EMBRACE SKY-HIGH LUXURY WITH CELESTIAL SUITES

*Parisian opulence is merely one feature of Sofitel Melbourne on Collins' new Level 50 offering.*

Collins Street has long been celebrated as the epicentre of Melbourne's luxury heartland, and it's a reputation set to be further cemented with the launch of Sofitel Celestial Suites at Sofitel Melbourne on Collins.

Set high up towards the clouds some 150 metres above the city's landmark address, a lavish experience awaits those who opt for a Level 50 stay, with beautifully appointed accommodation available across four exquisite suites. Require an elegant suite for two, or treating yourself to a stay in the cultural capital of Australia? The Ambassador Suite and the Deluxe Suite each offer a separate bedroom and lounge area, with a decor rich in understated luxury. The Imperial Suite (a two-bedroom residence) is extravagant in size, offering a grand bathroom (complete with gold-plated bathtub for that extra special touch) and a dining area perfect for that convivial gathering of eight. Meanwhile, the generously lavish three-bedroom

residence, Opera Suite leaves guests spellbound with its unrivalled views over Port Phillip Bay.

Of course, Sofitel Celestial Suites at Sofitel Melbourne isn't only about providing guests a decadent 'room with a view', but about delivering the ultimate luxury Melbourne stay from start to finish. Suite guests not only enjoy complimentary airport transfers to and from Tullamarine airport, a personal butler upon request, and a wealth of sophisticated amenities and facilities — but there's a guaranteed window table waiting for you at No 35 Restaurant, lauded for its contemporary take on regional produce.

A study in grandeur and warmth, each suite features a full assortment of premium minibar items, personalised pillow slips and bathrobe, luxury slippers, indulgent Balmain Paris amenities, and fresh blooms to brighten each stay as well as flat-screen televisions, Nespresso coffee machines for that not-so-early-morning

wake-up and the much-adored king-sized Sofitel MyBed with tailored pillow menu for restful slumber. All Sofitel Celestial Suite guests also enjoy complimentary access to the 35th floor Club Sofitel for executive breakfasts, pre-dinner drinks and canapés or just some much-needed quiet time to gaze down at the bustling city below. Got work to do? State-of-the-art meeting facilities can also be found at Club Sofitel — just don't forget a little downtime back in your suite afterwards.

It can't all be about the stellar accommodation of course. For those keen to immerse themselves in the best shopping, dining and entertainment Melbourne has to offer, it's a simple elevator down to find yourself deep in the heart of the action — the best of Australia's most stylish city all in one fabulous location.

For further information on Sofitel Celestial Suites at Sofitel Melbourne, visit [sofitel-melbourne.com.au/celestial-suites](http://sofitel-melbourne.com.au/celestial-suites)

ABOVE Sweeping views of Melbourne from the Opera Suite, Three-Bedroom Residence; and touches of Parisian luxury for guests during their stay.



**ABOVE** East view of Powerhouse Parramatta, opening in 2023.

**LEFT** Istanbul Modern. Credit: Cemal Emden.

**ONES TO WATCH OUT FOR**

**ISTANBUL**

**ISTANBUL MODERN**

Opening in 2023 in a new building is Istanbul Modern, Turkey’s first museum of modern and contemporary art. Designed by Pritzker prize-winning architect Renzo Piano Building (of Centre Pompidou and Whitney Museum acclaim), the landmark structure is located at the museum’s original site on the waterfront of Karaköy, in one of the most historic districts of Istanbul. Established in 2004, Istanbul Modern holds a collection of modern and contemporary art, photography, design, architecture, and new media. The museum’s new building will showcase works from the collection and temporary exhibitions, as well as provide an environment for educational workshops. Spaces will include several exhibition halls, a cinema, library, design shop, event spaces, a café and restaurant.

[Istanbulmodern.org/en](http://Istanbulmodern.org/en)

**Where to stay** The Bank Hotel Istanbul, a Member of Design Hotels

**SYDNEY**

**POWERHOUSE PARRAMATTA**

When it opens in 2023, Powerhouse Parramatta will be the first NSW State Cultural Institution to be based in Western Sydney. The museum will play host to exclusive international exhibitions, education and community programs; and will display more than 500,000 objects in its collection. Works on Powerhouse Parramatta, designed by Hiroko Kusunoki, Nicholas Moreau and Steven Toia (Lead Architects at Moreau Kusunoki and Genton), commenced in 2022. At 30,000m<sup>2</sup> it will become the largest museum in NSW, with an anticipated two million visitors through its doors in the first year.

[maas.museum](http://maas.museum)

**ABU DHABI**

**GUGGENHEIM ABU DHABI**

Designed by renowned architect Frank Gehry (also the designer of Guggenheim Bilbao in Spain), Guggenheim Abu Dhabi is on track for a 2025 opening. The museum will be the largest outpost of the Solomon R Guggenheim Foundation’s list of international museums. The collection, which has been in development for more than 15 years, will include modern and contemporary artworks, showcasing global art histories from such regions as West Asia, North Africa and South Asia.

[guggenheim.org](http://guggenheim.org)



# TAKE THE OCEAN LESS TRAVELLED

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Aurora Expeditions is an award-winning Australian-owned expedition company, with more than 32 years’ experience. A pioneer in polar expeditions – Aurora Expeditions is truly committed to environmentally respectful travel and Certified Climate Neutral.

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Our expert Expedition Team have always been about sharing their knowledge and understanding of some

of the most remote and unspoiled destinations in Antarctica, the Arctic & beyond. When you disembark, we want you to be richer in your knowledge and understanding of our planet than you were when you stepped aboard.

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