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9 Spots to Visit During Art Basel Hong Kong

The three-day art fair is the perfect opportunity to check out some of the city's best designed places to stay, eat, and see

TEXT BY [JOHN WOGAN](#)

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The Hong Kong art scene is booming. Not only have mega-galleries like [Gagosian](#), [White Cube](#), and [Lehmann Maupin](#) arrived here recently, but ground has already broken on an epic [Herzog & de Meuron](#) building that will be one of the largest modern art museums in the world. Hong Kong has also become an important stop on the international art fair circuit—including [Art Basel](#) (the third iteration of the immensely popular fair after its Swiss and Miami Beach versions), which kicks off its fourth year next week, with a preview on March 22nd and 23rd before officially opening on the 24th. Over 200 galleries from across the globe will convene at the city's Convention and Exhibition Centre, and it's expected to draw close to 70,000 visitors. If you happen to be one of them, it's the perfect opportunity to check out a highly edited, art- and design-centric list of the best Hong Kong has to offer, like the nine places here—a few of our favorite spots to stay, eat, and see. [artbasel.com](#)

STAY

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The Upper House Hong Kong native [Andre Fu](#) designed the serene interiors of this relative newcomer (opened in 2008) to the city's established hotel scene. The 117 rooms (one of which is pictured below) offer panoramic views of the harbor, especially enticing from the limestone bathtubs as the sun sets over the skyline. Even if you're not spending the night, you can still catch the view (and a cocktail) at the hotel's 49th floor Café Gray Bar. *From \$670/night; [upperhouse.com](#)*





Photo: Courtesy of The Upper House

The Peninsula An icon in Hong Kong since the 1920s, the [Peninsula](#) underwent a \$58 million renovation in 2012 and is now one of the most tech-forward hotels in Asia, with multilanguage touch-screen panels—to control the temperature, curtains, or television—arranged throughout the 300 guest rooms and custom tablet technology that's used for everything from room service orders to housekeeping requests. Custom-made furniture from [Cassina](#) and [Poltrona Frau](#) was also added. *From \$897/night; [peninsula.com](#)*

Mandarin Oriental Located in the city's primary business area, Hong Kong Island's Central District, the very first [Mandarin Oriental](#) property is also considered its best. Looking out over the city's glittering skyline or the harbor, the 501 guest rooms are swathed with Black Forest marble and travertine stone accents, while baths are stocked with Hermès products. Man Wah, the hotel's traditional Cantonese restaurant, is always packed with locals (which is a good sign). *From \$450/night; [mandarinoriental.com](#)*

EAT

Duddell's An art crowd favorite since opening three years ago in Central, this two-level [Cantonese restaurant](#) acts as a gallery of sorts, showing rotating exhibits from artists like Ai Weiwei. The interior design by Ilse Crawford uses pops of bright yellow and red, and there's a garden terrace for cocktails outdoors (when the humidity is at bearable levels). Try the Opium, made with Johnnie Walker, poppy seed milk, peaches, and lime. *3/E, 1 Duddell Street; [duddells.co](#)*



Photo: Courtesy of Duddell's

Aberdeen Street Social Michelin-starred chef [Jason Atherton](#) (Berner's Tavern in London, the Clocktower in New York) has created a menu focusing on modern British fare, shown off in dishes like poached Atlantic cod with gin-soaked kohlrabi, and pig's trotter and ham hock with crispy black pudding (pictured below). Shanghai-based [Neri & Hu](#) designed the sleek, light-filled interiors of the space, located in Central. *35 Aberdeen Street*; aberdeenstreetsocial.hk



Photo: Courtesy of Aberdeen Street Social

Mott 32 This Michelin-starred restaurant in Central serves arguably the best dim sum in Hong Kong in an elevated speakeasy-style, subterranean Art Deco space, located in the basement of the Standard Chartered Bank building. Hong Kong architect Joyce Wang collaborated on the design with [Maximal Concepts](#) (which worked on other popular restaurants in the city, like [Brickhouse](#) and [Blue Butcher](#)). *Standard Chartered Bank Building, 4-4A Des Voeux Road*;

SEE

Pedder Building Some of Hong Kong’s biggest galleries (including [Gagosian](#), [Hanart T’Z](#), [Lehmann Maupin’s](#) Rem Koolhaas–designed space, and [Pearl Lam](#)) are located in the 1924 neoclassical Pedder Building in Central—a must-visit for anyone interested in the city’s commercial art world today. *12 Pedder Street*

Asia Society In 2012, the Hong Kong branch of the [Asia Society](#) moved into its \$50 million [Tod Williams and Billie Tsien](#)–designed building, a renovation of a former munitions factory used by the British military. The current exhibition, “Shahzia Sikander: Apparatus of Power,” runs through July 9. *9 Justice Drive; [asiasociety.org](#)*

Para Site This is the nexus of Hong Kong’s cutting-edge contemporary art scene. Founded in 1996, [Para Site](#) runs a series of exhibitions (of both local and international art), cultural programs, and residencies. “Afterwork,” a group exhibition exploring issues of class and race in Hong Kong, runs through May 29. *22, Wing Wah Industrial Building, 677 King’s Road; [para-site.org.hk](#)*

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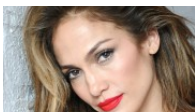


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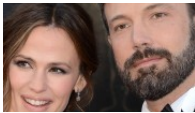
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