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The Passport blog

Openings: Tokyo, Bangkok, Sweden, Boston

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The 23-storey Palace Hotel Tokyo has Japan's first Evian spa.

A bi-weekly round-up of new hotels and hideaways, treks and tours.

The 23-storey [Palace Hotel Tokyo](#) opens 17 May next to the moat and gardens of central Tokyo's Imperial Palace. Built on the same site as the former Palace Hotel, the hotel has 290 rooms and suites, Japan's first Evian spa and views of the Imperial Palace's green gardens. It also has an underground retail and restaurant area where direct access to the Otemachi subway station will open in 2013.

In Southeast Asia, the [Hotel Sofitel Bangkok Sukhumvit](#) officially opens 14 May in a modern tower block close to the city's financial and commercial district. The 345 rooms have stellar city views, and public areas include a library, an outdoor, landscaped, 23m pool as well as multiple bars and restaurants.

On 3 May, the [Radisson Blu Uppsala](#) opened near the Central Train Station in Uppsala, Sweden's foremost university town, located just 40 minutes from Stockholm. The 185 rooms have whimsical touches of pinks and greens that carry through to the glass-fronted restaurant, Picnic.

A new 10-day [Golden Road to Samarkand](#) tour departs 19 May (with additional trips through August 2012) from Silk Road Treasure Tours. Travellers fly to Tashkent, Uzbekistan and then visit the city of Nukus near the Aral Sea, driving through the Red Sands desert to Bukhara and Samarkand, and stopping at grand mosques, ancient wineries and Tamerlane's (the Mongol emperor and conqueror) summer residence along the way.

South of Boston, the [Hyatt Place Braintree](#) opens on 21 May with a 24-hour guest kitchen that provides meals and snacks around the clock via a touch-screen kiosk. The 204 rooms all come with a separate sitting area and sleeper sofas.

Web link

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