

LUXURY LEAGUE

Raffles-branded luxury hotel coming to Boston

The first Raffles-branded hotel in North America – and the 15th in the world – is coming to Boston.

When the 33-story, \$400 million hotel opens in early 2022, it will join the leagues of luxury hotels across the globe, including a soaring skyscraper in Shenzhen, China, a private island in the Maldives and an all-suite hotel overlooking Saudi Arabia's Grand Mosque and Kaaba. The luxury brand debuted in Singapore in 1887.

The Raffles Boston Back Bay Hotel & Residences will be developed by a partnership between the Saunders Hotel Group and The Noannet Group. It will be located at 40 Trinity Place and will feature 147 guest rooms and 146 branded residences.

"Raffles is one of the most iconic names in the world, while the Back Bay is one of the most iconic neighborhoods in world. In researching potential hotel partners for this project, we became enamored with everything Raffles stood for," said Jordan Warshaw, president of The Noannet Group, in a statement. "Every member of the Accor team, from the CEO to the head of design, shares the Raffles vision of creating beautiful, iconic buildings with warm, friendly service that seamlessly blend into their environments – always timeless, always local, never generic, trendy or stuffy."

The Saunders family has owned

hotels in Boston's Back Bay for more than three generations, including the Copley Square Hotel, the Lenox, the Loews Boston Hotel and the former Boston Statler Hilton.

"To partner with Raffles, a brand that so thoroughly understands and honors the intersection of global and local, is a triumph for the city," said Gary Saunders, chairman of Saunders Hotel Group. "This property will reflect the community it serves in Boston, from its design to its amenities, and we feel it will be unlike anything the city has seen."

The developers intend to raze the current site – located a stone's throw from the erstwhile John Hancock Tower – and develop the 33-story Raffles from the ground up. The Raffles site is also located near Boston's Fairmont Copley Plaza hotel. Raffles and Fairmont are sister properties, both owned by Paris-based hospitality group Accor.

Features of the Raffles Boston will include a rooftop garden terrace and lounge, meeting and pre-function space, a two-story sky lobby and six food and beverage venues. The property will also have a Raffles spa with 20-meter indoor pool and fitness club.

Chelsea-based The Architectural Team Inc. will design the property, which Suffolk Construction will build. Stonehill Taylor and Rockwell Group will design the interiors.

– Catherine Carlock



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