

FULL CIRCUIT

In uptempo *Tel Aviv*, a steady supply of sunshine, hummus and hedonism powers a dynamic melting pot of class and culture, ancient history and high-tech.

Photographs AMIT GERON
Words CARLI PHILIPS

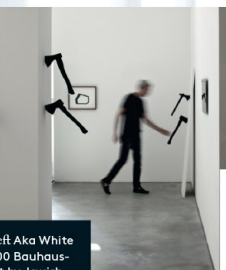
This page While sleek skyscrapers continue to pierce the Tel Aviv skyline, preservation projects are also on the increase. Opposite page The Holon Design Museum's sweeping steel-ribbed form was conceived by influential Israeli-born architect, artist and industrial designer Ron Arad.



PHOTOGRAPH BY GETTY IMAGES (TEL AVIV SKYLINE)



Clockwise from top left Aka White City, Tel Aviv has 4000 Bauhaus-style buildings built by Jewish architects who fled Germany in the 1930s. Jaffa seaport, Alon Segev Art Gallery, Graphic window restoration, The Bauhaus Center, Agas & Tamar Jewellery boutique in the creative Neve Zedek area. Luxe Norman Hotel.

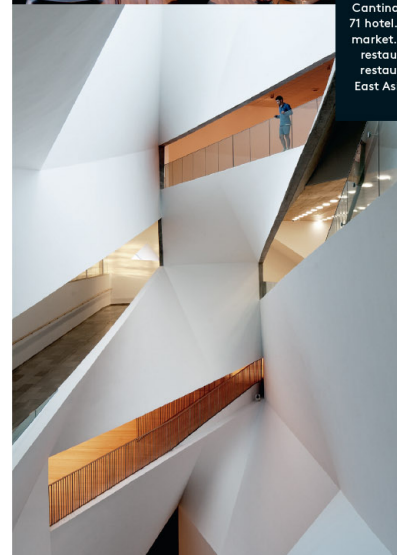


A thriving metropolis with the energy of New York and a rich, storied history, the pint-sized 'White City' of Tel Aviv boasts the largest concentration of 1930s Bauhaus architecture anywhere. A melting pot of class and culture, it's a leader in medical research, sustainable farming and technology. Bursting at the seams with dynamic start-ups, an emerging art and design culture and a feisty bar and culinary scene, there's also a hypnotic sense of history and commitment to conservation. With its infectious hedonism, it's also called the 'Miami of the Med' but there's nothing quite like it.

Tel Aviv's 14-kilometre promenade on the Mediterranean, the Tayelet, stretches from the ancient port of Jaffa in the south to the revamped harbour in the north. Here, a warehouse has been transformed into the impressive **B&B ITALIA SHOWROOM** (bebitalia.com) by architects **PITSOU KEDEM** (pitsou.com). Strict laws that require heritage facades to remain intact have also resulted in a crop of discreet boutique hotels. Housed in a 1920s mansion, the 12-room **HOTEL MONTEFIORE** (hotelmontefiore.co.il) is chic and relaxed with **ARIA** (en.ariatv.co.il), its buzzy French-Vietnamese restaurant and bar, delivering inventive cocktails and nightly DJs. Run by sibling entrepreneurs Adi and Irit Strauss, the eclectic **ALMA HOTEL** (en.almahotel.co.il) scores points for its Bulgari amenities. Chef Yonatan Roshfeld creates deconstructed dishes at downstairs Alma Lounge where his Golan Heights-spiced lamb reigns supreme. Luxe **NORMAN HOTEL** (thenorman.com) is one of the only non-waterside hotels to have a pool. A chic stay near the beach is **MENDELI STREET HOTEL** (mendelistreethotel.com).

A mild climate makes for an outdoorsy city, with joggers, walkers and cyclists sharing the streets. At the city's tree-lined heart is the exclusive pedestrian-only Rothschild Boulevard, perfect for people watching. In nearby Bialik Street is the **BAUHAUS MUSEUM**, while the **BAUHAUS CENTER** (bauhaus-center.com) is the place to go for guided walks of the area.

Dining is almost always alfresco, with sidewalks packed from dawn until late. **CAFÉ SHELEG** (Ge'ula Street 44) is a bohemian spot with great coffee, while contemporary bakery **BREAD AND CO** (corner Ben Yehuda and Ben Gurion Streets) has mouthwatering baked goods. **DA DA & DA** (Rothschild Boulevard 7) is a gem of a brasserie offering takeaway meals, but it's worth dining in and soaking up the lovely French-style interior.



Clockwise from top left Taizu calls itself an 'AsiaTerraean' kitchen. B&B Italia's glamorous showroom. Cantina restaurant at Rothschild 71 hotel. Elementa Design at Jaffa market. The Old Man and the Sea restaurant. Tapolopompo 'fire' restaurant serves smoking hot East Asian fare. Tel Aviv Museum of Art. B&B Italia.



