

Radisson remains on track to boost Africa hotel development

The Radisson Hotel Group has made Africa the centre of its growth strategy and aims to reach around 150 hotels in operation and under development by 2025.



Image Supplied - Radisson RED Johannesburg Rosebank to open in 2021

During 2020, the group increased its African portfolio with nine hotel signings, resulting in an addition of over 1,600 rooms, reinforcing its presence in key markets such as Egypt, South Africa and Nigeria but also Ghana and Reunion Island. With conversions at the forefront of the growth strategy for the group, two of these additional hotels were able to open within the same year.

Radisson Hotel & Convention Centre, Johannesburg, O.R Tambo opened in October, representing the first upscale Radisson branded hotel in South Africa while Radisson Collection Hotel, Bamako opening in December, debuting as Africa's first Radisson Collection hotel.

Reinforcing Africa presence

Ramsay Rankoussi, vice president, development, Africa and Turkey, said: "Looking ahead, 2021 represents a year of continued acceleration, with a focus on our identified key markets, specifically Morocco, Egypt, Nigeria and South Africa. We have reinforced our team and resources in order to not only increase the momentum of our growth ambitions but also to better respond to the needs of the investment community in each market with the right skill set and relevant solutions.

"This year, we expect in excess of a dozen new African hotel signings and around 2,000 rooms, 50% of which will be in these core focus countries with the remainder reinforcing our presence in cluster markets or entering into new territories, further cementing the group's position as a hotel company with one of the largest active presence in the most countries across Africa."

"Conversion will continue to remain a priority in our expansion strategy, especially post-pandemic, as there is less liquidity for newer developments. We, therefore, seek to form wider partnerships and strategic ventures with local and/ or regional chains and forge ahead with our city scale and critical mass strategy," added Rankoussi.



Radisson launches new brand, signs 10 hotels across EMEA region

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In response to the evolving demands of the modern market for both hotel owners and guests, the group recently launched a new brand, Radisson Individuals, aimed at individual hotels with strong service scores and existing hotel identities who wish to remain independent or may be considering overtime transitioning to one of the group's core brands.

The new affiliation brand also provides a tailor-made solution for local and regional hotel brands seeking to explore the benefits of the Radisson network such as additional distribution channels and/ or co-branding options.

Commenting on the expansion of the Group brands in Africa, Rankoussi said: "Radisson has now become our fastest growing brand, as it represents the ideal model for Africa, leveraging our core name "Radisson" along with an efficient and cost-effective brand which is well-positioned for every African city. We will however still continue to reinforce Radisson Blu as one of the leading hotel brands, building on its success across the continent.

"With the recent introduction of Radisson Collection to Africa with the hotel opening in Bamako, we see the potential to accelerate the development of the brand in relevant key capital cities and form a collection of iconic hotels."

Growing key operational activities

Tim Cordon, area senior vice president, Middle East and Africa commented: "Despite the current situation, we have a strong year ahead of us, supporting the robust expansion strategy, our teams are working tirelessly to realise the pipeline, with six hotel openings in Africa lined up before year-end.

"These hotel openings signify our debut into various markets, from a portfolio of three hotels in Madagascar to Juba in South Sudan and St. Denis in Reunion Island. Building on the continued success of the Radisson RED brand in Cape Town, we will also be debuting this unique brand in Johannesburg with the opening of Africa's second Radisson RED hotel in Rosebank."

"As a group, we will continue to innovate and answer the evolving needs of our guests and stakeholders, such as developing concepts like that of our hybrid solutions as we remain committed to providing the best and safest experience to our guests. We are also working closely in each market we operate in, in order to support the critical mass strategy and unlock relevant synergies across the region," concluded Cordon.

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