

PLANNER'S WORKSHOP

hot spots

➔ The best meetings aren't all work — these hotels are great for play, too

5 Hotel Game Rooms Groups Will Love

By Matt Alderton

Along with spaces to meet and work, many hotels are outfitting their properties with spaces to unplug and have fun. Among those areas are grown-up game rooms and arcades that transport guests back to childhood, when playtime was all the time.

Here are five hotels setting the bar with play spaces that rival their meeting spaces.

Hotel Palomar Los Angeles – Beverly Hills (*Los Angeles, CA*)

Hotel Palomar Los Angeles – Beverly Hills recently completed a \$12 million renovation that encompassed its public spaces, 264 guest rooms, and a chic new game room that includes board games, shuffleboard, billiards, skeeball, video games, darts, and dual 4K high-definition TVs. The room can be rented on its own or in conjunction with the new, adjoining bar and restaurant. Under the same roof is 5,000 square feet of meeting and event space, including a ballroom for up to 200 attendees and several breakout rooms for groups of 16 to 48.

Hotel Colonnade (*Coral Gables, FL*)

Miami's Hotel Colonnade — a former Westin that is now part of Marriott International's Tribute Portfolio — also



recently completed a renovation. The \$18 million project modernized the 1920s-era 157-room property and added a quirky new game room, which boasts activities like billiards, tabletop shuffleboard, darts, and video games, as well as a bar that's perfect for hosting events like liquor tastings. Of course, the hotel also has ample meeting space. Approximately 23,000 square feet of it, in fact.

Chicago Athletic Association Hotel (*Chicago, IL*)

A former private men's club, the Chicago Athletic Association Hotel is now one of the Windy City's hippest hotels and hangouts. On the second floor, you'll find a wood-paneled gaming hall. It features billiards, shuffleboard, foosball, cards, checkers, chess, and bocce, not to mention a food menu of "concession classics and street food favorites." Groups of up to 150 can rent out a portion of the space for semi-private events while parties of 150 to 250 can arrange a full buyout of the space.

Hotel Zeppelin (*San Francisco, CA*)

Viceroy Hotel Group's Hotel Zeppelin's 1,300-square-foot, Silicon Valley-style game room taps into the city's countercultural past. Called Peace — named for the giant peace sign that adorns one wall — it has a full-sized electronic bingo board, a quick-shot basketball wall, skeeball, shuffleboard, and billiards, and can be combined with an adjacent meeting space to create a 2,000-square-foot event venue.

Excalibur Hotel & Casino (*Las Vegas, NV*)

In Las Vegas, "gaming" usually means "gambling." Several Strip-side resorts, however, are embracing games of a different sort in dedicated game rooms. One is Excalibur Hotel & Casino, where you'll find the Fun Dungeon, an arcade that's home to more than 200 games, including 15 carnival midways, 10 KiddieLand games, 60 arcade games, 10 sports games, and plenty more. A highlight is what the resort claims is the world's largest Pac-Man game. ■