

SeaWorld's Middle East expansion will not have orcas

SeaWorld's first attraction outside of North America will also be its first not to include killer whales, *AM2* can exclusively reveal.

The company, which earlier this year pledged that its current generation of orcas would be its last in captivity, has firmed up plans for a Middle East expansion – rumoured to be coming to either Abu Dhabi or Saudi Arabia.

"We're at a definitive agreement stage, money has changed hands and we're currently designing the park," said SeaWorld CEO Joel Manby, speaking to *AM2*.

Under Manby's stewardship, SeaWorld has spent the last year-and-a-half redefining itself as a park that cares.



The new Middle East location will be the first with no orca facility

The move signals a new phase in the life of SeaWorld, with plans for a broader entertainment mix to replace its iconic orcas.

"Things are certainly progressing and it will be the first SeaWorld attraction ever to not have a killer whale facility," Manby

said. "We're looking at other really big ideas in place of that."

Manby also unveiled his vision for the future of SeaWorld: "Right now our parks are kind of built around large animal stadiums – dolphins, whales, sea lions etc," he said. "We're adding in an expanded ride mix and we're also looking at virtual reality to bring in animals that can't be brought in live or to go behind the scenes with animals you can't get near. We're broadening the entertainment mix so we're not just about animal entertainment venues, we want to be a caring animal company that's really fun to visit but not just about animal entertainment."

More: http://lei.sr?a=X3r7W_A

Pokémon Go sends AR mainstream with 75 million downloads

While 2016 has been hailed as the year of virtual reality, augmented reality could well pip the new tech thanks to the power of Nintendo and the runaway success of Pokémon Go.

Since the game's launch on 6 July, initially in the US and Australia, Nintendo's value has soared – at one point even exceeding the value of Sony as it added billions of dollars to its value in just a matter of weeks.

The game for smartphones – based on the popular Pokémon gaming series first released in 1996 on the Game Boy console – lets players catch Pokemon in AR, combining GPS with real-world exploration to create a first-of-its-kind experience acting as a trailblazer for AR gaming.

Developed by former Google subsidiary Niantic, Pokémon Go immediately became the top free app in the US and Australia when it was released and has now been downloaded more than 75 million times across IOS and Android.

The game offers great potential in its current form for the attractions industry, with players actively seeking out cultural sites marked as "Pokestops" in the game. Additionally, iconic locations such as Times Square or the Eiffel Tower have been touted as places where rare Pokémon will appear at certain times, driving gamers to attractions they might not have visited otherwise.

More: http://lei.sr?a=f6u8y_A



Pokémon Go is driving visits to attractions

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The exhibition will celebrate the biodiversity of Cuba as part of an wider collaboration

Landmark Cuba exhibition set for NY

A bilingual exhibition planned for later this year will mark one of the first cultural tie-ups between the US and Cuba following decades of frosty relations between the two nations.

The American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) in New York will kick-off the US-Cuba collaboration with *iCuba!* – an exhibition that will include live animals and specimens as part of a showcase of Cuba.

AMNH is working with the Cuban National Museum of Natural History on the project, with the two institutions signing a Memorandum of Understanding on 9 July. The MoU, which was also co-signed by the Cuban Environmental Agency, includes collaboration on research, future exhibitions and education.

More: http://lei.sr?a=Q6A6S_A

Ibiza about to reach capacity, says popular party island's tourist board

The famed party destination of Ibiza cannot handle its ever-increasing tourism market, according to the island's tourism bureau.

Speaking to *Pulse*, Vincente Torres, director of the Ibiza Department of Tourism, said that the island has a "limited capacity", and that the constant increase in tourism was unsustainable.

Party tourism – which is the backbone of Ibiza's economy – is beginning to prove as much a blight as it is a blessing for the tourist hotspot, which is expected to record record visitor numbers in 2016.

Tourist numbers far outweigh the island's population – around 13,000 – with Ibiza offering nearly 100,000 beds for tourism.

According to Torres, the rise has had an



Ibiza's club scene is the backbone of its economy

impact on infrastructure such as roads, the environment and levels of clean drinking water, of which the supply is limited.

In addition to party-goers, Ibiza also offers a multitude of tourist attractions, most significantly its World Heritage areas.

More: http://lei.sr?a=E4H6R_A

English Heritage lobbies for Olympic jousting

English Heritage has launched a campaign to turn one of its most popular events into a fully-fledged Olympic sport, with the cultural body pushing for jousting to be recognised.

Recognised as England's first national sport, English Heritage argues that jousting should be added to the Olympic portfolio as one of the world's oldest equestrian sports.

A popular draw during the summer months for England's castles, today's modern jousters need to be in peak physical condition and reach a high skill level to adequately perform in the modern-day version of the sport. The event pits two competitors wearing 44lbs (20kg) of armour against each other, both armed with a 12ft (3.7m) lance as they charge forwards at speeds of up to 30mph (48kmph), trying to knock their opponent off their horse.

English Heritage said it had held preliminary talks with International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Fédération Equestre Internationale. The IOC said however it was "unaware" of any request for inclusion.

The IOC is in the process of making its Olympic programme more flexible,



Jousting hit its peak through the 15th and 16th centuries, with Henry VIII one of its top advocates

introducing rules that allow the host nation of each Games to make its own proposals for additional events.

"Given what sports have been submitted to the Olympics over the years, I don't think there is any reason that something which has

been a sport for over a thousand years should not be considered," said Dominic Sewell, jousting expert for English Heritage. "If the sport organises itself, there is no reason why we could not be ready for Tokyo."

More: http://lei.sr?a=m6C8r_A

Universal Japan's Nintendo addition will dwarf Harry Potter attraction

Universal Studios Japan has said its upcoming Nintendo attraction will be developed at a cost of ¥50bn (US\$485m, €440m, £369.5m) – a significant increase on previous estimates.

By comparison, the new attraction – which will be a fully immersive Mario-themed land – will cost around ¥10bn (US\$97m, €88m, £73.9m) more than its highly successful Wizarding World of Harry Potter attraction, which has been an unrivaled success since opening in 2014, generating millions of dollars in revenue.

According to Universal Japan, the Nintendo attraction will exceed the size of its Harry Potter element and will feature multiple attractions, dining options and



The Nintendo addition will cost ¥10bn more than Harry Potter

retail venues. The mainly Mario-themed expansion will take four years to develop at a cost of US\$350m (€317.5m, £266.7m), with the opening timed to coincide with the 2020 Olympics and Paralympic Games, which are to be hosted in Tokyo.

More: http://lei.sr?a=V6N3X_A



The project will cost €11m to build

Norway plans museum dedicated to Nordlandsjekt

Designs for a museum dedicated to the world's only preserved Nordlandsjekt – a 17th century Norwegian cargo ship – have been unveiled.

Located in Bodø lake in north-western Norway, Anna Karoline will be centred around the vessel of the same name, which will form the centrepiece of the museum as part of a wider exhibition looking at jekt shipping heritage. The ship has spent the last 60 years in storage, most recently setting sail in 1954 as a transport barge.

More: http://lei.sr?a=t5j8M_A

Surf park in hot water after county authorises suit

A surf park set to make waves in Texas has hit troubled waters after Travis County Commissioners authorised a lawsuit to prevent it from opening if it failed to meet the same legal requirements as a public pool.

The NLand Surf Park – a development led by businessman Doug Coors and backed by Colorado-based 9th Street Capital – broke ground in April 2015 but may now have to meet the same standards for its 48,500sq m (522,000sq ft) surf lagoon as it would for other pools in the state, which would usually measure at around 1,250sq m (13,450sq ft) by comparison.

“Since breaking ground we have worked closely with city, county and state officials, and have demonstrated a commitment to being responsible stewards in each aspect of the park’s operation,” said an NLand statement, which added that the action of the state came as a “surprise” to the operator.

According to Travis County officials, public swimming pools must meet a number of requirements to operate within the state of Texas. These laws include specific levels of chlorine, and development in a way that



The park just broke its first wave using technology by Wavegarden during testing

reduces drowning risk. The law also states that the pool must be built in a way to prevent people spitting into the pool or urinating in the water.

The lawsuit will debate whether the lagoon – to be filled with 11 million gallons

(41 million litres) of rainwater – should be treated differently from other pools in the state because of its natural make up. It will feature 11 surfing areas by Wavegarden.

More: http://lei.sr?a=u6m9j_A



Ferrari Land will open in 2017

PortAventura’s Ferrari Land sets opening date

PortAventura has revealed the official opening date for its Ferrari Land attraction, with the theme park addition coming to the Spanish resort on 7 April 2017.

The 60,000sq m (646,000sq ft) Ferrari Land will be centred around its vertical accelerator rollercoaster, which will become the tallest in Europe at 112m (367.5ft), exceeding PortAventura’s own Shambhala for the impressive record.

Design practice PGAV – in collaboration with Ferrari – is behind the design of the €100m (£84m, US\$110m) project.

More: http://lei.sr?a=a2S4V_A

Rocks to double as air conditioners for animals at new Dubai Safari Park

A safari park opening later this year in Dubai will feature misting machines, cool-water pools and rocks fitted with air conditioning to keep temperatures down.

Design and construction firm Cape Reed are creating the 120 hectare (296.5 acre) site for the Dubai Municipality, and have had to think innovatively in order to ensure the park’s thousands of animals are kept in cool enough conditions in the desert climate. The park is being built in Al Warqa, where temperatures regularly hit more than 40°C.

Dubai Safari Park will open in the last quarter of 2016; four years after construction began. It will replace the old Dubai Zoo.

The development will be divided into three sectors – African, Asian and



The faux rocks will keep animals cool in the hottest weather

Arabian – and will also include an open safari themed around different world locations with architecture to match.

The multi-million dollar project will eventually also include a butterfly park, botanical garden, hotel and golf course.

More: http://lei.sr?a=z4G8U_A

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Six Flags adding two more Chinese properties

As Six Flags continues its aggressive expansion in to foreign markets, the theme park operator has signed an agreement for a second theme park and a waterpark in China.

Adding to its existing property, which broke ground in January, Six Flags will work with its existing development partner in China – Riverside Investment Group – with Six Flags CEO John Duffey recently revealing to *Attractions Management* plans to build “multiple” Six Flags parks in China in the next 10 years, all in partnership with the real-estate group.

A franchise model is set to support the upcoming parks, sending a clear signal that Six Flags is committed to potentially unlimited expansion abroad.

The theme park and waterpark developments, which will be built in Bishan, are agreements “subject to negotiation of definitive documents,” according to a statement.

Six Flags’ footprint continues to expand, with confirmed plans for two parks in Vietnam, while further Asian expansion could be on the way, with speculation



Six Flags is committed to potentially unlimited expansion abroad with a franchise model

about the operator entering the Malaysian market. There has also long been speculation that there could be a Six Flags addition to Iskandar’s land around Singapore.

In the Middle East, the company has also confirmed plans to bring its first

branded theme park to Saudi Arabia and recently broke ground on Six Flags Dubai – the latest addition to the multi-billion dollar Dubai Parks and Resorts development opening later this year.

More: http://lei.sr?a=s9U2q_A



The installation will travel through Wales

EPIC art installation promotes Welsh tourism

Tourism officials have launched an installation in Snowdonia, with giant mirrored letters spelling out the word ‘EPIC’ as part of a campaign to promote Wales as the home of great adventures.

The four-metre-tall (13.1 foot) lettering was commissioned by VisitWales as part of its Year of Adventure Campaign. The artwork – mirrored to reflect its Welsh surroundings in locations that embody ‘epic’ – is scheduled to tour various locations across the country through the summer and early autumn.

More: http://lei.sr?a=J2m5P_A

US\$16.4m planetarium development breaks ground in California

Ground was broken last month on a US\$16.4m (€14.8m, £12.6m) planetarium development for the Orange Coast College (OCC) in Costa Mesa, California.

Part of a larger seven-year US\$965m (€854m, £625.2m) renovation to OCC’s district campuses, the 125-seat planetarium will include a 3D immersion theatre with a 40ft (12.2m) dome, a large Foucault pendulum and open space for exhibits. Newport Beach-based architects HPI are handling design for the project.

“It will provide opportunities for elementary students, college students and the general public to be totally immersed



Architects HPI are handling design for the planetarium project

in exciting and engaging experiences which are part of the college’s emphasis on all aspects of scientific endeavour,” said David Grant, district board president. “Suffice to say,

after eight years of planning and preparation, we are thrilled to be underway.”

The new planetarium is expected to be completed within 18 months.

More: http://lei.sr?a=x9U4c_A



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World Travel Market (WTM) London, the leading global event for the travel industry, is a three-day business-to-business exhibition for the worldwide travel and tourism industry. Almost 50,000 senior travel industry professionals, government ministers and international press attend the event to network, negotiate and discover the latest industry opinion and trends. The event is expected to generate around £2.5bn of travel industry contracts over the three days.

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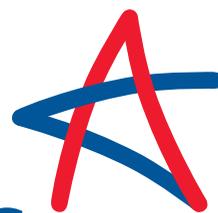
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Polin's trio of slides provide thrills for cruise line guests

Polin stirs up Harmony cruise with perfect storm of slides

Royal Caribbean has unveiled a thrilling waterpark aboard its Harmony of the Seas cruise liner, with three rides by Polin.

Together creating the "perfect storm", the three slides Cyclone, Typhoon and Supercell are based on Polin's popular Aquatube and Space Hole designs. The three slides are also built using the company's Resin Transfer Molding (RTM)

technology which ensures waterslide components are smooth and shiny on both sides, stronger, easier to install and easier to maintain.

The riders, who will map a 10-storey-high route offering panoramic views of the ocean, will experience special patterns of colour and light thanks to Polin's patented Natural Light Effects technology in the slides.



The tech comes from WhiteWater's in-house Mechatronics group

Massiv watercoaster uses WhiteWater power saving tech

Massiv - the newest attraction at Schlitterbahn Galveston Island in Texas - has been outfitted with new technology by WhiteWater to make the uphill waterslide more economical to operate.

By using the power of variable frequency drives (VFD) and a proprietary control algorithm, WhiteWater can dynamically adjust pump speeds while the ride is in operation.

This new system saves significant power during operations, cranking up the motor speed only when it's needed to propel riders uphill.

Named the tallest Water Coaster in the world by Guinness World Records, the new operating system will propel guests through The record breaking slide's peaks and valleys with optimal efficiency.



Visitors mimic Po's movements and skills to score points

Optoma install interactive game at Shrek's Adventure

An interactive game has been installed at Shrek's Adventure London, to coincide with the release of *Kung Fu Panda 3*.

AV specialists LeslieTec developed the experience, which allows visitors to mimic Po the Panda's movements and skills to score points. Po, the franchise protagonist, performs a range of eight different martial arts poses

and, using motion-tracking technology, visitors recreate the postures in the hope of finally being crowned the ultimate Dragon Warrior.

Designers Matthew Ringland (Matthew Ringland Creative) and Richard Hollyer (Hollyer Projects) oversaw the experience design and Pinewood Creative were brought on as technical partners.



The Lysgaardsbakkene interactive circular raised-platform

AV Stumpfl projection brings ski jump history to life

Norway's Olympic history is being remembered thanks to projection mapping by AV Stumpfl.

The Norwegian Olympic Museum in Lillehammer, which opened earlier this year, showcases AV Stumpfl's adventurous video installations, alongside curated exhibits of cultural and historic artefacts and Olympic memorabilia.

The museum centrepiece, Lysgaardsbakkene - roughly translated as 'jump hills' - is a large-scale circular raised-platform interactive model, 3.5m in diameter.

Bright Norway created the interactive presentation using AV Stumpfl Wings Engine Raw media servers and Wings VIOSO calibration software to project the content.

Unesco makes 21 additions to World Heritage list

Unesco has announced the annual update to its prestigious World Heritage list, adding 21 new locations deemed of cultural and historical importance to its global list of more than 1,000.

India leads the way this year with three new allocations, while Iran and China also gained multiple inclusions, with two new World Heritage sites a piece.

China's Zuojiang Huashan Rock Art Cultural Landscape – located on steep cliffs in the border regions of the southwest of the country – is one of the most eye-catching additions to the list. In a surrounding landscape of karst, rivers and plateaux, 38 sites of rock art dating back to 5th century BC illustrate the life and rituals of the Luoyue people. The country also hosts a second new addition to the World Heritage list, with Hubei Shennongjia – an area of rich biological diversity – also recognised by Unesco.

The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement is perhaps the most unique of the additions, as it comprises 17 sites across



Huashan Rock Art Cultural Landscape is one of the most eye-catching additions to the list

seven countries – Argentina, Belgium, France, Germany, India, Japan and Switzerland.

Le Corbusier – who was a pioneer for the modern movement following World

War One – was well known for using iron, concrete and glass to create bold lines and functionality not seen at the time.

More: http://lei.sr?a=F7j5T_A



Belvedere Castle is part of the restoration

US\$300m restoration plan in works for Central Park

The city of New York has laid out a 10-year US\$300m (€271m, £226m) fund-raising and improvement scheme aimed at restoring and maintaining Central Park's historic structures and landscapes.

One of the main features of the effort will be restoration of Belvedere Castle, which sits at the heart of Central Park.

US\$112m (€101m, £84.3m) has already been raised of the US\$300m total, which includes a US\$25m (€22.5m, £18.8m) gift from the Thompson Family Foundation.

More: http://lei.sr?a=6g6V4_A

Olympic City Museum opens doors one month ahead of Rio opening ceremony

Officials have inaugurated Rio's Olympic City Museum one month ahead of the opening ceremony for Brazil's 2016 Olympic Games.

The new museum and digital centre on the Barra da Tijuca, just behind the location of the Athletes' Village, opened its doors to the public on 5 July, incorporating virtual reality so visitors can experience the city's Olympic venues and attractions.

Using 360-degree aerial footage captured using hang gliders and helicopters across Rio, guests will be able to virtually visit locations including Deodoro and Barra, the rejuvenated city centre, Sugarloaf Mountain and Copacabana beach.



Rio de Janeiro mayor Eduardo Paes tried out the new museum

The wider museum makes use of cutting-edge digital technologies, with a range of interactive activities. The museum also details how the Olympic Games and digital innovations have changed

Rio and how technology is having an influence on sport, as well as telling the history of Brazil at the Olympics, Paralympics and Winter Olympics.

More: http://lei.sr?a=G4U4D_A

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Two Leisure Opportunities (STPP)

**■ Church House Gardens,
Church Road, Bromley BR2 0EG**

Expressions of interest are invited, for complementary Leisure or Catering projects, in this 17 hectare park in the heart of Bromley Town Centre.

Current attractions include gardens, a woodland area, play and sports facilities, and a lake with performance and seating areas. There are tennis courts, a skateboard area and goals/nets for football and basketball. Outline proposals, for new activities, are invited.

**■ High Elms Country Park,
Shire Lane, Bromley BR6 7JH**

Expressions of interest are invited, for complementary Leisure projects, in this popular park of around 100 hectares in the Green Belt to the south of the London Borough of Bromley.

Landscape features include extensive woodland, chalk wildlife meadows, lawns, formal gardens, and ponds. There is an education centre and a café. Outline proposals, for new activities, are invited.

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Maintenance Supervisor

£30,282 - £32,034 per annum, 40 hours per week

OCL are looking for a proactive and self-motivated person who will be responsible for the planning and delivery of building repairs, major works, improvements and out of hour's emergency service to all OCL facilities, ensuring all statutory and legal obligations are consistently met.

The successful candidate will hold a trade qualification in electrics, however trade qualifications in other areas including building maintenance may be considered. Previous leisure management experience will be desirable and the post holder will be required to undertake and successfully pass NEBOSH training as part of the role.

Marketing Officer

£18,812 – 19,917 per annum, 40 hours per week

OCL are looking for a proactive and self-motivated person who will be a dynamic and creative marketer for the company. You will play a key role in managing and implementing creative, effective marketing campaigns and projects using a range of media for business to consumer markets.

The successful candidate will hold a degree in marketing or a related discipline and have experience of digital marketing, market research, campaign management and planning. In addition you should also be IT literate with working knowledge of the usual Microsoft packages, as well as Social Media platforms. A good understanding of design packages is also desirable and the post holder should also have good interpersonal and organisational skills as well as the ability to work as part of a team.

If you have what it takes and want to join a great team, for further information on each post and the opportunity to apply online please visit www.oclactive.co.uk/vacancies

OCL are an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications from all.

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Operations Manager:
Emirates Spinnaker Tower

Portsmouth, UK £28,000 per annum



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Continuum Attractions is one of the industry's leading attraction operators presenting a growing portfolio of cultural visitor attractions across the UK. We welcome well over a million visitors a year to our attractions and our business is set to grow further. Our company values are - More than a vision, More than a guest, More than a job.

To assist in this growth we recruit and retain the most passionate and effective people. Is this you?

We are looking for an Operations Manager who has the ability to help deliver the vision for our Icon Attraction, the Emirates Spinnaker Tower. Soaring 170 meters above the Solent, the Emirates Spinnaker Tower is taller than Big Ben, Blackpool Tower and the London Eye. A world class visitor attraction, the viewing Tower stands proud over one Portsmouth Harbour's stunning seascape and offers guests 350° panoramic views of the South coast and the Isle of Wight.

As Operations Manager, you will help in the delivery and development of the business and its ongoing commercial success. You will be able to demonstrate a results-orientated, team and guest-focused management style within the Tourism, Leisure and Hospitality sectors, and the ability to build effective relationships with all key stakeholders.

With a proven track record of delivering outstanding guest service you will also demonstrate a sound understanding of business and financial procedures, along with effective management of teams

and resources. With responsibilities including operations, guest services, facilities management and health and safety, this role demands a strategic thinker with a passion to deliver.

In return you will be supported by the General Manager on site as well as our extensive management support team based in York, who can provide you with knowledge and expertise to help you develop your area of the business and your role within our company.

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If you do not hear from us within 2 weeks of the closing date, then unfortunately, on this occasion, you will not have been selected for an interview - but we wish you well in your future career.

The closing date for this post is Sunday 31st July 2016

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Sea Life

Salary: Competitive

Job location: Orlando FL, United States

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The Dungeons

Salary: Competitive

Job location: York, UK

For more details on the above jobs visit www.am2.jobs

Disney offers a look at upcoming Star Wars lands with new artistic rendering

Disney has revealed a new artist's impression for its Star Wars lands being built at its US theme parks in Florida and California.

The largest land expansion in Disney's history, the 56,655sq m (609,840sq ft) Star Wars Land will feature a virtual reality Millennium Falcon ride. It also includes the iconic cantina and a new ride themed to *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, putting visitors in the middle of a climactic battle scene.

"Nestled between towering spires of rock, this thriving port contains a seemingly familiar



The impression gives a glimpse of the 14 acre attraction

architecture of markets, landing zones and buildings," said a Disney statement. "Look closely and you may find hints of some of the thrilling experiences that are coming – like the Millennium

Falcon peeking out of one of the cargo bays, marking the location where guests will get the opportunity to pilot the fastest hunk of junk in the galaxy." *More: http://lei.sr?a=s8m4h_A*

Five sites in Lybia among additions to Unesco's World Heritage in Danger list

Unesco has added a number of sites to its list of World Heritage in Danger, with the cultural body raising concerns over sites in Mali, Uzbekistan and Lybia.

Mali's celebrated Old Towns of Djenné is among the list of endangered sites, with militant insurgency and growing insecurity within the country identified as a major threat for the mud city.

During the meeting, the Committee also decided to add Uzbekistan's Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz due to over-development of tourist infrastructure at the site.

Five World Heritage sites in Lybia have also been added to the list because of damage caused by the conflict affecting the



Leptis Magna is among five Lybian sites considered 'in danger'

country and the threat of further damage it poses.

Made up of the archaeological sites of Cyrene, Leptis Magna and Sabratha, as well as the Rock-Art Sites of Tadrart

Acacus and the Old Town of Ghadamès, the Committee noted the fact that armed groups are present on these sites or in their immediate surroundings.

More: http://lei.sr?a=A2z4h_A

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