

BIG revolutionises zoos with cageless experience

Bjarke Ingels has said that his upcoming zoo project in Givskud, Denmark, will completely reimagine the traditional format, doing away with cages and revolutionising the relationship between the zoo's visitors and its inhabitants.

Ingels, founding architect of his own practice, BIG, created designs for Denmark's Zootopia – a hybrid of a traditional zoo and a safari based upon the concept of a completely cageless experience.

"The zoo's aim was really to try to be a place where visitors don't notice the barriers between them and the animals, turning the



Ingels' vision sees the visitors 'caged' and animals roaming free

traditional zoo inside-out," said Ingels speaking exclusively to *Attractions Management*. "What we've tried to do is eliminate all

traces of human architecture, so there are no visible buildings. Upon entering the 1,200,000sq m (3,937,007sq ft)

Zootopia, visitors will arrive in a central plaza resembling a giant crater. From there, the park is divided up into three separate zones: America, Asia and Africa. Each region will offer different methods of exploration starting in Asia where guests can travel on water, cycle through the Africa area and then take a cable car through America. There will also be the option of taking a 4km (2.5 mile) hike through all three continents.

The first phase of development is expected to be completed in 2019 to coincide with the park's 50th anniversary. *More: http://lei.sr?a=u5t6Y_A*

Canadian waterpark gets record-breaking court fine

Canada's largest waterpark has been fined CA\$400,000 (US\$307,000, €278,500, £197,000) – a new record – after an Ontario judge found the visitor attraction guilty of six safety charges pertaining to a number of incidents that took place between 2011 and 2012.

Calypso Waterpark near Ottawa was fined CA\$400,000 for incidents which left several visitors seriously injured. In addition, the judge ruled that CA\$100,000 (US\$76,800, €69,600, £49,300) must also be paid in the form of a 25 per cent victim surcharge.

More: http://lei.sr?a=Z3h2F_A

Alton Towers Smiler incident costs Merlin £50m

Merlin has said the rollercoaster crash that seriously injured four people in June will affect profits by up to £50m (US\$77.6m, €70m), with the tragic incident having an adverse effect on trading at the start of an important period for the operator.

The accident on the Smiler ride at Alton Towers – which resulted in two people having their right and left leg respectively partially amputated after a carriage full of people collided with an empty one – led to the temporary closure of Alton Towers for several days. The Smiler is yet to reopen.

Profits for the theme parks division in 2015 are expected to be between £40m (US\$62.1m, €56m) and £50m, compared



The Smiler is yet to reopen at Alton Towers

with £87m (US\$135.1m, €121.8m) in 2014. The £40m result represents a £50m shortfall on the £90m (US\$139.8m, €126m) figure originally predicted for 2015.

More: http://lei.sr?a=J6g9B_A

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Zaha Hadid's mountain-top museum makes its debut in Italy's dolomites

Zaha Hadid's latest project – the final instalment of six mountain-top museums in Italy's Dolomites – has welcomed its first visitors, offering stunning views of the surrounding mountains.

Built into the mountain rock at a height of 2,275m (7,463ft) above sea level, Messner Mountain Museum Corones is dedicated to mountaineering and offers views of the Dolomites and the Alps.

Zaha Hadid's design blends the museum with its surroundings, with the interior of the museum located underground, and the entrance and a viewing platform only visible from



Hadid's design blends the museum with its surroundings

the outside. The museum offers exhibition space over three floors, with the interior designed to resemble cascading waterfalls.

Curator Reinhold, the first man to reach the top of Mount Everest without

the use of supplemental oxygen, chose the site as the base for the sixth museum due to its "unique location in a true melting pot of the region's population".

More: http://lei.sr?a=t8D5e_A

Work about to start on San Diego Zoo's US\$68m Africa Rocks expansion

San Diego Zoo is about to embark on what will be the California attraction's largest expansion to date, the US\$68m (€62m, £43.5m) Africa Rocks exhibit.

Designed by the San Diego-based Miller Hull Partnership, the 8-acre (32,400sq m) exhibit will transform what is currently a canyon area once home to 1930s-era grottos and enclosures into an easily traversable path leading visitors through an African-themed, immersive environment.

To be populated with a wide variety of animals – including dwarf crocodiles, African leopards and



The dwarf crocodile habitat of the Africa Rocks expansion

penguins among others – plant life will also play a big part, with native African varieties used to immerse visitors in the experience. One of the exhibition's key focal points will be the

Rady Madagascar Habitat and Falls – an environment centred around a 65ft (19.8m) waterfall cascading down several levels of the expansion.

More: http://lei.sr?a=u8H3k_A

Harry Potter drives huge earnings for Universal

Harry Potter has been a resounding success for Universal's theme parks, after the boy wizard helped the company rake in millions of dollars in revenue for the first half of 2015.

Universal's parent company Comcast, said as part of its Q2 earnings report that theme park revenue year-on-year for the quarter jumped 25.7 per cent to US\$773m (€706m, £499m), an increase of US\$158m (€137m, £96.8m) compared to 2014's results.

Comcast attributed the sharp increase to high guest spend and attendance, driven by the roaring success of Orlando's Wizarding World of Harry Potter – Diagon Alley attraction, which since opening in July 2014 has reportedly already paid off half its cost.

Operating cash flow for the company's theme parks nearly doubled, jumping 44.9 per cent to US\$354m (€323.3, £228.5m), compared to US\$244m (€222.8m, £157.5m) in the same quarter last year.

Revenue for the first six months of 2015 jumped 29.2 per cent to US\$1.4bn (€1.3bn, £904m), increasing from US\$1.1bn



Orlando's Diagon Alley attraction has been a huge hit since its launch in July 2014

(€1bn, £710m) for the same period in 2014. Universal continues to invest in its theme parks, with plans for a 'next-gen waterpark' in Orlando, a King Kong ride at Islands of

Adventure and a new Wizarding World in California. Universal also recently signed a deal with Nintendo for theme park rights.

More: http://lei.sr?a=G6F5N_A

World's longest slide to be wrapped around London's £19.1m Orbit Tower

The Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, home of the London 2012 Olympic Games, has confirmed plans to build the world's tallest and longest slide inside the ArcelorMittal Orbit tower.

Due to open to the public in Q1 2016, the 180m (590ft) helter skelter by Bblur Architects will start 76m (249ft) above the ground, circling the tower five times before a 50m (164ft) straight run at the bottom.

The slide will include transparent sections so riders can look at the view of the surrounding Olympic Park as they descend.

The tower itself has been somewhat controversial,



The slide by Bblur Architects will circle the tower five times

receiving a largely negative public response to its potential both as a visitor attraction and because of its industrial look. Designed by Turner-Prize winning artist Sir Anish Kapoor and Cecil

Balmond of engineering Group Arup, the £19.1m (US\$29.8m, €27.2m), 114.5m (376ft) tall sculpture and observation tower is Britain's largest piece of public art.

More: http://lei.sr?a=P2J2N_A



Local architects will get new training

US\$3m reconstruction scheme for Nepal heritage

Following the devastation caused by April's Nepal earthquake the Architects Foundation (AF) has outlined plans to rebuild parts of the Himalayan nation, with like-for-like earthquake-resilient design principles.

The Clinton Global Initiative Commitment to Action, sees the AF partner with disaster relief NPO All Hands Volunteers, to execute the US\$3m (€2.8m, £1.9m) reconstruction plan for Nepal, which relies strongly on its heritage and tourism as a source of income.

More: http://lei.sr?a=9k3k6_A

Interactivity focus for Bismarck science centre

After announcing plans in January to develop a new US\$40m (€34m, £26.3m) facility overlooking the Missouri River, the Gateway to Science Center in Bismarck, North Dakota, has revealed new details for its ambitious project which is designed to appeal to a wider audience.

Scheduled to open in Q1 of 2017, a team made up of US-based HGA architects and North Dakota-based JLG architects are behind the designs for the new facility, which is centred around interactivity.

Designed to incorporate different types of learning for multiple audiences, from children to adults, a capital campaign for the project is now underway to facilitate the move from the High Prairie Arts Center in Bismarck to the new 65,000sq ft (6,000sq m) facility, which will sit on a hill on the bluff of the river.

Included in the proposal are a number of interactive exhibits, including a maze navigated by simple machinery, an exhibit for preschool children, classroom labs with



A capital campaign for the project is now underway to facilitate the move

a public viewing area and kinetic sculptures serving as movable artworks. There is also an exhibit where children can design their own aircrafts and a model of a reservoir

system that allows visitors to generate energy, send water to a city, storage water in towers or implement flood protection.

More: http://lei.sr?a=T8p7s_A



Farquharson replaces Penelope Curtis

Alex Farquharson named new Tate Britain director

Nottingham Contemporary founder Alex Farquharson has been named new director of London's Tate Britain, replacing the outgoing Penelope Curtis at the helm of one of the UK's most important art galleries.

With Farquharson operating as director, Nottingham Contemporary has welcomed more than a million visitors in its first five years of operation. Penelope Curtis parted ways with Tate Britain to take up a new role at Lisbon's Gulbenkian museum.

More: http://lei.sr?a=t4a5q_A

European Commission investigating Disneyland Paris in ticket price probe

Disneyland Paris has come under scrutiny amid claims that the French theme park operator might be freezing out customers from the UK and Germany on certain price promotions.

According to the *Financial Times*, people in the UK have been paying 15 per cent more for one day tickets than their European counterparts.

The European Commission (EC) said that it had "received a number of complaints" from Disneyland's customers. The EC expressed its concern that Disneyland Paris is stopping consumers in some areas from securing the best deals,



The scrutiny from Brussels is part of a larger crackdown

something forbidden under European law.

The clampdown from Brussels is part of a larger crackdown across the retail and services sector, with the EC investigating complaints

against Amazon, multiple Spanish hoteliers, Ski-lift operators in Austria, Sky UK and more. The French government has also been asked to investigate.

More: http://lei.sr?a=g5P5C_A



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First waves break at Surf Snowdonia in Wales

One of Wales' largest visitor attractions has welcomed its first guests as Surf Snowdonia – an artificial surf lagoon built on the site of an old aluminium works – starts to break waves on the edge of Snowdonia National Park.

The £15m (US\$23.3m, €21.3m) development – designed by architectural firm seven with Planit operating as consultants, NJL consulting as masterplanners and Wardell Armstrong as engineers – uses brand new wave technology from Spanish company Wave Garden.

Wave Garden's technology is formed around a central pontoon housing an underwater 'plough' that creates a 2m (6.6ft) high wave once every minute over the length of the 300m (984ft), 30,000sq m (322,000sq ft) lagoon. It will be the world's first commercial application of the technology, which has created the longest man-made surf wave in the world. Up to 52 surfers can be accommodated in the lagoon at one time, with rides lasting about 18 seconds. The consistent wave technology is far



The Snowdonia attraction caters to surfers of all levels, with its own surf academy

reaching, opening up the possibility of surfing eventually becoming an Olympic sport.

The attraction expects to welcome around 75,000 people a year. seven

have designed the main Hub Building with a 50m (164ft)-long glazed elevation overlooking the surfing lake.

More: http://lei.sr?a=B5U8w_A



KidzMondo was founded in 2010

KidzMondo to expand across Saudi Arabia

Seven edutainment parks, similar in style to that of KidZania, are coming to Saudi Arabia as part of a US\$133m (€120.2m, £85.7m) nationwide project.

The 10-year development of KidzMondo – for which the first opening is scheduled for 2017 – in Riyadh, will see the development of small-scale cities built for and operated by children aged 2-14.

KidzMondo was founded in 2010 and has locations in several countries, including Lebanon, Turkey and the UAE.

More: http://lei.sr?a=k6m5W_A

Siggraph 2015 to host VR Village exploring emerging technologies

Siggraph – the annual five-day conference on the latest in computer graphics and interactive techniques – is launching a programme featuring real time immersion in the latest virtual and augmented realities with its debuting VR Village.

Taking place between 9-13 August at the Los Angeles Convention Center in Los Angeles, California, the VR Village at Siggraph will feature real-time immersion in the latest virtual and augmented realities, including Nomadic Virtual Reality (VR), Tabletop Augmented Reality (AR), Full-Dome



Siggraph's VR Village will explore emerging technologies

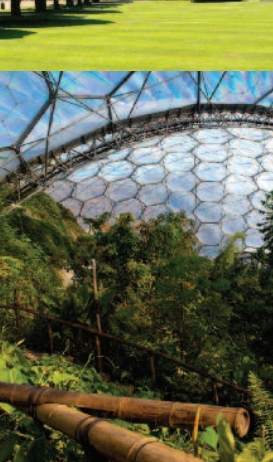
Cinema, and a 360-degree immersion dome.

The new addition offers attendees to Siggraph the chance to explore emerging technologies in VR, AR and immersive environments

as a method of telling stories, engaging audiences, and powering real-world applications across multiple sectors.

For more, see diary dates.

More: http://lei.sr?a=G3r8x_A



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DIARY DATES

9-12 SEPTEMBER 2015

GSCA International Conference and Trade Show AMC Metreon IMAX Theatre, San Francisco, California, US

The four-day event attracts hundreds of delegates for film screenings, professional development, technical sessions and a trade show. Between 9-11 September, attendees will view the latest new films, see what's in the production pipeline and gain insight from industry leaders. The trade show allows visitors to meet with distributors, manufacturers, and service providers. On 12 September, GSCA will host film screenings on the dome and sessions devoted to dome theaters at the Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose, California.
Email: kelly@giantsscreencinema.com
Tel: +1 919 346 1123
www.giantsscreencinema.com

26 SEPTEMBER 2015

MuseumNext Indianapolis Indianapolis Museum of Art, US

In September 2015, the incredibly popular MuseumNext conference will come to the US for the first time, bringing with it exploratory talks on engaging visitors with new technology and industry trends.
Email: kala@museumnext.com
Tel: +44 191 261 9894
www.museumnext.com

8 OCTOBER 2015

The Annual National Conference of Visitor Attractions 2015 QEII Conference Centre, Westminster, London, UK

The Annual National Conference of Visitor Attractions (VAC) is the pre-eminent event for all types of visitor attractions in the UK. VAC is run by the industry, for the industry and is firmly established as the key place to meet and network with contemporaries and to participate in an innovative and stimulating programme.
Email: info@vac2014.co.uk
Tel: +44 (0) 20 8748 8868
www.vac2014.co.uk



Siggraph will be debuting its new VR Village at this year's event (see page 6)

9-13 AUGUST 2015

Siggraph 2015 Los Angeles Convention Centre, Los Angeles, California, US

The annual Siggraph conference is a five-day interdisciplinary educational experience in the latest computer

graphics and interactive techniques including a three-day commercial exhibition that attracts hundreds of exhibitors from around the world.
Email: registration2015@siggraph.org
Tel: +1 805 677 4286
www.s2015.siggraph.org

6-8 OCTOBER 2015

Euro Attractions Show 2015 Svenska Massan Exhibition Center, Gothenburg, Sweden

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20-23 OCTOBER 2015

World Waterpark Association Symposium & Trade Show Palm Springs Convention Center, California, US

The WWA's Annual Symposium & Trade Show brings together hundreds of water leisure owners, operators, developers, designers and manufacturers for four days of education, networking and exhibiting – the only event specifically for waterparks.
Email: aezra@waterparks.org
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5-6 NOVEMBER 2015

Museums Association Conference & Exhibition 2015 ICC Birmingham, UK

The event is the largest event of its kind for museum and heritage professionals in Europe with more than 1,500 attendees from all over the world coming together to discuss the key issues affecting the sector. There will be more than 90 stands bringing the latest practice, technology and hardware from suppliers and consultants.
Email: lorraine@museumsassociation.org
Tel: +44 20 7566 7840
www.museumsassociation.org

16-20 NOVEMBER 2015

IAAPA Attractions Expo 2015 Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, Florida, US

With more than 27,000 people in attendance, IAAPA 2015 is the premier conference and trade show for the global attractions industry. The event features new products from 1,000 exhibiting companies and includes a variety of educational sessions.
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The Orlando Eye is one of Merlin's newest attractions



An aerial view of Singha at the Tenerife-based waterpark

Accesso signs deal with Merlin Entertainment

Accesso Technology Group has signed a seven-year contract with Merlin Entertainments to become the sole provider of the group's onsite ticketing solutions worldwide.

Accesso's next-generation ticketing solution, Passport, will be rolled out across more than 100 attractions over the next three years. Passport has already been trialled at a

number of Merlin attractions. The system is designed to help operators increase attendance, handle payments, minimise queue lines and simplify point-of-sale transactions. The system should help streamline Merlin's global operations, which include the Legoland and Madame Tussauds brands as well as Alton Towers and Gardaland.

'Revolutionary' ProSlide ride debuts at Siam Park

Canadian waterpark manufacturer ProSlide Technology has unveiled its newest waterslide – which combines two world-first rides into a single high-thrill experience – at Siam Park in Tenerife, Spain.

The ride incorporates ProSlide's FlyingSAUCER features into its RocketBLAST water coaster, with patented water jet and boat design.

Singha uses ProSlide's water coaster and turbine technology to propel rafts up the coaster hills higher and faster. Rows of water jets line every hill.

Four massive saucer-shaped bowls punctuate the ride. The FlyingSAUCERs are steeply angled for a drop-and-dive sensation, featuring high-banked curves and maximum centrifugal force.



The £4.5m deal sees SimWorx acquire the tech company



Embedded Europe will now serve Embedded System customers

SimWorx announces acquisition of RoboCoaster

Dynamic simulation attractions maker Simworx said it has acquired RoboCoaster, a UK-based robotic attractions specialist, after receiving £4.5m (US\$7m, €6.5m) in investment from the Business Growth Fund (BGF).

"I am delighted to formalise our working relationship with RoboCoaster who have access to some amazing technology,"

said Terry Monkton, Simworx managing director. The two companies have been working together for the past two years.

Simworx and RoboCoaster plan to focus on the design and manufacture of a next generation of dark ride and robotic attractions, adding to their existing portfolio, which includes Angry Birds 4D and Shrek.

Eurocoin acquires Playsafe from Helix Leisure

Helix Leisure has sold its Playsafe Monitoring business to Eurocoin Limited, while creating a new Embed entity.

Bath-based Playsafe provides real-time reporting and analytics services for hundreds of gaming and leisure venues across the UK and Europe.

Helix Leisure, which consists of payment and operations management systems company

Embed, LAI Games and the Locker Network, said it wanted to focus on its core business in the amusement sector, rather than the AGC and bingo gaming sectors which Playsafe primarily serves. All Embed System customers will now be serviced by a new UK entity, Embed Europe Limited, which is a wholly owned subsidiary company of Helix Leisure Group.

Chester Zoo masterplan aims for world's top spot

Following the launch of Chester Zoo's Islands development, managing director Jamie Christon has said the £40m (US\$62.2m, €56.4m) project is only the start of the UK visitor attraction's ambitious masterplan, as it aims to become a world leader in the sector.

Speaking exclusively to *AM2* Christon said that the Islands development, which opened last month, is the beginning of a multi-year masterplan currently under development behind the scenes.

"Heart of Africa was the original name for part of Islands," said Christon. "What we want to do if this works, which clearly it's going to, is start to geographically theme the rest of the zoo based around our field programmes across the world."

The 111 acre (50 hectare) zoo has earmarked an additional 389 acres (157.4 hectares) of land for future development, but Christon first wants to focus on the existing zoo before expanding outwards.

"We need to reassess and redesign what we've already got in the original zoo, which



The zoo wants to replicate the feel of its new Islands experience across the whole park

isn't going to be an easy task," he said. "It's a tight zoo and to create one new area, we've probably got to move six or seven things to be able to do that. We're in the

process of creating that masterplan now and hopefully we'll be able to start to see the beginning of those works next year."

More: http://lei.sr?a=q8f6h_A



The Boca del Rio concert hall in Mexico

Work starts on Rojkind Arquitectos' concert hall

Work is underway on a new concert hall in Boca del Rio, Mexico.

Designed by Rojkind Arquitectos, this landmark site is part of a masterplan to regenerate the surrounding port area – which has been in decline thanks to rising crime and pollution over the last two decades – through culture.

The venue will also provide a home for the Boca del Rio Philharmonic Orchestra, which was formed last year as part of the city's aim to become a centre for music and culture.

More: http://lei.sr?a=A6V9W_A

Abandoned £90m hotel development in Colorado to become waterpark resort

Wisconsin-based operator Great Wolf Resorts is planning to spend US\$90m (€82m, £57.6m) on transforming a partially-finished Renaissance Hotel into a family resort centred around a waterpark, expanding on its chain of 13 resorts across North America.

Pencilled for an opening date of Q3 2016, Great Wolf Lodge Colorado Springs will include 311 bedrooms, a waterpark, five restaurants, children's entertainment areas and 20,000sq ft (1,858sq m) of meeting space.

Work is set to start on the development within a month after Great Wolf Resorts purchased the unfinished



The 65,000sq ft waterpark will be the largest in Colorado

Renaissance on 22 July, which has been sitting idly since 2009 when the original developer ran out of finances for construction.

The 65,000sq ft (6,000sq m) indoor

waterpark will be the largest in Colorado. Also included will be an arcade, miniature golf, mini-bowling, a high ropes attraction, a spa and amenities for children.

More: http://lei.sr?a=x6d9V_A

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Job location: Chessington, Surrey, United Kingdom

■ Model Designer- MMM Studios

Company: LEGOLAND Florida

Job location: Florida-Winter Haven, United States

■ Entertainment/Events Team Leader

Company: Legoland Discovery Chicago

Job location: Illinois-Schaumburg, United States

■ Hotel Front Office Manager

Company: LEGOLAND Florida

Job location: Florida-Winter Haven, United States

■ Resort Product Excellence Duty Manager

Company: LEGOLAND Florida

Job location: Florida-Winter Haven, United States

■ Commercial Supervisor

Company: LEGOLAND Kansas

Job location: Missouri-Kansas City, United States

■ Aquarist Sea Life Jesolo

Company: Gardaland Resort

Job location: Castelnuevo del Garda, Italy

■ Ride and Maintenance Technician

Company: The Blackpool Tower Dungeon

Job location: Blackpool, United Kingdom

■ Hotel Resident Manager

Company: Gardaland Resort

Job location: Castelnuevo del Garda, Italy

■ Hospitality Team Leader

Company: Coca Cola London Eye

Job location: London, United Kingdom

■ Head of Sales

Company: Merlin - Orlando Cluster

Job location: Florida-Orlando, United States

■ Commercial Manager

Company: Merlin Entertainments Group Ltd

Job location: New York-Yonkers, United States

■ Marketing and Sales Assistant

Company: Sea Life

Job location: Minnesota-Bloomington, United States

■ Cultural Projects Manager

Company: Ashford Borough Council

Job location: Ashford, Kent, United Kingdom

For more details on these jobs visit www.am2.jobs

Gijs Van Vaerenbergh go back to basics with c-mine Labyrinth installation

Architects Pieterjan Gijs and Arnout Van Vaerenbergh have created an intricate maze at the heart of Genk's c-mine arts centre in Belgium, using the 'age-old' form of the labyrinth to create a structure exploring space and architecture.

The Belgian duo, collectively known as Gijs Van Vaerenbergh, have created 'Labyrinth', a sculptural-spatial intervention based on the artists' interest in fundamental architectural typologies. Using unique compositions of wall and void, the labyrinth stands at 37.5m (123ft) at its highest points and is comprised



The maze explores fundamental architectural typologies

of 5mm thick steel plates geometrically hollowed to create a collection of frames.

One of the old mine shafts of c-mine – a former coal mining site – is incorporated into the design, where visitors can

ascend to the top of the structure and look down into the maze and at those exploring it, a point of view traditionally reserved for the creator of the mythical labyrinths.

More: http://lei.sr?a=x8s7K_A

New study says SeaWorld orcas enjoy same lifespan as wild counterparts

With SeaWorld currently under fire for keeping orcas in captivity, a new study has suggested that life expectancy among captive whales is the same as those born at the lagging visitor attraction.

The peer-reviewed study, published in the *Journal of Mammalogy* by the Oxford University Press, found no significant difference in life expectancy between killer whales born at SeaWorld and those born in the wild.

The study compared published data for the survival rates and reproduction activity of tagged orcas in the Pacific Northwest with those in Seaworld's care. The study



Activists say wild animals live longer than SeaWorld's captives

found that the average life expectancy for a SeaWorld killer whale was 41.6 years, while the average life for wild orcas was 42.3 years.

The study also noted that average calf survival

rate from approximately six months of age in the wild was significantly lower at 79.9 per cent than at SeaWorld, which has a 96.6 per cent survival rate in young orcas.

More: http://lei.sr?a=s2F7T_A

American Association of Museums (AAM)

T: +1 202 289 1818 W: www.aam-us.org

Association of American Zoos & Aquariums

T: +1 301 562 0777 W: www.aza.org

Association of Art Museum Directors

T: +1 212 754 8084 W: www.aamd.org

Association of Independent Museums (AIM)

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Association of Leading Visitor Attractions (ALVA)

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International Planetarium Society

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Irish Science Centres Awareness Network (ISCAN)

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The Canadian Association of Science Centres (CASC)

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Themed Entertainment Association (TEA)

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World Waterpark Association (WWA)

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Zoo & Aquarium Association

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