

## Mining and oil put a third of natural heritage at risk

A new report has warned that nearly a third of the world's natural heritage sites are at significant risk from oil and gas drilling and mining.

The report from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), titled *Safeguarding Outstanding Natural Value*, says that 31 per cent of World Heritage Sites are under threat worldwide, including Virunga – Africa's first national park – in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Sichuan giant panda sanctuaries in China and the Great Barrier Reef in Australia.

Overall, world heritage sites cover just one per cent of the



Natural heritage worldwide is under threat from mining and oil

planet, but the number of at-risk sites is on the up. The 31 per cent figure has risen significantly from 2014, where the annual

report said 24 per cent of natural heritage sites were at risk.

Africa is seriously affected by the issue, where nearly

two-thirds (61 per cent) of the continent's natural sites are under threat of exploration for fossil fuels or minerals. While not all the sites deemed "at risk" are subject to fossil fuel exploration, the listing includes many sites which would be significantly affected by concessions for extraction, risk from transport and infrastructure needed for such development.

In the report, the WWF urged companies to create "no-go" areas within natural heritage sites and for companies to be proactive in disclosing activities near or within natural sites.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=T7M8C\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=T7M8C_A)

## Dismaland to become shelter for Calais migrants

After its barnstorming success, Banksy's Dismaland will be dismantled and sent to migrants camps in Calais, France, to provide temporary accommodation.

In a post on the attraction's website titled "Coming soon... Dismaland Calais", it was revealed that materials taken from Dismaland will be repurposed to build shelters for migrants.

"All the timber and fixtures from Dismaland are being sent to the 'jungle' refugee camp near Calais to build shelters," read a short statement. "No online tickets will be available."

More: [http://lei.sr?a=U3H8f\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=U3H8f_A)

## Comcast buys US\$1.5bn Universal Japan majority

Comcast has made its largest purchase outside of the US with the entertainment conglomerate buying a majority stake in Universal Studios Japan for US\$1.5bn (€1.3bn, £988m).

Universal's number of foreign visitors to its park in Japan have more than doubled since it opened its Harry Potter attraction in 2014. According to company statistics, more than 12 million people visited the park in the last financial year – an increase from 10.5 million on previous figures a year earlier.

In a statement, Comcast said it will buy 51 per cent of USJ Co – the holding company which owns the Universal theme park in Osaka – in a deal which will give the park an enterprise value of US\$6.2bn (€5.5bn, £4.1bn).



Harry Potter has been a big boost for USJ

According to Comcast, the purchase plan had been in the works since it acquired NBCUniversal in 2011, with the sale finalised at the start of October.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=a8B5f\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=a8B5f_A)

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## Disney bringing the page to life with new augmented reality colouring app

Disney has developed a way to live map colour from a 2D colouring book onto an animated 3D model using augmented reality.

A video released by Disney shows tests where if you view specially-designed images through an app, the character you draw comes to life in an augmented 3D virtual space. The technology can recognise boundaries in a similar way to a QR code reader, but can also recognise the drawing itself and the colours applied to it, even if the image moves. An app-enabled device will be able to move 360 degrees around the character, which is created by mapping each pixel on the



Users can draw a 2D image, which will be shown in 3D form

2D drawing to each surface pixel on the 3D animation.

ETH Zurich and the Swiss university EPFL, worked with Disney on the development, which could be implemented into future visitor attrac-

tions as part of an immersive experience.

The research team is now taking the tech and looking at how it can be applied to musical and educational experiences.

*More: [http://lei.sr?a=E2z8V\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=E2z8V_A)*

## Hartwig Fischer named first non-Brit to run British Museum since 19th century

The British Museum has named its first non-British director since the 19th century, appointing German Dr Hartwig Fischer to the role, starting in 2016.

The first non-British head since Italian-born Sir Anthony Panizzi held the post of principal librarian between 1856 and 1866, Fischer is currently director general of the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, where he is responsible for 14 museums and four separate institutions in four cities.

Prime Minister David Cameron, confirmed the appointment, calling Fischer "the perfect choice".



Fischer is director of Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden

Fischer takes over from Neil MacGregor, who steps down in December after more than a decade in charge, having taken up his position in 2002. When he joined, the museum was attracting 4.6

million visitors a year. In the last decade, that number has almost doubled to 6.7 million, with the museum the second-most visited in the world behind the Louvre.

*More: [http://lei.sr?a=E5y5x\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=E5y5x_A)*



## US theme parks invest in lucrative Halloween market

Theme parks in the US are capitalising on the festivities of Halloween, which is the single-largest theme park promotion every year, according to global consultants International Theme Park Services (ITPS).

With Halloween firmly set as a staple of the attractions sector, prompting millions of people to visit theme parks across the US and the rest of the world, the industry is aiming to grab a larger slice of the annual event, worth more than US\$7bn (€6.2bn, £4.6bn) a year to the US alone. It is the second-largest commercial programme after Christmas.

Dennis Spiegel, president of ITPS, said that theme parks are seizing on the concept of creating haunted houses and scary in-park promotions after seeing the success many cities were having drawing visitors to horror attractions across the US. All of the major operators – including Disney, Universal, Six Flags and Cedar Fair – now have an annual programme in place at their parks in some shape or form.



Universal's highly-successful Halloween Horror Nights have just entered their 25th year

"Overall, 2015 has been a good season for our industry," said Spiegel. "If weather remains good throughout October, the industry will see a

significant jump over 2014's attendance, and these Halloween events will have made a huge contribution to that increase." *More: [http://lei.sr?a=E4c7k\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=E4c7k_A)*

## China's first glass suspension bridge offers tourists exciting new experience

The first glass suspension bridge in China has opened above a canyon in Hunan's Shiniuzhai National Geological Park, offering bold tourists a chance to cross a 180m (590ft) deep chasm between two cliffs.

Dubbed Haohan Qiao – Brave Men's Bridge – the 300m (984ft) long structure was originally designed to be wooden before developers opted for a transparent glass floor 24mm thick, but 25 times stronger than usual. The glass bridge also incorporates a steel frame, ensuring safety even if the glass did break, which is fortunate



Visitors see a clear 180m drop below the bridge

considering cracks began to appear in the glass just a week after opening.

Plans for an even grander glass bridge are currently underway, with Israeli architecture firm Haim

Dotan's 380m (1,246ft) long Zhangjiajie Grand Canyon Glass Bridge – the world's highest and longest glass bridge – also coming to China later this year.

*More: [http://lei.sr?a=N9h9F\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=N9h9F_A)*



The resort follows a glacier design

## Norway's first indoor ski arena coming to Ødegården

Oslo-based property developer Selvaag has been granted planning permission to develop one of the world's largest indoor ski arenas.

Masterplanned by London architects Chapman Taylor in collaboration with renowned Norwegian architect Prof. Thomas Thiis-Evensen, the Winter Village scheme in Ødegården has been designed for cross country, free ski and downhill skiing. It will be the first indoor ski arena to be built in Norway.

*More: [http://lei.sr?a=S2D6E\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=S2D6E_A)*

# Landmark science museum opens in Bulgaria

Muzeiko – the first children’s museum to be built in post-Soviet Eastern Europe – has opened its doors to the public in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Following two years of development, the Lee H. Skolnick Architecture + Design Partnership-designed (LHSA+DP) children’s science discovery centre has been conceived as a “journey moving through time and space”.

The 35,000sq ft (3,250sq m) facility is set over three storeys. On the bottom floor, children can explore the past, with exhibits based on archaeology, geology and palaeontology, while the ground floor represents the modern day, with hands-on exhibits about nature and contemporary cities. Finally, the first floor is dedicated to the future, with interactive exhibitions exploring new technologies and space travel.

Architectural design for Muzeiko is based on the theme of “Little Mountains”, an allusion to Bulgaria’s mountainous topography.

LHSA+DP – who specialise in museum venues that transform cultural and educational ideas into immersive, engaging



The museum is designed with interactivity for children at its core

experiences for multiple related expert services – handled site selection and design, museum architecture, science centre programming and educational consulting and exhibition

design, while Sofia-based A&A Architects were architects-of-record. The nonprofit America for Bulgaria Foundation conceived the project. *More: [http://lei.sr?a=D7Z5F\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=D7Z5F_A)*



Edinburgh Castle was most visited

## Record-breaking figures for Scottish heritage

Historic Scotland has hailed a record-breaking summer after figures for the three month period from June to August topped last year’s record for visits to heritage attractions throughout the country.

According to numbers from Historic Scotland, 1,826,047 visitors were welcomed to heritage attractions throughout the country; an increase of more than 34,000 on the same period last year and an overall record Scotland during the summer months. *More: [http://lei.sr?a=F4v5d\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=F4v5d_A)*

## Mississippi entertainment experience to recognise state’s legendary artists

Ground has been broken on a US\$45m (€40m, £29m) immersive arts facility in Meridian, Mississippi, dedicated to film, literature, music, art, dance, theatre and visual arts.

The 58,500sq ft (5,435sq m) Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Experience is designed by Gallagher & Associates. The museum’s design will be “totally immersive”, according to principal architect Cybelle Jones, who said the plans would incorporate media, hands-on experiences and interactive art.

“What is so special about Mississippi is going to come out,” added Jones. “The



The museum will focus on artists from the Mississippi area

Mississippi story about these artists is what this experience will be about. Their photography, their paintings, their songs, their theatre, will come to life in a different way.”

The museum will have a large focus on artists from the Mississippi area including Elvis, BB King, Morgan Freeman and Jimmy Buffett among others. *More: [http://lei.sr?a=J3W4G\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=J3W4G_A)*



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# Forrec planning attractions based on BBC brands

Global design firm Forrec is collaborating with BBC Worldwide on plans for fixed attractions based on some of the British broadcaster's most famous brands.

*Top Gear*, *CBeebies*, *Earth* and *Walking With Dinosaurs* – among the BBC's most recognised IPs – have been proposed as candidates for permanent attractions, it was revealed at the Euro Attractions Show (EAS) in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Forrec has been hired to deliver a series of prototypes for each of the four TV series. The prototype visitor experiences are being designed for BBC Worldwide, a commercial arm of the BBC, which is seeking to enter the attractions market.

No designs have been officially released, but it's believed the *CBeebies* IP could be an FEC-style, resident-focused, educational attraction that could be situated in larger shopping malls and similar sites, while *Walking With Dinosaurs* could be a bigger-budget attraction which would be replicated only a few times.



*Top Gear* is worth more than £50m a year to the BBC through syndication and merchandise

A *Top Gear* attraction would capture the personality of the show, a hands-on experience-driven concept that would enable visitors to interact and compete with one another.

In addition, Forrec revealed it is also working with the WWE on an attraction built around the popular wrestling brand.  
More: [http://lei.sr?a=z3h2E\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=z3h2E_A)



Attendees came from 96 countries

## 7,000 attend EAS's first foray into Scandinavia

The first ever Euro Attractions Show to be held in Scandinavia has been hailed a success after 7,000 visitors attended the three-day conference and trade show in Gothenburg, Sweden.

With attendees coming from 96 different countries – 30 per cent from Scandinavia – 408 companies exhibited their newest products for rides, attractions, ticketing and entry systems, 3-D films, games, and more on the 10,500sq m (113,021sq ft) trade show floor, the second largest in the history of EAS.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=g8f4K\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=g8f4K_A)

## ABBA's Björn Ulvaeus reveals plans for Mamma Mia restaurant experience

Swedish music icon Björn Ulvaeus has announced details of his upcoming project, *Mamma Mia The Party*, during the keynote speech at the Euro Attractions Show (EAS).

The former ABBA member, who has successfully turned the pop foursome, their music and their story into a cultural IP, said his latest project will be an immersive four-hour dining experience in Stockholm.

"We are going to treat people to wonderful Mediterranean food and drink in this taverna environment, and we are going to treat them to a real-time story with characters Nikos, the host of



ABBA's Björn Ulvaeus in conversation at EAS

the tavern, his wife Christine, his daughter and other characters," said Ulvaeus.

"Between courses there will be dramatic interludes where the story is played out. There'll be a little

conflict, and hopefully a happy ending. Diners are part of the story, if they want to be. If they want to sit back and watch, they can," he said.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=b7s8s\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=b7s8s_A)

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[www.sa2015.siggraph.org](http://www.sa2015.siggraph.org)  
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PHOTO: Preussischer Kulturbesitz

The event is being held inside the Berlin State Library with attendees from across the world

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Now in its third year, the CyArk 500 event brings together heritage leaders in policy, culture, technology

and business to discuss and develop solutions at the intersection of culture and technology, with 'Resilience through Innovation' as the theme for this year's conference. AM2 will be in attendance at the 2015 summit.

[www.archive.cyark.org/500\\_2015](http://www.archive.cyark.org/500_2015)

5-6 NOVEMBER 2015

**Museums Association Conference & Exhibition 2015**  
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16-20 NOVEMBER 2015

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EAS attendees experienced Tomb Racers in a 3D theatre

### nWave Pictures Distribution launches Red Star 3D's new 4D attraction film Tomb Racers at EAS 2015

nWave Pictures Distribution showed off its newest 4D attraction film Tomb Racers at European Attractions Show (EAS) in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Produced by British animation studio Red Star 3D and directed by Ben Smith, the action and adventure film takes the audiences into the legendary Lost Tomb of Egypt.

The 12-minute 4D title is exclusively distributed by nWave and will be available to theme parks worldwide.

Tomb Racers 4D depicts the story of three treasure-hunters who risk their lives to locate the legendary Lost Tomb of Egypt. Danger lurks at every turn as they battle the elements, and each other.



Holovis's Pocket RideView is launched at EAS

### Holovis showcases Pocket RideView at EAS

Holovis Attractions has launched its latest solution for ride design and development, Pocket RideView.

The system is a shrunk-down – and portable - version of the company's existing RideView VR solution, which brings attractions designs to life in a CAVE environment. Pocket RideView does the same job using augmented

reality technology on a mobile device, meaning users can take advantage of the design technology wherever they are.

"This solution takes the dark ride and attraction development review process to a whole new level of functionality, allowing teams to be immersed in their creations from anywhere in the world," said Holovis CEO Stuart Hetherington.



Polin's new Space Race tube ride sends riders around at 27mph

### Competition the focus for Polin's new Space Race slide

The Space Race is a tube ride that launches from a tower, shoots riders down a chute and into a bowl where riders gain ever-increasing velocity as centrifugal force sends them shooting around and around before they plummet through the bottom.

It also introduces a new opportunity for fun by giving groups of riders a chance to compete as they urge their

teammates to be the fastest in crossing the finish line.

The slide pits two four-rider family rafts against each other. The rafts enter the bowl from opposite directions at a speed of more than 43 kmph.

Separated by a divider, the eight riders follow identical helical routes, starting at the perimeter and ending at the centre of the bowl.



The Lost River of the Pharaohs takes on a new twist

### Light specialists Gantom illuminate Lost River of the Pharaohs at Hyland Hills' Water World in Colorado

When Hyland Hills Water World waterpark in Colorado, US, refreshed its popular raft rides Lost River of the Pharaohs and Voyage to the Center of the Earth, theatrical lighting was part of the vision and products from Gantom Lighting and Controls were part of the solution. The improvements were

recognised with a Golden Ticket Turnstile Award.

"Water World has been a leader in bringing technology into the waterpark environment," said Gantom president, Quan Gan.

"It was a pleasure to work with an operator demonstrating so much creativity and passion."

# Crime Museum uncovers London's grisly past

The Museum of London has debuted a new exhibition where, for the first time, a selection of items used in notorious crimes have gone on display to the general public.

Taken from Scotland Yard's 'Black Museum' – previously only open to serving police and select guests since its formation in 1874 – The Crime Museum Uncovered displays evidence from real-life crime cases, taking visitors on a journey through some of the UK's most notorious crimes. The exhibition also looks at the challenges faced in policing the UK capital, tackling themes from terrorism – notably the activities of the IRA – and espionage, to counterfeiting and narcotics.

"Previously the exhibition was there as an educational tool for our own staff," said Martin Hewitt, assistant commissioner of the London Metropolitan Police, speaking to *Attractions Management*. "Now we've looked at it from a public perspective, deciding what we want to put there and how we tell them."

The exhibition has been curated and delivered by the Museum of London with



The Crime Museum Uncovered will run for six months at the Museum of London

the support of the Metropolitan Police Service and the Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime (MOPAC). In addition, GuM handled exhibition design, Thomas

Manss & Company were graphic designers, Mer Services were contractors and Cosmic Carrot produced AV elements.  
*More: [http://lei.sr?a=n8m9D\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=n8m9D_A)*



American Dream opens in Q3 2017

## Legoland and Sea Life heading to New Jersey

Merlin Entertainments has announced two additions to the under-development American Dream New Jersey mega mall, with the operator's premier Sea Life Aquarium and Legoland Discovery Centre coming to the shopping and entertainment centre when it opens in Q3 of 2017.

Being developed by Triple Five, the Sealife and Legoland Discovery Centre complex will cover 70,000sq ft (6,500sq m) and will be featured as major destinations within American Dream.

*More: [http://lei.sr?a=b2m7V\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=b2m7V_A)*

## Architects bid for multi-million dollar expansion of Kuwait Scientific Center

Kuwait's Scientific Center has said that 10 architects have presented bids for a multi-million dollar expansion of the facility.

The visitor attraction in Salmiya, which serves as a centre for environmental education in the gulf region, laid out plans for a new facility to include dolphins and mammals, with plans also in the works for a conference facility and exploration hall.

Scientific Center chair and CEO, Mijbil Al-Mutawia said in a statement that the expansion plans will be unique in the State, adding that the addition would strengthen Kuwait's position



The Scientific Center first opened its doors in 2000

as a location for world-class visitor attractions.

The new dolphinarium would offer visitors the chance to swim with the animals, while a selection of other animals would be

on display. Adjoined would be an exploration hall with space for both permanent and temporary exhibits, as well as a theatre, multi-purpose halls and support facilities.

*More: [http://lei.sr?a=x8M6f\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=x8M6f_A)*



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If this opportunity appeals to you please apply, downloading an application form and together with a CV and covering letter, forward to: Martin Dupée, Director of Operations, Zoological Society of East Anglia, The Grove, Kenninghall Road, Banham, Norfolk NR16 2HE or email to:- [martin.dupée@zsea.org](mailto:martin.dupée@zsea.org)

**All applications must be received by 15th November 2015.**  
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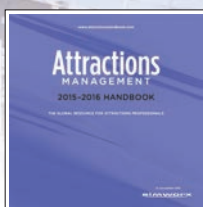
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■ **Communications Manager Legoland Discover Centre**

Salary: Competitive  
Job location: Missouri-Kansas City, United States

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Salary: Competitive  
Job location: New York, United States

■ **Operations Supervisor The Cornish Seal Sanctuary**

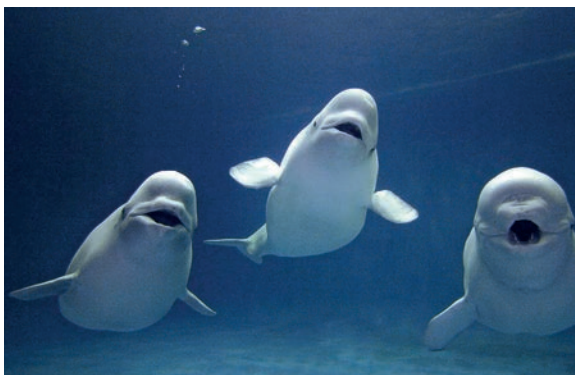
Salary: Competitive  
Job location: Gweek, Cornwall, United Kingdom

## Georgia Aquarium fails in controversial bid to import 18 wild beluga whales

A US federal judge has blocked the controversial importation of 18 beluga whales captured off the coast of Russia in 2013.

The ruling is a victory for wildlife and conservation groups, which will now prevent the whales from being brought to the Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta and other parks that were interested in acquiring the cetaceans.

US district judge Amy Totenberg, who issued a written ruling denying the importation of whales, said the aquarium had accused NOAA of "cooking the books" to fabricate its rationale, for initially denying the



The whales will remain with the Russian team holding them

permit but added that "beyond all the smoke and mirrors, Georgia Aquarium's arguments boil down to an attempt to shift the burden of proof to (the government)."

The aquarium has the right to appeal and for the

meantime the whales will remain in the custody of the Russian team caring for them. Georgia Aquarium said that it was "reviewing the decision," but didn't offer further comment.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=B4y3H\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=B4y3H_A)

## Modern Bali arts complex redefines relationship between nature and art

US architects ArandaLasch have unveiled plans for a contemporary arts complex and gardens in Bali, envisioned as a place to experience "art within nature".

Revealed at the inaugural Chicago Architecture Biennial, the Budidesa Art Park – funded by Chinese-Indonesian entrepreneur Budi Tek – comprises a series of art gardens, a museum complex and residences surrounded by rice paddies near the country's capital of Denpasar.

Budidesa will act as a new home for Budi Tek's Yuz Foundation – a charity founded in 2007 to promote art. Outside, a central path



Budidesa will act as a new home for the Yuz Foundation

makes its way through the gardens, offering exterior exhibition space for visitors to experience art within a tropical environment. The outdoor area will feature works

from artists including Ai Weiwei, Anslem Keifer and Maurizio Cattelan, as well as local Balinese artists. Natural elements will also be used in installations.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=4c7R8\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=4c7R8_A)

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