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Abu Dhabi's SeaWorld to make a splash

SeaWorld will be the next attraction to open on Abu Dhabi's Yas Island, according to the company that manages and develops the territory's growing collection of tourist venues.

Mohammad Al Zaabi, CEO of Miral Asset Management, told Arabian Business the proposed SeaWorld park on Yas Island was at a "very advanced state of design [and] on track to finish construction by 2022."

SeaWorld will include the United Arab Emirates' first dedicated research, rescue, rehabilitation and return centre for marine life.

Yas Island is already home to Yas Waterworld, Ferrari World Abu Dhabi, Warner Bros World, and Clymp, an indoor adventure hub with the world's tallest climbing wall at 43 metres, and widest wind tunnel (10 metres).

New hotels are under construction, with a 550-bedroom Hilton, which is already 85 per cent complete, due to open later this year, and a 250-bedroom



■ Abu Dhabi's SeaWorld is at an advanced stage

Warner Bros hotel – the world's first – being 40 per cent complete and scheduled to open in 2021.

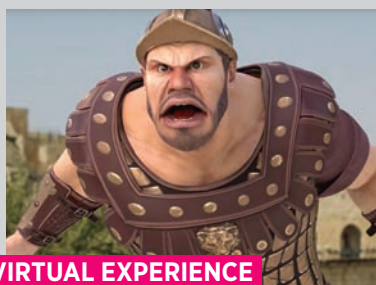
Al Zaabi hinted more attractions may follow with Miral's aim to build 1,500 new hotel rooms.

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“

More attractions may follow in the future to cater for demand

Mohammad Al Zaabi



VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE

Augmented reality brings Jerusalem's history to life

Visitors get to take a selfie with the 'virtual' King David

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HEALTH CONCERNS

Coronavirus forces major Chinese theme park closures

Attractions shut to prevent deadly disease spreading

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LATEST JOBS



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A long-term partnership with French operator Puy du Fou is no stunt, announces Efteling's CEO **Fons Jurgens**

Efteling has announced a six-year partnership with Puy du Fou, with the French operator providing the Dutch theme park consultancy services on its popular Raveleijn show.

Featuring stunts and special effects, a team of 50 actors, stunt people, horse riders and falconers are a part of Raveleijn, which takes place across a 1,500sq m (16,145sq ft) stage and is based on the children's book of the same name by Paul van Loon.

The show tells the tale of five children, magically transformed into knights, who free the medieval city of Raveleijn from the evil Count Olaf.



■ Efteling CEO Fons Jurgens announces Puy du Fou partnership

"We always seek to work with the best in the field and partnering Puy du Fou was an obvious choice"

The strategic partnership will see Puy du Fou provide ongoing advice

to Efteling, with the aim of enhancing the park's already spectacular show.

"We always seek to work with the best in the field.

"For the live show, our decision to work with Puy du Fou was an obvious one," said Fons Jurgens, CEO of Efteling.

"Their artistic excellence will help us promote this show even better to the world stage."

Originally created in 2011 and then reimagined in 2013 by Puy du Fou, Raveleijn will return to Efteling in April 2020, with more than 1,200 performances expected to be staged this year alone.

It is understood that the show, and partnership, are set to run through to the beginning of 2026 at the very least.

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Founding partner and lead designer **Henry N. Cobb** tells of a project which honours hallowed ground



■ Henry N. Cobb, lead designer

Construction has begun on the International African American Museum, which has been designed by Pei Cobb Freed & Partners to honour the site at which enslaved Africans were brought into the US.

Initially proposed in 2000 and now scheduled for completion in late 2021, the 41,800sq ft (3,900sq m) facility is being constructed on Gadsden's Wharf in Charleston, South Carolina.

It is estimated that up to 80 per cent of African Americans

"Gadsden's Wharf is not just the right place to tell this story – it is hallowed ground"

in the US today can trace their ancestry to the wharf.

"As the place where thousands of Africans from diverse cultures first set foot in North America, Gadsden's Wharf is not just the right place to tell this story; it is hallowed ground," said Henry N. Cobb, who is founding partner at Pei Cobb Freed & Partners and lead designer for the project,

before adding: "The special design challenge of the museum was to build on this site without occupying it."

The public space will feature a shallow pool that signifies the edge of the wharf as it was at the beginning of the nineteenth century and granite paving that marks out a gathering place for group activities and performances.

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■ Dr Brian Davis has been announced as Georgia Aquarium CEO

"I'm honoured to lead this great organisation as its new president and CEO into 2020 and beyond"

Dr Brian Davis announced as Georgia Aquarium CEO

The Georgia Aquarium, in Atlanta, US, has appointed Dr Brian Davis as its new president and CEO.

Davis has worked with the aquarium since 2003, serving as its director of education until 2006. In 2010 Davis served as the aquarium's VP of Education and Training until 2014, before taking on the role of president and CEO of the Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk, Connecticut. In 2018 he returned to the Georgia Aquarium as executive VP, a role he held for two years before being promoted to president and CEO in January 2020.

"I'm honoured to lead this great organisation as its new president and CEO into 2020 and beyond," said Davis, adding: "I'm grateful to continue the hard work our team has been doing over the last several years and build upon our ongoing success."

Davis replaces Mike Leven, who retired from his role as CEO and chair at the end of last year. Long-serving board member Steve Koonin replaces Leven as chair.

"This is a banner year for the aquarium with our largest expansion opening in the fall," said Koonin.

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MANAGEMENT NEWS

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■ Comcast chair Brian Roberts sees Nintendo as a 'big thing'

Brian Roberts confirms Super Nintendo World for US parks

Universal is bringing Super Nintendo World to its Hollywood and Orlando theme parks, with Comcast chair Brian Roberts confirming the plans to launch later this year.

Opening before the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Super Nintendo World will be an interactive, immersive attraction, featuring rides and locations from the world of Mario, including Mushroom Kingdom, Peach's Castle, Bowser's Fortress and Mario Kart. Roberts

"Nintendo is in very rarefied air and the attraction we're building in Osaka is spectacular"

said Nintendo would act as a "big accelerator for Universal's theme park business," also revealing plans to bring the IP to North America at a later date.

"The next big thing on the horizon for us is Nintendo which, based on our research, is one of the biggest potential drivers of attendance that you could have of any kind of IP," he said. "It's up there

with Harry Potter, which in some of our parks drove incremental attendance of about two million people.

"We're going to bring it to Hollywood and we're going to bring it to our fourth gate in Florida.

"Nintendo is in very rarefied air and the attraction that we're building in Osaka is spectacular."

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James Mollison, founding director of The National Gallery Australia, dies, aged 88

James Mollison, the founding director of The National Gallery of Australia, has died aged 88.

Mollison, who served as director of the NGA from 1977 until 1989, died of a heart attack on 19 January 2020.

He was best known for coordinating the then-controversial acquisition of Jackson Pollock's abstract expressionist painting Blue Poles for AUS\$1.3m (US\$889,000), a sum that needed to be approved by then prime minister Gough Whitlam, in 1973. The painting is now worth AUS\$350m (US\$239.3m).

"During 20 years at the helm, he showed us how bold risk-taking could build



■ Founding director of Australia's National Gallery James Mollison

"During 20 years at the helm James showed us how bold risk-taking could build an unrivalled art collection"

an unrivalled world-class art collection," the NGA said in a statement.

"In bringing together so many influential and extraordinary works, he

wanted visitors to experience art history and leave knowing much more about art than when they first arrived."

Nick Mitzevich, The NGA's current director, paid tribute to Mollison with an instagram post calling Mollison "one of Australia's greatest museum directors", and describing his contribution to the Australian art world as "monumental".

"James was part of an era in Australia when big minds asked to think about culture in a new way. He was informed by the past but never limited by it," Mitzevich told the Guardian Australia.

"It's quite a unique job to build a national collection from scratch," he added.

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■ Tan Kar Hing, Perak's state tourism chair, wants a new park

{ **"We will try and build a new attraction in order to cover the closure of Movie Animation Park Studios"** }

Tourism chair **Tan Kar Hing** plans to replace closed MAPS park

Movie Animation Park Studios (MAPS) – the RM520m (US\$126.4m, €114.2m, £96.7m) theme park in Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia – has closed its doors after less than three years of operation due to crippling financial problems.

Opened on 26 June 2017, the park halted operations, with the centre facing a number of issues stemming from money struggles.

A closure notice was issued to the park by Ernst & Young, which offers transaction advisory services including financial restructuring. According to the notice, the

park would be closed with immediate effect from 28 January "until further notice".

It also added that any inconvenience caused by the closure of MAPS is regretted.

"We already know that MAPS is one of the must-visit places here, but since the closure of the theme park, it will definitely bring impact to us," said Perak's State Tourism, Arts and Culture Committee chair, Tan Kar Hing.

"We will try to build a new attraction around Ipoh or out of the city in order to cover the closure of MAPS," he confirmed.

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VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE

Jerusalem's rich history brought to life

The Tower of David – Museum of the History of Jerusalem has started offering "mixed and augmented reality" tours.

The museum's innovation lab has teamed up with tech start-up Mixed and Augmented Reality and the Jerusalem Development Authority to develop the experience, delivered by tablets and headphones.

People can walk around Jerusalem in the time of King David, witness the legendary biblical fight between David and Goliath, experience the Great Revolt against the Romans and the Six Day War of 1967. The experience ends with a chance to take a selfie with the virtual King David.

"Our technology creates a personal experience," said Ori Noam, MARS CEO, speaking to The Jerusalem Post. "What we offer to children is more adventurous and interactive than for adults, who might be less drawn to games and more to content."

Museum director Eilat Lieber said the institution had been looking for innovative and engaging ways for some time.

"The 360-degree panoramic view over the city, pools from the time of Herod and secret passages make the Tower of David an excellent test site for innovative technology, which digitally and interactively enriches the visitor's experience," said Lieber.

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■ You can take a selfie with the virtual King David in Jerusalem



“

Innovative technology interactively enriches the experience

Eilat Lieber

DESIGN

Sea urchins inspire designs for new Buhais Geology Park



“

We reference the site's marine fossils through urchin pods

Simon Fraser

The Buhais Geology Park Interpretive Centre, with a Hopkins Architects design inspired by fossilised sea urchins, has opened in the United Arab Emirates.

The centre is part of the new Buhais Geology Park, which is located on the al-Madam Plain approximately 30 miles (50km) from the city of Sharjah.

Although now desert, the site was once a seabed and has an abundance of marine fossils from more than 65 million years ago, as well as burial sites from the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages.

"Rarely is an architect offered the opportunity to design a building for such



■ Sea urchin inspired designs at Buhais Geology Park

a beautifully barren landscape with so much geological and cultural significance," said Simon Fraser, principal and lead designer at Hopkins Architects, adding: "Our 'light touch' approach references the site's marine fossils by delivering a series of 'urchin' pods."

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Coronavirus shuts major Chinese attractions

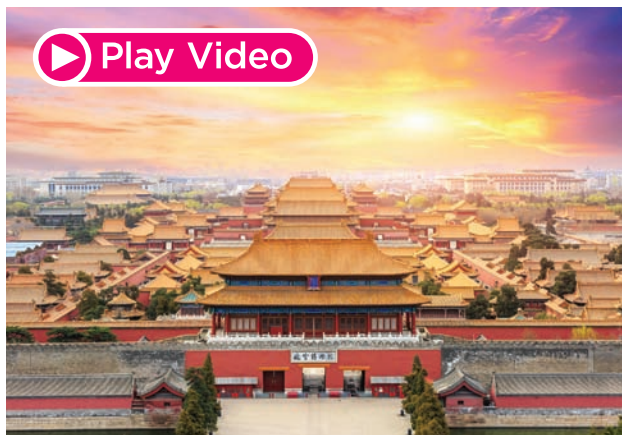
China's most popular attractions are being forced to close as the country tries to stop the spread of the Coronavirus outbreak, which has so far killed 26 people. Beijing's Palace Museum – also known as the Forbidden City – and the Shanghai Disney Resort are the highest-profile sites that have announced they will shut. The attractions are 1,150km and 830km respectively away from Wuhan, where the flu-like virus originated.

No dates have yet been put forward for the attractions to reopen. The Shanghai Disney Resort said on its website that it has closed "in response to the prevention and control

of the disease outbreak and in order to ensure the health and safety of our guests and cast," adding: "We will continue to carefully monitor the situation and be in close contact with the local government, and we will announce the reopening date upon confirmation."

Traditional temple fairs in Beijing, an international carnival, a football tournament in Hong Kong, and public Lunar New Year celebrations in Macau have also been cancelled as concern about the spread of the virus increases. Tourism in China contributes a total of 12.9 per cent towards the nation's economy.

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■ Shanghai Disney is one of the attractions to close its doors



We will continue to carefully monitor the situation and be in close contact with the local government

Shanghai Disney Resort

THEME PARKS

Rainforest exploration set to be added to Chessington



We hope to educate guests via a fun day out

Nick Varney

Chessington World of Adventures, the Merlin Entertainments theme park in Surrey, is to open a new land in March, inspired by the resort's support of international conservation charity, World Land Trust (WLT).

'Rainforest' will allow children to explore the rainforests of the world through three rides: by road in "Jungle Rangers", by river with "River Rafts" and climbing through the treetop canopy in "Treetop Hoppers". Along the way, they will encounter animals such as tortoises and capybaras. The resort said it hopes to "educate guests, via



■ Chessington's 'Rainforest' aims to educate

a fun day out, about the importance of conserving the world's rainforests".

Chessington will also launch its first-ever themed ride based on children's picture book character Elmer, written by David McKee.

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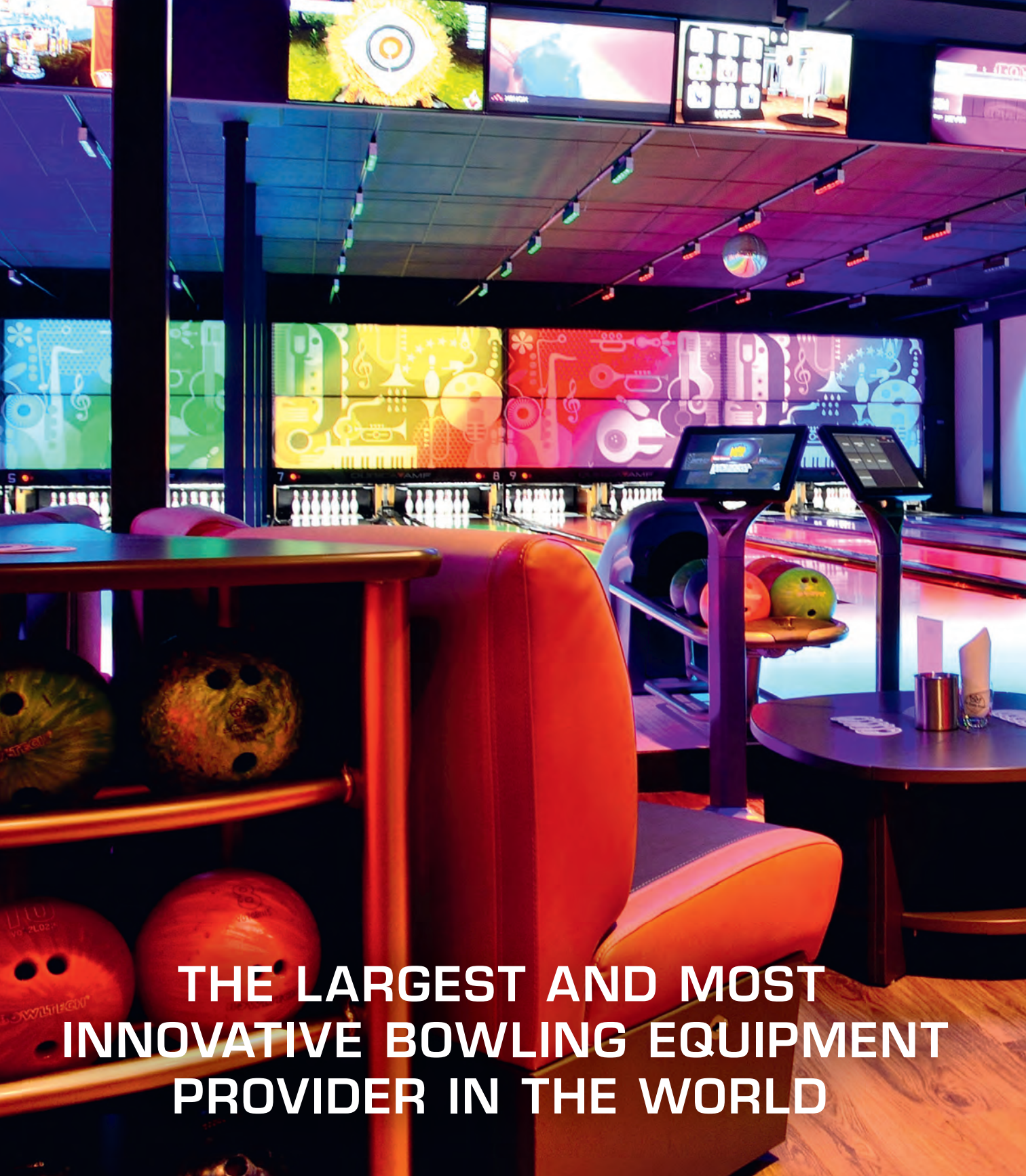


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ART GALLERIES

Calgary planetarium opens after revamp

Calgary's Centennial Planetarium has reopened as a contemporary art gallery following a major CA\$25m (US\$18.9m) renovation.

Called Contemporary Calgary, the planetarium – known for its brutalist architecture and imposing concrete dome – had been vacant since 2011, following the opening of Calgary's TELUS Spark Science Centre.

In 2013, grants from local and federal governments made its transformation into an art gallery possible.

The renovation, carried out by Gibbs Gage Architects and KPMB Architects, includes a new 10,000sq ft (929sq m) gallery, another 3,000sq ft (278sq m) gallery, a

rooftop sculpture garden and event space, as well as a new entrance pavilion, café-style restaurant and open community spaces.

"When the city put this building out for an expression of interest in 2013, three longstanding arts organisations in the city of Calgary came together with one shared vision, which was: 'Let's bring a major contemporary art experience to the city of Calgary,'" said Contemporary Calgary CEO, David Leinster.

"Because the building is kind of weird and wacky and wonderful, makes it all the more exciting to turn it into something else."

[READ MORE ONLINE](#)



■ Calgary's former Centennial Planetarium is now an art gallery



“

The building is weird and wacky and wonderful

David Leinster

INSIGHT

Welsh government set to invest £60m into tourism



“

We want to be known as a place offering adventure

Lord Elis-Thomas

The Welsh government has announced plans to invest £60m (\$78m, €71m) in its tourism industry over the next five years. Financial assistance from the Hong Kong government is expected to help the territory's theme park, Ocean Park, to implement an ambitious new repositioning plan, shaping it into seven experiential zones, all with an adventure-based theme.

The £60m will be spread across two funds, the Brilliant Basics fund and the Wales Tourism Investment Fund.

Lord Elis-Thomas, deputy minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism, explained: "By 2025 we want to be known as a



■ Welsh government set to invest £60m in tourism

place that offers world-leading adventure, creative culture and language and outstanding, protected landscapes as well as a place that wants to look after them for future generations, not least because future markets will expect it."

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MUSEUMS

Denver Art Museum to unveil new galleries

Around 10,000sq ft of new galleries, designed by OMA, will be unveiled in June as part of a phased reopening of the Denver Art Museum's newly renovated Martin Building, designed by Gio Ponti.

By horizontally bisecting the museum's original Stanton Gallery, OMA were able to create three new rooms without expanding the building's footprint.

The three new rooms are distinct, yet interconnected spaces, as was Ponti's original intention for the museum's spaces, and they feature a number of references to him.

Explaining the approach taken, Shohei Shigematsu, partner at OMA, said:

"The role of design in society is always changing and ever-diversifying.

"Galleries need to react to these changes, beyond posing new ways of seeing.

"The three new spaces are more than just galleries for consuming design.

"They each have their own spatial and programmatic identities but work collectively as a platform for discourse around the boundless contexts of design."

The work is part of a \$150m project led by Machado Silvetti and Fentress Architects to update the museum and reunify its campus after the north side shut in 2017.

READ MORE ONLINE



■ Denver Art Museum is set to open 10,000ft of new galleries



“

The role of design in society is always changing

Shohei Shigematsu

HOTELS

Atari presses play on video game-themed hotel chain



“

How cool will it be to stay inside an Atari?

Napoleon Smith III

Atari has announced that it is working with GSD Group and film producer Napoleon Smith III to build a series of video game-themed Atari Hotels in the US.

The hotels will draw on the history of video games and the iconic Atari brand to create "fun and unique" places to stay.

Initial renders for the first planned location, which will break ground in Phoenix, Arizona, later this year, show the Atari brand having been pulled through into the hotel's design.

Entertainment and "fully immersive" experiences – including virtual reality and



■ Atari is bringing game-themed hotels to the US

augmented reality – will be incorporated into the hotels for guests of all ages.

Napoleon Smith III said a hotel was also being planned for Las Vegas, adding: "When creating the concept, we knew Atari would perfect. Let's face it, how cool will it be to stay inside an Atari?"

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STEM empowers gender equity

A vital new project intended to promote gender equity in science museums has been successfully launched.



The Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC) has launched a new project promoting gender equity in science museums.

Working alongside the National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP), ASTC has launched IF/THEN, an idea built on the mantra "if we support a woman in STEM, then she can change the world."

Part of a national initiative to advance women in STEM subjects by "empowering innovators and inspiring the next generation of female pioneers", the ASTC/NGCP coalition will introduce a number of resources and opportunities to target its goal in the coming weeks.

This will first include the rollout of a Gender Representation Toolkit, which will be used to help science centres collect data on their visual representation of gender. Using this resource, institutions will be able to identify improvement targets and better determine the specific resources needed for growth in these areas.

After using the Toolkit, ASTC's members will be eligible to apply for IF/THEN grants, with funding used to advance a project that addresses gender equity in their museum, including through exhibits, programme materials, signage, websites, promotional materials, and other content. There

If we can support a woman
in STEM then she can
change the world



■ Advocates Laura Bush, Lyda Hill, Geena Davis, Nicole Small.

STEM is everywhere. There is no better time to highlight positive, successful, professional female role models

will be two allocated funding rounds, with the first to open in March.

Developing a digital library

NGCP is also developing a digital library of free photos and videos featuring women in STEM, which ASTC members can use to increase their representation of women.

"This first-of-its-kind coalition emphasises that STEM is everywhere, essential to the success of all fields from entertainment to business, and that there is no better time to highlight positive and successful female professional role models to activate a culture shift among young girls and their potential of careers in STEM," said an ASTC statement.

"ASTC and NGCP are working with IF/THEN to increase the representation of women in STEM fields, make positive representations of women available to

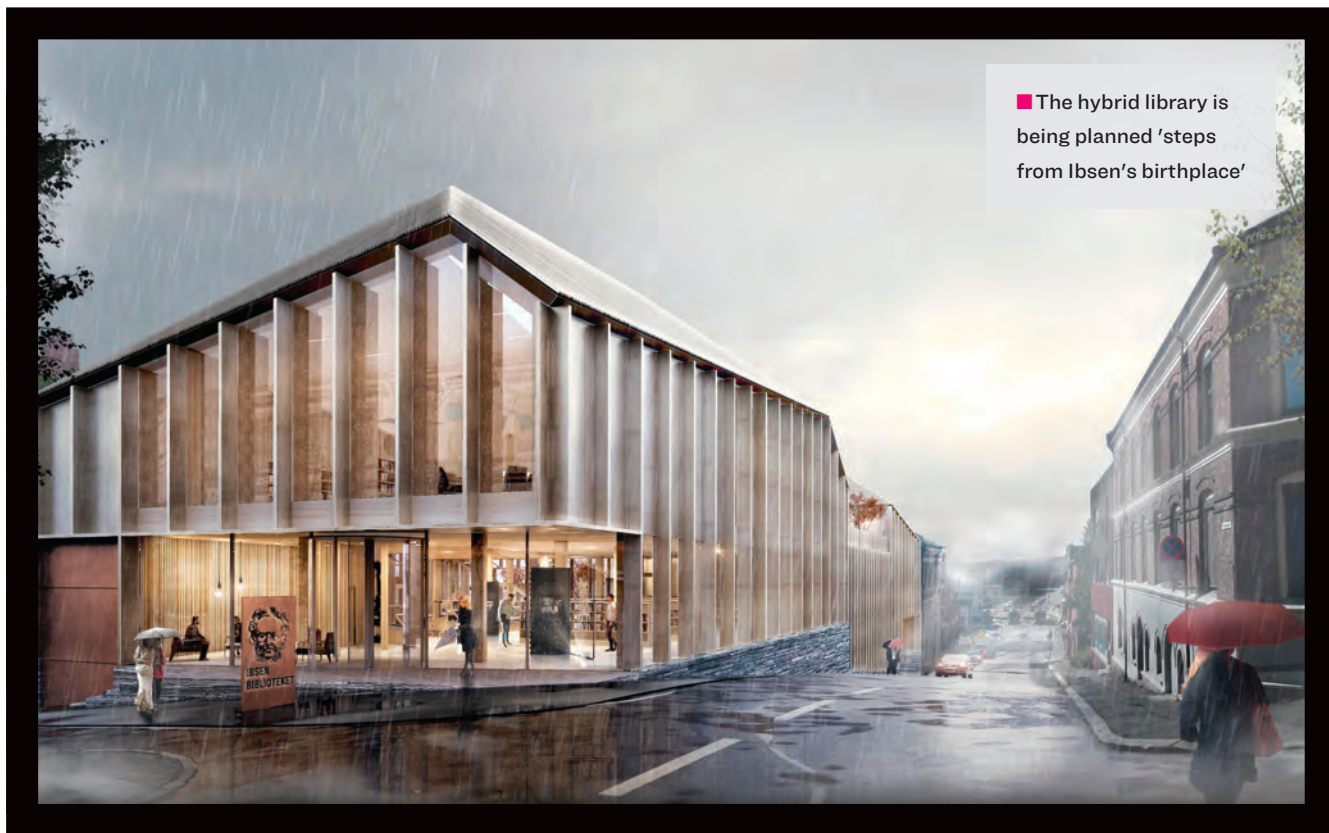
informal STEM learning organisations, and inspire and engage young women to pursue STEM courses and careers."

A group of 125 ambassadors, made up of some of the top female innovators working within the sector, attended a three-day summit in October, where they received training in communication, storytelling and social media, as well as individualised coaching on how to tell a compelling personal story. During the summit, each of the ambassadors was also professionally photographed and filmed so that their images and stories can be made available to educators and non-profits through the IF/THEN Collection.

In the US, IF/THEN has also launched a Saturday morning television show on CBS: Mission Unstoppable. Hosted by Miranda Cosgrove and targeting teenage girls, the show was created by an all-female leadership team and highlights women working in STEM.



■ Becca Peixotto PhD, is one of the 125 ambassadors aiming to inspire the next generation of female pioneers in STEM subjects through her story.



Hybrid library theatre for Skien

A library celebrating playwright Henrik Ibsen is being established to drive social involvement and democratic participation in Norway



■ The library is to honour the legacy of the Norwegian playwright

A team led by Schmidt Hammer Lassen (SHL) is one of two firms left in the running to create a new library in Skien, Norway, with a hybrid design that will allow visitors to experience the work and influence of Henrik Ibsen.

The Ibsen Library is being established to drive increased social involvement and democratic participation in the region, to become a visitor attraction and to honour the legacy of the famed Norwegian

playwright. SHL, working with landscape architects SLA and engineering firm Rambøll Norge, have developed a design for a site in the city's dairy quarter, Meierikvartalet, while a Kengo Kuma-led team are in competition with designs for a separate site in its cultural quarter.

Steps from Ibsen's birthplace

Located "steps from Ibsen's birthplace", the SHL design has been conceived to become a key cultural centre for Skien, housing exhibition and

■ The proposed library is set to house a tourist centre and administrative offices among other rooms



performance spaces for presenting the work of Ibsen and others.

Naturally, it would house the library function too, as well as a dissemination centre for Ibsen's work, a citizens' service base, a tourist information centre, flexible common rooms, outdoor spaces and administrative offices.

"Like Dokk1, our award-winning mixed-use library in Denmark, Skien Library will join a new generation of modern hybrid libraries that bring citizens and visitors together for



Just like Ibsen himself, the building is not afraid of contrasts or coexistence of different interests

knowledge sharing in a multipurpose cultural institution," explained SHL.

"Just like Ibsen himself, the design isn't afraid of contrasts or coexistence of different interests, which are some of the basic principles behind libraries as the democratic space of society.

"The theatrical and poetic character of the library reveals itself in diversity of spatiality and materiality."

According to SHL, the winning design for the museum will be announced during February 2020.



"The future of the natural world, on which we all depend, is in our hands"

Sir David Attenborough



How to tackle climate change

London's Natural History Museum has revealed plans to take the biggest issue of our time head on



■ London's renowned Natural History Museum has launched a new climate change strategy after declaring a planetary emergency

The Natural History Museum (NHM) has announced a new long-term strategy outlining the role it will play in tackling the devastating

impact of climate change, after declaring a "planetary emergency".

The 11-year strategy was inspired by a quote from renowned naturalist Sir David Attenborough: "The future of the natural world, on which we all depend, is in our hands". Based on this, NHM aims to expand its efforts to engage and educate visitors on planetary issues. It will also further open up its collection to share scientific data and evidence that could enable scientists to find solutions for climate instability and biodiversity loss.

Plans also include the development of new galleries and exhibitions that will enable young visitors to imagine a future where both people and planet



■ The Natural History Museum is tackling climate change

“We face a planetary emergency but we aren’t taking effective action to combat our destructive impact on the planet”

thrive. Planned exhibits include the forthcoming *Fantastic Beasts: The Wonder of Nature*, based on J.K. Rowling's movie franchise of the same name, and a brand-new dinosaur gallery, featuring new specimens and exhibits, that will educate guests on biodiversity, extinction and climate change.

"We are facing a planetary emergency. Humanity's future depends on the natural world, but we're not taking effective action to combat our destructive impact on the planet's survival systems," said NHM director, Sir Michael Dixon.

"The museum is well placed to make a difference, it is a world-leading science research centre and our 300 scientists represent one of the largest groups in the world working on natural diversity.

"Climate change, biodiversity loss and extinction, habitat destruction, pollution and deforestation are just

some of the crises which all flow from sustainable human activity.

"In this time of unprecedented threat, we need an unprecedented global response. Our strategy is built around our vision of a future where people and planet thrive. Our ethos is one of hope that by working together we can change the current path.

"Our ambitions include a plan to create a flagship, sustainable science and digitisation centre to safeguard a remarkable collection that explains our past, helps us chart a path for the future and provides a hub for partnerships with research institutions, museums and industry."

The museum will also aim to become the first in the world to set a science-based carbon reduction target in line with the Paris climate agreement's 1.5°C global warming trajectory.



■ Natural History Museum director Sir Michael Dixon says the science research centre is well placed to make a difference

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● Triotech has installed a 32-seat Triotech XD Dark Ride Interactive Theatre at Resorts World Genting's Skytropolis indoor theme park

Triotech opens three attractions at Resorts World Genting's Skytropolis indoor theme park



● Ernest Yale, Triotech

Triotech has installed three new attractions at Resorts World Genting's Skytropolis indoor theme park in Malaysia.

Forming part of the Resorts World Genting complex – a major entertainment destination in the Genting Highlands, north of Kuala Lumpur.

The complex consists of several hotels and convention centres, as well as two theme parks.

Skytropolis spans 400,000 sq ft (37,161 sq m) and offers 22 rides, as well as a range of attractions including skilled games and virtual reality (VR) centres.

Located in the Sky VR area of the park, the attractions include a 32-seat Triotech XD Dark Ride Interactive Theatre, the largest in Southeast Asia, and two VR experiences; the VR Maze and the Typhoon simulator. The attractions offer a range of different media content, meaning that guests can have a different experience every time they visit.

Ernest Yale, founder and CEO of Triotech, said: "Southeast Asia and particularly Malaysia is a strong growing region and we are happy to be bringing Triotech attractions to Resorts World Genting's unique and

innovative project. Triotech develops integrated media-based attractions, which allows us to offer turnkey solutions and renewable content. This results in fun and immersive guest experiences and a strong ROI for operators."

Edward Holloway, executive vice president of Leisure and Hospitality at Resorts World Genting, said: "When we were planning our Sky VR area, our mission was to offer world class, unforgettable experiences."

ATTRACTIONS-KIT KEYWORD
TRIOTECH

Maurer Rides introduces jet ski coaster concept



● The first jet ski ride has a Miami theme

Maurer Rides has launched a new jet ski roller coaster concept, designed for waterparks and other visitor attractions.

The new ride is based on Maurer's Spike-Drive coaster – winner of the Best New Product Award at IAAPA Expo 2017.

The "waterised" version uses a passenger trained themed as a jet ski – rather than a motorcycle – and allows drivers to control their own speed.

This way, the riders can influence their own ride experience – including whether



● The new ride is based on Maurer's Spike-Drive coaster

to glide over a water feature, or jump over it at full speed.

The first "jet ski Spike-Drive" features a "Miami" beach theme, with riders "navigating" palm trees, life rings and beach balls on their way to a lifeguard tower.

In a statement, Maurer Rides said: "The innovative jetski is also attractive because

of the light weight vehicle in combination with the Spike-Drive a relatively low investment in comparison to a large roller coaster. Here again, we have strengthened our position as the market leader for interactive roller coasters."

ATTRACTIONS-KIT KEYWORD
MAURER

ETF and Jora Vision join forces for Pirate Mania dark ride

ETF Ride Systems and Jora Vision presented a new mini dark ride for FEC's at the recent Saudi Entertainment and Amusement Trade Show in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Pirate Mania has been developed as a product for indoor venues with a limited footprint who are looking to add

an interactive family experience with a high repeatability factor.

It has been designed to offer a "high-class family dark ride" experience – which has traditionally been affordable only for theme parks.

The narrative of the ride, which only requires a 250sq m footprint, is based on pirates



● Jan Maarten de Raad

will be the turnkey supplier of the ride and will provide the ride vehicles and interactive system.

Jora Vision is responsible for the design and build of theming.

Jan Maarten de Raad, CEO of Jora Vision added: "Many theme parks value dark rides.

"We strongly believe, however, that there is another market for dark ride experiences: the smaller FEC's usually placed in shopping malls or commercial areas.

"Because of the small footprint and budget friendly concept, we hope to convince FEC's that such dark rides are a great investment to diversify the entertainment offer.

ATTRACTIONS-KIT KEYWORD
JORA VISION

setting up a training course, in which guests learn to become pirates themselves. They board a pirate-themed vehicle, take a gun and have to find the pirate skulls scattered around the training course.

ETF Ride Systems, specialised in developing and manufacturing ride systems,



● The ride only requires a 250sq m footprint, so is suitable for FECs

Diary dates

23-25 MARCH 2020

Dubai Entertainment Amusement and Leisure Exhibition (DEAL)

Dubai World Trade Centre
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The largest trade show for the theme park and amusement industries in the Middle East. As well as a heavy focus on theme parks, the show features a number of exhibitor categories – such as VR, AR, FECs and 4D theatres.

Tel: +971 4 3435777

Contact: lilia@iecdubai.com

www.dealmiddleeastshow.com

23-25 MARCH 2020

MuseumNext Europe Edinburgh Festival Hub Edinburgh, UK

MuseumNext is a major international conference on the future of museums. It has taken place annually in Europe since 2009 with an engaged, loyal and dynamic audience working at a senior management in museums, galleries and cultural venues across the globe.

Tel: +44 (0) 191 2573439

Contact:

info@museumnext.com

www.museumnext.com

9-11 JUNE 2020

IAAPA Expo Asia 2020 Macao, China

IAAPA Expo Asia is IAAPA's exclusive Expo in the Asia Pacific region. It is part of the organisation's regional event programme and attracts industry professionals from around the world to learn and experience what's new and innovative in the rapidly growing Asian attractions market.

Tel: +852 2538 8799

Contact: asiapacific@iaapa.org



■ The symposium charts the current trends of the global waterpark industry

6-9 OCTOBER 2020

WWA ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM & TRADE SHOW

Las Vegas, US

The premium event for the global water park industry combines an educational programme – supported by the world's

largest gathering of waterpark experts – with a large trade show floor filled with products and services. The show is also famous for its networking opportunities.

Tel: +1-913-599-0300

Email: info@waterparks.org

www.waterparks.org

22-24 SEPTEMBER 2020

IAAPA Expo Europe London, England

IAAPA Expo Europe 2020 will be an all-encompassing destination for leisure and attractions industry professionals, including operators, suppliers, manufacturers, investors, developers, and anyone wishing to engage with the global amusement community. More than 15,000 industry professionals are expected to attend.

Tel: +1 321-319-7600

Contact: iaapa@iaapa.org

08 OCTOBER 2020

VAC 2020 Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London, UK

The Annual National Conference of Visitor Attractions is the pre-eminent event for all types of Visitor Attractions in the UK. The event is run by the industry, for the industry and is firmly established as the key place to meet and network with contemporaries.

Tel: +44(0) 207 0456 923

Contact: vac@bcdme.com

10-23 OCTOBER 2020

World Leisure Congress 2020 Pinggu, Beijing, China

The 16th World Leisure Congress will be hosted by the Beijing City Government and co-organized by World Leisure Organization (WLO). The Congress theme "Leisure Makes Life Better" aims to promote the concept of leisure for all and throughout the whole year.

Tel: +1 989 774 6099

www.worldleisure.org

17-20 NOVEMBER 2020

IAAPA Expo Orange County Convention Center, Florida, US

The world's largest business event for the global visitor attractions industry. The trade floor features 1,000 companies from around the world who will showcase the new products and services, as well as an extensive programme of seminars and workshops.

Tel: +1 703 836 4800

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ExCeL London, United Kingdom



Save the Date

Conference: 21-24 Sept.
Trade Show: 22-24 Sept.

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MANAGEMENT NEWS



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Whatever leisure facilities you're responsible for, the AM News service can raise your recruitment to another level and help you find great people.

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We work in partnership with you to get your job vacancies in front of qualified, experienced industry people via specially customised recruitment campaigns.

There are loads of recruitment services, how is AM News special?

AM News is the only recruitment service in the industry offering job marketing in print, on digital, social, email, via an online job board and on video, so you get the best of all worlds for one competitive price.

What are the most powerful features?

We position your job vacancy listings right next to our popular industry news feeds, so your career opportunities catch the eye of those hard-to-reach candidates who aren't currently job hunting.

In addition, to celebrate the 100th issue of AM News, we've also relaunched the website with fantastic enhanced search functionality which enables you to target the best candidates with a laser focus.

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Yes, we give you access to Leisure Media's entire network of print, digital, online and social brands, enabling you to build your profile as an Employer of Choice™ via **Leisure Opportunities, Health Club Management, Sports Management, Leisure Management, Attractions Management, and Spa Business/Spa Opportunities.**

What packages are available?

We offer everything you need, from rolling Powerpack campaigns which earn you extra job marketing goodies and discounts, to targeted ad hoc campaigns, reputation management promotions, executive job marketing and open day and schools and apprenticeship marketing.

Is there more?

Yes, we also offer a range of HR services through our sister company, HR Support, such as cv screening, shortlisting and interviewing to final shortlist.

What now?

We have packages to suit all budgets and requirements and we'd love to talk to you about how we can partner to bring inspirational people into your organisation to give you that competitive advantage you know will make a difference.

Meet the Attractions Management News recruitment team



Liz Terry



Julie Badrick



Paul Thorman

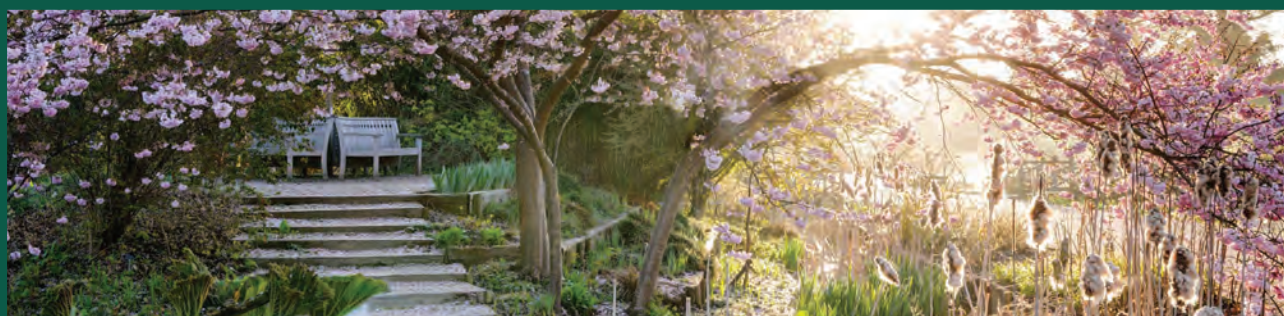


Sarah Gibbs



Chris Barnard

Hope to hear from you soon on +44 (0)1462 431385 or email theteam@leisuremedia.com



Head of RHS Garden Wisley



Location: Woking, Surrey
Salary: circa £75,000

The Royal Horticultural Society has been the force behind gardening for more than 200 years, and today our aim is to enrich everyone's life through plants and make the UK a greener and more beautiful place. Our Gardens are a key part of this vision, and are amongst the finest in the country, highlighting the best in horticulture, as well as being centres of learning and major visitor destinations.

RHS Garden Wisley is the flagship garden of the RHS, attracting over 1.2 million visitors a year. The garden is currently going through an exciting change programme of £60m+ capital investment which will create world class welcome buildings, catering facilities and a National Centre for Horticultural Science and Learning which will establish RHS Garden Wisley as the premier horticultural visitor destination in the UK.

As of Head of the Garden you will be responsible for leading a team of managers and ensuring the smooth operation of the garden, delivering an excellent visitor experience through imaginative delivery of service, interpretation, events and engagement. The position will be both challenging and rewarding and we are looking for an exceptional leader to become the driving force behind continued operational and commercial success of the garden. You will have one eye firmly on the day to day but will be also adept at planning and delivering the future.

The closing date for applications is 10 February 2020

For further information and to apply, click below or scan QR code





Our family Theme Parks are thriving and this year we open a brand new resort at Rother Valley which means we need more great leaders for the future. Following the huge continued success of our Trainee Manager programme, we are delighted to announce its annual return in 2020 for the sixth consecutive year. This is a fantastic opportunity to join a rapidly growing business in a challenging leadership role at one of Gulliver's theme park resorts at Warrington, Milton Keynes, Matlock or Rother Valley.

With a hands-on approach and excellent communication skills, you'll be used to organising and dealing with customers, be innovative with your ideas and have an infectious enthusiasm that engages and inspires those around you.

The Trainee Manager programme will be structured over a 12 month period starting in March 2020 and will include:

- A number of placements across different areas of the business.
- First class training programme to develop skills and knowledge.
- Senior level mentor from within the business and access to external development coaches and experts.
- Ownership of bespoke projects which will challenge skills and develop learning.

You'll be a high energy, ambitious individual who is prepared to work hard to gain experience and develop new skills in order to progress into more senior leadership roles within the business. The ability to work across all of our locations is essential and you will be able to demonstrate evidence of a strong work ethic from your previous experiences.

In 2020 Gulliver's will be celebrating 42 years of great value family fun. Now with 4 UK locations, our resorts include theme parks, splash zones, high ropes experiences, dinosaur and farm park, plus themed hotels, lodges and campsites.

Our award winning accommodation offering is also expanding rapidly and we'll be hosting even more sleepovers, short breaks and 'stay and play' experiences in the years ahead. With all of this expansion and our fourth theme park resort opening this Spring, we'd love to meet individuals who share the desire for a future that's as ambitious as ours.

If you feel you have the drive, attitude and necessary skills for the Trainee Manager positions and want to be part of a great, growing company then please apply below.

Candidates MUST send a Covering Letter with their application – otherwise they will not be considered. Closing date 14th February 2020.

Interview and assessment days will be held on 21st, 22nd & 23rd February 2020.

To Apply, Email Your CV and Cover Letter to: Aidan.hall@gulliversfun.co.uk



**We are searching for an Attraction Manager
at our Peppa Pig World of Play attraction.**

**Jump into the world of Peppa Pig
to laugh, learn and play!**



Attractions Manager

Reference: req4612

Peppa Pig World of Play, Schaumburg, IL, USA

Opening in 2020, Peppa Pig World of Play Chicago is an indoor family play attraction, designed for pre-school children and their families.

Do you have the Magic in you to create memorable experiences all for the love of fun? Do you wish to cast a spell of laughter and enjoyment to the people around you? Want to join a team that creates smiles and memories globally on a daily basis? Then you have the magic to be Team Merlin at Peppa Pig World of Play Chicago!

Your Magical Role

The role of the Attraction Manager is to ensure the effective pre-opening, launch and post-opening operation of our 3rd Peppa Pig World of Play attraction in North America.

Your Magical Ingredients

- Embraces the idea of encouraging and empowering Playmakers to provide inspirational guest experiences
- Minimum of 3-5 years of relevant service industry experience; preferably with strong operations and retail management knowledge

About The Benefits

In return you will find a competitive salary and benefits package. In addition, you can expect continued growth of joining an exciting, global organization.

About Us

Jump into the world of Peppa Pig to explore and discover, interact and engage in fourteen themed play areas and an unforgettable adventure with Peppa and her friends. Peppa Pig World of Play – snorts and giggles for all the family!

We offer flexible opportunities, in a totally unique environment. We know this is a great place to work, but don't just take our word for it, click here

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COMMERCIAL MANAGER



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We are the Blackpool Tower and we are part of the magical Merlin Entertainments!

We're on the lookout for an ambitious and savvy Commercial Manager to join our team for our amazing mix of attractions at the iconic Blackpool Tower!

About the role

This is an exciting senior role and will see you driving key revenue streams and leading our teams on the front line. You'll never be far from the action ensuring the highest standards of guest experience are achieved and delivering that all-important wow first impression!

About you

First and foremost - you're going to be a commercial specialist - and exude an infectious passion for driving profits. We're looking for someone with a charismatic leadership style who conveys enthusiasm, energy and a desire to deliver.

Why join Team Blackpool?

When you join us, you'll receive a salary between £28,000 - £32,000 per annum (depending on experience), plus discounts and excellent benefits. You'll also get your mitts on a Merlin Magic Pass - giving you free tickets to our attractions across the globe.

Merlin is a large, global, expanding business, with no end of senior operational, or general management roles, so for an ambitious and talented individual looking to go much further with their career, we can provide the opportunities and the support to help you realise your potential.

For further information click 'apply now' or scan QR code





eCOMMERCE MANAGER

Madame Tussauds North America (FTC) Orlando, Florida

A job with Merlin isn't like a job anywhere else. With attractions around the world, from rollercoasters to wax figures, we don't trade in suits, handshakes or briefcases. We trade in fun. In smiles, shrieks and spine-tingles.

In Memories. In magic. But there are no tricks behind our magic. Instead, there are people like you. Passionate, dedicated people who are committed to making sure our worldwide attractions and guests' experiences are the best they can be.

Due to continuing growth and development of Merlin's Midway attractions and brands on a global scale, we are looking for an eCommerce Manager – Madame Tussauds, North America to join our Global Midway eCommerce team. This role will be based in Orlando, Florida. This role is available on a Fixed Term basis until Dec 2020.

Reporting into the Head of e-Commerce for our Midway attractions in the USA (Madame Tussauds, LEGOLAND Discover Centre, SEA LIFE, Dungeons) the eCommerce Manager will be responsible for implementing intelligent and innovative digital strategy for Madame Tussauds across the US with a focus on eCommerce website performance.

Primarily, the role takes ownership of optimising and updating website content, and employing eCommerce principles to ensure functionality, local relevancy, optimal technical and brand-alignment, accessibility and efficiency for driving strong conversion rates and yield.

The Benefits...

Great people, great perks! Alongside a fun and collaborative environment, with a competitive salary, you can enjoy our amazing benefits package, including a discretionary company bonus and of course a Merlin Magic Pass, which entitles you and your family and friends free admission to all our attractions worldwide

For more information and to apply, click below or scan QR code.

 **Apply Now**



For more details on the following jobs visit
www.attractionsmanagement.com or to
advertise call the team on +44 (0)1462 431385



eCommerce Manager

Salary: Competitive Salary

Company: Madame Tussauds

Location: Orlando, FL, USA

Operations Manager

Salary: Competitive Salary

Company: Legoland Discovery Centre

Location: Somerville, MA, USA

Marketing and Sales Coordinator

Salary: Competitive Salary

Company: Merlin Entertainments Group

Location: East Rutherford, NJ, USA

General Manager

Salary: Competitive

Company: Sea Life

Location: Brighton, UK

Head of RHS Garden Wisley

Salary: circa £75,000

Company: Royal Horticultural Society

Location: Woking, Surrey, UK

Commercial Manager

Salary: £28,000 - £32,000

Company: The Blackpool Tower

Location: Blackpool, UK

Theme Park Trainee Managers

Salary: Competitive

Company: Gulliver's Theme Park

Location: Nationwide, United Kingdom

Catering Manager

Salary: Circa - £25,750 per annum

Company: Blackpool Zoo

Location: Blackpool, UK

General Manager

Salary: Competitive Salary

Company: Sea Life

Location: Concord, NC, USA

Training and Compliance Manager

Salary: Competitive Salary

Company: Legoland

Location: Goshen, NY, USA

**For more details on the above jobs visit
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