

PRESS RELEASE

Tropical Islands – Europe's largest tropical holiday world



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The concept of Europe's largest Tropical Holiday World: The tropics are located directly in Europe. The dream of a tropical island in the middle of Europe has therefore become true with Tropical Islands. Guests find a unique holiday destination, independent of the weather, in the largest self-supporting hall in the world. It has an area of 66,000 square metres - a size equal to that of eight football fields. Tropical Islands is a worldwide unique tropical holiday world in which the Asian Pacific Region, Africa and South America meet.

I. Background

The investors

The investors of Tropical Islands are Tanjong public limited company, based in Malaysia and listed on the Kuala Lumpur and London stock exchanges and Au Leisure Investments Pte Ltd. from Singapore.

The Management

At the helm of Tropical Islands stands Danish-born Ole Bested Hensing, Managing Director of Tropical Islands Management GmbH since 2005. He is responsible for corporate strategy, day-to-day business and the overall planning of marketing initiatives. An industrial engineer by training, and he came to Tropical Islands after periods working for Siemens, Lufthansa, a management consultancy and a power company.

The Tropical Islands Resort

The objective of Tropical Islands is to become the leading European holiday resort. Together with the nearby "Spreewald" region, it would like to position itself as a Europe-wide travel destination. It aims to offer a large range of recreation, health and relaxation facilities and services, especially for holidaymakers on a short break and for families.

The history

The huge hall was originally built and put into service in 2000 as an airship building yard and hangar. The intention was to produce CargoLifters, enormous airships for worldwide transport of large freights to inaccessible destinations. However, no airships were ever built. In 2003, the Malaysian **consortium Tanjong PLC/Colin Au** purchased the site to construct the Tropical Islands Resort in the hall. One year later – on December 19, 2004 – Europe's largest tropical holiday world opened its doors to the public. Its attractions include Germany's highest water slide tower and Europe's biggest tropical sauna and spa complex. The Tropical Islands Campsite is located next door to the Dome.

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At the end of 2009, work began on the construction of the first holiday homes at Tropical Islands. The investor is the German-Danish PLANET Group, the biggest provider of holiday homes in Denmark and Northern Germany. Europe's largest tropical holiday world also set new standards with the addition of new lodges and a large sun-bed deck and the staging of a new daytime and evening show in 2009.

II. The Tropical World

The Tropical Sea

With an area of 3,000 square metres, the Tropical Sea is the size of three Olympic swimming pools. Anyone entering the sea is surrounded by comfortably warm 28°C water. The atmosphere on the 200 metre long and elegantly sweeping sandy beach is unique. Numerous deckchairs are available here. The horizon is formed by a 2,240 square metre canvas screen – sky blue with cotton wool clouds. Warming UV light shines through 20,000 square metres of translucent film on the south side. This makes natural tanning possible.

The Bali Lagoon

The Bali Lagoon has a water temperature of 32°C. A current channel, slides and whirlpools in the bays provide diverse bathing fun for guests. A grotto and a waterfall create a real jungle atmosphere where the lagoon borders the rainforest.

The largest indoor rainforest in the world

Around 50,000 trees, bushes and ground covering plants form the tropical vegetation in the Tropical Islands rainforest. Two Ficus Thai trees, almost 100 years old and up to eight tons in weight, are conspicuous individual trees in the rainforest. Palms are up to 18 metres high, with Dendrobium nobile orchids and creepers climbing up the tree trunks. A one kilometre long path is taking visitors along to the green sights. A bridge leading across the mangrove swamp gives strollers thrilling views, for example of the red-eared turtles. Most of the 600 or so different plant varieties originate in the Asian-Pacific and South American regions. Visitors can take part in interesting guided tours through the rainforest and broaden their knowledge of the rainforest flora.

The African Jungle Lift

The African Jungle Lift is the exciting new family ride at Tropical Islands, a thrill-packed attraction guaranteed to set your heart pumping. A maximum of 16 people can ride at a time. You take your seat on what looks like a tree trunk. This then climbs slowly to a height of 20 meters, then plummets to the ground again at least twice as fast.

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Water slides

The highest water slide tower in Germany – at 27 metres as high as a 9 floor building - is located in Tropical Islands. There are 4 different slides, including a turbo slide which allows users to reach a speed of up to 70 kilometres per hour. The three other slides are more leisurely to travel on, e.g. the family descent on an inner-tube down the spiral slide.

Tropino children's club

Children have their own play world in the Tropical Islands in the Tropino children's club. Play offers range from power paddle boats to a trampoline facility with 8 jumping mats, a climbing frame with integrated softball arena, a climbing volcano and a kart track through to a basketball basket, a table-tennis table and table football.

The "Urmel aus dem Eis" and "Mama Wutz", a prehistoric missing link between a dinosaur and a mammal, and a female pig housekeeper respectively, are both characters from popular German children's books and ensure additional fun by greeting the Tropino children's club guests daily. During the late afternoon they dance on the Wayang stage during the children's disco. In addition, there is a tropical explorer knowledge quiz for children, a treasure hunt and changing activities such as feeding fish or children's makeup.

Mini golf

A mini-golf course is embedded in a small rocky landscape. Laid out on a green artificial lawn, there are 18 different holes. With its original layout and different levels of difficulty, it provides plenty of variety for mini-golfers.

Island ballooning

The tethered balloon provides great views of the Tropical World and the Tropical Sauna & Spa complex. The balloon rises to a height of around 55 metres. From their seats, guests enjoy spectacular views of Europe's largest tropical holiday world.

The free-floating balloon has enough space for the whole family (max. weight 260 kg). A tour guide on the ground steers the balloon through the Tropical World – a wonderful experience at up to 22 metres above the ground. Two different routes are possible.

Boulevard

The Tropical Islands boulevard has numerous shops with a comprehensive range of products. There are arts and crafts, sweets and souvenirs from all over the world. There is also a hairdressing and cosmetic salon on the boulevard, ensuring a perfect look.

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The Tropical Village

The tropical village consists of four typical types of houses from Thailand, Borneo, Bali and Samoa. The intricately designed buildings are original structures and each is unique in its own way. They were built exclusively for Tropical Islands by experienced architects and craftsmen in their countries of origin, they were then transported to Berlin and re-erected at Tropical Islands.

With a height of 14 metres, the **Bali Gate** is the largest gate of its type outside Bali. On the Hindu "Island of the Gods" such open gates mark the entrance to holy areas. The "split gate" symbolises a mountain of the Gods torn asunder in the middle.

From the Bali Gate, the path leads to the **Bali Pavilion**. Hexagonal, with three pagoda roofs, it corresponds to the aesthetic proportions of a Balinese temple. The roofs are covered with palm leaves. On the ground floor, sandstone reliefs depict scenes from the Ramayana. This epic tale of Prince Rama, the beautiful Sita and the Great Ape Hanuman is a classic of world literature and contains the fundamental philosophical beliefs of Hinduism.

The **Borneo Longhouse** at Tropical Islands is built in the style of the Orang Ulu. The Indians of the Orang Ulu tribe are the artists among the native inhabitants of Borneo. Their longhouses are decorated with carvings and paintings, their utensils and tools are adorned with fine pearl jewellery.

A traditional **Thai House** made of wood and bamboo is the largest and at the same time the most elegant building in the Tropical Village. It originally provided space for a large family. The ensemble consists of three smaller buildings: the building for sleeping in, the reception building and a building in which the family eats. The buildings surround the central atrium. The Thai House at Tropical Islands was designed and built by the architect Ladda Teijavnaija. In her Thai homeland, she has already worked for the royal family.

The **Samoa Fale** is a typical Polynesian village house and is called "Fale" on Samoa. Tree trunks protrude from an oval platform, and a roof covered with leaves rests on the trunks. Otherwise most of the houses are open all round, even during the night.

Food and drink

Starting with breakfast through to a cocktail long after midnight, a varied range of food and drink awaits guests. The Tropical Village is home to various bars, a crêperie, the Tropical Barbeque, the Jabarimba restaurant offering an extensive breakfast buffet and the self-service restaurant Mondial. There are also bars by the Lagoon and Tropical Sea, and a restaurant that is perfect for an à la carte dinner with a view to die for! The Tandoor restaurant, located within the Tropical Spa & Sauna complex, also offers exotic taste sensations with its Indian tandoori cuisine.

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III. Europe's largest Tropical Sauna & Spa Complex

In 2009, the Tropical Islands Sauna & Spa Complex was awarded the highest "Premium" rating (5 stars) of the German sauna association, the Deutsche Sauna-Bund e.V. A total of six wellness areas, with lavish and lovingly created settings, await the guests. The architecture is inspired by original buildings, for example, the Elephanta Temple in India. Embedded in these backdrops, the sauna, steam bath and top class, Far Eastern feel good treatments can be experienced: All this on an area the size of one and a half football fields (around 10,000 square metres). The images and inspirations are taken, for example, the temple of Angkor Wat in Cambodia, the Waiotapu geyser in New Zealand and the Alcantara Gorge in Sicily. In addition there is a Jungle Village and an Asia Pavilion, home to the Tropical Islands Fitness Club, featuring the most up-to-date equipment. Mud packs and Ayurveda applications as well as Thai massages round off the extensive offer. Guests can treat themselves to light Indian tandoori cuisine in the Tandoor Restaurant (around 200 seats).

IV. The Tropical Islands show programme

"MAGIC OF THE SENSES: Illusions to amaze you, dances to seduce you" is the show sensation at Tropical Islands. Presenting the show every evening on the Wayang Stage is Germany's loveliest illusionist AMILA, who has also appeared on the TV show "The next Uri Geller". The show focuses mainly on illusion and "mind magic" – one of the most exciting branches of magic entertainment. It also includes great dance numbers to set the audience's feet tapping! There's a daytime show at Tropical Islands, too: "Tropical magic – the magic show for all the family", also presented on the Wayang Stage. The daytime show is included in the price of admission to Tropical Islands.

V. Accommodation in and around Tropical Islands

The **Rainforest Camps** are located in the middle of densely growing tropical plants, in the immediate vicinity of the sauna landscape or children's play world. The two and four-bed tents are kept in a sand-coloured Safari style and are comfortably equipped with slatted bed frames and mattresses; they communicate the feeling of jungle and adventure.

Another, very comfortable accommodation option is provided by the **lodges** at Tropical Islands. They are situated, for example, along the Bali Lagoon or above the waterfall and are made of wood and bamboo. Each lodge is unique and each tells its own story with its name, design and the location at which it receives the visitor. The cosy 2-person lodges are furnished in a tropical style and feature exotic names such as the Ceylon Tea Lodge, Ta Prohm or Surinam Banana Lodge. Guests can choose between three different categories: comfortable standard lodges, stylish designer lodges and luxurious premium lodges.

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Camping on the edge of the tropics – that is possible on the Tropical Islands **campground**. The site fulfils state of the art standards and corresponds to a 5 star campground. It is within eyeshot of Tropical Islands and a shuttle service conveniently brings the campers to the tropical climes. The site covers 6 hectares and provides space for 91 caravans and trailer caravans; in addition, there is a tent site on which tepee tents are offered for rent.

From summer 2010, comfortable new **holiday homes** will also be on offer. They are located close to Tropical Islands and provide overnight accommodation for four to twelve people. The holiday homes are well appointed, with integrated kitchens, gardens and parking spaces. Some holiday homes even have their own sauna and wood-burning stove.

There are also **numerous offers available all year round in the vicinity** of Tropical Islands. These range from a simple bed to a luxurious suite, depending on your wishes. Further information is available under the heading "Visitor Info" on www.tropical-islands.de, via the hotline: 035477 60 50 50 or, for example, through the holiday home provider Novasol www.novasol.de

Accessibility

Tropical Islands is also accessible for wheelchair users. Wide paths, wheelchair-accessible toilets and changing areas as well as ramps ensure extensive accessibility. It is also possible to explore the rainforest in a wheelchair: Paved paths and slopes of less than 6% ensure wheelchair users can travel along the routes.

Opening hours

As the tropics are not familiar with closing times, Europe's largest tropical holiday world is also open daily, around the clock on 365 days of the year. Special arrangements exist on 24 December and New Year's Eve.

Admission prices:

For the Tropical World OR the Tropical Sauna & Spa complex

Adults	28.50 EUR
Reduced (schoolchildren, students, senior citizens, disabled)	26.50 EUR
Children (age 4-14)	23.00 EUR
Toddlers (up to age 3)	free

Visitors wishing to cross over from the Tropical Sauna & Spa complex to the Tropical World or vice versa pay an additional one-off fee of 8.50 EUR. Buying a Combi Ticket in advance, giving admission to both areas, is more cost-effective.

Combi Ticket for the Tropical World AND the Tropical Sauna & Spa complex

Adults	34.50 EUR
Reduced (schoolchildren, students, senior citizens, disabled)	30.00 EUR
Children (age 4-14)	23.00 EUR
Toddlers (up to age 3)	free

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Children Welcome offer

For every two adults and one child (age 4-14) paying admission, up to three children (age 4-14) get in free!

Free entry on your birthday

It's free entry on your actual birthday – whatever your age! Just bring along proof of date of birth.

How to get there:

By car

Tropical Islands is situated on the A 13 motorway (Berlin-Dresden), approx. 35 km south of Berlin-Schönefeld, on the Staakow motorway exit. Use of the car park and changing cabins are included.

By rail

The regional express RE 2 travels hourly from Berlin and Cottbus to Brand (Niederlausitz). The journey takes around 50 minutes only, for example from Berlin-Alexanderplatz.

The regional railway service RB 14 also travels hourly from Berlin-Ostbahnhof station via Berlin-Schönefeld and Königs Wusterhausen and from Senftenberg via Lübben to Brand.

A free bus shuttle runs from Brand railway station (Niederlausitz).

If you have any questions, please contact:

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