

PRESS RELEASE

Tropical Islands – Europe's largest tropical holiday world



The architecture

...feel at home in the largest self-supporting hall in the world

The dimensions are gigantic: the Tropical Island hall is 360 m long, 210 m wide and 107 m tall. The Statue of Liberty could stand inside it, the Eiffel Tower could lie across it and eight football fields could fit inside the grounds (66,000 m²). The hall itself reaches high enough to swallow the skyline of Berlin's famous Potsdamer Platz.

The imposing hall was originally built as an airship hangar. For that purpose, the building was a perfect fit. The imposing dimensions were a huge challenge for the architects; the construction needed to be able to withstand the volume of rain and snow that could accumulate on a 70,000 m² roof, and the heating demands were also considerable. Almost 14,000 tonnes of steel were used for the building.

Two massive, 600-tonne hangar doors were built to allow the airships in and out – though these have been sealed up since the conversion.

In spite of its size, the giant building is a lightweight in terms of design. Five self-supporting steel arches make a semi-cylindrical structure which bears a membrane-like roof. In order for the hall to function as a tropical holiday environment, a special UV-translucent panel was inserted on the south side of the dome.

Should you have any questions, please contact:

Tropical Islands

Press Office

Tel.: +49 (0)35477 – 60 50 40

Fax: +49 (0)35477 – 60 80 80

presse@tropical-islands.de

www.tropical-islands.de

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