

## PRESS RELEASE

Tropical Islands - Europe's largest tropical holiday world



### The tropical rainforest

**Tropical Islands offers a tropical holiday experience unlike any other resort in the world.**

**This is where the Asian Pacific Region, Africa and South America meet – around 50,000 plants, bushes and shrubs make this the world's largest indoor rainforest.**

A total of around 600 different species of plants have found a new home here, including palms, fern and mangroves. Most of them were brought here specially from the Pacific and South American regions. The many different types of palms in the rainforest are particularly impressive, such as the betel palms, Bismarck palms, fan palms and the fishtail palms with their luscious fruits. The 20,000 m<sup>2</sup> translucent panel on the south side of the hall lets in natural sunlight, allowing the plants and fruits such as bananas, papayas, star fruit and jackfruit to flourish.

A kilometre-long path winds through the rainforest, offering a unique glimpse of the exotic plant habitat. A bridge arches across the mangrove swamp, which is home to many different species of fish, such as guppies, mouth brooding cichlids, red and shark catfish, black tambaqui from the Amazon, Asian arowana and the intriguing archer fish. Red-eared and yellow-bellied sliders also tumble through the water. The tropical treetops and the shade of the dense undergrowth are also home to many different species of tropical bird, such as parakeets, Chinese painted quails, golden and silver pheasants, canaries and zebra finches.

The soil was made especially for Tropical Islands, and is made up of 60% local sand mixed with 40% compost, clay, peat and silt. The plants are mostly watered automatically, though manual watering schedules are also used. The water itself is handled very responsibly: used water is purified in the filter system below the rainforest so that it can be re-used to water the plants again in the future.

Landscape architects and designers from South America, Sri Lanka, England and Germany worked together to make the rainforest as authentic as possible. Haruyoshi Ono was responsible for all the landscape planning. Ono was the partner of Roberto Burle Marx (1909 - 1994), and took sole ownership of their joint agency (Burle Marx & Cia. Ltda.) in Rio de Janeiro after the death of his good friend. Roberto Burle Marx was one of the most important landscape architects of the 20th century, and his projects included the Copacabana area of Rio de Janeiro.

### The rainforest tour

Visitors can take the rainforest tour without a guide: exhibits at 12 stations explain the complexity of the rainforest ecosystem and the impressive biodiversity within it. The stations include such topics as "Indigenous peoples", "Food from

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the rainforest", the "Rainforest pharmacy", "Building materials" and much, much more. The tour is multimedia-based, and is available in German, English, Polish and Czech. "GEO" magazine also runs a permanent exhibition in the rainforest entitled "GEO protects the rainforest". It provides clear descriptions of the risks, opportunities and alternative uses for the tropical regions of the world.

**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](mailto:presse@tropical-islands.de)

[www.tropical-islands.de](http://www.tropical-islands.de)

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