



WORLD'S FIRST JUMANJI THEMED LAND BRINGS SONY PICTURES' BOX OFFICE HIT FILM FRANCHISE TO CHESSINGTON WORLD OF ADVENTURES RESORT IN SPRING 2023

Following a global agreement with Columbia Pictures Location Based Entertainment and Merlin Entertainments, 'World of Jumanji' is set to open in spring 2023, marking the single largest investment in Chessington's history



EMBARGO 00:01 (BST) TUESDAY AUGUST 16 - Chessington World of Adventures Resort and Sony Pictures Entertainment have announced today, **'World of Jumanji'**. Set to open in spring 2023, this £17m development marks the world's first themed land for the box office hit Jumanji film franchise and the single largest investment in the history of the renowned UK resort.

The project brings together entertainment and industry experts from around the world as they create a world-first experience that deep dives into the adventurous, action-packed stories seen in the box office hit Jumanji films. For those who think they are brave enough to enter the world, a first look at some of the

proposed designs give an exciting glimpse at what to expect. The impressive entrance portal, which is shrouded in the ominous and overgrown Jumanji jungle that dominates the development, creates the perfect immersive starting point for guests as they prepare to take on a whole host of challenges. The iconic and unmissable Jaguar Shrine structure looms 55ft tall, keeping a watchful eye out over all who enter as it awaits the return of the curse-lifting Jaguar's Eye jewel. More details about the wild rides, adventurous attractions and drama-filled experiences guests can expect to discover in the **'World of Jumanji'** are set to be shared over the coming months.

The news follows a multi-territory exclusivity agreement between the Resort operator, Merlin Entertainments, and Columbia Pictures Location Based Entertainment, that was announced earlier this year. The scale of these plans forms part of Merlin's broader global strategy to engage and work with leading IP and brands across its global estate. It is also a pivotal step in the studio's larger global strategy to grow and expand location-based entertainment. The market leading studio are looking at how it can further utilise its strong global film and TV brands to create opportunities for audiences around the world to immerse themselves deeper into the studio's stories.

Tim Harrison-Jones, Divisional Director at Chessington World of Adventures Resort, said:

"What could be more exciting than bringing the global hit Jumanji film franchise to life within the single largest development Chessington has ever seen. We know what it takes to create the ultimate adventure for our guests, spread over 128 acres the Resort already delivers surprises around everyone corner with over 40 wild rides and attractions, zoo with over 1,000 majestic animals and two themed hotels, plus glamping!

Jeffrey Godsick, EVP of Global Partnerships and Brand Management and Head of Location Based Entertainment at Sony Pictures Entertainment said:

"After being entertained by the films for so many years, fans now have the chance to experience Jumanji in a whole new dimension and we are thrilled to be going on this exciting adventure with the creative team at Chessington as Jumanji further expands with its very own themed land."

Are you looking to take on Chessington's wildest adventure ever?

Book an overnight stay at Chessington World of Adventures Resort for spring 2023 on selected dates from £48pp. Offer is based on a family of four sharing a standard hotel room, and includes exclusive early rider Theme Park access, hotel entertainment and delicious breakfast. Terms and conditions apply, find out more at chessington.com



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For further information please email press.office@chessington.co.uk

Notes to editors

Chessington World of Adventures Resort

Leave the everyday behind at Chessington World of Adventures Resort. Gasp, giggle, shriek and scream as you see and do things you've never seen or done before. Feel your heart pound as you journey on your first wild ride and stare wide-eyed encountering endangered animals.

- A Theme Park with over 40 rides and attractions
- A Zoo with more than 1,000 animals, plus a SEA LIFE aquarium
- Two themed Hotels and Explorer Glamping

Standard day tickets start from £36 at Chessington.com, where short breaks can also be booked with Chessington's Book with Confidence Guarantee.

Chessington is a COVID-secure venue, with all the required hygiene and safety measures in place to ensure guests have a safe, wild adventure.

About the Jumanji Film Franchise

Sony Pictures' *Jumanji* film franchise, based on the award-winning children's book of the same name by Chris Van Allsburg, has taken in over \$2.02 billion at the worldwide box office. Moviegoers were first introduced to the world in 1995 when a mysterious game transports its players to the jungles of Jumanji! The film starred the late Robin Williams, Bonnie Hunt, Kirsten Dunst and Bradley Pierce. Over 20 years later, the adventures continue in the brand-new film *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle* (2017), where the game changed as four teenagers in detention are sucked into the world of Jumanji. When they discover an old video game console with a game they've never heard of, they decide to play and are immediately thrust into the game's jungle setting, in the bodies of the avatar characters they chose (Dwayne Johnson, Jack Black, Kevin Hart, and Karen Gillan). What they discover is that you don't just play Jumanji – Jumanji plays you. To win, they'll have to go on the most dangerous adventure of their lives, or they'll be stuck in the game forever. Following the success of the 2017 film, the gang (Dwayne Johnson, Jack Black, Kevin Hart, and Karen Gillan) is back in *Jumanji: The Next Level* (2019), but the game has changed. As they return to Jumanji to rescue one of their own, they discover that nothing is as they expect. The players will have to brave parts unknown and unexplored, from the arid deserts to the snowy mountains, in order to escape the world's most dangerous game.

Jumanji (1995) was directed by Joe Johnston with a screenplay by Jonathan Hensleigh and Greg Taylor & Jim Strain. Screen Story by Greg Taylor & Jim Strain and Chris Van Allsburg. Produced by Scott Kroopf and William Teitler with Executive Producing services by Ted Field, Larry J. Franco and Robert W. Cort. The film also stars David Alan Grier, Jonathan Hyde and Bebe Neuwirth. *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle* (2017) was directed by Jake Kasdan with a screenplay by Chris McKenna & Erik Sommers and Scott Rosenberg & Jeff Pinkner. Screen Story by Chris McKenna. Produced by Matt Tolmach and William Teitler, David Householter, Jake Kasdan, Dwayne Johnson, Dany Garcia, Ted Field, and Mike Weber served as executive producers. The film also stars Nick Jonas and Bobby Cannavale. *Jumanji: The Next Level* (2019) was directed by Jake Kasdan and written by Jake Kasdan & Jeff Pinkner & Scott Rosenberg. Produced by Matt Tolmach, Jake Kasdan, Dwayne Johnson, Dany Garcia and Hiram Garcia, the film executive producers are David Householter, Melvin Mar, Scott Rosenberg, Jeff Pinkner, William Teitler, Ted Field and Mike Weber. The film also stars Nick Jonas, Awkwafina, Alex Wolff, Morgan Turner, Ser'Darius Blain, Madison Iseman, with Danny Glover and Danny DeVito.

Merlin Entertainments Ltd

Merlin Entertainments is a global leader in location-based, family entertainment. As Europe's Number 1 and the world's second-largest visitor attraction operator, Merlin operates over 140 attractions, 23 hotels and 6 holiday villages in 24 countries and across 4 continents. Merlin's purpose is to deliver memorable experiences to its millions of guests around the world, through its iconic brands and multiple attraction formats, and the commitment and passion of its employees.

See www.merlinentertainments.biz for more information and follow on Twitter @MerlinEntsNews

About Sony Pictures Entertainment

Sony Pictures Entertainment (SPE) is a subsidiary of Tokyo-based Sony Group Corporation. SPE's global operations encompass motion picture production, acquisition, and distribution; television production, acquisition, and distribution; television networks; digital content creation and distribution; operation of studio facilities; and development of new entertainment products, services and technologies. Sony Pictures Television operates dozens of wholly-owned or joint-venture production companies around the world. SPE's Motion Picture Group production organizations include Columbia Pictures, Screen Gems, TriStar Pictures, 3000 Pictures, Sony Pictures Animation, Stage 6 Films, AFFIRM Films, Sony Pictures International Productions, and Sony Pictures Classics. For additional information, visit <http://www.sonypictures.com/corp/divisions.html>