
PRESS RELEASE



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MERLIN ENTERTAINMENTS LAUNCHES WORLD'S FIRST JUMANJI-THEMED LAND AT CHESSINGTON WORLD OF ADVENTURES

- After years in the making, the world's first Jumanji themed land was opened by Merlin Entertainments' CEO Scott O'Neil and Sony Pictures Entertainment's EVP of Global Partnerships and Brand Management and Head of Location Based Entertainment, Jeffrey Godsick
- The land marks the fourth location-based experience brought to life from the partnership, including the world's **ONLY** Jumanji rollercoaster

Merlin Entertainments ("Merlin" or "the Company"), a global leader in location-based entertainment with over 140+ global attractions such as LEGOLAND®, the London Eye, Madame Tussauds and SEA LIFE aquariums, today announces the official opening of the much anticipated attraction, World of Jumanji, at Chessington World of Adventures Resort in the UK.

The world's first Jumanji themed land brings Sony Pictures' box office hit film franchise to life in Chessington's wildest adventure yet for families, with the world's **ONLY** Jumanji rollercoaster, two additional rides and much more.

World of Jumanji in Numbers

- Chessington's single largest investment in its history is a feat of engineering, with 144 tonnes of steel track bringing to life the world's **ONLY** Jumanji rollercoaster, Mandrill Mayhem – the equivalent weight of 96 hippos.
- In the time it's taken to construct/build World of Jumanji, you could have watched *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle* 1,368 times.
- Following in the footsteps of the film series' intrepid characters, guests have the opportunity to locate the Jaguar's Eye Jewel, lift the curse and save Jumanji, in an ongoing series of heart pounding family adventures found within the new land.

Three new rides

The first adventure, Mandrill Mayhem, is a winged, launch, shuttle rollercoaster, with Chessington's first inversion. Riders from just 1.2m tall, are swept up in the long arms of a mandrill only to be flipped upside down at 42 miles per hour while dodging the hazards of the jungle and spiralling to the summit of the 55ft tall Jaguar Shrine. Sound fun!? How about falling and braving the whole adventure again, this time travelling backwards!

Next up, dodge the fangs of the black mamba on a dizzying, untameable ride in the bazaar, Mamba Strike, which has riders soaring into the sky before swooping back down again. Continue the

adventure, swerving a herd of stampeding ostriches on a whirlwind ride in the dunes on Ostrich Stampede.

Alongside three new rides, families encounter other Jumanji-themed activities, including a maze of pathways reminiscent of the boardgame in the 1996 film. To keep adventurers fuelled, there's themed refreshments in the Bazaar... but there's no cake!

Themed Hotel bedrooms

Those who wish to extend their stay – although in a little more comfort than the movie franchises' courageous characters - can spend a night in one of six NEW World of Jumanji themed bedrooms at the Chessington Safari Hotel.

Scott O'Neil, CEO of Merlin Entertainments, which operates Chessington, said:

"Whether you are a fan of the films, a fan of rollercoasters or are looking to take your family adventures to The Next Level, the amazing World of Jumanji is ready to welcome all 'those who seek to find, a way to leave their world behind'. Years in the making by the best teams in the business and full of 'firsts', we can't wait to share the adventures within World of Jumanji. And, with Chessington's first inversion we know that we have created an experience that will turn seasoned enthusiasts - and a new generation of rollercoaster fans - upside down."

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

"We are excited to have collaborated on a global scale with top tier industry talent at Merlin Entertainments and Chessington World of Adventures Resort for this achievement. The Jumanji franchise has generations of fans who can now enjoy the story in a whole new way. The opening of World of Jumanji will provide a unique thrilling experience for all adventurers for many years to come."

World of Jumanji at Chessington World of Adventures Resort follows a global agreement between Resort operator, Merlin Entertainments, and Columbia Pictures Location Based Entertainment. Visit Chessington.com/Jumanji to book tickets and a stay.

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Notes to Editors

About Merlin Entertainments

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 25 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](https://twitter.com/MerlinEntsNews).

About Chessington World of Adventures

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 star 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

www.Chessington.com

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#Chessington #WorldOfJumanji

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

www.sonypictures.com/corp/divisions.

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.
