



219 Dufferin Street Suite 100C
Toronto Ontario, Canada M6K 3J1
T 416 696 8686 F 416 696 8866

FORREC.COM

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FORREC designs spectacular jungle-like theme park and water park for China's Wanda Xishuangbanna International Resort

Toronto, Ontario – October 3, 2015 – FORREC Ltd. celebrated the opening of the first major theme park and water park built in Xishuangbanna, located in Jinghong City, China's lush, tropical Yunnan province on September 26, 2015. As lead designer on the 63 ha. site, FORREC, an entertainment design company based in Toronto, created two unique parks.

Part of the Wanda Xishuangbanna International Resort, the FORREC-designed theme park and water park, are the entertainment anchors of a large regional destination, with hotels, a cultural theatre, commercial centre, hospital and a new tourism town. The opportunity to do something culturally unique was central to FORREC's approach to creating the two parks' master plans, concept designs and detail designs.

"We worked hand-in-hand with our developer client, Wanda Group, to embrace the colours, culture and natural wonders of Xishuangbanna," says Gordon Dorrett, president and CEO of FORREC Ltd. "This project was a pleasure, not only because it reflects our specialized skills in creating memorable entertainment experiences, but because it's designed to give back and contribute to the local community."

The theme park is divided into four distinct zones that express the diversity of the region: Butterfly Land, Jungle Adventure, Tea Horse Road and Fisherman's Bay. The water park is a separate gated attraction, which feels like an oversized botanical garden – inspired by the incredibly rich flora of Yunnan province. The Arrival Plaza also functions as a non-gated entertainment space, uniquely designed for events such as the region's much enjoyed water festival celebrations.

FORREC designers were inspired by the energetic, multicultural character of Yunnan province, which is influenced by Thai, Vietnamese, Laos and Chinese heritage, has its own Dai dialect, and is an area of true natural beauty. The outcome is two parks that offer a magical journey, from beginning to end.

Wanda Xishuangbanna opened on September 26, 2015.

About FORREC

FORREC is an entertainment design company that creates places of escape and destinations of distinction. Our creative house leads in the design of theme parks, water parks, retail and mixed-use developments, resorts and visitor centres globally. We create guest experiences others don't, master plan like no one else can, and give the world's biggest brands results they never thought possible. Based in Toronto, Canada, FORREC has built projects in 20 countries, with a history that spans 30 years. For more information visit www.forrec.com or @Forrecdesigns.

For more information:
Alison Butlin, Marketing Director
T: 416-696-8686 ext 356
E: abutlin@forrec.com

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Wanda Xishuangbanna Theme Park and Water Park Fact Sheet

Overview

- Wanda Xishuangbanna is the first entertainment destination resort built in Xishuangbanna, located in China's lush, tropical Yunnan province
- The 63 ha. park opened on September 26, 2015
- FORREC created the master plans, concept designs and detailed designs for the theme park and water park
- Also part of the Wanda Xishuangbanna International Resort is hotels, a cultural theatre, commercial centre, hospital and a new tourism town

The Region

- Yunnan province spans approximately 394,000 square km., has a population of 50 million and is situated in a beautiful mountainous area
- Yunnan is home to 51 of China's 55 ethnic minorities
- The Dai, also sometimes spelled Tai, are among the officially-listed Chinese ethnic minorities in China. They live primarily in the southwestern part of the country, and have their own distinct customs and language and celebrate colorful festivals, such as the Water-splashing Festival of Dai Nationality

Two Parks and Their Features

- The theme park is divided into four distinct zones that express the diversity of the region: Butterfly Land, Jungle Adventure, Tea Horse Road and Fisherman's Bay
- The water park is a second gate on the site and has a botanical theme
- The arrival plaza also functions as a non-gated zone, uniquely designed for the region's much enjoyed Water-splashing Festival

Arrival Plaza

- Guests start their journey by following a broad winding path carved through a bamboo forest
- A clearing in the bamboo forest opens up to a large Arrival Plaza, where guests are greeted by tall animal sculptures and surrounded on all sides by grand waterfalls
- Large elephants sculpted from the natural rock protrude from the walls of water, concealing gates that lead into the parks
- As part of this open, non-gated zone, guests are invited to take part in events such as the famous Splash Festival and other celebrations, which can happen daily



Arrival Plaza

Water Park

- Accessed through a second gate from the Arrival Plaza, the water park is an oasis of slides, rivers, pools and play structures that provide all-day fun for the whole family
- Throughout the park, super-sized vegetation creates a whimsical celebration of the lush tropical environment
- Giant flowers provide shade throughout the park, and water slides are formed from enormous twisted plant stems; guests can slide from blossom to blossom



Water Park

Butterfly Land

- In Butterfly Land, the colour and magic of the tropical forest is everywhere, in vibrant patterns, textures and architecture
- Guests journey through the natural vegetation under the shade of giant butterfly wings, webs and cocoons
- Each of the land's attractions delivers a different experience of flight, including giant butterfly and caterpillar rides



Butterfly Land

Fisherman's Bay

- At Fishermen's Bay, traditional stilt-houses crowd the riverbank and project over the water
- Assorted fishing gear and images of fish and aquatic animals decorate the town as a reminder of the cultural importance of water
- Guests make their way through the village on boardwalks and piers and can enjoy a wide selection of thrilling and splashing water rides and attractions
- There's a selection of waterfront eateries, including a famous local seafood restaurant



Fisherman's Bay

Tea Horse Road

- This area celebrates a time at the beginning of the Tang Dynasty, when the Tea Horse Road was a thoroughfare of commerce, the main link between China and Tibet
- The route was a trade link from Xishuangbanna, only a few miles from Pu'er, the birthplace of Pu'er tea, where the Tea Horse Road officially began, northwards through Yunnan province, to the frontiers of Tibet. Guests experience one of most romantic and adventurous routes in the world, that crossed the hills and rivers of Hengduan Mountain Range
- Tea Horse Road has many stories to tell of China's heritage, a re-imagined route delivering a thrilling and timeless journey



Tea Horse Road

Jungle Adventure

- Guests wind through a dense jungle, walking alongside a river that gently cascades down to the Monkey Lagoon
- Treetop bridges and walkways invite guests to explore the green forest canopy, with it's elevated adventures and experiences
- Tree houses, platforms and tree shelters along the route celebrate the ornate local architectural styles, old and new
- Attractions have been designed to emphasize vertical movement, taking the guest to the site's leafy upper reaches



Jungle Adventure

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