

PARKDEAN RESORTS ANNOUNCES MAJOR INVESTMENT FOR DORSET HOLIDAY PARKS

The UK's largest holiday park operator, Parkdean Resorts, has given a significant boost for tourism in [Dorset](#) with the announcement of a substantial investment for [Sandford Holiday Park](#) and two other parks in the county ahead of the 2021 season.

Sandford, near Poole, has received a £3.8m cash injection, and will be given a major makeover as one of Parkdean's seven 'Parks of the Future'. A further £3m is being invested at [Warmwell](#) and [West Bay](#), as part of [an overall spend of £70 million](#) across Parkdean's business nationwide, and the award-winning company [is now hiring for seasonal and full-time roles](#) in Dorset.

For the 2021 season, the new revamped Sandford Holiday Park will feature everything from new [luxury accommodation options](#) to [exciting activities](#) for the whole family. A major new addition for the park is the [Durdle Glamping Village](#), featuring twelve new luxury Safari+ tents for guests to enjoy Dorset's beautiful surroundings in style, with amenities including a full bathroom, toilet and shower. There are also two new luxury lodges with hot tubs, set amongst peaceful woodland surroundings, and two new caravans.

The new activities at the park include a new sports dome, high ropes course, Arts & Crafts Den, and dog agility course. The park also boasts a new state-of-the-art virtual reality area, a dinosaur-themed crazy golf course, hoverboards, Laser Quest and bungee trampolines.

Additional outdoor dining space has been created by the development of a new covered outdoor canopy, while the outdoor pool has also received a makeover, featuring a new look, as well as the introduction of snorkelling, inflatable kayaks and water walkers.

At Warmwell, more than £2.5m has been invested to refurbish more 60 chalets and introduce new [luxury lodges](#), a new look ski lodge with an outside viewing area, while West Bay will now benefit from a refreshed bar and restaurant, as well as new external seating for year-round al fresco dining. In addition, 18 replacement caravans are being introduced across the county to upgrade accommodation.

Parkdean Resorts employs more than 460 people in season across Dorset, and the three parks welcomed more than 100,000 holidaymakers in 2020. The company is currently hiring for a number of seasonal roles across sales, food and beverage, and housekeeping. The company expects to hire 6,500 seasonal staff for summer 2021, and anybody interested in applying for a job should visit [Parkdean's jobs website to view all vacancies](#).

Parkdean Resorts is the UK's largest operator of caravan, lodge, cabin, glamping and camping holiday resorts, and was named [Best UK Family Holiday Company, and Best UK Holiday Parks and Lodges Company at the British Travel Awards 2020](#), the UK's biggest opinion poll for travel and tourism in the country.

During a challenging 2020 – particularly for areas like Dorset, where the local economy is heavily reliant on tourism – Parkdean topped all furlough payments up to 100% during lockdowns, donated tens of thousands of pounds worth of provisions to local food banks, and provided free accommodation for more than 100 NHS key workers at four holiday parks. In response to increased demand for staycations last summer, once lockdown lifted, the company hired record numbers of seasonal staff, and will recruit more seasonal workers this year as it prepares to bounce back again for the holiday season.

Steve Richards, Chief Executive of Parkdean Resorts, said:

“Despite the most challenging of years, we’re continuing to invest in our parks, creating an even better experience for holidaymakers and holiday home owners in 2021. With industry-leading COVID-safe standards, we’re looking forward to welcoming people back safely, to enjoy everything our parks, and the surrounding areas, have to offer. We know how reliant the local economy is on tourism, and we’re confident that we can help the region recover by welcoming holidaymakers to enjoy a well-deserved staycation in Dorset.”

Nationwide, the £70m investment for 2021 includes £22.5m spent on introducing more than 700 new caravans and lodges, £13m on maintenance, more than £12m on technology projects, and £12m on three ‘Parks of the Future’, at [Cayton Bay](#) in Yorkshire, and [Trecco Bay](#), South Wales, as well as Sandford. In addition, two parks – Cayton Bay and Cherry Tree, in Great Yarmouth – will be home to a number of new Connected Caravans, as Parkdean tests out new smart accommodation, with improved sustainability credentials, as part of a trial to improve energy efficiency within the holiday park sector.

Parkdean Resorts has also further cemented its partnership with the Bear Grylls Survival Academy following a successful launch in 2020. The agreement sees a new and exciting Shipwrecked themed concept brought to seven parks across the UK. There are four missions available to children aged eight and above, plus a family session where children of all ages can get involved, with all missions delivering great entertainment, theatre and a grasp of Bear Grylls’ key survival skills and priorities.

Ends

For further information, please contact the Parkdean Resorts press office at Fleet Street Communications: 0121 262 3900, parkdeanresorts@fsc.uk.com

Notes to Editors:

Parkdean Resorts is the leading operator of holiday parks in the UK, with approximately 2.5 million holidaymakers staying with us each year. We own and operate 67 award winning holiday parks nationwide in coastal locations and areas of natural beauty across the UK with a wide range of accommodation options including static caravans, lodges and glamping as well as touring and camping pitches. Our team’s commitment to ensure we offer the best possible experience for our holidaymakers has earned us at least one British Travel Award every year since 2010, most recently winning two gold awards for Best UK Family Holiday Company, and Best UK Holiday Parks and Lodges Company at the 2020 Awards.

Parkdean Resorts provide a wide range of accommodation, together with on-park facilities including bars, restaurants, amusement arcades and indoor and outdoor swimming pools for use by both holiday guests and holiday homeowners.

The Group sold over 600,000 holiday packages in 2019 to mainly families with 75% being for 5 or less days.

The Group has over 31,000 pitches across its parks with a mix of Parkdean-owned hire fleet, touring and camping pitches and owner-occupied pitches. Of the 31,000 pitches, 21,000 have been leased out to 'owners' to place their own holiday home upon.

The groups owns 3500 acres of freehold land in the UK and owns forests, areas of natural beauty and well known beaches such as Croyde beach in North Devon. The property footprint is diverse; our average park is 44 acres in size and our largest over 300 acres.