Nickelodeon set to open underwater theme park on World's Best Island

By Sarah Buchanan / Published 16th January 2017

GETTY

UNDER THE SEA: Nickelodeon want to open an underwater ark on the Filipino island of Palawan

Childrens’ TV giant Nickelodeon is planning to build an underwater theme park in the Philippines.

The amusement is going to be set in the stunning surroundings of Palawan – which has been voted the number one best island in the world by Travel + Leisure.

Inspired by iconic shows like SpongeBob SquarePants, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and Dora the Explorer, the park will be designed to give fans a chance to "interact with the brand and the iconic characters they love" according to a statement.

In a bid to create an immersive experience, visitors will enjoy stunning oceanic views underwater from restaurants and lounges located 20ft below sea level.

The best islands in the world revealed

Wednesday, 20th April 2016

The best islands in the world revealed: TripAdvisor names Santorini, Maui and Jersey as the most heavenly isles in the world.

1 / 11
One of the most exotic islands in the world due to its remote location, Bora Bora looks like a slice of paradise on earth.

The park will be set within a cluster of 16 white sand islands as part of a 400 hectare (988 acre) undersea-themed development, which is expected to be completed by 2020.

Gerald Raines, senior vice president for global recreation for Viacom International Media Networks (VIMN) which owns Nickelodeon, said: “We’re thrilled to be partnering with Coral World Park (CWP) to open the world’s first undersea attraction and Nickelodeon’s first resort in Southeast Asia as we continue to expand on our theme-based attractions in Asia and across the world.”

But the theme park plans have been met with criticism due to the fact that Palawan is a UNESCO designated biosphere reserve and home to a UNESCO World Heritage Site marine park.

The magical area is considered one of the most beautiful on this planet, currently an untouched gem of natural beauty.

Vince Cinches, oceans campaigner with Greenpeace Southeast Asia, slated the idea over environmental concerns.

He said: "It's quite despicable for them to put up a theme park in paradise"
"The project will basically destroy the marine ecosystem."

The campaigner told AFP: "It's sad and alarming because a theme park that big will not promote environmental protection by building those structures.

"Why build a viewing deck when you have the whole paradise to enjoy?"

Related videos

But a statement from VIMN maintained that conservation would be at the forefront of the plans.

It read: “When completed, CWP will be the largest coral reef conservation program in Asia, with Asia’s largest marine sanctuary for five key species – dolphins, sea cows, sea horses, turtles and whale sharks.”

"We are taking very, very careful measures to ensure that the biodiversity is kept intact," Coral World Park chairman Paul Monozca told AFP.

Daily Star Online has contacted VIMN, CWP and the Palawan government for comment.

Related articles