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‘Christmas Town’ Expands at Museum; Ark Announces Special December Prices and Hours

Garden of Lights and Live Nativity return; Ark Zoo Welcomes Zebra Birth

PETERSBURG, Kentucky, Dec. 5, 2016 – The Creation Museum has expanded dates for its highly anticipated annual free Christmas celebration known as Christmas Town – running daily Dec. 16-23 and 26-30 this year. At the same time, 45 minutes away, the popular new Ark Encounter, decorated with bright lights, will stay open late on the same dates as Christmas Town, with Ark admission half price after 5 p.m. and free parking. At the Creation Museum, admission is only \$5 after 5 p.m. on those Christmas Town dates.

In addition to the beautiful light displays (tens of thousands total) decorating the scenic Creation Museum gardens, returning features include a Live Nativity, an outdoor drama highlighting the story of the Magi, and other biblical characters throughout the gardens.



Attracting up to 7,000 people a night, who drive an average of 132 miles one way, Christmas Town seems to grow in size each year. Visitors can enjoy the outdoor light displays without paying museum admission, with activities getting under way each evening as it begins to get dark, around 5:00 p.m.

With a live Nativity as the event’s focus on the museum’s beautifully decorated grounds, Christmas Town presents the true meaning of Christmas as it provides families a glimpse into the amazing events surrounding the wonder of Christ’s birth. The museum’s acclaimed planetarium will present its special ticketed program, “The Christmas Star,” about the mysterious star in the east that heralded the birth of Jesus and guided the wise men to Him. The stirring film “The Last Adam” will be shown at no charge.

New this year in the museum’s 900-seat auditorium known as Legacy Hall will be Christmas concerts featuring talented artists such as the [Foto Sisters](http://FotoSisters.com), the [Peyton Sisters](http://PeytonSisters.com), and well-known local singer Joetta Schmitt. Guests of all ages will enjoy uplifting Christmas music at these free concerts taking place at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. each evening of Christmas Town.

Answers in Genesis’ other major attraction, the Ark Encounter, which has drawn many hundreds of thousands of visitors since opening in July, will also be decorated for Christmas. The grounds will be beautifully lit on December 16-23 and 26-30 (the same days at Christmas Town at the museum). The 510-foot-long Ark, located off I-75 at exit 154, will stay open until 9 p.m. on those dates, with last entry at 8 p.m., and admission will be **half price after 5 p.m., and parking after 5 p.m. will be free.** For December 16-23 and 26-30, the special ticket after 5 p.m. includes entry to the Ararat Ridge Zoo behind the Ark. See: www.ArkEncounter.com.

On Friday, visitors to the Ark's new zoo saw the first zebra born on site. Five-year-old Zillah, one of the zoo's two Plains Zebras on loan from a Wisconsin facility, gave birth that morning to a male foal in their exhibit enclosure. Zoo officials knew Zillah was pregnant, but due to the long gestation period did not have a specific due date.

Zookeepers arrived Friday morning to find the foal already standing and following his mother around their yard. Both are doing well, and the young striped equine is nursing as designed, while mom is attending and recovering nicely. At this time, it is not known if the zebra foal will be at the zoo all of December before it and Zillah travel to Wisconsin.



At the Creation Museum, Christmas Town guests will have the opportunity to experience the popular zip line over the museum's beautiful three-acre lake, and soar over what many guests say is the most spectacular Christmas light show in the area. (There is a \$29 charge for the three zip lines.)

Ken Ham, AiG president and CEO, stated: "We love offering Christmas Town at the museum as a free, fun experience for families during the holidays. As we present this free gift to the community, we reflect on the greatest gift ever given: the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, who was the Babe in the manger. It is important to us that we keep this the focus of our message in the midst of all the holiday festivities." Ham added: "We're also pleased that with our new Ark, we can offer a significant discount to visit this world-class themed attraction on several evenings this month. Visitors will see for themselves why it's getting rave reviews."

The Creation Museum is located in Petersburg, Kentucky, at exit 11 off I-275, only two exits west of the Cincinnati Airport. Previous visitors have indicated that it's the most dazzling show of Christmas lights in the entire region.

Christmas Town at the museum is open 5-8 p.m. ET. All the outdoor activities (except for the camel rides and zip line) are free, and the indoor concerts and "Last Adam" film are free as well. Each family visiting will receive a free Christmas booklet. Museum admission on Christmas Town days is only \$5 after 5 p.m. (last entry is at 8 p.m. and it will close at 9 p.m.). On Christmas Eve, the museum will close at 3 p.m. and admission will be half price.

More information about the special Christmas events, plus details on purchasing tickets for the zip line, planetarium programs, and discounted Creation Museum admission during Christmas Town, are found at www.creationmuseum.org/christmas or by calling (888) 582-4253.

The Creation Museum is an outreach of the apologetics organization of Answers in Genesis (AiG), which also operates the Ark Encounter. For information on AiG and its multiple outreaches, visit www.AnswersInGenesis.org.

Note to Editors: For more information or to request an interview with a spokesperson, please contact Melany Ethridge at 972.267.1111 or via email at melany@alarrygross.com.