**Fact Sheet**

**What is the Ark Encounter?**

The Ark Encounter is America’s newest major theme park. A one-of-a-kind historical themed attraction, a life-size Noah’s Ark is the centerpiece, the largest timber-frame building in the world. Guests are entertained, educated, and immersed in a number of biblical themes. The 510-foot-long Ark (standing about 80-feet high) and a zoo have been built during the attraction’s first stage.

In the future, the attraction plans to add a Walled City, the Tower of Babel, a first-century Middle Eastern village, a journey in history from Abraham to the parting of the Red Sea, a walk-through aviary, and other attractions.

It is designed to be family friendly, historically authentic, and environmentally friendly.

The Ark Encounter also includes daily live mammal shows (and in the future live bird shows), an interactive children’s area, live entertainment, a very large themed restaurant.

The Ark Encounter is one of the largest “green” construction projects in the country, taking advantage of the latest environmental technologies to be good stewards of creation.

**Did you build an actual Ark?**

We have constructed a full-scale Ark based on the dimensions provided in the Bible (Genesis 6), using the long cubit, and in accordance with sound established nautical engineering practices of the era. It was not constructed as a ship but as a building that can accommodate thousands of people at a time, and as such must follow certain building codes.

The total amount of timber (not counting for the Ark exhibits inside) used in building this Ark is 3.3 million board feet. In board feet, the amount of timber used is 612 miles, equivalent to the distance between Williamstown, Kentucky (about 40 miles south of Cincinnati) and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**Why did you build the Ark?**

Through the construction of a massive life-size Noah’s Ark, the Ark Encounter presents a reminder about the Bible’s account of the Ark—and the historicity of the entire Bible.

Many of the same talented team members who built the successful, high-tech Creation Museum (45 minutes away) have also worked on the Ark Encounter. This new attraction has captured the world’s attention.

**Where is the Ark Encounter located?**

Williamstown, Kentucky, a 40-mile interstate drive of downtown Cincinnati, Ohio, and north of Lexington, Kentucky. It is a day’s drive for almost 2/3 of Americans (190 million people) and millions of Canadians (the Canadian border is five hours away).

**How many people does it employ?**

We employ hundreds of full and part-time/seasonal staff at the Ark Encounter, not to mention all of the jobs the Ark Encounter is generating in the region. More staff has been added at the Creation Museum to support its jump in attendance.

**How much did it cost to build?**

In the first phase, over $100 million, and for all phases, over $150 million. The Ark Encounter is owned and operated by a subsidiary of Answers in Genesis (the builders of the Creation Museum). The $100 million was raised through a combination of bonds, memberships (called “boarding passes”), and donations (AiG through its supporters raised $29 million alone for the Ark structure itself). Development is ongoing, with new phases being funded by end-of-year campaigns.

**Is this a non-profit endeavor?**

In a sense, the Ark Encounter is both a for-profit and not-for-profit endeavor. The Ark Encounter is a for-profit operation but is allowed by law to be managed by a non-profit subsidiary ministry of Answers in Genesis called Crosswater Canyon.

**Who built the Ark Encounter?**

The Ark Encounter was built by The Troyer Group, a leader in sustainable design, headquartered in Mishawaka, Indiana.

The Troyer Group has expertise in architectural, engineering, interior design, landscape architecture, construction management, and construction administrative services. All of these services were used in the Ark Encounter.

The Creation Museum’s talented design director, Patrick Marsh, led the design and theming of all of the attractions, helping to ensure that the quality mirrors that of the Creation Museum in every area.

**Is it like typical theme parks with rides and live performances?**

The Ark Encounter is an immersive, historically themed experience for the whole family focused on having fun while learning about history. It is not an amusement park. It features daily live performances, as well as live special events. It also includes “edu-tainment” aspects–educational and entertaining experiences within each attraction.

**What is the cost of admission?**

There are several categories of tickets, from single day to multi-day to season passes. See all ticketing information [here](https://arkencounter.com/tickets/).

**Are there hotels and restaurants nearby?**

On site is perhaps America’s largest restaurant: the 1,500-seat Emzara’s Kitchen. There are numerous hotels and restaurants within a 30-minute drive of the Ark Encounter. We expect many more to be constructed close to the Ark Encounter over the next few years.