

These 2 American Dream amusements won't open until 2020

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By Allison Pries | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com August 4, 2019

The SEA Life Aquarium and Legoland Discovery Center at the American Dream will not open during the mega-mall's initial October 25 opening.

A representative for Merlin Entertainments, Paul Torres, said at Mdest19 -- a travel and tourism conference last week organized by Meadowlands Live! Convention and Visitors Bureau -- that the attractions will open in early 2020.

SEA Life will have 10 interactive exhibits. "With this we're doing something different. We're creating exhibits inside of these tanks that reflect New York with the landmarks and New York moments," Torres said.

[SEA Life](#) has nine U.S. locations and others worldwide. Visitors to the American Dream aquarium will see shrimp, starfish, seahorses, sharks and rays. The centerpiece will be a tropical ocean tank with a walk-through underwater tunnel. Among the interactive exhibits will be feeding demonstrations.

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Merlin also will open a [Legoland Discovery Center](#) at American Dream that will consist of a LEGO-themed ride, 10 LEGO build and play zones, a 4D cinema and more.

Both attractions are expected to occupy 35,000 square feet each, according to a joint statement from American Dream developer Triple Five and Merlin when the tenants were [initially](#) announced.

"My company felt that this was really top tier, this whole entire location, and I was really impressed with the fact that they really wanted to move forward with this project," Torres said.

Merlin is also building a [Legoland](#) in Goshen, New York that will open in 2020.

Merlin Entertainments is the third largest entertainment company in the world, behind Disney and Universal Studios. It also owns Madame Tussauds celebrity wax museums and the London Eye.

American Dream, developed by Triple Five, will be 55 percent entertainment and 45 percent retail. It will have more than 450 retail, food and specialty shops and more than 15 entertainment venues including indoor water and amusement parks, a live performing arts theater and an NHL regulation-sized ice rink. It's located along Route 3 and the New Jersey Turnpike in East Rutherford.

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