

### **One attraction; memorable experiences**

With breath-taking views of London, the world's longest and tallest tunnel slide and the UK's highest freefall abseil, the ArcelorMittal Orbit is a viewing experience like no other.

#### **The View**

Journey 114.5m into the clouds and explore London's famous skyline from the top of the ArcelorMittal Orbit. Enjoy breath-taking views of up to 20 miles from stunning floor to ceiling windows before experiencing the city's landmarks from the outside observation walkway suspended 80m above the ground.

There's loads to see from the ArcelorMittal Orbit's two viewing platforms from St Paul's Cathedral, the O2 and Wembley to a birds eye view of the iconic London 2012 venues. You can even get up close to London's landmarks with innovative and interactive touchscreens that allow you to zoom into the view and learn more about the city.

Famously designed by Sir Anish Kapoor and Cecil Balmond for the London 2012 Games, the ArcelorMittal Orbit perfectly combines awe-inspiring city views with fun and contemporary art. Interact with the sculpture itself, experience the thrill of The Slide designed by Carsten Höller, flip the horizon in Anish Kapoor's two huge concave mirrors and enjoy the gentle descent of the 455 steps that wind their way around the sculpture and immerse you in a recorded collection of distinctive London sounds such as church bells and local markets.

#### **The Slide**

Are you brave enough to ride The Slide, a hair-raising experience that's not for the feint-hearted? Hold on tight through the twists, turns and drops of the world's tallest and longest tunnel slide as it weaves its way through the iconic red steel frame of the UK's tallest sculpture, the ArcelorMittal Orbit.

Relax and enjoy breath-taking views of up to 20 miles across London from the sculpture's two viewing galleries before challenging your friends and family to a 40 second descent in the 178m long slide. Travel through light and dark sections at speeds of up to 15mph as The Slide loops its way around the ArcelorMittal Orbit 12 times taking visitors through gentle curves, thrilling drops and a tight corkscrew named 'the bettfeder' – bedspring in German.

The Slide is not just an exhilarating new experience, it is also a major new art installation for London. Created by Belgian artist Carsten Höller at the invitation of the ArcelorMittal Orbit's designer, Sir Anish Kapoor, the slide is a unique collaboration between two of the world's most renowned contemporary artists.

#### **The Abseil**

Experience the exhilarating descent of the UK's highest freefall abseil. Hold your breath as you step over the edge of the iconic red steel of the ArcelorMittal Orbit before taking the plunge and making an 80m adrenaline-fuelled journey to the ground.

Your journey will begin on the sculpture's highest observation platform where you will be instructed on how to lower yourself 80m to the ground, stopping on your descent to take in the incredible views of up to 20 miles across London's famous skyline. Professional trained instructors from Wire & Sky will give you a comprehensive briefing and provide you with all the specialist equipment needed to safely make your descent.

Abseil packages start from £85 per person. Make sure you check the ArcelorMittal Orbit website for abseiling dates and availability. For exclusive sessions for groups of 10 or more, company incentives, charity fundraising days and stag and hen parties please email [arcelormittalorbit@wireandsky.co.uk](mailto:arcelormittalorbit@wireandsky.co.uk).

### **Events**

The ArcelorMittal Orbit is the height of celebration for any event. Enjoy breath-taking views of up to 20 miles across London as you dine, dance, launch your new product or even get married at our award winning events venue.

Our flexible spaces can be used for exhibitions, conferences, parties and so much more. With a feast of fantastic food packages from canapé receptions and mouth-watering breakfasts to indulgent three course dinners and weddings with all the trimmings, there will be something to suit all tastes. And the fun doesn't stop with the food. We offer a wide range of entertainment for your event, from London's best DJ's to Aerial Dancers suspended outside 80m above the ground!

For more information and to talk your event through with one of our event experts please contact 0208 221 9114 or [events@arcelormittalorbit.com](mailto:events@arcelormittalorbit.com)

### **Groups**

If you're coming to the ArcelorMittal Orbit with a group of 15 or more friends make sure you take advantage of our fantastic group offers. Call our team at least five days in advance to secure a special group rate and to discuss added extras such as coach drop off and pick up and bespoke menu options at our café, The Podium Bar and Kitchen, including coffee and pastries, afternoon tea or a mouth-watering three course dinner.

Call us on 0333 800 8099 for more information.

## ArcelorMittal Orbit Press Pack



### Images

Download a selection of high resolution images here:

ArcelorMittal Orbit and The Slide

<http://www.2012imagelibrary.co.uk/library/token/680/f98e9a9300abfbafc4166fa031c214443d9bce3a>

The Abseil

<http://www.2012imagelibrary.co.uk/library/token/683/864c68f2a5849c4b491eb72f3f7af752d4e40be5>

The Podium Bar & Kitchen

<http://www.2012imagelibrary.co.uk/library/token/681/76660379d236c94f13f1a2832b8f5d126798c2b1>

Hospitality

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Construction of The Slide

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### Facts & Figures

#### The ArcelorMittal Orbit

- At 114.5m tall, the ArcelorMittal Orbit is UK's tallest sculpture, 22m taller than the Statue of Liberty and six times taller than the Angel of the North.
- It was designed by world-renowned artist Sir Anish Kapoor and structural engineer Cecil Balmond for a competition to create an iconic centre-piece for Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.
- The upper viewing gallery is 80m high and the lower is 76m high. Visitors can see 20 miles across London on a clear day from these platforms.
- It takes 34 seconds for the two passenger elevators, each capable of holding 21 people, to take visitors up to the observation decks.
- The 350m long staircase is made completely from recycled steel and contains 455 steps. It takes about 12 minutes to walk down the staircase which is 1,150ft long. On the walk visitors can enjoy an immersive soundscape which captures the sounds of London.
- Anish Kapoor's two polished steel mirrors take pride of place on the upper viewing gallery, inverting the horizon for anyone who looks in them.
- The sculpture is made from 2,000 tonnes of steel, made by leading steel company ArcelorMittal, which is the equivalent weight of 1,136 London Black Cabs. Sixty per cent of the steel is recycled.
- The ArcelorMittal Orbit is painted with 19,000 litres of red paint, RAL 3003 to be exact. The red colour was chosen by Sir Anish Kapoor as it symbolises luck in some Eastern cultures.
- There are 250 colour spotlights on the structure sponsored by Phillips Electronics. Each can be individually controlled to produce a stunning digital combination of static and animated lighting effects.
- The ArcelorMittal Orbit took just over two years to build and contains over 35,000 bolts. It was the first structure of its height to be built without the use of scaffolding.
- The main trunk of the structure, which houses the elevators, stairs and supports the observation decks, has a base diameter of 37m, narrowing to 5m on the way up then widening out to 9.6m just under the viewing platforms.
- The ArcelorMittal Orbit is completely asymmetrical and every line of it is curved. If stretched as one long rope, the structure would be about 560m long, the same length as five football pitches.

#### The Slide

- The Slide is the world's tallest and longest tunnel slide at 178m long and 76m high.
- It twists and turns 12 times, including a tight corkscrew section named the 'bettfeder' – after the German word for 'bedspring'.
- In the exhilarating 40-second trip, riders slide on a specially designed mat and hit speeds of up to 15 miles per hour.
- Visitors are able see out through polycarbonate 'windows' for some of The Slide.
- The Slide was designed by German artist Carsten Holler, at the invitation of Anish Kapoor, the creator of the ArcelorMittal Orbit.
- The Slide has been manufactured by world-renowned slide manufacturer Wiegand and British firm Interkey.

- Steel for The Slide was contributed by ArcelorMittal.
- The Slide is made from 800mm diameter, 3mm thick stainless steel tubes split into 30 sections, each measuring between five and nine metres long. Each section was lifted into place by a team of specialist abseilers, using a complex procedure involving ropes and pulleys, specifically designed for The Slide's construction project.
- The slide ends with a 50 metre straight run to the ground.

### Background

In 2009, a design competition was held to create an iconic landmark that would become the centre-piece of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and commemorate the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The winning concept, announced on 31 March 2010, was a creative collaboration between world-renowned artist Sir Anish Kapoor and structural engineer Cecil Balmond.

During a chance meeting with Lakshmi Mittal, chairman and CEO of ArcelorMittal the world's largest steel company, the former Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, secured his support to provide the steel necessary to create the sculpture. Construction began in November 2010 with the structure reaching its full height of 114.5m by November 2011. The ArcelorMittal Orbit was revealed to the public on 11 May 2012 and around 130,000 people visited the sold-out attraction during the Games.

Following a period of closure after the Games, the ArcelorMittal Orbit was part of the Park in Progress tours between April and June 2013 before fully reopening to the public on Saturday 5 April 2014 when the south of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park once again welcomed guests.

In July 2015, planning permission was granted to add a slide to the ArcelorMittal Orbit. Anish Kapoor invited German artist Carsten Höller, well known for his slide installations, to create it. Work began on The Slide in early 2016 with the first piece being lifted into place in April of that year. The final piece was lifted into place in early June 2016 and The Slide opened to the public on 24 June 2016. The opening weekend sold out in advance of the attraction opening.

### Timeline

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| <b>2009</b>          | A design competition was held to create a landmark that would become the centre-piece of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.   |
| <b>January 2009</b>  | During a chance meeting, the former Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, secured the support of Lakshmi Mittal, chairman and CEO of ArcelorMittal the world's largest steel company, to supply steel to build an iconic landmark. |
| <b>31 March 2010</b> | The winning concept, a creative collaboration between Sir Anish Kapoor and Cecil Balmond, was unveiled.  |

## ArcelorMittal Orbit Press Pack



- 14 November 2010** A ground breaking ceremony was held to mark the start of construction and was attended by the former Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, Lakshmi Mittal, CEO and Chairman of ArcelorMittal, Sir Anish Kapoor and Andrew Altman, Chief Executive of the Olympic Park Legacy Company.
- 28 October 2011** The ArcelorMittal Orbit reached its full height of 114.5m.
- 17 April 2012** 250 coloured spotlights were added to the sculpture and a two week period of testing began.
- 11 May 2012** The ArcelorMittal Orbit was officially unveiled to the public.
- 27 July – 12 Aug 2012** The London 2012 Olympic Games were staged.
- 29 Aug – 9 Sept 2012** The London 2012 Paralympic Games were staged.
- 17 April 2013** As part of the Park in Progress tours, the ArcelorMittal Orbit opened up to the public for a behind the scenes look at the transformation of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The tours ran until June 2013 and were the only opportunity for people to visit the sculpture in 2013.
- 14 March 2014** Tickets for the public reopening of the ArcelorMittal Orbit went on sale.
- 5 April 2014** The ArcelorMittal Orbit reopened to the public as a visitor attraction.
- 28 July 2015** Planning permission was granted to add a slide to the ArcelorMittal Orbit
- Late Jan 2016** Work started on site to prepare the sculpture for the slide to be fitted
- 8 April 2016** The first piece of slide was lifted into place
- 26 April** Tickets for The Slide went on sale
- 9 June** The last piece of slide was fitted
- 24 June** The Slide opens to the public

### **Contact Us**

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