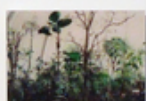


TROPICAL ISLAND On 7 October, 2004, in the early hours of the morning, Falk Haberkorn and Sven Johne started off on an expedition to Utopia. They travelled almost 8,000 kilometres through eastern Germany. Then finally on 9 November, 2004 – 15 years after the wall came down – their search came to an end. Utopia is in Lower Lusatia – at the Tropical Island Resort. The largest self-supporting hangar in the world was originally constructed for building the largest airship in the world. However, the great dream of flight was to remain but a dream, and a new vision arose in its place. Today, palm trees grow in the factory building at the edge of the Spreewald forest and, where the workers' changing rooms used to be, a blue lagoon entices guests in for a swim. However, the existence of the island is under threat.



4,000 visitors a day are not enough to keep paradise going. More than body heat is required to raise the temperature of the hall, a hundred metres high, up to tropical levels. Many more must seek out their place in the sun if our desire for a better life is to have a chance of fulfilment in the future.