

Majid Al Futtaim ropes in Crystal for Dubai lagoon project

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Majid Al Futtaim, a leading shopping mall, communities, retail and leisure pioneer across the Middle East, Africa, and Asia, has signed an agreement with Chile-based company Crystal Lagoons to develop the fully swimmable 70,000-sq-m Lagoon Al Ghaf at its new flagship mixed-use community in Dubai.

Spanning 3-million-sq-m at the intersection of Hessa Street and Sheikh Zayed Bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street, near Dubai Sports City, Tilal Al Ghaf is a phased project that will include more than 6,500 freehold homes when complete by 2027, ranging from apartments, townhouses and bungalows, through to substantial luxury villas.

As well as the leisure opportunities afforded by the Crystal Lagoon, around 355,000 sq m of landscaped open space will include green spaces and play areas, 18 km of walkable trails and 11km of cycling paths.

The lagoon will be the heart of Tilal Al Ghaf and is in line with Majid Al Futtaim's placemaking strategy for the community to offer diverse, family-friendly recreational choices, said the statement from Majid Al Futtaim.

Featuring more than 400 m of sandy white beach and 1.5 km of waterfront promenade, it will offer a scenic outlook for The Hive, Club Hive and Hive Park, the community's vibrant retail, dining and leisure hub.

As well as swimming, the Crystal Lagoon will host a selection of active water sports, including kayaking and stand-up paddle-boarding, it stated.

Crystal Lagoons' patented state-of-the-art water treatment technology, proven through 12 years of successful use worldwide, allows the construction and treatment of any sized body of water.

Setting a new benchmark for community living crafted around wellbeing and human engagement, Lagoon Al Ghaf will bring a slice of tropical paradise to community residents' doorstep, said the developer in its statement.

It will also provide a high degree of public access to the Crystal Lagoon area, one that is exclusive but is shared with neighbours and guests, creating a premier setting for special events, it added.

Hawazen Esber, the chief executive of communities at Majid Al Futtaim (Properties), said: "The centrepiece of Tilal Al Ghaf's masterplan is shaped around active and passive spaces. The swimmable Crystal Lagoon adds a new dimension to community living standards, giving residents and visitors a genuine resort lifestyle experience."

"The vision is to create a shared space that everyone can use, where families can enjoy meaningful moments together, and where friends and neighbours can meet and relax in an engaging setting," noted Esber.

The Crystal Lagoons company estimates that its technology uses up to half the water needed to maintain a park of the same size, and up to 30 times less water than a standard golf course.

Further enhancing Tilal Al Ghaf's sustainability targets, the Crystal Lagoon will be filled and topped-up using groundwater. This will relieve pressure on the water table, which is rising in many of Dubai's residential areas because of intensive irrigation for landscaping.

"This is an eco-friendly and sustainable technology, setting a new standard for public space and leisure," remarked Carlos Salas, the regional director for Middle East and Asia at Crystal Lagoons.

"We are able to transform any location into a beautiful beach paradise, and provide a unique amenity for the community to enjoy," noted Salas.

The first Crystal Lagoon opened in 2006 as part of the San Alfonso del Mar resort in Chile, and the company now has more than 600 projects in 60 countries worldwide in different stages of development and negotiation, he added.-

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