

# Innovation report inspiration trip

## Port Lympne Hotel & Reserve

**Port Lympne Hotel & Reserve** is located near Hythe in Kent. Set in 600 acres, and housing over 650 rare and endangered animals, Port Lympne is a unique award-winning experiential experience. Delegates learnt about how Port Lympne, part of the Aspinall foundation had evolved and now plays an important role in animal conservation globally. The Aspinall Foundation's founder, John Aspinall, dreamt of reintroducing gorillas bred at Howletts and Port Lympne back to the wild almost as soon as he started collecting and breeding them in the early 1970s. Today, this dream is being carried forward by his son, and current chairman, Damian Aspinall, who sees the reintroduction of animals into their natural habitats as a vital part of conserving wildlife and their habitats globally. Over the past few years alone, the "Back to The Wild programme" has introduced 8 black rhino, 49 Javan langurs, 9 Javan gibbon, 11 European bison and over 60 western lowland gorillas back to their natural habitats. - <https://youtu.be/mNYILJwZPkI>.

- Underlining the costs of financing this conservation programme, the speaker explained how the park had moved away from just being an animal park for day visits into an experiential experience where visitors could get up close to animals and even stay on site in the park.
- Port Lympne places great emphasis on understanding the different needs of its customers. Located close to London and the major centre of population in the South East of England, Port Lympne brings African safaris and traditional accommodation for short stays to the doorstep of its visitors.
- Port Lympne now boasts an impressive and varied accommodation offer. An offer that has expanded to match the experiential demand of its visitors. With a wide variety of accommodation experiences from forest Finnish huts to tree houses, transparent forest canopy spheres to glamping and from Wolf Lodge the renowned luxurious 5 star Tiger Lodge where you can wake up with a tiger at your bedroom window, Port Lympne is able to match a wide range of demands from its clientele. The latest addition for 2019 to the accommodation portfolio is the Lion lodge. The speaker explained how the park has options for all budgets..
- Port Lympne has a multi-faceted offer with facilities for private safaris, becoming a keeper for a day or as a party or conference venue. It is also an award-winning wedding venue or just a nice place to visit to eat and drink. You can even take a journey through Dinosaur Forest and be confronted by a T-Rex, a Stegosaurus, a Pterodactyl, and a full-size diplodocus. As the UK's largest dinosaur forest technology is playing a role as visitor can bring the dinosaurs to life using a virtual reality app.

