

Walt Disney Studios Guide

Overview

The second theme park to open at the Disneyland Resort Paris, Walt Disney Studios features attractions inspired by the movie, television and music industries. Its attraction line-up is heavy on live and pre-recorded shows, although it does host a major roller coaster (Rock 'n' Roller Coaster) and a version of the popular Twilight Zone Tower of Terror thrill ride. Despite its name, the park does not include a working film studio, but it is divided into several "lots". These are the Front Lot (which is located at the park's entrance), Toon Studio, Production Courtyard and the Backlot.

History

A second, studio-themed park was originally planned to open at the Disneyland Paris Resort in 1996. However, the resort's financial problems ended that plan and it was only revived in a scaled-down form in time for Walt Disney Studios to open in 2002. Since then, Disney has continued to expand the park - adding the Toon Studio area in summer 2007, the Twilight Zone Tower of Terror later the same year, Toy Story Playland in 2010 and Ratatouille: L'Aventure Totalement Toquée de Rémy in 2014.

Attractions

Backlot

Armageddon Special Effects

User rating: ★★★★★ (4 votes)

Type: Walkthrough

Based around Bruce Willis' 1998 disaster movie *Armageddon*, Armageddon: Les Effets Speciaux is designed to offer an insight into how the special effects for such movies are produced. Guests are taken through in groups of around 170, with two pre-show areas being used to stagger their progress through the attraction.

The pre-show sets the scene for the main show, with guests being joined by both a live host and by Michael Clarke Duncan (who played the character of Bear in the movie) via video. Guests discover that they are about to take part in the "filming" of a scene set on Space Station Mir, which is in the path of a meteor that is on a collision course with Earth.

Guests then move into the main area, which recreates the inside of Mir. A number of special effects are used to create a sense of being caught up in the movie's action, including flickering lights, raining meteorites outside the "windows", burning gas and a large explosion.

Moteurs...Action! Stunt Show Spectacular

User rating: ★★★★★★ (8 votes)

Type: Live show

The Moteurs...Action! Stunt Show Spectacular is something of rarity: an attraction that was installed at the Disneyland Resort Paris first, and then exported to another of Disney's parks (Disney's Hollywood Studios in Florida).

The show runs several times daily, and sees a number of high-speed car and motorcycle chases being performed by stuntmen. In between each stunt, the techniques used to produce them are discussed through a combination of live interviews and pre-recorded videos.

The large arena that hosts the show is themed around a coastal Mediterranean village, and can seat up to 3000

people.

Rock 'n' Roller Coaster Starring Aerosmith

User rating: ★★★★★ (108 votes)

Type: Roller coaster

Rock 'n' Roller Coaster is a high-speed coaster housed entirely indoors. As its name suggests, the ride features a musical theme, and guests queue past a range of rock 'n' roll memorabilia. Before boarding the coaster's trains, they enter a mock recording studio, where the ride's stars, ageing rockers Aerosmith, introduce the experience.

The central element of the coaster is its launched start, which blasts guests from 0 to 57 miles per hour in just 2.8 seconds. The remainder of the ride takes place in near-darkness, with guests traversing a number of inversions and sharp turns. Aerosmith tunes accompany the journey, blaring out through an on-board audio system (each of the coaster's 5 trains plays a slightly different selection of the band's hits).

The ride itself is identical to its namesake at Disney's Hollywood Studios in Orlando, although the storyline is slightly different. Whereas the Florida version sees guests racing across town to try and get to an Aerosmith gig in time, the plot at Walt Disney Studios revolves around the band designing a prototype of a new roller coaster.

Production Courtyard

CinéMagique

User rating: ★★★★★ (49 votes)

Type: Movie

Completely unique to Walt Disney Studios, CinéMagique uses a combination of live action and spliced-together footage from classic movies to celebrate the history of cinema. It is housed in a large theatre that can hold up to 1,100 guests, and performances take place at scheduled times throughout the day.

The storyline features actor Martin Short (or, at least, a lookalike) emerging from the audience and being sucked into a black-and-white movie that is showing on-screen. After meeting, and falling for, Julie Delpy, the character races through a series of recognisable movie scenes in search of his mobile phone.

The two love-struck stars are edited into sequences from movies such as *Star Wars*, *The Magnificent Seven*, *Mary Poppins* and *The Wizarding of Oz*. Will they escape back into the real-world before the end of CinéMagique's 25-minute running time?

Disney Junior - Live on Stage!

User rating: ★★★☆☆ (2 votes)

Type: Live show

Based on the original Disney Junior – Live on Stage! at Disney California Adventure, the Walt Disney Studios version is presented in three different languages (English, French and Spanish). It features a host of Disney Junior characters.

Before the main performance, guests wait in a pre-show area that incorporates projections of Disney Junior characters to keep them entertained. Puppets are used to represent the characters in the show itself, with guests being asked to get up and dance and sing along with a variety of upbeat tunes. To encourage this, guests sit on the floor – although parents can sit on benches around the edge of the theatre if they'd prefer not to participate.

Stitch Live!

User rating: ★★★★★ (4 votes)

Type: Show

Hosted in the Walt Disney Television Studios building, Stitch Live! is based on the Disney animation *Lilo & Stitch*. Similar in style to the Turtle Talk with Crush attractions at Disney California Adventure and Epcot, it sees audience

members interacting in real-time with an on-screen recreation of Stitch. The backstory involves guests connecting to Stitch's spacecraft via a satellite link-up, but this is very much secondary to the conversation between audience members and the mischievous alien.

A hidden Cast Member supplies the voice for Stitch, with the character's facial expressions and mouth movements being synchronised automatically. The interaction is primarily with children, who are encouraged to sit at the front of the theatre. Eventually, the audience is asked to help Stitch escape from Captain Gantlus.

Studio Tram Tour: Behind the Magic

User rating: ★★★★★ (20 votes)

Type: Circuit ride

Universal Studios Hollywood popularised the behind-the-scenes movie studio tram tour, and it was inevitable that Walt Disney Studios would receive its own version. However, as the park doesn't actually host a working studio, the tour is made up largely of transplanted sets from Disney movies and one major set-piece.

Studio Tram Tour: Behind the Magic departs from the Hollywood Boulevard area. Guests board trams that can hold up to 168 guests, each of which is equipped with video screens that play commentary in multiple languages (Jeremy Irons provides the English voiceover). These pass two large-scale sets. The first is from *Dinosaur*, a Disney movie released in 2000 that combined live-action with computer-generated prehistoric creatures. The second is a semi-destroyed area of London from 2002's *Reign of Fire*.

The tour's headline element is the Catastrophe Canyon special effects scene, which is a clone of the original at Disney's Hollywood Studios. This uses a combination of a moving platform, vast quantities of water and pyrotechnic effects to simulate a devastating flood.

The Studio Tram Tour previously featured a slightly longer route that included a trip past an aircraft hangar from "Pearl Harbor". This was curtailed in 2009 in order to make room for the Toy Story Playland area.

The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror

User rating: ★★★★★ (157 votes)

Type: Drop tower

Opened just in time for Christmas 2007, The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror visually dominates Walt Disney Studios. It is housed in a full-scale recreation of a 1930s-era Los Angeles hotel, dubbed the Hollywood Tower Hotel, and places guests into the middle of an episode of *The Twilight Zone*.

After queuing through the hotel's grounds and into its lobby, guests are sent into one of four virtually identical "libraries". There, they watch as the late *Twilight Zone* presenter Rod Serling (voiced by an impersonator) introduces the ride's plot: a Hollywood couple entered one of the hotel's elevators during a storm, and disappeared into the Twilight Zone, never to be seen again.

Guests emerge into the hotel's basement, where they are divided into groups and board one of its service elevators. Seated and strapped in, they rise to a mid-level, where they see a ghostly representation of the missing hotel guests beckoning them into the Twilight Zone. The elevator then races to the top of the hotel, offering a quick peek out over Walt Disney Studios before plummeting towards the ground below at speeds that are faster than freefall. The elevator then rises and drops again several times, before guests emerge into the post-ride shop.

The Walt Disney Studios version of the Twilight Zone Tower of Terror is a clone of version at Disney California Adventure. In fact, this version was originally designed for the park in Paris, but financial problems caused its opening to be delayed for several years. The original ride, which opened at Disney's Hollywood Studios in Florida in 1994, features an additional section in which the elevators leave the shaft and enter one of the hotel's floors, but this was removed to increase the reliability and capacity of subsequent versions.

Toon Studio

Art of Disney Animation

User rating: ★★★★★ (9 votes)

Type: Walkthrough

The Art of Disney Animation tells the story of the development of Disney's movie-making techniques from the early experiments of Walt Disney through to modern Pixar creations. It uses a combination of movies and interactive exhibits to do this, with guest having the opportunity to try implementing the techniques themselves at the end.

The attraction is divided into several distinct areas. After waiting in a pre-show room featuring a number of exhibits, guests enter the Disney Classics Theatre, where they see a selection of moments from classic Disney films. They then move on to Drawn to Animation, where a live host explains how characters are created. Finally, they move onto a room containing "Animation Stations", where they can have a go at drawing, animating and editing sound effects.

Cars Race Rally

User rating: ★★★★★ (3 votes)

Type: Flat ride

Based on Pixar's *Cars* movies, Cars Quatre Roues Rally (Cars Race Rally) is a heavily-themed children's ride. Up to two adults and two children can board each of its vehicles, which are designed to resemble inhabitants of the *Cars* universe.

The cars are pulled around a figure-of-eight circuit, spinning gently as they go. Life-sized models of Lightning McQueen and Mater watch on from a small area that is themed to resemble the Radiator Springs town seen in the movies.

Crush's Coaster

User rating: ★★★★★ (65 votes)

Type: Roller coaster **Manufacturer:** Maurer Söhne **Model:** Spinning Coaster

Installed in 2007, Crush's Coaster rapidly became one of Walt Disney Studios most popular rides. At its heart, it is a spinning roller coaster manufactured by German firm Maurer Söhne, similar to those at many other theme parks all over the world. In order to create a unique experience, though, Disney located the coaster almost entirely indoors, and installed extensive theming elements around its circuit.

The ride's backstory is based on Pixar's *Finding Nemo*, with riders taking an "underwater" trip on East Australian Current with Crush the turtle, his son Squirt and Nemo himself. After queuing through a recreation of Sydney Harbor at sunset, guests board turtle shell-themed vehicles. These can hold four guests each, with two starting seated in a forwards-facing position, and two facing backwards.

After a short initial drop, guests race around a corner that is the only part of Crush's Coaster to be visible from outdoors. After meeting up with Nemo and Squirt and passing through a short dark ride-style scene populated by glowfish, they then climb the coaster's lift hill. Before reaching the top, they are attacked by Bruce the shark and his gang, escaping just in time by plunging down the first drop.

The bulk of the coaster itself takes place in near-complete darkness, with only screens showing riders' animated companions lighting the way. The circuit features a number of twists and turns, which are designed to cause riders' vehicles to spin rapidly. On reaching the end, guests emerge back into Sydney Harbor, where they disembark.

Flying Carpets Over Agrabah

User rating: ★★★★★ (6 votes)

Type: Flat ride

Aimed primarily at younger Walt Disney Studios guests, Flying Carpets Over Agrabah is very similar to the Dumbo the Flying Elephant and Orbitron attractions at neighbouring Disneyland Paris. The ride's backstory is based around the Genie character from "Aladdin" becoming a movie director, with riders becoming extras in a flying carpet scene.

Guests board one of sixteen carpet-themed gondolas, which circle around a central "lamp". Riders can control the height of their carpets using a lever, in much the same way as they can on Dumbo and Orbitron.

Mickey and the Magician

User rating: ★★★★★ (0 votes)

Type: Live show **Opening date:** Jul 2, 2016

Replacing the long-running Animagique show, Mickey and the Magician sees the great Magician asking Mickey Mouse to clean up his studio.

Joining Mickey in the production are the Genie from "Aladdin", Cinderella and her Fairy Godmother, the stars of "Beauty and the Beast" and Rafiki from "The Lion King".

Ratatouille: L'Aventure Totalement Toquée de Rémy

User rating: ★★★★★ (14 votes)

Type: Dark ride **Opening date:** Jul 10, 2014

Walt Disney Studios' Ratatouille dark ride, based on the 2007 Pixar film of the same name, will see guests "shrunk" down to the size of a rat. The ride will begin in Gusteau's restaurant, before taking riders on a wild chase through key scenes from the movie. Disney will reuse the trackless ride system from Tokyo Disneyland's [Pooh's Hunny Hunt](#) attraction, which allows full 360 degree rotation of the ride cars.

The surrounding area is set to be themed around a Parisian courtyard. As well as several mock building façades, the area will also feature an elaborate fountain. Part of the ride building's exterior is set to be themed as Gusteau's restaurant from the movie, and the building is expected to house an actual restaurant in addition to the ride.

Toy Story Playland

RC Racer

User rating: ★★★★★ (14 votes)

Type: Flat ride **Opening date:** Aug 17, 2010

RC Racer is the most intense attraction in the Toy Story Playland area, and is inspired by the speedy remote control car that is seen in the "Toy Story" movies. A half-pipe roller coaster manufactured by Intamin, it is themed to resemble the Hot Wheels track that RC rides in the films. This theme is extended into the queueline, which is designed to look like an extended racetrack.

While it looks like a roller coaster, RC Racer actually offers a similar experience to the "swinging boat" rides that can be found at amusement parks all over the world. RC rocks backwards and forwards on the track, gradually building momentum until he reaches the top on either side. The vehicle then gradually slows until comes to a halt in the station.

Slinky Dog Zigzag Spin

User rating: ★★★★★ (11 votes)

Type: Flat ride **Opening date:** Aug 17, 2010

At its core, Slinky Dog Zigzag Spin is almost identical to the original "caterpillar" ride that debuted at New York's Coney Island in 1925. Although the popularity of these rides has waned significantly in the past few decades, Disney has sought to revive it by turning the caterpillar into a recreation of the popular Slinky Dog character. Riders sit inside the "springs" of Slinky Dog's body as he chases his tail around in circles.

Toy Soldiers Parachute Drop

User rating: ★★★★★ (13 votes)

Type: Flat ride **Opening date:** Aug 17, 2010

Standing at some 25 metres tall, Toy Soldiers Parachute Drop is the most visually imposing attraction in Toy Story Playland. The ride is inspired by the tiny "green army men" figures that feature in all three Toy Story movies, and are seen parachuting on several occasions. Manufactured by Intamin, the ride is a customised version of the parachute drop attractions that are seen at several other parks around the world (including Jumpin' Jellyfish at Disney California Adventure).

Restaurants

Backlot

Café des Cascadeurs

User rating: ★★★★★ (1 votes)

Type: Bar **Food type:** American

The diner-style Café des Cascadeurs ("stunt café") offers a variety of traditional American fare including burgers, hot dogs, grilled vegetable sandwiches and chicken salads. Ben & Jerry's ice cream is available for dessert, along with a selection of hot and cold drinks and beer. A limited amount of seating is available inside the relatively compact restaurant.

Disney Blockbuster Café

User rating: ★★★★★ (5 votes)

Type: Bar **Food type:** Sandwiches

The largest quick-service restaurant at Walt Disney Studios offers a similar set of light-lunch options to the various cafes and bakeries on Main Street, USA in Disneyland Park. This includes a variety of baguettes (including ham and cheese, tuna and chicken and tomato), sandwiches, croque-monsieurs and salads. A variety of cakes and yoghurts are available for dessert.

The Disney Blockbuster Café hosts a large amount of indoor seating, spread across two themed areas. The first is designed to resemble the gym from *High School Musical*, while the second is based on *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

Front lot

Restaurant en Coulisse

User rating: ★★★★★ (2 votes)

Type: Counter Service **Food type:** American

Housed inside the cavernous Studio 1 building, Restaurant en Coulisse boasts a large amount of indoor seating. It serves a limited variety of McDonald's-style burgers, chicken burgers, chicken nuggets and fries, along with two varieties of pizza (four cheese and royale). Ice creams, cakes and yoghurts are available for dessert.

Production Courtyard

Hollywood & Lime

User rating: ★★★★★ (4 votes)

Type: Counter Service **Food type:** American

Hollywood and Lime is a small quick-service location that features no seating. It offers a variety of drinks and snacks, including Perrier cocktails (sparkling water with flavoured syrups), crisps, doughnuts, brownies and ice creams. Its sole specialty is lemon chicken tagine, which can be purchased on its own or as part of a meal deal with a drink.

Restaurant des Stars

User rating: ★★☆☆☆ (3 votes)

Type: Buffet **Food type:** Mixed

Restaurant des Stars is currently the only all-you-can-eat buffet restaurant at Walt Disney Studios. A variety of hot and cold dishes are on offer. These vary during the year, but typically include pizza, pasta, salads, chicken, cold meats, potatoes, cheeses and a variety of desserts.

The restaurant's chief claim to fame is that Remy, the star of Pixar's *Ratatouille*, makes appearances at its tables in animatronic form.

Toon Studio

Bistrot Chez Rémy

User rating: ★★★★★ (0 votes)

Type: Table service **Food type:** French

Ever wanted to dine at a restaurant run by *Ratatouille*'s adorable rat chef, Rémy? Well - now you can.

You'll be "shrunk down" to the size of a rat, dining at a classic Parisian bistro. The choice is relatively limited and it's an expensive affair, but in a park that is desperately short of restaurants, Bistrot Chez Rémy is something of a godsend.