

100 Years Of MAGIC:

Pulling Out All The Stops For Walt



BY EMILY LEINFUSS

The party at Walt Disney World lasts all year long! Celebrate the 100th birthday of the main man himself, Walt Disney, at Walt Disney World in Kissimmee, FL. This special year of events features new parades in all four parks, shows, and attractions commemorating the "Dream Come True" of Mr. Disney and his magic. And, it is indeed a dream come true for many families to visit Florida to spend a holiday at Walt Disney World. With the national climate turning towards taking vacations at "drive-to" locations, the fun at Disney is easily accessible from most places in the U.S. There are a variety of packages available. For more information or to plan a vacation, log onto www.disneyworld.com.

First Stop: Animal Kingdom. Check out Disney's newest theme park, Animal Kingdom, and resort hotel, Animal Lodge. The two suggest the African Veldt in a way that is moving and evocative. Five hundred acres of Florida pastures and other land have been transformed into the green Savannas of Animal Kingdom, featuring a 14-story Tree of Life carved with images of over 300 different animals, and a re-creation of a colonial East African town. Animal Kingdom offers something for both kids and adults. Check out Safari animals like giraffes, elephants, and wild beasts. Experience rolling drums, storytellers, and

Mickey's Jammin' Jungle Parade, a vivid and fun spectacle filled with a caravan of characters and animals, both real and imaginary.

Next Stop: Magic Kingdom Park. If you've always wanted to fly away on a magic carpet, here's your chance, at the new attraction "The Magic Carpets of Aladdin." In addition to all the wonderful memories and dreams come to life in this park, "Aladdin" features 16 four-passenger carpets circling around a giant genie's lamp. Also new is the Tricera Top Spin, where you get to spin on the back of a dinosaur. Expect a dino-sized surprise for the kids. The extra special event at Magic Kingdom is the "Share a Dream Come True" parade. Guests are invited to come into the street and celebrate with more than 100 Disney characters.



Be the Star on Hollywood Boulevard. Towering over Hollywood Boulevard at the Disney-MGM studios is the extraordinary centerpiece of the celebration—a gigantic, shimmering 12-story Mickey's Sorcerer's Hat, ever a symbol of Disney magic, created especially for 100 Years of Magic. Tucked beneath this giant monument are brand new interactive kiosks that let your family "Discover the Stories Behind the Magic."

Explore the dreams and events that inspired various chapters of Disney history. The kiosks are available throughout all of Walt Disney World. There is also a new parade, "Disney Starts and Motor Cars" - a star-studded lineup of cool custom cars packed with favorite Disney characters and showbiz favorites from the Disney-MGM studios.

Last Stop: Epcot. This park highlights the spirit of innovation with displays of science and technology, and the wonders of the entire world (featuring restaurants with food from over 50 countries). The newest show here is the "Tapestry of Dreams" parade. This World Showcase promenade celebrates youth, dreams and the imagination of Walt Disney with giant, whimsical puppets and elaborately costumed performers.

All in all, the celebration is a wonderful way to throw a birthday party, or any special occasion for that matter. One can only imagine what the next 100 years of Disney magic will bring. **BE**

Pin Mania

The theme parks and resort hotels of Walt Disney kind of collector, the pin people. Disney fans that collect and trade a wide assortment of Disney pins, both old and new. These guys are having some serious fun—with not only private websites set up for trading, but also special cruises, Balls, and other trading events. This pin-trading phenomenon has exploded at Walt Disney World resort with hundreds of limited edition and special occasion pins. For the 100 Years of Magic celebration, the pins have gone "high tech." Throughout the day and into the night, these amazing new pins will magically illuminate during parades, fireworks shows and select attractions. There are five pins in all—one for each theme park, and one commemorating the 100 Years of Magic Celebration.

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Why just say "Hi" to Mickey, when you can say "Bonjour"

While it got off to a slightly controversial start, the Euro Disney Resort, now re-named Disneyland Paris, is one of the world's most lavish theme parks. Considered the number one attraction in France, the park offers a European flair that finesses, but still features, the familiar Disney icons.

In fact, the park is so popular that it celebrated its 10th anniversary by opening a second park this past March. Called Walt Disney Studios Park, the new theme park takes guests on a series of adventures in a behind-the-scenes look at film, animation, and television. Four distinctly themed areas will feature shows, attractions and, of course, the renowned Disney Characters. Both resorts are centrally located and easily reached from anywhere in Europe. To find out more log-on to: www.disneylandparis.com