

MAGAZINE

**MARCH 2022
VOL. 1**

**CELEBRATING THE
50TH ANNIVERSARY**

**DON'T MISS OUT ON A
ONCE IN A LIFETIME EVENT**

STAYING ON-SITE:

**THE KEY TO STRESS-FREE
VACATIONS**

**CAPTURING THE
MAGICAL MEMORIES**

**YOUR GUIDE TO DISNEY
VACATION PHOTOS**



CONTENTS

3

Editor's Note

4

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary

6

Capturing the Magical Moments

10

Staying On-Site: The Key to Stress-free Vacations

11

Latest News

Connect With Us Today

earstothecastle@gmail.com

www.earstothecastle.com

Edited and Produced by Ears to the Castle

- Stephanie Eira

- Kristina Fixter

- Sabrina Eira



© Ears to the Castle, except where indicated.

Editor's Note



WELCOME, WELCOME, AND WELCOME to the first edition of the new *Ears to the Castle* magazine. For our entire lives, we have been surrounded by the love and the magic of Disney. Recently, we have fully jumped into sharing our love of all things Disney online through Ears to the Castle. What started as a few social media posts and a fun blog quickly and unexpectedly turned into something much more.

The *Ears to the Castle* magazine is one more way that we can share information, resources, and advice to help you with your Disney vacation journey. The magazine looks at the latest updates from the parks and examines some of the ways to enhance your Disney experience. If you have been to Disney, you know the excitement, joy, and happiness it can bring. We hope this magazine helps reinforce all of those feelings!

Why a magazine and not just another blog post? Well that answer is easy. A magazine allows us to dig a little deeper into the latest news and magic of Walt Disney World. You can download the magazine and take it with you on your next flight, or read it over your morning coffee. Join us quarterly as we dive deeper into the topics we know you are looking for.

This isn't just about us sharing information; it is about staying connected and hearing from you. If you have a story idea or you want to be part of a future story, reach out to us! We would love to hear from you. Send us an email (earstothecastle@gmail.com) or reach out to us on any of the social platforms.

From the Disney loving gang,

Stephanie Kristina Sabrina

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

It was October 1, 1971, when Walt Disney World opened its doors for the first-time for guests. While Disneyland had opened in California in 1955, work did not commence in Orlando until April 1969, three years following the death of Walt Disney. Today, Walt Disney World is one of the world's largest and most recognized theme parks.

According to research conducted by [Statista](#), nearly 7 million people visited the Walt Disney World theme park in 2020. Remember 2020 was in the midst of the global pandemic, and to put that number into perspective, one article indicated that Walt Disney World has an "average annual attendance of over 58 million visitors." (Source: [MagicGuides](#))

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of Walt Disney World, during the course of 18 months, Disney has and will continue to unveil a variety of new attractions, events, merchandise, food, and so much more. While COVID-19 kept many people away, there is nothing better than a new celebration to bring us back.

The 50th anniversary has been themed "The World's Most Magical Celebration." The anniversary celebration will take place over the course of 18 months from October 1, 2021, and now the celebrations are here for us to enjoy until April 1, 2023.



"The 50th anniversary has been themed as "The World's Most Magical Celebration"

IMAGE: © Walt Disney Company

"Disney has outdone themselves with the number of new magical elements as part of the 50th celebration," said Stephanie Eira, Co-Founder, Ears to the Castle. "I don't think that we have seen this much new value and magic be added to the park at one time since the park opened in 1971."

Here's some of the new magic, you will see visiting during the 50th Anniversary celebration:

- Remy's Ratatouille Adventure ride opened in Epcot's World Showcase.
- EPCOT's new nighttime spectacular, Harmonious, is wowing audiences with its celebration of fireworks and Disney music.
- At Magic Kingdom, Disney Enchantment is the new nighttime fireworks and light show.
- An adorable new kite parade, Disney KiteTails, has taken flight at Animal Kingdom.
- In March, the new Star Wars: Galactic Starcruiser welcomed its first voyagers.
- Through the theme parks, you will see new gold statues of fifty of your favourite characters.
- And, so much more.

"But the new elements are continuing to open throughout 2022. In fact, later this year, Disney will welcome its new Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind to EPCOT," explained Kristina Fixter, Co-Founder, Ears to the Castle. "This is one of the things I am most looking forward to. EPCOT is already a top tourist destination, and the investments Disney is making is only strengthening the reasons to visit."



IMAGES: © Walt Disney Company

For more information on the 50th anniversary, visit disneyworld.disney.go.com

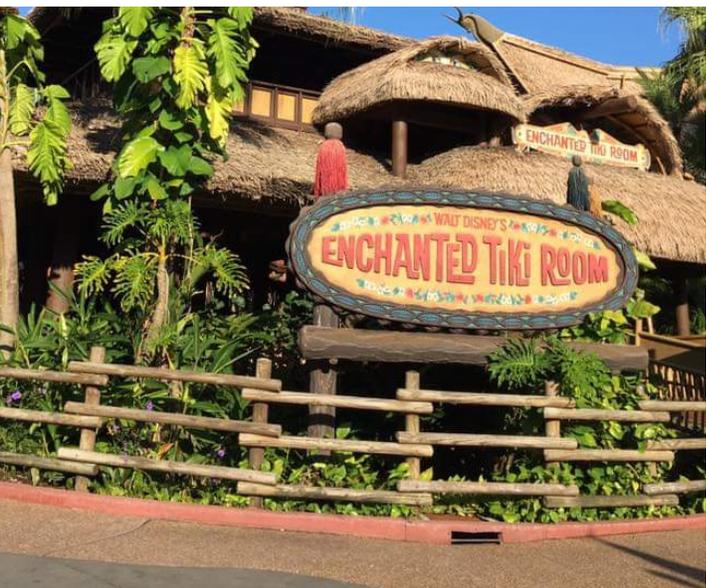


IMAGE: © Walt Disney Company

According to a press release from Disney, the parks will also introduce new food items, popcorn buckets, mugs, and sippers, including:

- Cheese Fries with Walt's Chili at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park
- Filet Mignon with Walt's Hash at The Hollywood Brown Derby in Disney's Hollywood Studios
- Mission to Mars burger at Cosmic Ray's Starlight Café in Magic Kingdom Park
- EARidescent Croissant Doughnut at EPCOT
- EARidescent Ice Dream Cone at Disney's Blizzard Beach Water Park
- 50th Celebration Ganache Chocolate Bar at The Ganachery in Disney Springs
- 50th Celebration Soufflé at Disney's Contemporary Resort
- Magical Beacon Cocktail, found at many table-service restaurants, lounges and pool bars at Walt Disney World

Of course, everyone who visits the parks during the 50th anniversary will want to take their celebration merchandise home with them. New 50th anniversary souvenirs and merchandise can be found across the parks, resorts, and Disney Springs. On our wish list are the new Golden Statues and a new pair of 50th anniversary Ears. Be sure to get your hands on the new merchandise before it disappears!



THE ULTIMATE LIST OF

CAPTURING THE MAGICAL MEMORIES

One of the best and cheapest souvenirs you can bring back from vacation are photos. Taking photos throughout the park, Disney Springs, and your resort will provide you with a lifetime of joy and memories. Not to mention photos of the family make great gifts come the holiday season.

"It can be easy to get overwhelmed by the amount of things you want to do on vacation, but always make sure that you provide a bit of breathing room in your schedule to allow you to stop and take photos," said Sabrina Eira, Co-Founder, Ears to the Castle.

You don't have to be a professional photographer to bring home some great memories. Landmarks, characters, food, parades, and rides, all provide the perfect background to your photos.

"Don't worry about staging every photo," explained Sabrina. "Some of the best photos that you can take are natural magical moments where everyone is just being happy and no one is even looking at the camera."

Disney is full of breathtaking spots to take photos. Want to remember your Walt Disney World trip with some amazing photos? Check out our list of the BEST PHOTO SPOTS in Walt Disney World parks!

As well, don't forget to check out Disney's Photopass. This service allows you to view your photos online for free, and then choose to purchase and share.

Magic Kingdom

Mainstreet USA

This is a must have photo spot – a shot right down Mainstreet USA or even detailed shots of the buildings, you'll notice so many intricate details!

Cinderella Castle

This is without a given, a staple photo for the Magic Kingdom. Get up decently close and use a wide angle lens to allow you to get a photo of the whole castle without a ton of people in front of the photo! Also, don't be afraid to get extra close and get a photo of the detail on the castle.



Partner Statues

An iconic statue creates an iconic photo. Stand in front of Walt and Mickey's statue and get a great shot of the statue with the castle in the background! In addition, for the 50th anniversary, you will find new statues celebrating this special occasion.

Train Station Balcony Overlooking Mainstreet

A spot not many people think of going up to for a photo is the Train Station. Go up the ramp heading up to the Railway train and stand on the balcony overlooking the Magic Kingdom. It is a magnificent sight and definitely a cool photo to get!

Bridge Entering Tomorrowland

Coming from where Cinderella Castle is going over the bridge into Tomorrowland is a great photo spot for two reasons: You can get an entrance shot of Tomorrowland with the attractions in the background and the sign in the foreground. As well, looking towards Cinderella castle from on the bridge is a great side shot with the water surrounding!

Pathway Beside the Castle Between Liberty Square and Fantasyland

A not so busy spot that will be a must on your Magic Kingdom visit is the pathway between Liberty Square and Fantasyland that is beside the castle. This is an absolute perfect side shot of the castle without any people being in it! We guarantee that the side of the castle is just as beautiful as the front.

EPCOT

EPCOT Entrance

A great photo is when you first enter EPCOT. You have the greenery in the front and Spaceship Earth in the back!

Spaceship Earth

Walk a little further and get closer to Spaceship Earth. Getting that up-close shot will give your photo that abstract feel as it focuses on the details.



Walkway into the World Showcase (Monorail)

When you are going through EPCOT and entering the walkway into the World Showcase, there is another perfect photo spot. Wait for the perfect moment as the monorail passes over you!

Country Icons

As you make your way around the World Showcase, each country features some iconic spots, be sure to snap a photo of them on your visit!

Animal Kingdom

Entrance of Park

At the entrance of Animal Kingdom, you can get a photo of the sign featuring different animals.

Tree of Life

The Animal Kingdom icon, the Tree of Life, is a photo you won't want to miss out on. Carved into the tree are different animals, so intricate and fascinating!

Kilimanjaro Safaris

Keep your eyes peeled and your camera ready as you take a ride through the Kilimanjaro Safari. On this safari, you will see an abundance of animals. Have your camera ready at all times. You never know when an animal will appear right before your eyes.

Maharajah Jungle Trek

Take a walk through the Maharajah Jungle Trek, here you will be able to take photos of Gibbons, tigers, over 50 species of birds, and so many more!

Expedition Everest

Expedition Everest is a great spot to get a photo, stand off to the side where you can watch the ride come out of the mountain and you may just be able to get a great shot with the right timing!

Floating Mountains in Pandora

Pandora is out of this world amazing! Snap a shot of the floating mountains with the waterfall and you can get some great photos! You'll feel like you are in the movie Avatar!

Hollywood Studios

Hollywood Boulevard

Hollywood Boulevard is located straight ahead as you enter Hollywood Studios. With little shops and a glimpse of the Chinese Theatre, this should be your first photo stop. As well, don't forget to take close-up photos of the iconic Chinese Theatre.

Sunset Boulevard

This is one of our favourite spots to get a photo. With palm trees lining the sidewalk of Sunset Boulevard and Tower of Terror in the horizon.

Tower of Terror

Whether you're up to entering the Twilight zone or rather stay outside, make sure you do not miss out on getting a photo of this iconic building.

Rock 'n' Roller Coaster

Rock and roll your way over to the Rock 'n' Roller Coaster and get a photo of the entrance way of the ride with the upside car and the giant guitar!

Echo Lake

Right outside of the Indian Jones Epic Stunt Spectacular is Echo Lake featuring Gertie the dinosaur! Get a shot of Gertie and Hollywood Studios in the background along the lake! Fun fact: Gertie offers ice cream – yum!

Millennium Falcon (Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge)

The newest addition to Hollywood Studios is Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge – here you can find the Millennium Falcon! This is a great photo stop and a way to remember your visit to Galaxy's Edge.

Toy Story Land Sign

Don't miss snapping a shot of the Toy Story Land sign featuring a giant Woody!

Slinky Dog's Dash

If you time it just right, you can get an epic shot of the Slinky Dog coaster on the track!



STAYING ON-SITE

THE KEY TO STRESS-FREE VACATIONS

There can be a lot of things you need to worry about when you are on a vacation, but one of the ways that you can make your vacation stress-free is by staying on Disney property at one of their resorts. Here's our top 5 reasons to stay at a Disney Resort:

5). In the heart of Walt Disney World

By staying at a Disney resort, you will spend your entire vacation immersed in all of the things that Disney has to offer. There really is no reason to leave the property. From world-class dining and shopping, everything you need is right here. You really are just a hop, skip, and a jump from all things magical.

4). Pools, Slides and Water Fun

You won't want to miss splashing around in the creative and themed pools that can be found in resorts across Walt Disney World. Whether it is the wildlife preserve at the Uzima Springs pool and the Samawati Springs pool in Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge or the guitar-shaped Calypso Pool and the keyboard-shaped Piano Pool at the Disney's All-Star Music Resort, you can't go wrong spending time relaxing pool side.

3). Value. Moderate. Deluxe. A price point to meet everyone's needs

There are so many different resorts to choose depending on your budget. Each resort offers its own theme and value and we promise you there is one perfect for you and your family - no matter what your budget is.

2). Disney Transportation

Hopping on the Disney Transportation system right from your resort is by-far the easiest way to get around Disney. Guests of select Walt Disney World Resort hotels receive complimentary transportation to and from all the theme parks and the Disney Springs. And, don't forget about the pretty cool, new Disney Skyliner.

1). The Disney Magical Experiences and Add-ons

When you stay at a Disney resort, you have the opportunity to access even more magic. Whether it is the Disney Dining Plan (when offered), the innovative and stylish MagicBands, or the early park access, as a guest of the Walt Disney World resorts, you can access exclusive value that creates an even more magical vacation.





LATEST NEWS

- The new bright red and yellow Strollers have been launched and can be found throughout the Walt Disney World parks
- Star Wars: Galactic Starcruiser began accepting voyages starting March 1, 2022
- Be on the look out for the new blue and yellow road signs as you make your way into Lake Buena Vista
- The EPCOT International Flower and Garden Festival began on March 2 and runs until July 4
- A new table service restaurant is making its way to Toy Story Land in Hollywood Studios. Roundup Rodeo BBQ is expected to open this year, but no word on the exact opening date



UNTIL NEXT TIME!

Watch for the next edition
of the *Ears to the Castle* magazine
coming in June 2022!

www.EarsToTheCastle.com