





CONTINUE THE ADVENTURE

KICK IT INTO HYPERDRIVE & RACE TO DISNEY FOR NEW STAR WARS ATTRACTIONS.

BY LESLEY TKACZYK

Few theme songs seep into your bones quite like the *Star Wars* anthem. For long-time *Star Wars* fans, the second the opening movie credits roll and the deep beats start, it can feel like the Force has shot right down your spine and lit up every sense. This was likely the feeling many people had when they first saw the most recent film in the saga. “*Star Wars: The Force Awakens*” was aptly named. The film, and its portrayal of galactic heroes new and old, awakened long-held passions for some, and new fan fervor for others.

Such is the excitement that comes with any new *Star Wars* experience. This decades-old franchise has a way of bringing out the brave, fun and adventurous spirit of anyone it touches. Can you feel the lure of exploring new reaches of the galaxy pulling you like the Force? That pull is coming from the magic recently revealed at Walt Disney World® in Florida, the perfect destination for *Star Wars* fans of all ages.

CHEWIE, WE'RE HOME

In a not-so-far-away galaxy known as Disney's Hollywood Studios, *Star Wars* has found its new base. With new rides and interactive adventures, there's no shortage of fun to be found here. The question isn't necessarily what to do (Hint: all of it), but how to do it best? The key is simply prioritizing what you want to do and taking enough respites at the cantina to get you through until the fireworks at the end of the day.

PATIENCE, YOUNG PADAWAN

For young *Star Wars* fans, there is no better experience than the chance to be as brave as Rey and Finn by training in the ways of the Force. Jedi Training: Trials of the Temple delivers the chance for young padawans (ages 4-12) to don the iconic brown robes and take up lightsabers against the Dark Side. The apprentices will train with a Jedi before they face fearsome opponents including Darth Vader and a new villain, the Seventh Sister Inquisitor from the Disney XD series *Star Wars Rebels*.

Be sure to register to participate before the show. Avoid disappointment by registering immediately upon entering the park, as spots are limited. Registration is located at the Indiana Jones Adventure Outpost near Echo Lake.

STAY ON TARGET

Since you're already near the lake, continue around it and into Animation Courtyard to the all-new *Star Wars* Launch Bay. *Star Wars* Launch Bay features exhibits, costumes and characters that immerse visitors into the world of both the light and the dark side of the Force. The attraction is home to a Star Destroyer-themed area and a Rebel Base, complete with the cast of characters you'd expect in each, so choose carefully.

Visitors to the launch bay will find replica props, models, behind-the-scenes videos, costumes and much more. While exploring, seek out Chewbacca for a photo. Or, if you're bold enough, move past the Stormtroopers to try for a picture with Darth Vader. The bravest of visitors may even venture through the portal to meet Kylo Ren on the bridge of his First Order Star Destroyer, the newest area feature that opened in February.

Take a break from the excitement in Launch Bay Theater to watch the short, moving film that

celebrates the *Star Wars* saga and its creators. Before you move on, be sure to snap a selfie on an Imperial speeder bike and grab some special merchandise at Launch Bay Cargo, including a lightsaber umbrella.

If you plan your timing carefully, you can watch as the First Order's Captain Phasma orders a squad of Stormtroopers into formation to march from *Star Wars* Launch Bay to the Center Stage. This demonstration of intimidating strength begins April 4 and coincides with the arrival of a new live show to be performed at Center Stage. *Star Wars: A Galaxy Far, Far Away* is a new stage show that will take place multiple times each day to bring visitors an even more exciting look at the stories they love.

The new show will feature live scenes to celebrate iconic moments from the films. The live entertainment will feature some of the saga's most memorable characters, including loyal Chewbacca, villain Darth Maul, and of course the nefarious Darth Vader and his corrupt grandson Kylo Ren.

ACROSS THE GALAXY

Do, or do not. There is no try. Rest assured, Disney did not disappoint Yoda with its latest incarnation of Star Tours, located across the park. Star Tours first launched in 1989, and in 2011 was reimagined as Star Tours – The Adventures Continue, a 3D motion-simulator with unique storylines and an expanded troupe of characters. Now, another evolution has arrived with new locations from *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. Fans will find something unique to enjoy with each ride thanks to its multiple story combinations featuring favorite characters and destinations including Naboo, the Death Star and new favorites from the latest film.

Also in that area is the new *Star Wars: Path of the Jedi*. This attraction presents abridged scenes from the *Star Wars* saga, making it perfect for new fans who want to learn more about the other films, and for nostalgic long-time fans who can't get enough of the epic tales told in episodes I-VII.

Finish your day in a haze of explosions, but not from blown-up starships. The new Symphony in the Stars: A Galactic Spectacular fireworks show lights up the sky in time to *Star Wars* theme music. John Williams' moving compositions ignite the imagination as colors paint the skies. **T**

AAA TRAVEL

YOUR TRUSTY CO-PILOT

The galaxy is a big place to try to roam alone. With the addition of so many great *Star Wars* experiences at the happiest place on earth, it may be hard to decide when to go, where to stay and how long you need to see it all. Let AAA Travel Specialists take the stress out of your planning with all the recommendations you need.

FIND A ROOM

The number of hotel options doesn't need to be overwhelming. AAA Travel Specialists will help you narrow down your wide choice of lodging options — in categories including Value, Moderate, Deluxe and Villas — based on your budget and what amenities you need. The cheapest hotel for your dates might not include things like direct transportation to the park or a kitchen to make your own breakfast. AAA can help you plan ahead to avoid hidden costs that make a seemingly good deal not so great in the end.

SAVE ON TICKETS

Disney is more popular than ever thanks to its recent attraction additions and the ever-growing number of returning guests who can't get enough of the magic. Choosing the best time of year to visit is key in making your vacation the best it can be. Want to go when the parks are all dolled up for the holidays but avoid long lines? AAA Travel Specialists know the secrets to the best dates. Plus, with Disney's recent switch to seasonal pricing for one-day tickets, insider advice is even more important to help you save by making strategic choices like buying multi-day passes instead.

CHOOSE A CANTINA

Just because you're saving money on tickets and lodging doesn't mean you should have to spend it all on food. Disney parks and resorts offer hundreds of dining choices with menus sure to please the whole family. Whether you want quick counter service, memorable character meals or premiere fine dining, AAA can book the reservations or dining plans that fit your needs best.

YOUR NEXT MISSION

Last fall at the D23 EXPO, Walt Disney Company Chairman and CEO Bob Iger announced plans for the development of *Star Wars*-themed lands to be built at Disney's Hollywood Studios in Orlando and at Disneyland® park in California. The new lands promise an immersive experience like nothing *Star Wars* fans have experienced before, allowing visitors the chance to step into the same worlds where their favorite character's adventures come to life.

The new lands will include attractions never before seen at Disney parks. Visitors will be able to test if they're as skilled as Rey and Han Solo when they take control of the storied Millennium Falcon on a secret mission. They'll also be in the middle of the action to experience an epic battle between the Resistance and the First Order. The *Star Wars*-themed lands don't yet have an opening date set, but it's safe to say that the galaxy fans adore isn't as far, far away as it was before.

BRING STAR WARS HOME

It seems everywhere you look lately there is *Star Wars* merchandise, and it's easy to want it all. But when the selection seems endless, how do you choose something you'll truly treasure for years? Disney makes it easy by pairing products with personal experiences. Seek out the best at these stores and the Force will stay strong with you even after you travel back to your home base.

STAR WARS DISNEY PINS

Whether you're an avid collector or want to begin a new collection, the latest *Star Wars* Pins are the must-have item this year. Grab a Rebel Alliance Starbird Pin that says "Join the Resistance" to let everyone know what side you're on. Or, prepare for battle with a Finn Pin that features the rebellious former Stormtrooper wielding a blaster ready to fight off the First Order. You can find the latest pins at locations throughout Disney parks or at Disney's Pin Traders in Disney Springs (formerly known as Downtown Disney). Make your experience special by trading pins with fellow fans or Cast Members inside the parks. They may have pins that are unavailable in stores, and chatting with others who collect and are knowledgeable about the pins is what makes the hobby special.

BUILD YOUR OWN

Every *Star Wars* fan dreams of having their own lightsaber to battle the Dark Side (or just your siblings) whenever you feel a disturbance in the Force. Create your own custom lightsaber at Disney Hollywood Studios' Watto's Grotto or Tatooine Traders. You can also build a trusty droid of your own design to keep by your side through every battle. Nothing represents courage and loyalty quite like R2-D2 and BB-8; toss Mickey ears on top and you've got a sure-fire smile any time of day.

THE COOLEST GEAR

Adults will want to stop at Keystone Clothiers in Disney's Hollywood Studios to peruse the luxurious side of the Force. Nerdy but beautiful C-3PO flats and stylish Dooney & Bourke handbags will turn heads more quickly than any pull of the Dark Side you've felt yet. Show the Force is strong with the whole family with a stop at *Star Wars* Galactic Outpost in Disney Springs. With merchandise from the original *Star Wars* episodes to the latest from *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, you'll find it all here. Pick out a Chewbacca sweatshirt or an R2-D2 hat, choose a Kylo Ren action figure or Stormtrooper helmet, then grab a BB-8 backpack to carry everything in. Plus, posters and TIE Fighter figurines can transform your home into the best-themed watering hole in town.



Launch into a galaxy not that far away! Call 1-800-750-5386 or visit your AAA office to speak with a AAA Travel Specialist and journey into the wonder of Disney.