


The Imagineering Field Guide to Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World

The Disney Imagineers

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The Disney Imagineers : The Imagineering Field Guide to Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Imagineering Field Guide to Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Lightweight coverage of a detailed topic
By Bruno
It's not that this is a bad book. It's just short. Some of that has to do with the fact that it is little more than pocket book sized. Why they chose to do a book that relies on illustrations and photos in this format, I'm not sure. But coverage and detail are pretty superficial. A few words on a topic you could easily fill a paragraph with. It's also written in the "everything is great" Disney style, which I can't complain about since it is a Disney publication. But it'd be nice to know what problems and challenges they had with attractions too.
It's pleasant and informative for those who have never read on the topic before, but as a serious study of imagineering it's mostly fluff. Which isn't that much different than its subject matter, the magic kingdom.
19 of 21 people found the following review helpful. Great book!
By Jason
Full of the information that makes the Imagineering side of Disney tick, "The Imagineering Field Guide to Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World" is a wonderful book to help you better understand how and why Disney designed the Magic Kingdom the way they did. You learn to appreciate the importance of theme at the Disney parks as well as the minor quirks and inside jokes that comprise the art, layout, and design of attractions that usually go unnoticed by most tourists. The book takes you through each land of the Magic Kingdom in Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida and delves into each attraction. The history of the attraction and storyline behind the attraction is detailed, as is the design and construction. Just for fun, the Imagineers throw in some trivia that helps you to appreciate the tons of work put into the overall attraction experience. It should be noted that this is not a guide book to Walt Disney World. Anyone looking for hotel information or restaurant reviews in this book will be sorely disappointed. But for those looking for something beyond the regular theme park experience, you cannot go wrong with this. I only hope they publish additional volumes for Epcot, The Disney-MGM Studios, and Disney's Animal Kingdom.
13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Magical Insight
By Jason Cavanaugh
Anyone that knows Disney knows that it's all about the details. This guide is full of historical tidbits and the meaning behind the design detail of the Magic Kingdom (MK). For example: "There's a nice little propping detail in the second-floor window on the side of The Hall of Presidents, facing the Haunted Mansion. If you look up into this window, you'll see the two lanterns of Paul Revere as described in the famous line, "One if by land, two if by sea."" There are dozens of these "Quick Takes" sprinkled throughout the guide. After reading it, you'll have a totally new perspective on the MK and perhaps many new things to see during your next visit. I'm in the midst of planning my 7th visit to Walt Disney World and will certainly bring this guide along. I regard it as a must have for anyone ranging from an Annual Passholder to a first time visitor. I cannot wait until more are published about other Disney properties!

The first in a series of pocket-sized paperbacks will answer the question, "What would it be like to walk through the Disney Theme Parks with an Imagineer by your side?" The Imagineering Field Guide to The Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World provides that experience: pointing out details and telling stories, back stories, and Imagineering insights never before heard, condensed into a portable, easily-referenced park guide. You'll never spend time at Walt Disney World the same way again. Each spread contains fascinating textual information and related images (drawings, photos, graphics) such as:

About the Author
Alex Wright is a Creative Director for Walt Disney Imagineering in Orlando, Florida. His credits include conceptual design, design development and art direction for numerous projects all over the Walt Disney World Resort. Alex received a B.A. in Design Theory from the University of Florida in Gainesville in 1992, and an M.F.A. in Scenic Design from the California Institute of the Arts near Los Angeles in 1994. He lives in Ocoee, FL with his wife Kim, son Finn, daughter Lincoln, and two dogs, Agent Q and Emelia.