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Composition 101

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Why Universal will beat Disney Parks

This year Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida celebrated its 50th anniversary, and yet the cracks are starting to show. Disney Parks are usually a must-go for many vacationers, but for how much longer will that last? Disney has had a lot of theme park rivals in the past but as of this moment none are as formidable as Universal and their theme parks, and soon if Disney doesn't watch their stop they could be sitting at stop number 2 on a trip to Florida and maybe even across the world. If Universal can maintain their already great attractions, open new parks with no problems, and build up around the world with international parks, Universal will be far more successful in the theme park industry than Disney.

If you go to Universal Studios Florida and its neighboring park Universal's Island of Adventure you would have two great parks but not near to what Walt Disney world has with its four (Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Animal Kingdom, and Hollywood Studios). But Universal has maintained the attractions for a good bit, for example, their Spider-Man attraction which opened back in 1999, now yes Disney does own the rights to the character but the attraction deal was made before Disney purchased Marvel, and Disney said that they will keep and contracts made before the purchase, the ride is incredibly enjoyable a mix of a film screen with some live-action set pieces that just elevate the experience all the more, compare this to the disappointing reception to the Spiderman attraction at Disney's California adventure which just a digital game like Toy Story

Mania. Then there's Universal's biggest success: "The Wizarding World of Harry Potter" and group of fun attractions that make guests feel of if they are in Diagon Alley or Hogsmeade from the movies and it is far more immersive than Avengers campus a Marvel themed are opened at California Adventure. Now Universal doesn't always have the best attractions the recently opened "Fast and Furious: Supercharged" has not been received well, and it did close two very iconic attractions (Disaster Studios and Beetlejuice's Graveyard Reeve) but for the most part universal's more recent attractions have more of positive reception than Disney's newer attractions

Earlier this year in their Japan park Universal opened "Super Nintendo World" a collaboration with the iconic video game company. The park was met with glowing reviews, and Universal has since confirmed that they will bring the park to the two U.S Parks as well as its park in Singapore. While the California park will get it either in 2022 or 2023, Orlando will have to wait until the opening of Epic Universe , The third park planned to open in 2025, to experience it. The park is going to be bigger than what Universal's main area is right now and will have 3 additional themed areas inside other than Nintendo. Compare this to California Adventure at Disneyland California, Since its opening back in 2001 has had almost every area in the park completely rethemed and almost nothing in the park has anything to do with California, which was the park's original intention, and when that park opened people said that it felt cheaply made and even with the recent refurbishments made it still doesn't feel like a coherent park, trying to be a celebration of both California and Disney, and it has not proven to be successful. But Epic Universe seems to spare no expense and could be a brilliant experience for theme park goers and could give Universal a serious edge over Disney.

But that is just the U.S, for them parks to succeed that have to go international and both Disney and Universal have. While Disney has more parks (Disneyland France, Hong Kong Disneyland, and Shanghai DisneyLand), Universal's two international parks (Universal Studios Japan, and Universal Studios Singapore) don't have much competition and are incredibly popular. On top of having Super Nintendo World there are rides at Universal Studios Japan that are themed around Japanese media such as "Attack on Titan" and "Demon Slayer". While the Paris DisneyLand is beautiful, the citizens of France hated Disney's arrival despite the magnificent attractions. Hong Kong welcomed Disney with open arms and yet, multiple problems emerged through its development and after it was finished. Whether that be the dredging of the nearby lake, the disastrous test day, Disney trying to serve shark fin soup, the opening of Shanghai Disneyland or the resignation of the then Disney president Michal Isner. On top of that Hong Kong DisneyLand has not made a profit since Shanghai DisneyLand Opened.

Disney will never lose its theme parks, but that isn't to say that they will be the first choice among vacationers forever. There are other things like how Universal handles events like Christmas and especially Halloween. How Disney was originally going to have the Harry Potter attractions that are now the centerpiece of Universal. The poor implementation of the flawed Disney Genie app. Or even how the concept of Disney Hollywood studios was just to jab at Universal Parks themselves including both of them having a brief time being a place where movies were actually filmed. The fact is that Disney is losing its grip on the number one spot among theme park chains and they could fall even further, other parks will be eager to follow what Universal is doing which could hurt Disney in the long run, at least in terms of theme parks they are still a multi-billion dollar company.

<https://orlandoinformer.com/universal/epic-universe/> - For more information on Epic Universe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EdJi5jRLIgw> - a video explaining the Construction and many problems with Hong Kong Disneyland. The Youtube Channel that made the video Defunctland makes videos that have a lot of information on theme parks, construction of rides, and the closure or remodeling of rides.