

Capturing Disney Parks presents **DISNEY ICON SPOTLIGHT**

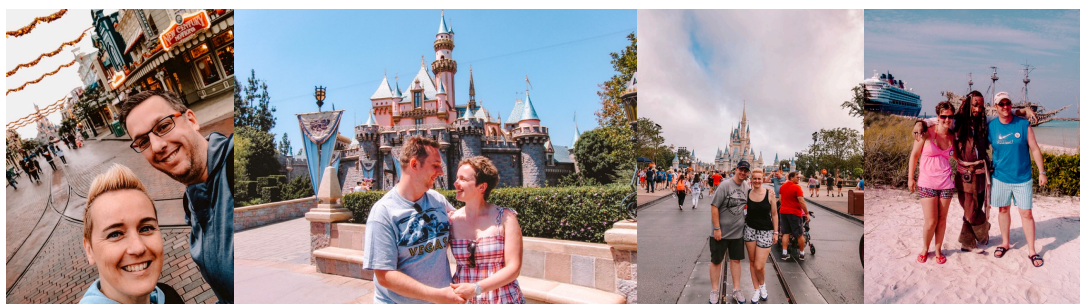
Episode 34 | Menno and Sandra Hagendoorn from dutchdisneygram |
November 25, 2019

In this series of Q&A's, Capturing Disney Parks introduces you to some of the biggest and most iconic Disney Parks fans sharing the magic on their social media, video platform, blog, vlog, podcast, or website. Questions by Niels van Eijkelenburg.

Q 01 | THE ICON

Please introduce yourself to our readers.

Hello! We are Menno and Sandra Hagendoorn from the Netherlands. We are both 42 years old and married since 2008, but together for almost 25 years. We love visiting the parks together, watching Disney movies, collect a lot of Disney memorabilia (our house is known as the "Disney house", haha) and decided to start a Disney dedicated Instagram page 2 years ago (@dutchdisneygram).



Pictures provided by Menno and Sandra

Q 02 | THE PARKS

Which Disney Parks have you experienced, and which one do you consider your 'home' Park?

We've visited Disneyland Paris, Walt Disney World Florida (all 4 parks and both waterparks), Disneyland Resort Anaheim, and we were once lucky enough to take a Disney Cruise. We consider Paris our 'home park'. We have annual passes for Paris, so we are there a number of times per year. But we also visited the Magic Kingdom a lot of times... so let's call that one our 'home away from home'.

Q 03 | THE PLATFORM(S)

Where can we find your Disney fan platforms?

Our fan platform is on instagram only, <https://www.instagram.com/dutchdisneygram>
@dutchdisneygram is where to find us.

Q 04 | THE FORMAT

Tell us something about the format of your online platform(s), how it all started, which Disney Parks you cover, and why you love to put such a lot of effort in those activities.

We've started the page 2 years ago. We both like to take pictures when we are out on trips. And because of that we always had a giant stack of pictures after each Disney trip. We could not post them all on our regular pages (not all of our friends and family are into Disney like we are, haha), so a lot of them weren't used, which was a bit of a shame. So, we decided to create a dedicated Instagram page to put our Disney pictures on. Through those pictures and page we were able to connect with a lot of lovely people from all over the world, who share the same passion for Disney, which is a lot of fun! And by seeing all other pages we can keep up with all the parks, also the ones we do not visit that often, or... haven't visited at all! The format of our page is that we cover each park we've visited in our feed. We try to keep the various seasons in mind, like Christmas or Halloween. And when there is big news, we try to find a picture which relates to that. It goes without saying that we only use our own pictures. In our Instagram Stories we try to report on various news stories, tell a bit about the 'touches of Disney' in our daily life, and of course: post from the parks when we are there!

Q 05 | THE LOVE

How and when did your love for Disney Parks start?

The love for the Disney Parks started around 1996, when we went on a day trip to Paris for the first time. The trip was terrible. We left in the middle of the night with a crappy bus. Drove all night and then we were in the parks for the rest of the day. After that we had to drive straight back... so we were exhausted, haha. But we instantly fell in love with the park! The rides, the atmosphere, the music, the parade, the shops, the entertainment: we loved it all. We visited a few times after that, and when we visited the Magic Kingdom in 2004 for the first time, there was no turning back anymore. We were officially addicted to the Disney Parks!

Q 06 | THE TRIPS

How many times/days a year do you visit Disney Parks (estimate)? And how many days are most of your trips?

We visit somewhere between 4 and 6 times a year. We try to visit Paris during all seasons. Trips to Paris are usually 2-3 days. When we are on a vacation in the USA, we always try to visit Disney if we are in the neighborhood. Sometimes for one day, but sometimes longer. It depends on the rest of our travel plans.

Q 07 | THE FAVORITS

Please name your favorite Disney attractions, parades, or shows.

Ok... there's two of us... so you're getting two lists because there is no way we are going to agree, hahaha!

Sandra

Attractions Top 3	: Big Thunder Mountain (Disneyland Paris), Splash Mountain, Space Mountain (Walt Disney World)
Parade	: The Festival of Fantasy Parade
Show	: Mickey's Christmas Big Band
Nighttime Spectacular	: Happily Ever After

Menno

Attractions Top 3 : Haunted Mansion, Splash Mountain, Toy Story Midway Mania
Parade : Spectromagic (sadly it's gone)
Show : Mickey and the Magician
Nighttime Spectacular : Happily Ever After

Q 08 | THE MEMORY

What's your most memorable Disney Parks moment? Tell us all about it please!

Our honeymoon! In 2008 we went full Disney for our honeymoon. We stayed for 10 days in the Pop Century hotel with everyday access to the Walt Disney World parks, and a Disney Cruise straight after that. It was such a magical trip. We got 'just married' buttons which made the trip even more special. Characters made extra efforts when they saw them, so we have awesome pictures with them. Cast members congratulated us 100 times a day and gave us little things like free cookies, desserts, extra FastPasses etc. They really made you feel special and it added an extra layer of festivity. Besides that, it was great to visit the parks for such a long time. We really got to explore them all extensively, saw every single piece of entertainment, rode every ride and just took it all-in. It was great! Especially because we had not yet visited these parks at the time, apart from the Magic Kingdom. The cruise was the icing on the cake. A magical time at sea with that special 'Disney pixiedust' added to it. Highlight of the cruise was the visit to Castaway Cay, which really is as great as everyone says. We really couldn't have visited a better place for our honeymoon.

Q 09 | THE TIP

Do you have a tip or advise - about anything Disney Parks related - to share with our readers?

Use FastPass! A lot of people still seem to think it's a paid service, or don't even know it's there. We don't really ever wait in line for any ride anymore because we use the FastPass system as smart as we can. So, using that and planning a bit ahead would be one tip. But also: Don't plan your whole day from AM to PM... a lot of people try to cramp as much in a day as they possibly can but forget to enjoy the parks for what they are. Just try to take a few moments to look around, enjoy the little things, and let everything sink in. Plan for the things you really want to do, but don't stress yourself out. It's supposed to be fun!

Q 10 | THE CHOICES

Make your choice! You have to choose one...

- | | | |
|---|----|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mickey | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donald |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Characters | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attractions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Star Wars | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marvel |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parades | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Nighttime spectaculars |
| <input type="checkbox"/> On-site hotel | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Off-site hotel |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual Pass | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Ticket |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Animation | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Live-action |

- | | | |
|--|----|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pins | or | <input type="checkbox"/> TsumTsums |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early morning visits | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Evening visits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PhotoPass | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FastPass |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jack Sparrow | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Captain Hook |

Q 11 | THE QUESTION

Do you have a question for me?

If you could have any Disney park to yourself for one hour. Which one would you choose, and what would you do?

Niels: *Ooohhh, that's a difficult one! I think I choose Tokio DisneySea as I haven't been to Tokio yet and especially DisneySea seems to be a very unique park.*

THE END

I would like to thank Menno and Sandra for participating in this Q&A series. Hope you've enjoyed this episode. Until next time and have a magical day!



Niels van Eijkelenburg
owner of Capturing Disney Parks

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/capturingdisneyparks>
 Twitter <https://www.twitter.com/captdisneyparks>
 All episodes <http://www.capturingdisneyparks.com>

Copyright © 2018-2019 by Niels van Eijkelenburg. Niels van Eijkelenburg (the Netherlands) is owner of Capturing Disney Parks, a social fan initiative capturing the magic of Disney Parks. The opinions expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Capturing Disney Parks or Niels van Eijkelenburg. Capturing Disney Parks is not part of The Walt Disney Company.