

Capturing Disney Parks presents **DISNEY ICON SPOTLIGHT**

Episode 24 | Torsten from dein-dlrp.de | July 5, 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.

Hi! My name is Torsten. Me and my wife Dörthe are the owners and publishers of dein-dlrp.de, the biggest German Guidebook about Disneyland Paris for many years, and since about two years about Walt Disney World too.

Though we are the publishers, I want to mention our great team in this first question too, because all we do wouldn't be possible without them. I cannot name each team member but when reading these lines, they know who I mean – thanks a lot to all you guys!

A few months ago, we also took over the German Main Street Emporium Forum. It's the biggest German forum about Disney in general. Thanks to our new-won team there too!



Pictures provided by Torsten

My Disney Fan 'career' started way before dein-dlrp.de though. Together with Stefan Tiesing and Sabine Koch, I was one of the co-founders of the bi-lingual DLP Guidebook (dlp-guidebook.de), known as dlp.info in the later years. It was one of the pioneer websites about Disneyland Paris back in the 90s (founded in 97 or 98, do not really remember the year).

After I left DLP Guidebook in 2001 due to being overloaded with work in my job, working fulltime and studying at political science, history and catholic theology at Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz at the same time, I soon wanted to do something around Disneyland Paris again and so we started dein-dlrp.de in 2008.

Today we are running several online portals of our own and working freelance as TYPO3 developers and Usability/SEO consultants.

In our free time, Disney is our main focus. Mainly Disneyland Paris and Walt Disney World, but everything else about Disney too.

Q 02 | THE PARKS

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

I have only visited Disneyland Paris and Walt Disney World so far – yes missing a lot. Disneyland Resort is (finally) scheduled for September 2020 and a big Asia Tour with Shanghai, Hong Kong and Tokyo - and a final stop at Aulani - is in the planning phase for 2022. Going back to Walt Disney World later this year, we also will do small trips to Vero Beach and - in the course of staying a week in Savannah, Georgia - to Hilton Head too.

The question about my home park is not easy to answer. Naturally it should be Disneyland Paris, because it was my true first love (and always will be) but we are feeling more at home in Walt Disney World now, since we are DVC members too. Old Key West is our DVC home resort and really feel "Welcome home" there.

Q 03 | THE PLATFORM(S)

Where can we find your Disney fan platforms?

There are plenty of places you can find us.

Our (soon to be relaunched) website is at <https://www.dein-dlrp.de/> (<https://www.dein-dlrp.de/walt-disney-world.html> respectively for the Walt Disney World Guidebook) and at <https://msemporium.de/> you can find our recently relaunched Disney Forum.

On Social Media you can find us on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/deindlrp> for Disneyland Paris and <https://facebook.com/deindlrp.wdw> for Walt Disney World and at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/deindlrp.disneylandparisfans/> for our Disney Parks Facebook Group. We also have a Facebook Group for all things Disney which can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/disney.gruppe.mse/>.

We are also on Instagram at <https://instagram.com/deindlrp>, YouTube <https://youtube.com/deindlrp> and Twitter <https://twitter.com/deindlrp>.

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.

Oh, well, I answered most of this in my introduction, I guess. Our most important format is still our classic website with our guidebooks that we started back in 2008.

I cannot really say how it started, at some point back then my wife and I just sat together, wondering a bit that there was no big German website about Disneyland Paris anymore. All the ones from the good old days (so many cool Disneyland Paris fan websites had been created by Germans like Ravenswood Manor and so many more) had become mostly inactive. The fan scene in Germany faded to be almost inexistent online. So, I think we just thought it was time to start something new again – and we did. For several years now, the fan scene in Germany is growing again and there are several other cool projects out there. Many of whom we would call our friends, like Disneyparksandmore and Freizeitpark Traveller on Instagram, the great blog by Spinatmädchen, the new podcast Mausgegabel and many

more than I could list here. And yes, we are kind of proud that we somehow pioneered the revival of the German fan scene and hope it will flourish again for many years now.

We are mostly covering Disneyland Paris and Walt Disney World. But as our team members in total have visited all parks and Disney Vacation resorts around the world, we are also doing, even though way smaller, coverage about all other Disney Resorts.

And why do we put so much love and effort in it? Well, because it's Disney ;-). Do I have to say more?

Q 05 | THE LOVE

How and when did your love for Disney Parks start?

Well before 1992 already. As a child I saw photos from my parent's friends, who had visited Walt Disney World already and I think I instantly fell in love. I had been a Disney fan before, mainly a fan of the Duck comics, not so much Mickey Mouse though – but this has changed later, while Scrooge always remains my favorite.

But we never managed to travel to Walt Disney World, mainly because my father had a disability and was scared of walking long distances. So, I only visited German parks like Holiday Park, Europa Park, Phantasialand, Tripsdrill, Kurpfalzpark etc. with my mother, other relatives or with friends and their parents.

When Euro Disney was about to open, it was clear to me that I had to go there as soon as possible. In June 1992 I went there for the first time with two of my cousins and three friends of them. It was a crazy trip because some of them wanted to use the 6 days we spend at Davy Crockett Ranch more to have a party rather than enjoying Euro Disneyland. Still it took me at once and I needed to go back and back and back. Since I was only 15 years old, I searched for other people who would travel with me for the next 2 ½ years, until I had my driving license, and found them in cousins, older friends and friends with older brothers.

The moment I could drive myself, I started to work as many hours per week as I could as a private lessons teacher and in pizza delivery. Most weeks of 30+ hours in addition to school and later University. A hard time, but I was able to go to Disneyland Paris for at least one 3-4 day trip each month.

And this love and enthusiasm stayed (mostly) until today, though I do not go to Disneyland Paris that often anymore but have shifted a big part of vacation time and budget to Walt Disney World.

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?

In the first years I did around 3-4, then about 12-16 Disneyland Paris trips a year, most of the time staying for 2-4 days. In the recent years I did not go that often. Maybe 4-6 times a year but for 5-7-day stays. Overall, I think I spend more than 1000 days there, but I stopped counting a long time ago and this is only an estimate.

In the last 3 years we spent a bit over 3 weeks at Walt Disney World each year. In the future we plan to go there around 3 weeks every second year and to visit other Disney Parks worldwide in the years between Walt Disney World vacations.

Q 07 | THE FAVORITS

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

My favorite parade definitely was “ImagiNations”, which premiered for the Millennial Celebration 1999/2000. My favorite show most likely was “Cinemagique” and is “The Hall of Presidents” or “The American Adventure” now. As graduated historian I really love how history is told in a serious and yet entertaining way and would love to see more of this approach on teaching history in Europe as well.

OK, I should say ‘was’ – because the new “Rhythms of the Pride Lands” at Disneyland Paris took the first place at once!

Favorite attractions are hard to tell and depend very much on my mood. But in my top list you will find “Pirates of the Caribbean”, “The Visionarium”, “Spaceship Earth”, “Transit Authority People Mover”, “Big Thunder Mountain” (Paris version), “Tower of Terror” (Orlando Version) and “Flight of Passage” most of the time, accompanied by some others.

Q 08 | THE MEMORY

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

There are many and I cannot call one THE most memorable Disney Parks Moment.

One standing really out of the rest was to ride “Big Thunder Mountain” together with Tony Baxter on his very first ride after the rides re-opening in Disneyland Paris. We met the day before already and just entered the Fast Pass queue at “Big Thunder Mountain” the same moment by coincidence. We had a nice chat while in the queue and rode it together.

Another one that will always be very special to me, is when I was showing Disneyland Paris for the first time to my girlfriend (and now wife), who always was in opposition to go to Disneyland Paris until I literally kidnapped her. She fell in love with the place the second she set foot on Main Street USA.

Q 09 | THE TIP

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

Only one, but that’s by far the most important one I could give: Take your time. Never just run from attraction to attraction, from show to show, or from Meet & Greet to Meet & Greet. Soak in the atmosphere and take your time to look at all the detail and love the Imagineers put in everywhere. Cherish every second you are in a Disney Park or Resort!

Q 10 | THE CHOICES

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

- | | | |
|---|----|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mickey | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Donald |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Characters | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attractions |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Star Wars | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Marvel |



- | | | |
|---|----|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parades | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nighttime spectaculars |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-site hotel | or | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Early morning visits | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evening visits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PhotoPass | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FastPass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jack Sparrow | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Captain Hook |

Q 11 | THE QUESTION

Do you have a question for me?

Yes, what is your idea what Disneyland Paris will look like for its 50th birthday in 2042?

Niels: Difficult! But I truly hope that it will become a small version of Walt Disney World! With its own impressive infrastructure, high service level, and far more hotel resorts with big food courts, and lots of entertainment and activities. But let's first complete the great plans for Walt Disney Studios Park. Maybe even with some unannounced extensions. The long awaited third park should be ready by 2042 too. I hope for an Animal Kingdom-alike park, as I love its natural and authentic theming. But something more original, that can't be found in any other Disney Resort would be even better. I'm happy that Disney is working on a revamp of Disney Village too. It definitely needs an upgrade and... extension. Disney Springs is a perfect example of the way to go. Stylish and with far more variety in food, entertainment and shops. A monorail would be appreciated too. It's an attraction on its own and a true piece of Disney history. It could connect the parks and hotel resorts, including the ones that are now further away like Davy Crocket and Villages Nature.

THE END

I would like to thank Torsten 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.

