



For guests who are visiting Universal Studios in Orlando with the sole purpose of taking in the Wizarding World of Harry Potter, this is a one-day touring plan designed to give you the full experience. Be aware that crowd sizes change with the season but experiencing all of the Wizarding World should be possible.

The Wizarding World is part of two distinct parks: **Hogsmeade** is located in Islands of Adventure and **Diagon Alley** is located in Universal Studios Florida. If you plan to visit both locations – and this includes riding the Hogwarts Express, you must buy a 2-park ticket.

- It's strongly recommended that you arrive at Universal Studios at least 30-45 minutes before the park opens as Harry Potter is THE most popular draw to the park. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the park layout beforehand if you can.
- If you need to get your tickets you'll stop by the kiosks to print them out
- Go immediately to the turnstiles! The parks sometimes let guests in a little early
- Universal Studios Orlando DOES have an app. Download in advance – will help a ton with wait time information and any Virtual Queue Experiences.

Quick Overview & Tips

- The three “must-do” attractions are the **Escape from Gringotts** (Diagon Alley), **Forbidden Journey** (Hogsmeade) and **Hagrid's Magical Creatures Motorbike Adventures** (Hogsmeade). Make enough time to browse the shops and watch a few of the shows! **Flight of the Hippogriff** (Hogsmeade) is also a lot of fun and often won't have as long of a wait and it's got a great view of the castle.



One Day, Park-to-Park Touring Plan

Park Times for Your Trip:

Be sure to check park opening times - the times often change from week to week.

If you don't already have your tickets in-hand be sure to get to the park super early to get your tickets printed at the ticket kiosk so you can walk into the park quickly (gates often open early). You will likely need to use the credit card you purchased the ticket with so be sure to have that with you. Again, be sure to check park closing times when you arrive as they can vary day-to-day.

Be aware that – for most of the bigger rides (especially the three in the Wizarding World) you're required to check a bag/backpack into special lockers. You have to use a fingerprint to open the locker so be sure to remember the number AND the way you set down your finger – that sounds silly but it's true! If you can't find or open the locker just let a staffer know and they will help you. I may know this from experience...

Experiencing all of The Wizarding World!

If you want to experience Harry Potter's introduction to the Wizarding World as he did in the books, start the day in **Diagon Alley**. The items below are in somewhat chronological order but DO feel free to explore according to your interest.

*If you have Early Park Admission you will want to go immediately to **Hagrid's Magical Creatures Motorbike Adventure** at Islands of Adventure if this is a top priority.*

Use your app to search for VIRTUAL LINE openings for a lot of the rides and attractions! This is especially important for Hagrid. Start looking for a Virtual Line pass for Hagrid as soon as the park opens

If the shops start getting too crowded you might want to try again later in the day as they tend to clear out more in the evening. This really depends on the crowds on the day you visit so be flexible.

Diagon Alley (Universal Studios)

- Remember that Harry rode the **Knight Bus** to London! You can meet the conductor (and his mouthy shrunken head!) and take some really fun photos! There are several British-inspired shops and sites along the London waterfront so be sure to pay attention to your surroundings!
 - On the street outside of Diagon Alley, stop by the Black family's home at **12 Grimmauld Place** – Kreacher peeks out of the window from time to time, do knock on the door!
 - If you see the **telephone booth** in front of Leicester Square, dial M-A-G-I-C and see what happens!
- You could eat a good meal at **The Leaky Cauldron** – Harry went through here first on his first trip to Diagon Alley!
- Visit **Gringott's Money Exchange** to pick up some “authentic” wizard bank notes so you can do your shopping like Harry did with Hagrid!
- Time for school supplies! **Ollivander's Wand Shop** is a fun stop. You can experience the “wand choosing the wizard” show and purchase a wand in the shop (they choose one visitor each show!).
 - *The person chosen for the ceremony is random, it's always a child - try to look super excited and make eye contact with Olivander!*
 - If you buy a wand, do think about an **interactive one** – you can cast spells throughout the parks (pay close attention to the map included so you don't miss any spell sites!) This is a LOT of fun and worth the \$50 in my opinion but we've always made our kids share, lol.
 - Other shops have pets like Hedwig the owl, quidditch supplies, school robes and more
- **Floean Fortescue's Ice Cream Parlour** is a great stop for a snack!
- Spend some time in **Knockturn Alley** - this is the site where “dark wizards” gather
 - Check out Borgin & Burkes antique shop for some dark magic items
 - Try opening the “door with an eye” and watch the middle
 - There is a skeleton protection in the middle that will copy your movements
- **Weasley's Wizard Wheezes** is fantastic! It's Fred and George Weasley's joke shop and has tons of fun, themed toys and tricks.

- In **Madame Malkin's Robes for All Occasions** find the talking mirror!
- A snake hangs in the window at **The Magical Menagerie**, there is a snake in the window. When you stand outside the snake's window, he'll speak to you in Parseltongue and then in English. It's a reference to Harry hearing the snake language for the first time in Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone.

Hogsmeade (Islands of Adventure)

- Take the **Hogwarts Express** train from King's Cross Station between the Wizarding World parks. You'll have to show your park-to-park ticket each time you board.
- **Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey** inside Hogwart's Castle is an absolute MUST. If you have an Express Pass you will get in a lot more quickly but there is also great benefit in going through the line to see much behind-the-scenes outside and inside the castle.
 - If you're not sure you want to ride you can ask a Team Member if you can take a "tour" of Hogwarts and just walk through the Castle.
- **Hagrid's** is by far the most popular ride in the park for good reason!
 - This ride is the only one in the park that does NOT accept the Express Pass so definitely get to this one as early as possible, watch wait times. The evening may be a lucky time (especially close to park close)
- **Flight of the Hippogriff** is great - it's a smaller roller coaster with a fabulous view of Hogwarts castle! It *may* have a shorter wait than other rides.
- You can have lunch at **The Three Broomsticks** and dessert at the **Hog Head's Pub** (get a frozen Butterbeer!)
- Do a little browsing in the shops. You can get some sweet treats at **Honeydukes** and a Marauder's Map at **Filch's Emporium of Confiscated Goods!**
- I think this is awesome - the **Owl Post** has Harry Potter postcards and stamps. You can write a card to friends back home and it will get a Hogsmeade postmark!
- Owl Post is connected to Dervish and Bangs (tons of Harry Potter merch)

***Note that the Hogwarts Express does not start running until the park officially opens so be aware which park you enter first since you will not be able to hop to the other park until then!** If you want to ride Forbidden Journey and Hagrid's Magical Creatures early you need to enter the Islands of Adventure gate. If you want to go to Diagon Alley and ride Escape from Gringotts you need to go into the Universal Studios Florida gate. Be sure to ride the train in both directions - it's a completely different experience!