



**WARNER BROS.
STUDIO TOUR
LONDON**

**WARNER BROS. STUDIO TOUR LONDON – THE MAKING OF HARRY
POTTER BEGINS CELEBRATIONS FOR THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF
*HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN***

Visitors can explore the newest additions at the Studio Tour during the Return to Azkaban feature.



RETURN TO AZKABAN

1st May – 4th September 2024

Leavesden, UK: 1st May 2024: Fans of the Harry Potter film series will be thrilled to hear that the Return to Azkaban feature has now opened at Warner Bros. Studio Tour London, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the cinematic release of *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*.

When entering the Studio Tour, visitors will be regaled by the Hogwarts Frog Choir, conducted by Professor Flitwick, under an enchanted ceiling of over 100 floating candles in the Great Hall.

For the first time ever, the Divination classroom set is now on display at the Studio Tour, as seen when Harry, Ron and Hermione attend their first lesson with Professor Trelawney, allowing fans to discover the details up close. When creating the Divination classroom, Set Decorator, Stephenie McMillan and Production Designer, Stuart Craig, were inspired by tea shops from India and the Middle East. The room is draped in rich red fabric and decorated with jewel-toned

velvet pouffes, numerous patterned rugs and Arabian-style lanterns, creating a classroom in which eccentric Professor Trelawney would feel at home.

During filming, Set Decorators were tasked to visit markets, auctions and specialist dealers to source all the teacups needed for the classroom, including Harry's Grim cup, made in the 19th century in Japan, which is now on display at the Studio Tour. As seen on-screen, the set is home to the 28-layered teacup tower that holds over 500 vintage cups and saucers.

The Defence Against the Dark Arts classroom aesthetics changed with each teacher that occupied it; for Professor Lupin, inspiration came from collections of archaeological objects including skulls and creatures under glass domes. A new section of the set can now be seen at the Studio Tour featuring the handcrafted, Art-Nouveau-inspired Boggart wardrobe centrepiece, to recreate the fan-favourite moment where students learn to cast the Riddikulus spell.

Looking out of the windows of the Divination and Defence Against the Dark Arts classroom windows, visitors will notice intricate works of scenic art, a filmmaking technique used to bring the outside into a soundstage. Scenic Artists would take reference images of landscapes before hand-painting beautiful artworks of the Hogwarts grounds, based in the Scottish Highlands.

Visitors will also see The Monster Book of Monsters rampage in Harry's bedroom at the Leaky Cauldron, complete with the original Tudor bed seen on-screen. Filmmakers originally hired the bed from a furniture company during production and were pleased to learn that it was still available 20 years later, bringing it to the Studio Tour for the Return to Azkaban feature.

In the wizarding world, the Knight Bus acts as transport for stranded witches and wizards. Brand new for the Return to Azkaban feature, a full cross-section of the bus interior is on display at the Studio Tour, complete with sliding beds and a swinging chandelier. During production, filmmakers created the Knight Bus's frantic journey using some of cinema's oldest techniques, shooting the bus travelling at normal speed while cars around it went at a snail's pace. The footage was then sped up to create the appearance of the Knight Bus's magically enhanced momentum.

Return to Azkaban is a special feature running from 1st May – 4th September and all new additions are included in the ticket price.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

After opening its doors to visitors on 31st March 2012, Warner Bros. Studio Tour London – The Making of Harry Potter celebrated its 12th anniversary earlier this year. The highly rated attraction offers visitors the ultimate chance to get up close to authentic sets to discover the

magic behind spellbinding special effects and explore the behind-the-scenes secrets of the Harry Potter film series. Visitors can explore the original Great Hall, step into the Forbidden Forest, discover Gringotts Wizarding Bank and pull out a Mandrake in Professor Sprout's Greenhouse all before marvelling at the breath-taking miniature scale model of Hogwarts castle.

The Studio Tour has been well received with 96% of the 46,000+ reviews on TripAdvisor rating it as 'Excellent' or 'Very Good' and over 80,000 4- or 5-star ratings on Google Reviews. Tickets must be pre-booked at www.wbstudiotour.co.uk and cannot be bought at the attraction.

Warner Bros. Worldwide Studio Tours & Retail division is home to an expanding portfolio of Warner Bros. Discovery-owned visitor attractions and experiential retail stores around the world, each created with visitor engagement and exceptional customer service at their heart.

The division includes Warner Bros. Studio Tour London – The Making of Harry Potter and Warner Bros. Studio Tour Tokyo – The Making of Harry Potter where wizarding world fans and newcomers alike can delight in learning behind-the-scenes secrets and filmmaking magic.

For fans of Hollywood blockbusters and classics, the division boasts Warner Bros. Studio Tour Hollywood, a guided tour showcasing the production secrets behind the best loved films and television shows in the world of entertainment at the studios where they were made. In addition, Warner Bros. Worldwide Studio Tours & Retail specialises in experiential retail and is home to the Platform 9 3/4 retail shops and Harry Potter New York – the iconic flagship store.

About Wizarding World

From the moment eleven-year-old Harry Potter met Rubeus Hagrid, Keeper of Keys and Grounds at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, his adventures have left an indelible mark on popular culture. Today, over 25 years later, the Harry Potter phenomenon thrives as one of the most successful and best-loved entertainment properties in history.

J.K. Rowling's best-selling Harry Potter novels have been brought to life in an ever-evolving, interconnected universe which is loved by millions of fans worldwide. Eight blockbuster Harry Potter films and three epic Fantastic Beasts films bring the spellbinding action to life on screen, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child mesmerises on stage, and state-of-the-art video and mobile games from Portkey Games allow players to experience the wizarding world like never before. Fans can proudly showcase their passion through innovative consumer products, and thrill at spectacular location-based experiences - including five theme park lands at Universal Studios locations around the world.

This expanding portfolio of Warner Bros. Discovery-owned Harry Potter and Fantastic Beasts offerings includes ground-breaking touring experiences and events, each developed to celebrate special moments and locations that fans cherish, as well as the Platform 9 3/4 retail

shops and iconic flagship store - Harry Potter New York. Wizards, Witches and Muggles alike can also discover something new as they explore behind-the-scenes secrets at Warner Bros. Studio Tour London – The Making of Harry Potter and Warner Bros. Studio Tour Tokyo – The Making of Harry Potter.

With a new Max Original TV series based on the Harry Potter books on the way, this extended world continues to provide the community with fresh and exciting ways to interact. For its global fans, and for generations to come, it invites everyone in to find the magic for themselves.

For the latest Harry Potter and Fantastic Beasts news and features, visit

www.wizardingworld.com.

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