

CALIFORNIA | THEME PARKS



Disney's California theme parks will follow similar protocols to those in Orlando, Fla.

WALT DISNEY WORLD ORLANDO; GETTY IMAGES

Theme Park Protocol

Masks, hand sanitizer and social distancing will be part of the magic

By Lisa A. Beach

AFTER ORLANDO'S UNIVERSAL AND Disney theme parks reopened in Florida this summer, California's parks were expected to follow suit. Closed since mid-March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they were slated to reopen in July, with new health and safety protocols in place. But with California experiencing a surge in COVID cases, reopening plans were put on hold.

While the shopping and entertainment complexes of Downtown Disney District and Universal CityWalk launched phased reopenings, the theme parks are still in limbo as they await state and local government approval.

Regardless of the precise dates, state officials will likely provide a road map for California's theme park reopenings similar to what's been implemented in Orlando and other sites across the country. Here's an overview of what you can expect:

DISNEYLAND PARK AND DISNEY CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE PARK

Reopening: Not yet announced. Downtown Disney District, in Anaheim, Calif., reopened July 9 with new health and safety protocols in place.

What's New: A Marvel-themed Avengers Campus was slated to debut this summer in Anaheim's Disney California Adventure Park, featuring an interactive ride called WEB SLINGERS: A Spider-Man Adventure. It's been delayed, with no opening date announced.

Last May, the 14-acre Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge debuted, featuring the Millennium Falcon: Smugglers Run experience, which was further enhanced this January with Star Wars: Rise of the Resistance.

Park Update: "We're taking a multipronged approach to our reopening, after considering the guidance of various governmental authorities and health agencies, including the CDC and recommendations from our team of health and safety experts. We're also actively working with industry groups and research universities to discuss best practices," Dr. Pamela Hymel, Disney Parks chief medical officer, stated in a Disney blog post.



HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES

New protocols include:

- ▶ Reduced theme park capacity, with advanced reservations required
- ▶ Temperature screenings prior to entry
- ▶ Physically distanced queues, seating and physical barriers at select locations
- ▶ Reduced hours at select locations and the closure of some entertainment offerings
- ▶ Mobile order and cashless/contactless payment options at dining and retail offerings
- ▶ No indoor seating at restaurants, with increased outdoor seating available

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KNOTT'S BERRY FARM

Reopening: Not yet announced, but some outdoor dining and retail locations at California Marketplace at Knott's Berry Farm are open. Knott's is also offering an all-new outdoor dining and retail experience called Taste of Knott's featuring food, drink and merchandise throughout Ghost Town, Fiesta Village and the Boardwalk area.

What's New: Knott's Bear-y Tales: Return to the Fair, a 4D interactive, slow-moving, dark ride through the County Fair with a reimagined gaming twist, is on track to debut when the 160-acre park reopens. The park postponed its 100th anniversary celebration and Ghost Town Alive! interactive show until next year.

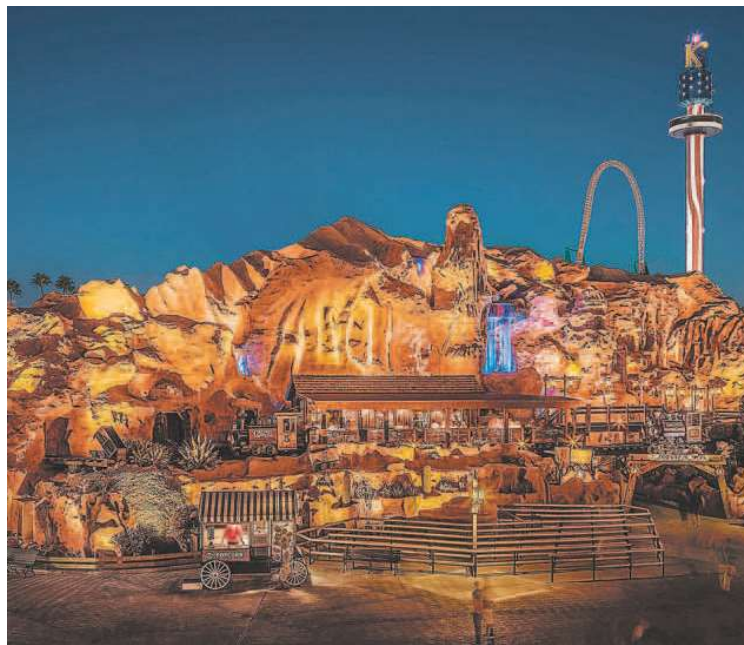
Park Update: "The team at Knott's Berry Farm continues to work with health and safety experts as we plan for increased safety measures and operational changes ... We are in constant communication with our state and federal governments," Jon Storbeck, vice president and general manager, stated on the park's website.



HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES

New protocols include:

- Numerous hand-washing facilities and hand sanitizer locations
- Frequent sanitation procedures for restrooms, kitchens, dining surfaces, benches and trash cans
- Daily cleaning of outdoor locations, including walkways and queues



GETTY IMAGES; KNOTT'S BERRY FARM

LEGOLAND CALIFORNIA RESORT

Reopening: The Carlsbad, Calif., Legoland theme park reopening has not been announced. Sea Life Aquarium reopened then closed July 7 in accordance with new state and county mandates. Legoland Hotel reopened on July 17 and the Big Shop retail and Miniland U.S.A. have also reopened with limited hours.

What's New: The 2-acre Lego Movie World, the largest park addition, features an interactive experience that fully immerses guests into the Lego Movie universe and in one ride, places them in the Battle of Bricksburg. It was slated to open April 1 but has been delayed.

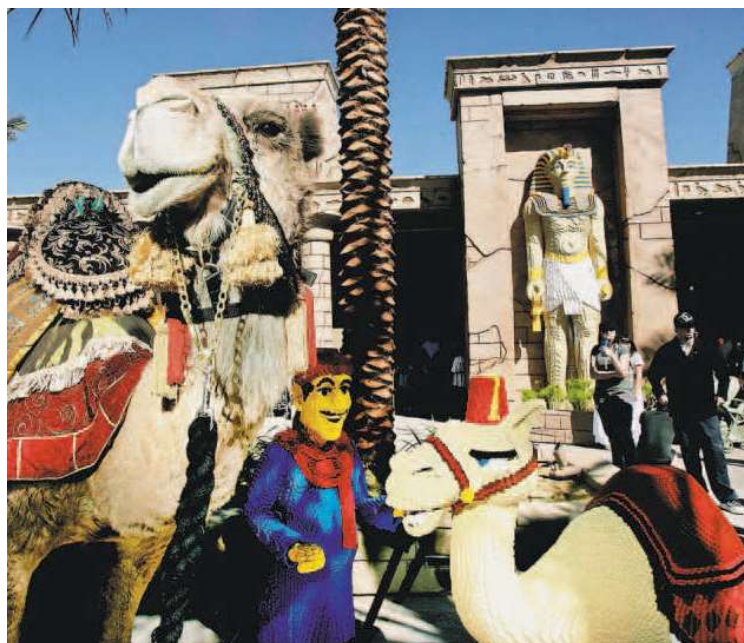
Park Update: According to the website, "Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, we have been forced to temporarily close our resort and ... we are currently rescheduling all existing LEGOLAND vacation package reservations for dates in the fall."



HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES

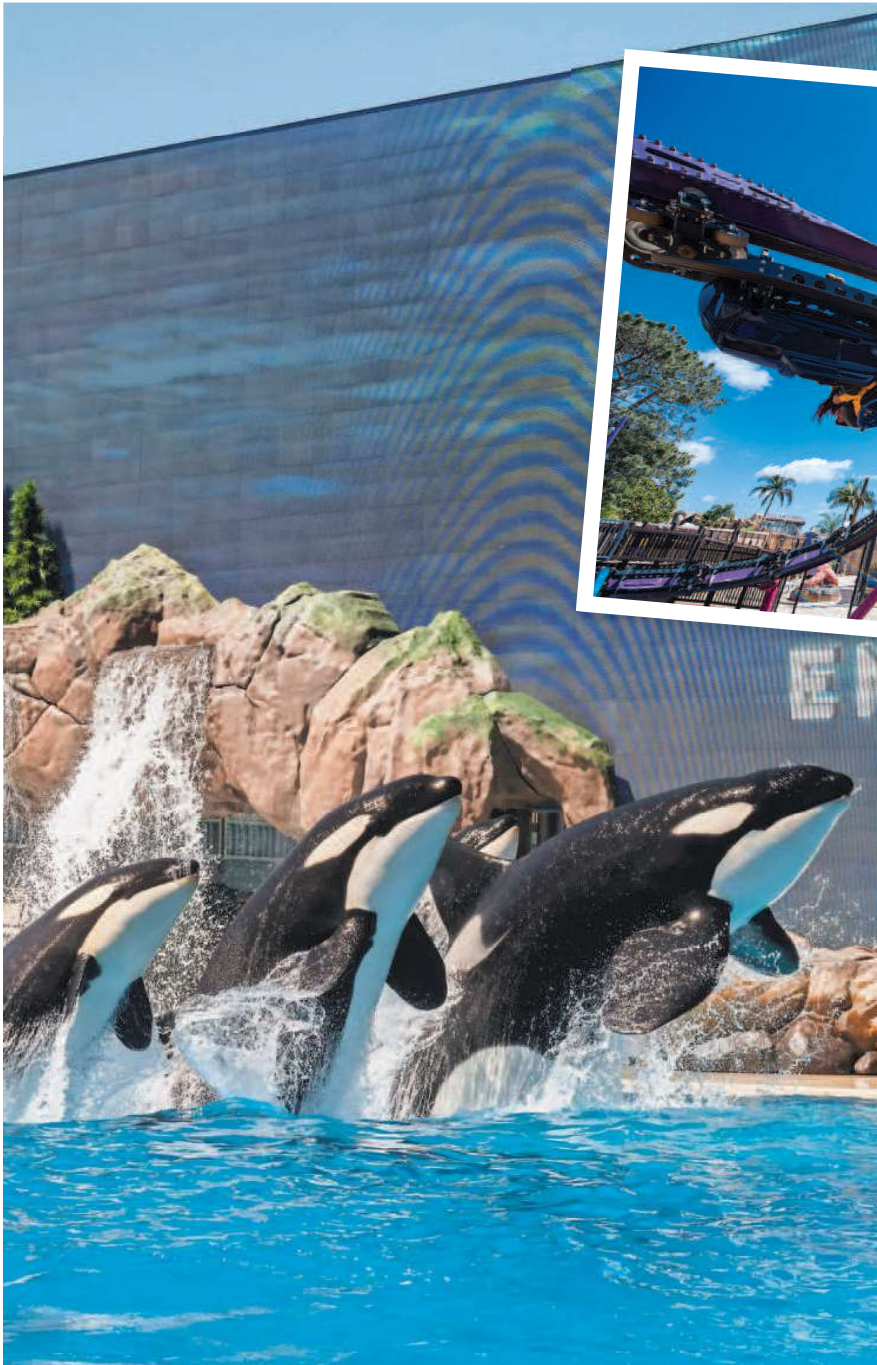
New protocols include:

- Reduced capacity for indoor experiences such as shops, restaurants and theaters
- Hygiene stations and hand sanitizer dispensers throughout the park
- Markers and signage to encourage social distancing
- Enhanced cleaning measures throughout the park, especially at high-frequency touch points



GETTY IMAGES; LEGOLAND

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SEAWORLD
SAN DIEGO

Reopening: Not yet announced. SeaWorld has reopened several other parks around the country.

What's New: California's first floorless dive coaster, Emperor, was slated to open this spring, but will now be delayed to 2021.

Park Update: According to the website, "We continue to monitor the evolving COVID-19 situation closely and are coordinating with the public health officials. We look forward to welcoming our valued guests back to SeaWorld San Diego. We will share updates as we learn more."

HEALTH AND
SAFETY MEASURES

New protocols include:

- ▶ Limited park capacity
- ▶ Guests must make advance online reservations
- ▶ Employees and guests must wear face coverings
- ▶ Employee and guest temperature screenings
- ▶ Modified queues, viewing areas, exhibit capacity and guest flow through exhibits to maintain physical distancing
- ▶ Increased cleaning and sanitation of facilities

SEAWORLD (2); GETTY IMAGES

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SIX FLAGS MAGIC MOUNTAIN AND HURRICANE HARBOR

Reopening: Magic Mountain is not yet announced, but Hurricane Harbor will not reopen this year.

What's New: West Coast Racers — a one-of-a-kind racing coaster featuring two side-by-side tracks with four record-breaking, magnetic launches — opened in January.

Park Update: “At Six Flags, the safety of our guests and employees has always, and continues to be, our top priority. As businesses and entertainment venues reopen around the country, we are doing so with the approval of state and local governments and with an extensive plan in place, in accordance with CDC guidelines, to protect both our guests and employees. This plan includes social distancing, temperature screenings, increased sanitization throughout our parks, informational signage and new training and PPE (personal protective equipment) supplies for employees. The way we operate our parks has been completely redesigned to protect guests and team members,” says Neal Thurman, Six Flags Magic Mountain park president.



HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES

New protocols include:

- ▶ Advance reservations required
- ▶ Employee and guest temperature screenings
- ▶ Distance markers in all park entry, ride, restroom, retail locations and dining queues
- ▶ Reduced capacity at some indoor venues and attractions
- ▶ Modified menus and mobile food ordering with touchless transactions



GETTY IMAGES; SIX FLAGS



UNIVERSAL STUDIOS HOLLYWOOD; GETTY IMAGES

UNIVERSAL STUDIOS HOLLYWOOD

Reopening: Not yet announced. CityWalk reopened July 10 with new health and safety protocols in place.

What's New: The kid-friendly ride, The Secret Life of Pets: Off the Leash, was slated to open this spring.

Park Update: According to the website, “While working closely with local health officials and the company’s own health and safety experts, Universal CityWalk will continue to monitor conditions and make adjustments as conditions evolve.”



HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES

New protocols include:

- ▶ Limiting capacity throughout all entertainment venues, restaurants and shops
- ▶ Increased cleaning and disinfection procedures, including frequent cleaning of all high-touch surfaces
- ▶ Guests and employees must wear face coverings and will receive temperature screenings
- ▶ Prior to boarding rides, guests will be required to use hand sanitizer
- ▶ Floor markings to promote social distancing and guide guest traffic flow