



VISIT GUIDE 2026

The Making of Harry Potter (Warner Bros. Studio Tour)

London · From 153.73€

<https://harrypotter-wbstudiotour.visit-tickets.com/en/> · Skip-the-line tickets & rates



ORIGIN & HISTORY

From Aircraft Factory to Wizarding Temple

GOOGLE **4.8** ★★★★★ 105 647 reviewsTIQETS **4.5** ★★★★★☆ 593 reviews

Before becoming the global pilgrimage site for wizards, this location was a **De Havilland aircraft factory** during World War II. Established in 1940, the massive hangars were designed to produce military planes, creating an industrial scale that would later prove perfect for cinematic sets. The sheer size of these structures explains why the studio could accommodate such elaborate and sprawling film productions without needing extensive external construction.

The transition from aviation to cinema began in the 1990s when the site was acquired by Rolls-Royce and eventually sold off. In 1994, the production team for **GoldenEye** discovered the vacant airfield and recognized its potential. The vast, open spaces of the old factories were transformed into workshops and stages, marking the beginning of Leavesden's new life as a premier film production hub.

In 2000, Heyday Films leased the site specifically for the Harry Potter franchise. Over the next decade, every single film in the series was shot here, alongside other major productions like *Star Wars: Episode I*. This continuous use allowed the studio to accumulate an unparalleled collection of props, costumes, and set pieces that remained on-site even after filming concluded.

Warner Bros. officially purchased the studios in November 2010, investing over **£100 million** to transform Stages J and K into a permanent public exhibition. The design process involved key figures from the films, including production designer Stuart Craig, ensuring that the visitor experience felt authentic. The doors opened on March 31, 2012, welcoming fans to a space where the magic of the screen became tangible reality.

THE EXPERIENCE

Stepping through the entrance feels less like entering a museum and more like crossing a threshold into another world. The architecture retains the raw, industrial character of the original aircraft hangars, with high ceilings and exposed beams that evoke a sense of grandeur and history. As you move deeper inside, the lighting shifts to mimic the atmospheric tones of the films, guiding your senses toward the immersive environments ahead.

The atmosphere is charged with anticipation; you are surrounded by the physical remnants of a story you know intimately. From the smell of old wood in the Forbidden Forest to the echoing silence of the Great Hall, every detail is crafted to trigger sensory memories. It is a rare opportunity to stand within the actual walls where iconic scenes were filmed, blurring the line between fiction and reality in a profoundly moving way.



PREPARE YOUR VISIT

Practical information

ADDRESS South-east England • Access via Watford Junction (train) or M1/M25 motorways. Victoria station for coach packages.	OPENING HOURS Slots are strictly limited. Hours vary by season and special events; check your specific ticket.
FARES Indicative adult price: €153.73. Advance booking is mandatory. {promo}.	VISIT DURATION Budget approximately 3h30 to complete the entire circuit. Add travel time if you take the coach from London.
PHOTOS Photography is allowed everywhere except in specifically marked areas. The green screen photos option is often an extra cost and not included in the standard ti	AUDIENCE Ideal for fans and families. The Forbidden Forest can be intense for very young children sensitive to dark atmospheres or spiders.

HOW TO GET THERE

Access & transport

	Tube / Train : Studios — 2 min à pied London Euston Station (70 min) • London City Airport (98 min)
	Bus : Studios — 2 min à pied London Euston Station (115 min) • London City Airport (162 min)
	Car London Euston Station (92 min) • London City Airport (131 min)
	Santander / Bike London Euston Station (126 min) • London City Airport (179 min)

LOCALISATION

Où se trouve The Making of Harry Potter (Warner Bros. Studio Tour) ?



📍 Studio Tour Dr – WD25 7LR London

🌐 51°41.420' N, 0°25.090' O



ORGANIZATION

Navigating the Studio Circuit

Entry & Diagon Alley

The tour begins with the iconic Platform 9¾, allowing visitors to pass through the barrier. You then enter Diagon Alley, a fully recreated street featuring shops like Ollivanders and Gringotts Bank. The attention to detail in the props and signage creates an immediate sense of immersion.

Hogwarts Castle & Great Hall

This section houses the massive Hogwarts Castle model and the full-scale Great Hall. Visitors can see the floating candles and house banners up close. The area also includes Dumbledore's Office, offering a glimpse into the headmaster's private study with its intricate bookshelves and magical objects.

Forbidden Forest & Hagrid's Hut

The final leg of the indoor tour leads to the dark and atmospheric Forbidden Forest, complete with animatronic creatures. Adjacent to this is Hagrid's Hut, showcasing the shambolic charm of the half-giant's home. This section concludes the main circuit before exiting to the outdoor areas.

ACCESSIBILITY

**Disabled Access**

Check the specific accessibility of the bus and indoor stages with your chosen operator.

**Families**

Family-friendly, but be mindful of the dark atmosphere in the Forbidden Forest for young children.

**Audio guide**

French, English, Spanish, Italian, German



Must-sees

SELECTION

Must-See Sets and Artifacts

01

Entrance Area

Platform 9 $\frac{3}{4}$

This is the most famous spot for photos, replicating the scene where Harry boards his first train. The set features the half-wall effect that allows visitors to step partially through. It is a powerful symbol of the journey into the wizarding world.

💡 The platform was originally built for the first film and has been maintained in pristine condition for the tour, ensuring the 'magic' remains intact for millions of visitors.

02

Hogwarts Section

The Great Hall

A full-scale recreation of the dining hall, complete with four long tables and floating candles. The ceiling is painted with a night sky that changes throughout the day. It is one of the largest sets ever built for the franchise.

💡 The tablecloths and place settings are genuine props used during filming, giving visitors a tangible connection to the characters' daily lives.

03

Hogwarts Section

Dumbledore's Office

This room offers an intimate look at the Headmaster's workspace, filled with books, portraits, and magical instruments. The set design captures the cluttered yet organized nature of Dumbledore's mind. It is a favorite among fans for its density of details.

💡 Many of the books on the shelves are real, some dating back centuries, adding authenticity to the scholarly atmosphere of the office.

04

Hogwarts Section

Hogwarts Castle Model

A 1:24 scale model of the castle showcases the intricate architectural details that cannot be seen on screen. It highlights the complexity of the set construction and the engineering required to create such a vast structure. It serves as a testament to the craftsmanship of the art department.

💡 The model was used extensively in pre-production planning and remains a key reference point for understanding the layout of the school.

05

Diagon Alley

Diagon Alley

This bustling street features numerous shop fronts, each meticulously decorated with period-appropriate items. Visitors can browse wands, potions, and broomsticks displayed in the windows. The street is designed to feel alive, with ambient sounds and lighting enhancing the experience.

💡 Some of the shop interiors are fully furnished, allowing visitors to step inside and explore the merchandise in greater depth than shown in the films.

06

Forest Section

The Forbidden Forest

A dark, immersive environment filled with trees, foliage, and animatronic creatures. The lighting is low, creating a mysterious and slightly eerie atmosphere. It is a highlight for those who enjoy the darker aspects of the wizarding world.

💡 The forest set was designed to be expandable, allowing for different scenes to be filmed within the same physical space by changing the background projections.

07

Forest Section

Hagrid's Hut

This charming, cluttered hut offers a cozy contrast to the wild forest outside. It is filled with knick-knacks, teapots, and personal items belonging to Hagrid. The set captures the warmth and eccentricity of the character's living space.

💡 Many of the items in the hut were donated by the cast and crew, adding a personal touch to the display.

08

Ministry Section

Ministry of Magic

This sleek, modern interior represents the bureaucratic heart of the wizarding government. The set features clean lines and futuristic elements that contrast with the medieval aesthetic of Hogwarts. It provides insight into the political side of the story.

💡 The elevator shaft in the Ministry set was a complex mechanical feat, requiring precise synchronization with the actors' movements during filming.

TIPS

Essential Tips for Your Visit

TIMING

Arrive at least 15 minutes before your time slot to allow for security checks and ticket scanning, as queues can build quickly on busy days.

BILLET

Advance booking is mandatory due to high demand; check if your ticket includes the audioguide in your preferred language, as it is often an add-on cost.

PARCOURS

Follow the designated path strictly, as the tour is linear; do not try to backtrack, as it will disrupt the flow for other visitors.

PHOTO

Photography is allowed everywhere except in marked no-photo zones; consider purchasing the green screen photo option if you want professional-quality souvenirs.

PAUSE

There is catering on-site, but it may be an extra cost; plan a budget for lunch if you do not wish to return to Watford for food.

ENFANTS

Be mindful of the dark atmosphere in the Forbidden Forest, which may be intense for very young children sensitive to spiders or darkness.

AUDIOGUIDE

The audioguide provides essential context about the making of the films; ensure you select the correct language version before starting the tour.

CONFORT

Wear comfortable shoes, as the tour involves significant walking across large studio floors; dress in layers as temperatures can vary between sections.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ

Do I need to book tickets in advance?

Yes, advance booking is mandatory to guarantee access, as the exhibition hosts more than 6,000 visitors per day. Slots go quickly, especially during peak season. Always check the exact date on your confirmation.

What is the difference between the entry ticket and the package with a coach?

The entry ticket alone only covers access to the Leavesden Studios. The package includes round-trip coach transport from London Victoria station. Choose based on your preferred mode of transport.

What time does the visit start if I have a package with a coach?

The time indicated on the package usually corresponds to the departure from London, not the actual entry to the studios. Allow approximately 45 minutes of travel to arrive on site. Check the details of the specific produ

Are cancellation conditions the same for all operators?

No, they vary depending on the third-party booking service used. Some offer free cancellation up to 48h in advance, others do not. Read the conditions specific to your ticket carefully before finalizing your purchase.

How long does the studio tour last?

The official circuit takes approximately 3h30 to complete at a relaxed pace. It is a museum-style exhibition, not a theme park. Plan this real time into your London itinerary.

DID YOU KNOW?

Anecdotes & curiosities

Aircraft Heritage

The site was originally a De Havilland aircraft factory during WWII. The immense size of the hangars, built to house large planes, is what made them suitable for the massive sets of the Harry Potter films. This industrial legacy is still visible in the architecture of the studio.

Visitor Volume

The exhibition welcomes more than 6,000 visitors per day. This high attendance necessitates strict reservation systems to manage crowd flow and ensure a smooth experience for all guests. Slots sell out quickly, especially during peak seasons.

Investment Scale

Warner Bros invested over £100 million to transform Stages J and K into a permanent exhibition. This significant financial commitment ensures that the conservation of the sets and props is of the highest quality, preserving them for future generations.

Recent Opening

Although films have been shot there since 2000, the public exhibition only opened in 2012. This means the current structures are relatively recent and optimized for visitor safety and accessibility, unlike older film studios.

AROUND THE MUSEUM

Located in Leavesden, about thirty kilometers from London, the studio offers several options for extending your day. Right next door is the **National Motor Museum**, featuring a historical collection of cars and motorcycles that pairs well with a film-focused trip. For a quieter break, Potters Park provides a peaceful green space ideal for a picnic lunch if you prefer to avoid the on-site restaurants. If you are arriving by train, Watford Junction Station serves as the main hub, connected to the studio by a regular shuttle service. After your visit, you can explore the small local shopping center in Leavesden Village Centre for quick snacks or souvenirs before heading back to the city.



Leaving the studios is often bittersweet, as you realize the magic is not just on screen but embedded in these physical spaces. Whether you are a lifelong fan or a first-time visitor, the emotional impact of seeing **real artifacts** from the films is unforgettable. This is not just a tour; it is a journey back to the moment you first fell in love with the wizarding world, leaving you with memories that last long after the visit ends.