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Opened in 1999, Legoland California was the first Lego-themed park in the U.S. (There are now Leogland parks in Florida and New York as well.) As with the other Legoland parks in America and around the world, the focus is on children 12 and under and their families. Based on the popular toy brand and its characters, many of the attractions and other elements throughout the park appear to be fashioned out of the brightly colored bricks. The heart of Legoland is Miniland U.S.A., which features elaborate, miniature dioramas that are all crafted out of Lego blocks. The exhibits depict famous sites and landmarks in the nation including facsimiles of Hollywood’s Chinese Theatre and surfer dudes hanging ten; San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge and Pier 39; the Las Vegas Strip and its iconic casinos; the French Quarter of New Orleans; Lego versions of the White House and the Capitol building; and miniatures of New York City skyscrapers and Central Park. In addition to the theme park, Legoland California offers two additional gates (which each require separate admission). Visitors can cool down and enjoy the water slides, water play areas, and other features at the Legoland and Chima Water Park while the Sea Life Aquarium features marine life exhibits that are specially designed for children. The theme park is large and loaded with things to see and experience and with two on-site hotels (which, like everything else at the property, is geared to families with young children), Legoland California is a true destination resort. Because it targets children, Legoland’s rides are mostly on the mild side. (There are a few that deliver a modicum of thrills.) Rather than passive rides, many of the attractions engage visitors with interactive elements. There are even opportunities to build things with Lego bricks and accessories. Since some attractions have minimum height requirements as low as 30 inches, and others have no height requirements, even very young children will find plenty to do at the park. On many of the attractions, kids participate in the action. For example, they get to steer their own miniature cars in Driving School and can earn a Legoland driver’s license if they correctly follow the rules of the road. There is a Junior Driving School for children ages 3 to 5. On the Kid Power Tower, guests hoist themselves up and then get to let themselves fall to the ground. On the Aquazone Wave Racer, passengers have to pilot their vehicles to avoid water blasts, and at Skipper School, they can freely steer boats around a lagoon. The Fun Town Police and Fire Academy recruits visitors to rescue a burning building by using fire hoses. On the high-tech Lego Ninjago the Ride, passengers use martial arts-like hand gestures to hurl lightning bolts and other virtual weapons at villains. Legoland California also offers some out-and-out thrills (albeit, the “pink-knuckle” variety) on roller coasters such as Coastersaurus, The Dragon (which travels both outdoors and into a castle to confront the namesake creature), and the Lego Technic Coaster. There is also the interactive Lost Kingdom Adventure dark ride, a Safari Trek that features encounters with Lego animals, and Lego City: Deep Sea Adventure, an underwater journey aboard an actual submarine. Among the park’s shows is the wildly funny The Lego Movie 4D A New Adventure. The 4D presentation features Emmet, Unikitty, and other characters from the hilarious movie series. Other 4D shows include Lego City 4D - Officer in Pursuit! and Lego Ninjago: Master of the 4th Dimension. Courtesy of The Merlin Entertainments Group Legoland’s water park has the usual suspects, including body slides, a mat racing slide, a family raft ride, a wave pool, and an interactive water play station with a dump bucket. It also offers Pirate Reef, a shoot-the-chutes boat ride in which everybody gets soaked. But the water park is also unique in that, like the theme park, it offers some interactive, hands-on experiences. For Build-A-Raft River, guests can customize their inner tubes with oversized Lego bricks before floating down a lazy river. At Eglor’s Build-A-Boat, kids can use bricks to create a boat and then race against other participants. At Imagination Station, visitors can use Duplo bricks to build bridges, dams, and other structures in the water. For young children, the park also offers pint-sized fun. At Splash Zoo, kids can frolic among Duplo animals, while at Duplo Splash Safari, there are sprayers and other ways for children to douse themselves and others. Many of the exhibits at Sea Life Aquarium are hands-on, including opportunities to touch sea stars at the Southern California Rockpool, cavort with stingrays in the Ray Lagoon, and get up close and personal with other creatures in the interactive touchpool. Other zones include Shark Mission, Kingdom of the Seahorse, and San Francisco Harbor, which features animals indigenous to the region (including a giant Pacific octopus). One of the more unique exhibits at the aquarium is Sea at Night. It allows visitors to splash among (virtual) tides and experience a simulated nighttime oceanside environment complete with stars, even during the day. The Merlin Entertainments Group In 2022, Legoland will be debuting Lego Ferrari Build and Race, an interactive, hands-on experience in which guests will be able to build their own sports car models and then race them against other participants. There will be opportunities to build and race both physical and digital models. In 2021, the park opened a new land, The Lego Movie World. Based on the popular (and very funny) movie series, the land features three new attractions. The highlight, Emmet’s Flying Adventure Ride, is a flying theater attraction (think Disney’s Soarin’) that transports passengers into The Lego Movie landscape. There is also the drop tower ride, Unikitty’s Disco Drop, and Queen Watevra's Carousel. Guests can also visit Emmet’s Super Suite and meet characters from the movies, have fun in Benny’s Playship playground, and snap together creations using Lego bricks in Build Watevra You Wa’Na Build. Courtesy of The Merlin Entertainments Group It’s designed for the under-12 set, but Legoland California has fare to appeal to parents (and kids with more sophisticated palates). Sure, there are burgers, mac and cheese, and pizza. But there is also banh mi sandwiches, spicy rice and noodle bowls, porchetta, and pesto chicken salad on the menu as well. A good choice is Knight’s Smokehouse BBQ, which offers pulled pork, beef brisket, and other delicacies cooked on-site in a wood smoker. Craft beer is also available for over-21s. For treats, Legoland offers ice cream, churros, popcorn, and other traditional park fare. Granny’s apple fries—one of the park's more unique, signature items, features granny smith apple slices that are smothered in cinnamon sugar and vanilla cream. One-day passes to the park are available. Children 3 and under are free; all others pay the same price. Legoland often sells advance tickets at a discount online at its official site. It also sometimes offers 2-day tickets at a discount on its site. Separate admission is required for Sea Life Aquarium and Legoland and Chima Water Park. Visitors can purchase a-la-carte tickets to the aquarium, but in order to enter the water park, you must first have a pass to the theme park. (Entrance to the water park is inside the theme park.) Packages are generally available that include Legoland park plus one or both of the other attractions. The resort also generally offers hotel packages that include accommodations at its on-site properties and passes to the park, water park, and aquarium. Legoland offers annual passes, which come in a variety of levels. The higher levels, which cost more, include additional benefits such as admission to the aquarium and the water park, fewer blackout dates, and free parking. Courtesy of The Merlin Entertainments Group Legoland California offers two on-site properties: Legoland Hotel and Legoland Castle Hotel. The rooms, which come in a variety of configurations, have Lego-inspired themes, including Lego Ninjago and pirates at the Legoland Hotel, and knights and dragons at the Castle Hotel. Both properties offer easy access to the park, water park, and aquarium as well as pools, play areas, and other amenities. Breakfast is included at the Legoland Hotel. The theme park and aquarium are open year round. The water park is open daily in June, July, and August as well as some days in March, April, May, and generally weekends only in September and October. Crowds are typically highest in March and early April during spring break, June and July for summer break, and late December for the holidays. If you want to avoid crowds, the lowest attendance periods are late January, mid-to-late August, September, and early December. Legoland California is located in Carlsbad, California at One Legoland Drive. The resort is about 30 minutes away from San Diego. From the I-5 Freeway, take the Cannon Road exit. Nearby airports include San Diego (SAN) and Los Angeles International (LAX). There is also a nearby, smaller airport, Carlsbad (CLD/CRQ - McClellan-Palomar). You might want to consider visiting during the fall, when the crowds are (generally) fairly light, and the park offers its Halloween event, Brick-or-Treat. The scare-free event includes special shows, trick-or-treat stations, costume contests, and character meet-and-greets. While attendance is heavier during the holidays (especially later in December), Legoland does deck its halls with Lego-themed ornaments. It also offers a holiday light show, seasonal treats, and live music. Go San Diego offers passes that include discounted admission to Legoland California (as well as the San Diego Zoo, SeaWorld San Diego, and other area attractions). Options include: the All-Inclusive pass, which offers unlimited admission to as many attractions as you wish to visit over the course of a prescribed number of days; or the Build Your Own pass, which offers discount pricing on specific attractions. The CityPASS program includes access to Legoland California. In the past, CityPASS charged one price for its Southern California pass, and offered admission to Disneyland Park, Disney California Adventure, Universal Studios Hollywood, SeaWorld San Diego, and San Diego Zoo, in addition to Legoland. The San Diego Tourism Authority offers San Diego's Fab 4 Combo Deal. The discount pass includes admission to Legoland California, SeaWorld San Diego, San Diego Zoo, and San Diego Zoo Safari Park. Take advantage of early admission. Guests staying at Legoland’s on-site hotels get to enter the park before the general public. If you visit during an especially busy time, you may want to consider purchasing Reserve N Ride, Legoland’s line-reduction program. It comes in three varieties, all of which allow visitors to make ride reservations and skip the lines; the more you pay, the less time you’ll have to wait before boarding rides. Download the Legoland mobile app prior to your visit. It offers resources to help plan your visit as well as enjoy your experiences at the park. The app can be used to purchase tickets, find out waiting times for rides, gain access to offers and discounts, see showtimes, and more. If you have young children who do not meet height requirements, take advantage of the park’s parent swap program. All members of your family can wait in line together, and parents can trade places going on a ride and staying with their children without having to get back in line. Sign up to receive the latest news, events, and updates about San Diego. Our monthly and weekly newsletters will keep you informed about the latest and greatest happenings in the destination. Come play your part at LEGOLAND® California Resort, located just 30 minutes north of San Diego and one hour south of Anaheim. With more than 60 rides, shows and attractions, it's an interactive, hands-on theme park experience for families with children 2 - 12. The Resort is also home to SEA LIFE® Aquarium and the world's first LEGOLAND® Water Park. And if you've ever dreamed of spending the night at LEGOLAND, LEGOLAND Hotel and LEGOLAND Castle Hotel at the Resort are open and less than 2 miles from the nearest beach. These LEGO themed hotels feature 500 rooms based on the popular LEGO lines: Pirate, Kingdom, Adventure and LEGO Friends. The LEGOLAND Castle Hotel features Knights & Dragons, Wizard and Princess themed rooms. Add nightly children's entertainment, interactive LEGO features throughout and early access to LEGOLAND Park for Hotel guests and it's the LEGO experience you've always dreamed of! Book your San Diego vacation now. There are eight other LEGOLAND Parks in the world – LEGOLAND Billund in Denmark, LEGOLAND Windsor outside of London, LEGOLAND Florida and LEGOLAND New York in the U.S., LEGOLAND Deutschland in Germany, LEGOLAND Malaysia, LEGOLAND Dubai, LEGOLAND Japan, and LEGOLAND Korea. 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Theme park in Carlsbad, California Legoland California ResortLegoland California main entranceLocationLegoland California Resort, Carlsbad, California, United StatesCoordinates33°7′36″N 117°18′40″W / 33.12667°N 117.31111°W / 33.12667; -117.31111StatusOperatingOpenedMarch 20, 1999; 26 years ago (1999-03-20)[1][2]OwnerMerlin EntertainmentsGeneral managerKurt StocksThemeLego toys and childhood amusementOperating seasonYear-roundAttendance1.4 million (2004)[3][needs update]Area128 acres (52 ha)AttractionsTotalmore than 60 ridesRoller coasters4Water rides8WebsiteOfficial website Legoland California Resort is a theme park in Carlsbad, California, United States, about 35 miles north of San Diego. Opening on March 20, 1999, it was the first Legoland park to open outside of Europe.[1] It has over 60 rides, shows, and attractions, plus a water park, an aquarium and two hotels. The park is currently owned by Merlin Entertainments, which took a controlling interest in 2005.[4] The second park in the United States is Legoland Florida, which opened in 2011. A third park, Legoland New York, opened in May 2021. The Legoland California Resort currently encompasses: The original park (opened in March 1999)[1] A Lego-themed Sea Life Aquarium (opened in August 2008),[5] the first Sea Life in the United States[6] A Lego-themed water park (opened in May 2010)[7] A Lego Chima expansion to the water park (opened in 2014)[8] The resort site includes two hotels: Legoland Resort Hotel (250 rooms, opened in April 2013)[9] The first floor has rooms based on Kingdoms, Ninjago, and Friends. The second floor has rooms based on Pirates. The third floor has rooms based on Adventure.[10] Legoland Castle Hotel (250 rooms, opened in April 2018)[11] Lego opened the first Legoland theme park in Billund, Denmark in 1968, followed by a second park in Windsor, England in 1996. The Carlsbad park was the third to open, in March 1999.[1][12] At the time, Lego was considering an additional United States Legoland to be located somewhere on the east coast.[13] When the park opened, there were eight themed areas. Starting at the entrance (at the central southern part of the park) and proceeding clockwise, they were:[14] 60m65ydsLegoland HotelNinjago WorldImagination ZoneLand of AdventureMiniland USACastle HillPirate ShoresWater ParkLEGO/DUPLO Fun TownThe LEGO Movie WorldSea Life AquariumDino ValleyMain entrance Themed areas and key locations within Legoland California Resort The Beginning (park entrance and gift shop)[15] Village Green (including Playtown for toddlers)[16] The Ridge[17] Fun Town[18] The Garden[19] Miniland[20] (including The Lake[21] in the center of the park) Castle Hill[22] Imagination Zone[23] By 2002, Village Green and The Ridge had been combined into an area called Explore Village[24] and the Aquazone and LEGO Technic Test Track rides had been installed at Imagination Zone.[25] The fourth Legoland, built in Germany, opened in 2002. Dino Island and Coastersaurus opened in April 2004;[26] the park also added Fun Town Fire Academy, a Florida-themed Miniland area, and the Block of Fame for its fifth anniversary.[27] Legoland California installed the first KUKA RoboCoaster in the United States in 2005.[28] However, the weak retail toy market led to the sale of the four Legoland theme parks in July 2005 for $456 million[29] to Blackstone Capital Partners, a private equity firm based in the United States. Blackstone had previously purchased Merlin in May 2005, which owned the Sea Life Centres and London Dungeon;[30] the two assets were combined as Merlin Entertainments, with Lego taking a 30% ownership share in the combined Merlin Entertainments.[31] Collectively, the four theme parks had approximately 5 million visitors per year at the time.[32] Under Merlin, Legoland California would add Pirate Shores (2006),[33] a Las Vegas-themed Miniland area (2007),[34] the Egyptian explorer-themed Land of Adventure (2008),[35] and the 5.5-acre (2.2 ha) Legoland Water Park (2010).[36] In 2009, Merlin requested permission to develop an onsite Lego-themed hotel in the existing parking lot;[37] permission was granted in October[38] and plans for the 250-room hotel were announced in 2011, making the site a resort in 2013.[39] The first fictional Miniland area, themed with scenes from the six (at the time) Star Wars movies and the Clone Wars television series,[40] opened in March 2011.[41] The water park was expanded in 2014 with a Chima-themed area.[42] A second 250-room hotel with a castle theme was added in 2018.[43] Attendance at Legoland California reached 2.5 million visitors in 2013 and nearly 3 million by 2015, nearly double the attendance of Legoland Florida. More than $20 million was spent per year on sales tax on food and merchandise. The park employed more than 2200 workers in total: 600 full-time, nearly 500 part-time, and more than 1100 seasonal.[44] In mid-March 2020, in line with other Legoland parks, the park was indefinitely shut down because of the COVID-19 pandemic and reopened on April 1, 2021. Dino Valley is a section[45] with themes of dinosaurs and exploration. It contains a large sand area where children may dig for "fossils" and the Gerstlauer-built Coastersaurus[46] mini steel roller coaster, a close copy of the Legoland Germany junior coaster Drachenjagd, with a ride duration of approximately 2 minutes. It was installed in 2004[47] by Ride Entertainment Group, who handles all of Gerstlauer's operations in the Western Hemisphere.[48][49] Explorer Island was previously named Dino Island.[50] When the Village Green/Explore Village area was taken over by Heartlake City, the Fairy Tale Brook boat ride and Safari Trek on-rail driving ride (originally a walking trail showing life-size African animals built with LEGO bricks) were counted as part of the renamed Explorer Island. These rides date back to the opening of the park.[51][52][53] Explorer Island was rethemed and renamed "Dino Valley" and opened on March 22nd, 2024.[54] Attraction Added Manufacturer Image Description Coastersaurus 2004 Gerstlauer Gerstlauer Junior Coaster, installed in 2004.[26] Explorer River Quest 2024 Boat ride featuring large-scale LEGO models of various Dinosaurs. DUPLO® Little Dino Trail 2024 On-rail driving ride featuring life-size DUPLO dinosaurs. The Heartlake City section, which opened on May 21, 2015,[50] is based on the Lego Friends brand marketed to girls. The area features Heartlake Fountain, a water play area; Friends Forever Stage, where musical performances occur; Heartlake Stables, a play area and building zone; and Mia's Riding Camp, a carousel. Heartlake City replaced Duplo Village, which included a set of musical fountains and water features collectively called the "Water Works".[16] A temporary installation of the sets from The Lego Movie opened in 2014 at Duplo Village.[55] "DUPLO Playtown", a play area for little kids, and "LEGOLAND Express", a mini locomotive ride through the Playtown used to be in the Duplo Village/Heartlake City area. When Heartlake City opened, "DUPLO Playtown" and "LEGOLAND Express" became part of the nearby area, Fun Town. On May 9, 2019, DUPLO Playtown reopened in the queue of the Kid Power Tower. In that same year, Heartlake City was removed and replaced with a Lego Movie themed area in 2021. Entrance to Emmet's Flying Adventure In spring 2020, LEGOLAND California Resort was scheduled to open their biggest addition in the history of the park, The Lego Movie World. The opening was delayed until May 27, 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The area features Emmet's Flying Adventure – Masters of Flight, a flying theatre attraction (similar to Soarin' at EPCOT and Disney California Adventure). Unlike Florida and Billund, this version will include two theatres rather than one. This area will also feature Unikitty's Disco Drop, a drop attraction where riders seated in four pairs raise, drop, and spin around a pole. It features two towers. There is also a carousel called Queen Watevra's Carousel, from LEGO Friends Heartlake City. Additionally, there is also a build area, Build Watevra You Wa'Na Build, and small playground, Benny's Playship, with two tall twisty slides that look like a rocket. There is also a splash pad with fountains, a convenience store, three dining locations, Everything is Ramen (a ramen quick service location), Cloud Cuckoo Crêpes (a crêpe stand), and Benny's Rocket Fuel (basic food stand with popcorn and pretzels). Attractions: Emmet's Flying Adventure Unikitty's Disco Drop! Queen Waterva's Carousel Emmet's Super Suite Benny's Playship Build Waterva You Wa'Na Build Fun Town is a role-playing amusement area where guests simulate adult skills or professional identities, such as driving cars, steering boats, or fighting fires.[18][56] [57] Attraction Added Manufacturer Image Description DUPLO Playtown 1999 Playground for young children Legoland Express 1999 Small train ride within Playtown Driving School 1999 SB International Children aged 6 to 13 years drive self-propelled Lego cars on a closed circuit featuring multiple intersections, two way traffic and traffic signals. It is designed to promote safe driving and skills.[58] Volvo became the sponsor shortly after the park's 5th anniversary in 2004.[27] Junior Driving School 1999 SB International Children aged 3 to 5 years drive similar self-propelled Lego cars on a simple oval. Sky Patrol 1999 Lego helicopter-themed ride that moves up and down and can spin in place Skipper School 1999 SB International Self-propelled boat-ride that travels a winding water course Kid Power Towers 1999 Heege Tower ride where riders pull themselves up the ride with a rope Adventurer's Club 1999 Walk-through attraction with scenes such as ancient Egypt, a rainforest, and the arctic LEGO Factory Tour 1999 Walk-through attraction that teaches young children how LEGO models are made LEGO Life Zone 1999 A room where you can build your own LEGO models with occasional classes teaching children techniques on building LEGO models A Lego man using the toilet in Legoland California's Grand Central Station model. Miniland USA is a 1:20 scale model miniature park featuring prominent architecture and symbols from seven areas in the United States.[59] Certain models are visible throughout the Legoland park. It was constructed over the course of three years using more than 20 million LEGO bricks.[60] The Coast Cruise ride, which departs from Miniland USA, travels through the lake in the center of Legoland. The lake covers 1.73 acres (0.70 ha).[21] Miniland includes the Model Shop, the main design and building office for Legoland's US parks. A large viewing window allows guests to watch master model builders working on new models. Repairs and refurbishment of existing models are also conducted in the Model Shop.[61] Certain model builders have inserted incongruous scenes into the Miniland vignettes, including a businessman mooning the presidential motorcade and a man using the toilet in the Grand Central Station model. Miniland officials insist all such scenes are incorporated with full management knowledge and approval.[62] The Star Wars-themed Miniland was expanded with a life-size model of an X-wing starfighter, on display in 2013.[63] A large-scale model of the Death Star was added in 2015, along with a recreation of the trench run scene from the climax of Episode IV.[64] Scenes from The Force Awakens were added in 2017,[65] including what was billed as the longest LEGO model for Star Wars Miniland, a 16 ft (4.9 m) long Resurgent-class Star Destroyer Finalizer.[66] On January 6, 2020, Star Wars Miniland was permanently closed.[67] Attraction Added Manufacturer Image Description Coast Cruise 1999 Morgan Manufacturing 8-minute-long boat ride where guests can view many monuments such as the Sydney Opera House, Taj Mahal, Eiffel Tower, London Eye, and Mount Rushmore, as well as a few other interesting models such as the depiction of a scene from Gulliver's Travels New England 1999 Depicts a New England harbor and local architecture Las Vegas 2007 Depicts the Las Vegas Strip with its famous hotels such as Tropicana Las Vegas, Mirage Las Vegas, and the Stratosphere Tower.[33][34] Washington, DC 1999 Depicts the National Mall with monuments such as the U.S. Capitol, Washington Monument, and the Smithsonian Castle Block of Fame 2004 Park walkway with LEGO busts of famous individuals such as George Washington, Marilyn Monroe, and Winston Churchill. Installed in 2004.[27] Ferndale 1999 Depicts the Ferndale Main Street Historic District in Ferndale, California Model Shop 1999 Viewing area for the park's model shop, where many of Legoland California's models are built New Orleans 1999–2023 Depicts New Orleans and its many waterways. Replaced by San Diego in 2023. New York 1999 Depicts Manhattan Island of New York City with models of places like Central Park and Times Square. The model of Downtown Manhattan included the 2002 design of One World Trade Center; the model has since been updated to match the finished skyscraper. San Francisco 1999 Depicts San Francisco with models including Pier 39, the Golden Gate Bridge, and the Transamerica Pyramid Southern California 1999 Depicts Southern California with models including the TCL Chinese Theatre, Oceanside Pier, and Mission San Luis Rey. In 2018, the entire area aside from the Hollywood Sign and the Griffith Observatory was taken down to be replaced. Star Wars Miniland 2011–2020 Depicted seven Star Wars movies, including the Clone Wars movie[60] Opened in 2011,[68] replacing a Florida-themed Miniland whose models were moved to the Winter Haven park.[69][70] San Diego 2023 Depicts San Diego landmarks such as Petco Park, Santa Fe Depot, San Diego Convention Center, Coronado Island (including Hotel del Coronado) There is also a LEGO MTS trolley that runs around the area. Castle Hill is a medieval castle-themed area.[22] The area includes one roller coaster and a wooden playground for little kids. In 2005, Legoland opened the Wild Woods Golf putting course decorated with off-green LEGO models on the west side of Castle Hill.[71] Wild Woods Golf and the neighboring Enchanted Walk were replaced by the submarine ride LEGO City: Deep Sea Adventure, which opened in July 2018.[72] Attraction Added Manufacturer Image Description The Dragon 1999 Vekoma Family steel roller coaster with the first segment of the ride acting like a dark ride through a castle. 20 riders per 10-car train.[73] The Hideaways 1999 Large multi-level wooden playground designed for younger children, structure with slides, rope ladders, and bridges. LEGO City: Deep Sea Adventure 2018 Mack Rides 12 riders per submarine on a voyage through a 350,000 US gal (1,300,000 L) aquarium populated with LEGO-themed decorations and 2,000 live animals.[74] Similar to submarine rides at Legoland Dubai and Windsor; costliest single upgrade to any Legoland park at the time it opened.[75] The Royal Joust 1999 Metallbau Emmeln Rocking horse ride where guests ages 4 to 12 ride fiberglass horses that rock back and forth above a track. In the Imagination Zone, visitors can ride a Wild Mouse-style roller coaster called the Technic Coaster-Test Track (formerly named Project X), Bionicle Blaster (a variant of a teacup ride). Kids can also build and race Lego cars down a ramp at Build 'n Test (younger children have a similar build and play area in the same building, named Duplo Play), play LEGO PC games at the Maniac Challenge (later converted to consoles and renamed the Xbox Family Gamespace after its corporate sponsor),[76] and program robots in Mindstorms. At the park's opening in 1999, the Imagination Zone only referred to the Maniac Challenge/Mindstorms and Build & Test/Duplo Play buildings; the other rides had not yet been built. The Maniac Challenge/Mindstorms building was distinguished by large LEGO models of Albert Einstein's head, a submarine, and a Technic Tyrannosaurus rex.[23] The LEGO Show Place theater screens 4-D films. In the initial incarnation, the movie was interactive and the audience could decide the ending.[23] Later, more movies were added, including Bob the Builder and Clutch Powers (a racing movie). Racers 4-D began alternating with the new Spellbreaker 4-D film in May 2006.[77] Bob the Builder in 4-D: Bob the Builder and the Roller Coaster was added in March 2009.[78] The Legends of Chima debuted on March 7, 2014.[42] The LEGO Movie™ 4D A New Adventure was added to Legoland California on February 6, 2016.[79] LEGO NINJAGO – Master of the 4th Dimension opened on January 12, 2018.[80] LEGO City 4D – Officer in Pursuit! was added on April 12, 2019.[81] In February 2019, sets from The Lego Movie 2 were installed in the Imagination Zone.[82] Attraction Added Manufacturer Image Description Technic Coaster 2001 Mack Rides Wild mouse roller coaster; single-car ride with four riders per car.[83] Bionicle Blaster 2003 Mack Bionicle-themed tea cups ride. LEGO Show Place 1999 4D theater that shows seasonal movies. LEGO City Space Area where guests can build either a rocket or a moon rover that could "help" with NASA's Artemis mission. A LEGO model of the Space Shuttle Discovery is on display at the entrance of the room.[84] LEGO Mindstorms Classes that teach children how to operate Mindstorms robots Ferrari Build & Race 2022 A Ferrari themed room where guests can either build LEGO models of Ferrari vehicles, or build their own creation. A life-sized LEGO model of a Ferrari F40 can also be seen there.[85] Pirate Shores is a splash park with water-oriented rides and attractions.[86] This area was added in 2006, and Captain Cranky's Challenge was added in May 2007.[33] Attraction Added Manufacturer Image Description Captain Cranky's Challenge 2007 Zamperla A ride with a mock pirate ship that sways in an u-shaped track and rotates bi-directionally Pirate Reef 2012 Hopkins Rides A "shoot the chutes" attraction with interactive components including a splash bridge, water cannons and brick building play area. This attraction is accessible from both Pirate Shores and the Legoland Water Park and only operates seasonally.[87] Soak n' Sail 2006 Whitewater West The larger of the two water playgrounds.[88] [77] Splash Battle 2006 Preston & Barbieri A water ride where guests spray each other with water on-ride and off-ride; up to four passengers per boat and each seat is equipped with a water cannon.[88] Swabbie's Deck 2006 A small water play area for small children, developed as "Squabbies Deck".[77] This section is designed to replicate the 1920s in Egypt, drawing inspiration from the LEGO Adventurers line (Egypt sub-theme).[89] Land of Adventure opened in March 2008.[90][35] Attraction Added Manufacturer Image Description Beetle Bounce 2008 S&S Worldwide Guests bounce nearly 15 feet (4.6 m) to nearly touch the enormous beetles above Cargo Ace 2008 Zamperla Guests board one of eight planes to fly six feet into the air Dune Raiders 2009 A tall slide in which guests race each other to the bottom. Lost Kingdom Adventure 2008 Sally Guests board and ride a roadster to recover stolen treasure by blasting targets with laser guns along their journey. First interactive dark ride at Legoland California, designed by Bill Vollbrecht.[89] Pharaoh's Revenge 2008 Guests fire foam balls at targets and at each other The Lego Ninjago World opened in May 2016.[91] The area features Ninjago: The Ride along with new retail and dining options. Ninjago: The Ride is controlled by hand motions using "Maestro" technology developed by Triotech,[92] who had previously developed the interactive Voyage to the Iron Reef dark ride at Knott's Berry Farm.[93][94] This area also features Ninjago Training Camp, a playground that opened in December 2022.[95] Attraction Years Area Image Description Aquazone Wave Racers 2000–2021 Imagination Zone Dual water carousel. Replaced by Ninjago Training Camp in 2022. Enchanted Walk 2005–2018 Castle Hill Woodland animal models built from LEGO bricks.[96] Replaced by LEGO City: Deep Sea Adventure in 2018. Flight Squadron 1999–2017 Fun Town LEGO airplane-themed ride that move up and down while moving in a circle Knight's Tournament 2005–2019 Castle Hill Robotic arm-like ride where guests can select their level of intensity, with level one being the least intense and level five being the most intense. First Kuka RoboCoaster in the United States.[28] Miniland Florida 2004–11 Miniland Florida-themed section of Miniland, including a model of the Daytona International Speedway.[27] Replaced by Star Wars Miniland in 2011. Sky Cruiser 1999–2018 The Ridge(Fun Town) Pedal-powered track ride with panoramic views of the park. Spellbreaker 2000–03 Castle Hill Single-car with tandem riders suspended roller coaster; steel Batflyer model manufactured by Caripro. Dual tracks, maximum 5 cars per track at one time.[97][98] Legoland California's shortest lived attraction Water Works 1999–2015 Village Green(Heartlake City) Pressure-activated musical fountain and interactive water features. Replaced by "Heartlake Fountain" Treasure Falls 2006–16 Pirate Shores A small log flume ride that showed "what pirates do on their vacation".[77] Closed in 2016.[99] Wild Woods Golf 2005–18 Castle Hill Miniature golf-sized course using putting greens with off-green LEGO-themed decorations.[71] Replaced by LEGO City: Deep Sea Adventure in 2018. Safari Trek 1999–2023 Explorer Island Safari attraction where you see Lego Created Animals. Removed Permanently For Dino Valley in 2023 Fairy Tale Brook 1999–2023 Explorer Island Boating track guests enter that shows Lego their favorite Fairy Tales. Removed Permanently for Dino Valley in 2023 Police and Fire Academy 2004 Metallbau Emmeln Competitive team attraction where groups propel a hand pumped truck in a race down a street, accomplish a task, and return. In the original incarnation named Fun Town Fire Academy, all vehicles were fire trucks rushing to douse a simulated building "fire".[27] A police theme was added in 2011, and the task for the police trucks was to knock down robbers.[100] The lost city of Atlantis in the Sea Life Aquarium in Carlsbad, California The first Sea Life Aquarium in North America opened at Legoland California in August 2008. It has 36,000 sq ft (3,300 m2) of floor area on two stories, featuring a 35 ft (11 m) long acrylic walk-through tunnel and LEGO models in the tanks.[101] The first feature that users encounter when entering the Legoland Water Park is the Aquatune hydraulophone, an underwater pipe organ. The hydraulophone is the centerpiece of a series of interactive exhibits on either side of it that teach other elements of flow, such as water tables, and small water laboratory-like spaces where participants can explore hydraulophonic-like action (blocking water jets to create head, pressure, etc.), and also construct dams from Lego bricks. This is a water park area in Legoland California. Planning for the water park began in September 2009,[90] and it opened on May 28, 2010. It is located next to the buildings in Fun Town, meaning admission to the water park is an extra cost ticket in addition to regular park admission.[36] It is the first Legoland to feature a water park; a Legoland Water Park opened in Florida in 2012.[102] At Legoland California, a Legends of Chima-themed expansion to the water park opened in early July 2014.[42] Attraction Added Area Description Build-A-Raft River 2010 LEGOLAND Water Park Lazy river where guests can build foam LEGO bricks on their inner tube[36] DUPLO Splash Safari 2010 Kids area with small water slides Imagination Station 2010 Interactive play area Joker Soaker 2010 Tower that releases water onto the guests below Orange Rush 2010 Large raft water slide Splash Out 2010 Body slide Splash Zoo 2011 Kids area Twin Chasers 2010 Two body slides Pirate Reef 2012 Shoot-the-chutes ride that has entrances in LEGOLAND Water Park. Cragger's Swamp 2014 LEGO CHIMA Water Park Interactive water playground Eglor's Build-A-Boat 2014 LEGO building area where guests build small boats that they can place in a small artificial creek Lion Temple Wave Pool 2014 Wave pool with a 30' Mount Cavora "floating" in the middle Speedorz Arena 2014–2016 Interactive play area where guests can race their Speedorz ^ a b c d Hall, Christopher (March 14, 1999). "TRAVEL ADVISORY; Danish Conquest: Legoland Comes to California". The New York Times. ISSN 0362-4331. Retrieved January 20, 2017. ^ Lothspeich, Jennifer (March 21, 2019). "News 8 Throwback: Legoland's grand opening 20 years ago & more San Diego attractions". CBS 8 San Diego. Retrieved April 30, 2019. ^ Jacoby, Edmond (January 28, 2005). "Legland California says visitors, revenues up sharply in 2004". San Diego Union-Tribune. Retrieved February 19, 2015. ^ Kinsman, Michael (July 14, 2005). "Control of Legoland parks sold". San Diego Union-Tribune. 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