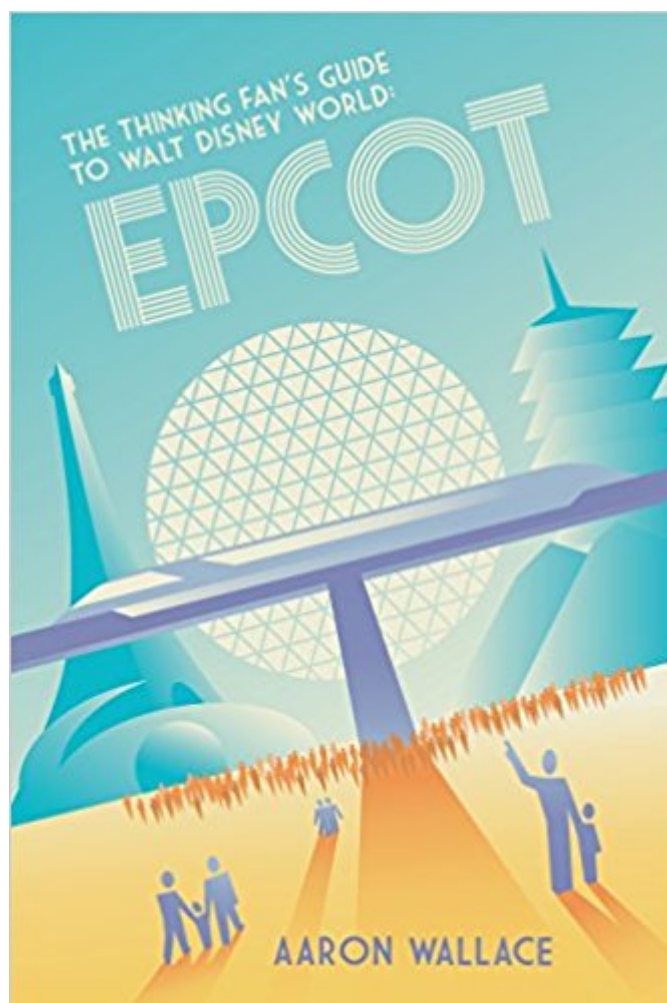


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# The Thinking Fan's Guide To Walt Disney World: Epcot



## Synopsis

Learn to Slow Down and Savor the World's Boldest Theme Park There's no place like Epcot. It's the theme park that endeavored to change the world. Now, more than 30 years later, Aaron Wallace dives deep into the heart of Epcot. Step beyond the typical rush-here, do-that frenzy of most guidebooks to truly appreciate the park's history, storytelling, and controversies. The Thinking Fan's Guide is a lighthearted but scholarly tour through every Epcot ride and show. You'll learn to unpack big questions like: • Should a Future World attraction ever take place in the past? • Are Frozen's Anna and Elsa holding World Showcase hostage? • Do Disney characters belong in Epcot? • Why does the park spend so much time in Ellen DeGeneres's head? • Has Epcot lost its way? • Did the park really change the world? This is a guide for those ready to immerse themselves in the wondrous achievement of 1982's EPCOT Center and the multi-faceted, modern-day Epcot it has become. Longtime Disney buffs will find new insights and surprising perspectives, while newcomers will get more out of their vacations by learning to look at Epcot as a work of art. Fall in Love with Epcot for the First Time... or All Over Again.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is a great resource for people like me who really love Epcot. You'll get an incredibly unique understanding of the park's history. Much of the book is aimed at people like me who are wistful for the way the park was in the 80's and 90's, when it was much more "modern" and the attractions in the two sides were more clearly aimed at "edutainment" as opposed to the trend in recent years to focus on IP from Disney's various franchises and pure entertainment. It is incredibly

clearly written, easy to read, and puts a lot of amazing resources and more detailed background information in copious endnotes. A neat feature is that every chapter ends with a relevant movie recommendation related to that topic. In spite of all the details provided, the book does a good job of not trying to be like one of the many WDW guidebooks out there and stays clear of some topics that aren't too related to what the author wants to cover but are very controversial in the Disney community (e.g. pricing, hotels, politics). For all the covered attractions, you'll get an overview of their history, going back to 1982 if they've been around from the beginning, with a very thorough discussion of the development of and all the changes made to each attraction. In many cases you'll get a virtual experience with detailed descriptions of what's in the ride/movie/show. There are discussions about what worked and what didn't over the many decades that most of these have been around, and especially what fan favorites have been lost along the way. Because of the major reimagining of the Epcot layout and other changes announced at the 2017 D23 Expo, most especially closing down the Universe of Energy and replacing it with Guardians of the Galaxy, some parts of the book are already dated just months after the book's release. As much as I loved the book, I do think that there are some areas for improvement. For the many Disney "geeks" like me out there, I think that some more behind the scenes details of all the different attractions/pavilions would have been appreciated. The book only discusses rides and movies, so it does not include the minor attractions or pavilions that don't have a ride or movie/show. But I think many of us would have liked to learn more about all the pavilions and attractions in Epcot. For example, there's no discussion about the museums in the Norwegian and Moroccan pavilions, the amazing architectural/aesthetical details of many pavilions, the fact that the Moroccan pavilion was hand-built by master craftsmen and hosts belly-dancing, or that you can actually go snorkeling or scuba diving in The Seas attraction. While the book clearly addresses fan criticism about Epcot losing focus, I was surprised that it doesn't cover in as much detail many other major fan critiques, such as using ever-increasing "Festivals" to bring in people, the shocking amount of empty and/or sadly outdated spaces throughout much of the park or the lack of any new country pavilions over many decades. Again, if you are a serious fan of WDW and especially someone who'd like to learn more about Epcot's history and development from a wistful perspective, I very highly recommend this book. I cannot wait to read Wallace's book on the Magic Kingdom and to see what else is coming.

The structure of this book goes pavilion by pavilion comparing the opening day rides and attractions with their current incarnations, and commenting on the boons and detractors of each. If you are a lover of Golden Age EPCOT, or you are a new admirer of the park, there is something in here for

you. An Excellent Book!

This is a wonderful book for lovers of Epcot and for those who are interested in Disneyworld history. I purchased this book before a trip to the parks and have truly enjoyed reading and rereading about my favorite attractions. Wonderful writing, fun facts and even movie recommendations that relate to each attraction. A wonderful resource and a great read!

Very amusing!

A wonderful read! I tore right through it and can't wait to visit Epcot again.

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