



Tomorrowland Becomes The Fantasy Future City Of Walt Disney World Magic Kingdom

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. -- The future that never was . . . is here! A whole new Tomorrowland has taken shape on the Magic Kingdom horizon, giving the land the look of a city like those imagined by sci-fi writers and movie-makers of the 1920s and 1930s -- complete with new attractions exploring space and time.

Instead of the "serious" look at the "real" future of the original Tomorrowland, the new version creates a "fantasy" world where shiny robots do the work, planet-hopping rocket ships battle space aliens and time-machine travel becomes a thrilling "reality" along the Avenue of Planets.

It's a Flash Gordon-ish, Buck Rogers-like neighborhood of sky-piercing beacons and glistening metal illumined by a celestial spectrum of neon colors; of whisper-quiet conveyances gliding along an elevated highway and rockets circling among spinning planets.

The overall effect created for Walt Disney World guests is a friendly future-town neighborhood atmosphere like other lands in the Magic Kingdom.

And it's home to two brand new attractions -- The ExtraTERRORestrial Alien Encounter and Transportarium -- plus new versions of several Tomorrowland attractions. The 1995 debut also marks changes in the restaurants and shops of this original Magic Kingdom land that opened in 1971.

Some highlights of the new Tomorrowland:

The ExtraTERRORestrial Alien Encounter -- Guests find themselves caught in an experiment gone awry during what is sure to be the most frightening thriller of all Magic Kingdom attractions, developed in collaboration with George Lucas.

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Just beyond the entryway of this "Future city," guests enter the city's Convention Center for a demonstration of a new teleportation system from an alien corporation called XS-Tech. Company reps have come from their planet to market this new "product" and are anxious to demonstrate it. But an attempt to transport the XS-Tech chief executive from their planet to earth fails, and the catastrophic results are a close encounter with a frightening alien creature.

The show, which replaces *Mission to Mars*, breaks new ground with special effects, playing on the audience's own fears and imaginations to reach a chaotic, emotional experience.

Transportarium -- Because time-travel was such a prominent part of early science-fiction writers' visions, Disney Imagineers have combined Circle-Vision 360 technology with *Audio-Animatronics*® figures and special in-theater effects to create an adventure to centuries past and those yet to come -- all within an auditorium that literally surrounds guests with sights and sounds. During their journey, today's travelers meet famous inventors and visionaries of the machine-age.

Astro Orbiter -- At the center of the new city, a tower glowing with ringlets of flashing, changing colors serves as a beacon to guests, who can board machine-age rockets and take a spin on the *Astro Orbiter*. Looking more like a Buck Rogers toy than a 1990s Space Shuttle, the attraction surrounds passengers with whirling planets during a swing through space in the center of Tomorrowland.

Walt Disney's Carousel of Progress -- One of the most popular attractions in Tomorrowland since 1974, *Carousel of Progress* has a new look -- both inside and out.

The musical comedy show has been seen by more guests than any other theatrical presentation in the history of American Theater since its debut at the 1964 World's Fair.

The show traces the impact of technological progress on Americans' daily living from the start of the 20th century into the near future with a cast of family characters brought to life through Disney's *Audio-Animatronics*.

Through an added pre-show, guests discover more about the original Carousel show designed by Walt Disney, and will also hear the return of the original theme song, "There's a Great Big Beautiful Tomorrow." With a new script and cast of voices, guests get a glimpse of new innovations like virtual-reality, voice-activation and high-definition television.

For special entertainment, the new Galaxy Palace outdoor variety theater stages "*Galaxy Search*," a League of Planets Talent Contest and Variety Show starring the Galaxy Palace Dancers, famous Disney characters in their best "just got in from Saturn" costume and other galactic performers including the Poodle Sisters, skating Mobots, stilt-walking Tripods and the monster King.

Visitors to the new Tomorrowland also will find a super-arcade of video-games amid giant "generators" in the Tomorrowland Light and Power Station plus familiar favorites like *Space Mountain*, *Grand Prix Raceway*, *Delta Dreamflight* and the Tomorrowland Transit Authority -- formerly *WEDway PeopleMover* -- a part of this futuristic city.