

SPELLBINDING Harry Potter fans will love the Warner Bros Studio tour

Tricks of the trade

If you've been watching the latest series of Britain's Got Talent, you may have been mesmerised by some of the magicians taking to the stage with their jaw-dropping illusions and sleight-of-hand tricks.

With Magic Day just around the corner on June 12, we take a look at seven places to visit if you're a fan of all things magical...

Illusions Theatre **Outrigger Koh Samui Beach Resort, Thailand**

Thailand is a magical destination. And now the Southeast Asian country is even more enchanting thanks to the opening of the new Illusions Theatre magic show. It takes place six nights a week in a special 71-seater auditorium at the family friendly Outrigger Koh Samui Beach Resort. At 7pm every evening, resident magician Ed Clarke puts on a show for kids, then an adult-themed performance two hours later. Shows are a perfect balance of visual magic, mind reading and amazing illusions, with great food and drink in the Outrigger bars and restaurants before and after the show.

■ illusionskohsamui.com;
outrigger.com

Warner Bros Studio Tour – The Making of Harry Potter **Watford**

If you love the Harry Potter films as much as the books, this jaw-dropping studio tour should be on your radar.



RICHARD JONES

Seven
magnificent
holiday
ideas for
magic fans

Wander through iconic sets from the Great Hall to the Gryffindor Common room, get up close to the costumes and props and learn heaps of fascinating secrets. There are even green-screen experiences if you fancy creating some magical film moments of your own. Brand new for 2023 is Discovering Hogwarts, in which visitors are invited to explore Harry's early years at the school with some of fans' favourite scenes brought to life. You can also get hands on and create an origami Sorting Ceremony chatterbox to take away.

■ wbstudiotour.co.uk **Gardaland Magic Hotel** **Lake Garda, Italy**

Just minutes from the world-famous Gardaland park, this new themed hotel, complete with a giant wizard's hat entrance, is centred around Foresta Incantata (Enchanted Forest). The 128 bedrooms are designed around three themes – enchanted forest, magic crystal and wizards – each with unique décor. Think giant mushroom and vines, icicles and dragons and spell books. The Magic Hotel shares facilities with the other hotels, which means you can splash in the pool at Gardaland Hotel Resort, dine at the Adventure Hotel's Tutankhamon à la carte restaurant and lap up the evening entertainment.

■ gardaland.it **Stephen Mulhern** **Butlin's**

Not only is the TV presenter a former Redcoat, he's also a world-class

magician and he's returning to the holiday resort with laughs with magic, illusions, games and audience interaction on selected school holiday breaks. Skegness is where the Butlin's story began and new for 2023 is Skypark, a world of colour, light, epic climbing towers and thrilling tunnel slides to spark young imaginations.

■ butlins.com
Marvin's Magic Academy
Forte Village Resort, Sardinia
Nestled on the Sardinian coastline, Forte Village resort's 55-acre complex rolls on to an award-winning white beach. Within this Mediterranean paradise is Marvin's Magic Academy, the first "school of wizards" based at a seaside resort. Britain's Michael J Fitch reveals his closely guarded secrets, including surprising card tricks, sleight of hand with coins, X-ray vision and mind reading.

■ fortevillage.resort.com **Le Musée de la Magie** **Paris**

Le Musée de la Magie introduces the public to a 1000-year-old secret art through optical illusions, interactive games and a 20-minute-long magic show.

MIND GAMES Magicians Penn & Teller bring their magic to Rio in Las Vegas

There's so much to see from magical objects, a hall of mirrors, magic posters and prints, and a guided tour and classes. Across Paris, at Double Fond theatre café, you can enjoy a great meal while being entertained by your waiter/magician.

■ musedelamagie.com;
doublefond.com
Magic shows – Las Vegas
Sin City is home to incredible magic shows. Among the most popular is Criss Angel Mindfreak at Planet Hollywood that integrates cutting-edge technology. At MGM Grand, the "greatest illusionist of our time" David Copperfield has a residency. At Rio, Penn & Teller present an edgy mix of magic and comedy that blends guns, knives, gorillas and fire. David Blaine, Piff The Magic Dragon and House of Magic are also must-sees.

■ visitasvegas.com



MESMERISING
After soaking up the sun at Outrigger Koh Samui Beach Resort, watch the new Illusions Theatre magic show

STARRY EYED
Kids love the themed bedrooms at Gardaland Magic Hotel

INTERACTIVE
Le Musée de la Magie in Paris