



**World Record for Most Pubs
Visited in 24 Hours.**



The Journal



Universal Makes Big Gains in Theme Park Attendance: 23 Millions for CA and FL



November 1, 2022 by Robert Niles; Typically, we see the TEA/AECOM Theme Index Report in late spring, so I was beginning to wonder if we would see it all this year, as the industry continues its recovery from the pandemic that closed parks around the world in 2020. Indeed, for the second year in a row, the Themed Entertainment Association and AECOM have chosen not to reorder parks from the 2019 attendance rankings. Nor do the report's authors provide an estimate of cumulative attendance by theme park company, since different operating restrictions in different jurisdictions in 2021 make it next to impossible to draw fair comparisons among companies that operate in different states and nations.

In short, Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom remained the world's most attended theme park in 2021, as it has been since before and throughout the pandemic TEA/AECOM reported attendance of 12,691,000 visitors at the Magic Kingdom in 2021,

up 82% from 2020's 6,941,000, when the parks were closed for more than three months and operating capacity was limited for many months after that. In 2019, the Magic Kingdom drew 20,963,000 visitors, according to the TEA/AECOM report.

From there, I think it most fair to compare parks from the same state, since they were operating under the same rules in 2021. So in Florida, the TEA/AECOM reported the following attendance numbers for 2021. The number in parentheses is the park's ranking among North American parks in 2019.

Walt Disney World Magic Kingdom: 12,691,000 (1)
Universal's Islands of Adventure: 9,077,000 (7)
Universal Studios Florida: 8,987,000 (6)
Disney's Hollywood Studios: 8,589,000 (5)
Epcot: 7,752,000 (4)
Disney's Animal Kingdom: 7,194,000 (3)
Busch Gardens Tampa Bay: 3,210,000 (12)
SeaWorld Orlando: 3,051,000 (10)



Oscartek Rosa models as an integral part of the design

The big winner here appears to be Universal Orlando, whose parks passed three of the four Walt Disney World Resort theme parks in estimated 2021 attendance. That appears partially to have come at the expense of SeaWorld Orlando, which fell behind sister park Busch Gardens Tampa Bay last year.

Among water parks, the TEA/AECOM estimated that Universal Orlando's Volcano Bay had the nation's highest attendance in 2021, with 1,691,000 visitors. Walt Disney World's Typhoon Lagoon had led the rankings in 2019 but was closed for all of 2021, while its sister park Blizzard Beach drew 1,201,000 visitors last year, just beating SeaWorld's Aquatica, which welcomed 1,147,000 visitors, according to the TEA/AECOM report.

In California, Disneyland continues to lead all local parks

Disneyland: 8,573,000 (2) Universal Studios Hollywood: 5,505,000 (9) Disney California Adventure: 4,977,000 (8) Knott's Berry Farm: 3,681,000 (11) Six Flags Magic Mountain: 3,047,000 (16) SeaWorld San Diego: 2,800,000 (14)

California theme parks reopened in spring of 2021, with varying start dates. But attendance was sharply limited in those first days back, so the bulk of each park's attendance would have come later in the year, when attendance was unrestricted for all. That said, Universal also did well in California, jumping rival DCA, while SeaWorld also fell backward, dropping behind Six Flags in the market.

Elsewhere in the United States, Ohio's Cedar Point led all other parks, with 3,327,000 visitors in 2021, according to the report. Around the world, Shanghai Disneyland led all parks in the TEA's Asia region, with Disneyland Paris atop the Europe, Middle East and Africa region.

The TEA/AECOM Theme Index reports attendance for the top 20 theme parks in each region in 2019, so parks that ranked outside the top 20 that year but would have ranked among the top 20 in 2021 attendance are not included.

Here are links to previous theme park industry attendance reports:

[2020](#), [2019](#), [2018](#), [2017](#), [2016](#), [2015](#), [2014](#), [2013](#), [2012](#), [2011](#), [2010](#), [2009](#), [2008](#), [2007](#), [2006](#), [2005](#), [2004](#), [2003](#), [2002](#).

• * *If you are interested in reading the report, it is available on the AECOM website.

World Record for Most Pubs Visited in 24 Hours Claimed for Third Time This Year

Despite multiple record-setting attempts in the past few months, the true holder of the title has been awaiting certification since February.

By Mike Pomranz Published on November 1, 2022

Some Guinness World Records are more enjoyable to break than others. "Most nails inserted into the nose in 30 seconds?" Yeah, hard pass. (It's 15, by the way.) But "Most pubs visited in 24 hours?" Heck, in my 20s, I was inadvertently trying to break that record every Saturday.

So in October 2021, after England's Matt Ellis first established the Guinness World Record for "Most pubs visited in 24 hours (individual)" at 51 pubs, we probably shouldn't have been surprised that others quickly set out to topple it. In fact, it's happened so often and so quickly that even the record books haven't been able to keep up.

On February 5, 2022, Welshman Gareth Murphy broke the record by visiting 56 pubs, and Guinness World Records certified his feat that June. By September, England's Nathan Crimp claimed he had broken the record by stopping at 67 different pubs and began the process of having his record officially verified.

But little did Crimp know that all of his efforts were in vain, because South African Heinrich de Villiers had already been on a record-breaking pub crawl through Melbourne, Australia, that ran from February 10 to 11. He was just waiting for it to be certified, which has now happened, at an incredible 78 pubs.

De Villiers — who said a bit of confusion surrounding his application delayed certification — told Guinness World Records he attempted the crawl to "bring attention to and support the local pub/bar scene in Melbourne that was heavily affected during the COVID-19 pandemic and showcase the hidden and less known places that the City of Melbourne has to offer."

And interestingly, reached via email, de Villiers said that attempting the record in the wake of COVID actually made things a bit easier. "This [was] straight after lockdown," the 22-year-old told me, "where we had to check in at each place we went to. This was very helpful to use as evidence to submit to Guinness World Records that we in fact did go to 78 pubs/bars."

As for his strategy, de Villiers took a novel approach compared to previous record-setters by breaking his crawl into two. He said he



set out with his brother Ruald and friend Wessel Burger at 5pm on Thursday, February 10, hit up pubs until midnight, and then took a break (assumedly including sleep) until noon on Friday. They then continue until 5pm that day, breaking the 24 hours into a 7-hour session and a 5-hour session with 12 hours of rest.

But hitting that many locations still had its challenges, with "unpredictability" being the biggest issue. "You can plan as much as you want, but you can never know exactly what will happen," he said. "You don't know which places will unexpectedly be busy or closed and where you will have to wait for longer than you thought you would've. This is ultimately why we had to stop at 78 licensed public houses because we simply ran out of time."

The math of the feat alone is staggering. To hit 78 stops in 24 hours, the average time between pubs would have to be less than 19 minutes. But since de Villiers says they took a 12 hour break, the total crawl time was only 12 hours, cutting the time per stop to under 10 minutes — which had to include ordering, paying, drinking, and walking to the next pub.

Additionally, the record-setter is required to purchase and consume at least 125 milliliters of a beverage at every stop, meaning de Villiers had to have consumed a bare minimum 9.75 liters of liquid — over 20 pints. "We primarily drank beer at the majority of places," he added, "but would occasionally space it out with a Diet Coke or two."

As a result, de Villiers may have finally set the bar high enough where this record won't be broken for quite some time... or at least not again this year.



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