Disney’s Pop Century Resort Lets Guests Relive the Fun and Excitement of 20th Century Pop Culture

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. – Walt Disney World guests can take a spin back in time at Disney’s Pop Century Resort at the Florida Vacation Kingdom. Guests of all ages groove to pop culture from the past in this 2,880-room time capsule. And they do it at Disney’s value-category rates.

Larger-than-life icons of 20th century popular culture are found all over the sprawling resort property — four-story Rubik’s Cubes and Duncan Yo-Yos, 65-foot-tall bowling pins and 55-foot cellular phones, to name a few. Individual lodge buildings pay tribute to popular culture from each decade.

Three feature pools sit within a “pop,” skip and jump from each other, offering a way to beat the heat while taking a walk down memory lane.

Highlights include:

Be-bopping in the 1950s

The 1950s area features giant sock-hoppers dancing on the sides of the lodge buildings, possibly be-bopping to rock-and-roll tunes from the 40-foot-tall tabletop jukebox that anchors the courtyard. A bowling pin-shaped pool provides guests a cool dip. Or they can choose to relax on the bowling alley-inspired pool deck. The canine character stars from Disney’s “Lady and the Tramp” animated feature film (released to theater audiences in 1955) gaze at each other across the courtyard.

A swirl of color in the 1960s

Amidst tie-dyed hues and psychedelic colors, the 1960s buildings bring out the fun in everyone. Play-Doh Pete, the artful child that adorned Play-Doh labels in the 1960s, is featured on a giant can of the popular modeling compound. Peeking out the top of the can are several Play-Doh animal creations, including a blue elephant and a yellow giraffe. Sharp-eyed guests will spot the “thumbprints” on the elephant’s ears, seemingly created by the child who modeled the Play-Doh pachyderm. Baloo and Mowgli from Disney’s “The Jungle Book” (released in 1967) are hand-in-hand across the courtyard. Giant Duncan Imperial-model yo-yos, with “strings” that measure more than one-foot in diameter, bookend each 1960s building. The centerpiece of the area is the Hippy Dippy Pool, a flower-shaped pool complete with squirting petals on the periphery.

Big Wheel, Big Cheese in the ’70s

In the 1970s courtyard, the colorful Big Wheel riding toy gets ready to roll, while a classic Mickey Mouse rotary-dial telephone calls from across the courtyard. Between the two towering icons, table soccer players stand at the ready for guests to wander amidst their imaginary game. Eight-track tapes, the popular musical medium of the decade, corner each building.

Popular puzzles, tunes “on-the-go” in the ’80s

In the 1980s area of Disney’s Pop Century Resort, the most “puzzling” toy of the decade, the Rubik’s Cube, towers more than 40 feet tall on each building. (Walt Disney Imagineers designed the different cubes to represent different stages of the solution process.) Across the courtyard, one of the original Sony Walkman models, and accompanying headphone set, anchors the building.

Technology advances in the ’90s

Closing out the century, the 1990s area pays tribute to two personal technology marvels — the cellular telephone and the computer. A giant laptop computer is the centerpiece, while early-model cellular telephones stand at each corner. In the middle of the courtyard is a computer-shaped pool, complete with a spongy keyboard that offers guests an alphabet-filled pool deck area.

For reservations, guests may call 407/W-DISNEY (934-7639), a local travel agent, or check online at disneyworld.com.

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