Walt Disney World News

Epcot Guests Take Flight With Soarin' For a Bird's-Eye View of the Golden State

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Imagine a breathtaking, wind-in-your-hair flight over the natural wonders of California — above towering redwoods, snow-capped mountains, sun-kissed deserts and rocky shorelines.

With Soarin', that dream of free flight becomes reality. Soarin' is based on the popular Disney California Adventure attraction, Soarin' Over California, at Disneyland Resort.

The exhilarating aerial adventure immerses guests in a multi-sensory experience, complete with sights and sounds plus the caress of warm breezes and the scent of pine forests, citrus groves and salty seashores. Soarin' is located at The Land pavilion in Future World.

"The attraction is perfect for Epcot because of its spirit of exploration and discovery, and The Land is a natural fit since the pavilion is about the appreciation of the rich bounty and awesome beauty of the Earth," said Kathy Mangum, Walt Disney Imagineering creative executive.

Using stunning cinematic artistry and Imagineering-developed motion-based technology, Soarin' literally lifts 87 guests at a time 40 feet aloft into an 80-foot projection screen dome. The sensation, however, is that they have taken off into the skies as their entire field of vision is filled with panoramic beauty.

To further enhance the Soarin' experience, the film is projected at high definition, high speed – 48 frames per second, twice the speed of normal motion picture film. The result is a crisp, clear image with extraordinary detail.

Among the many sights on view during the exhilarating fly-over: the Golden Gate Bridge, Napa Valley, Palm Springs, Yosemite National Park, San Diego and more. Throughout the flight, guests share the sky with a variety of other aircraft, such as hang gliders, hot air balloons, helicopters and Navy jets.

The experience is intensified as guests feel the sweeping winds and smell the fragrance of orange blossoms, pine trees and even the seashore all around them. And an orchestral musical score created by renowned film and television composer Jerry Goldsmith ("Mulan," "Air Force One," "Star Trek: First Contact") heightens the thrill.

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