

= The Simpsons Ride =

The Simpsons Ride is a simulator ride featured at the Universal Studios Florida and Universal Studios Hollywood theme parks . The ride is based on the animated television series The Simpsons . It was first announced in 2007 and replaced the Back to the Future : The Ride at both locations . The ride at Universal Studios Florida soft opened on April 23 , 2008 , and the official ceremonies took place on May 15 . The ride at Universal Studios Hollywood opened on May 19 , 2008 . The Simpsons Ride was collaborated on by the producers of The Simpsons , and uses CGI animation , which was provided by Blur Studio and Reel FX . 2D animation was provided by Film Roman . The ride uses state of the art technology , including a new projection system and new hydraulics .

The ride itself is four and a half minutes long but original footage for the ride can be seen in the queue , and there is also a pre @-@ show video . In the ride , patrons are introduced to a cartoon theme park called Krustyland built by Krusty the Clown . Sideshow Bob , however , is loose from prison to get revenge on Krusty and the Simpson family . At least 24 regular characters from the series make an appearance , all voiced by their original actors . Along with the attraction is a gift shop modeled after the Kwik @-@ E @-@ Mart , which opened in late 2007 .

On June 1 , 2013 , Universal Studios began selling a real version of Duff Beer at the expanded Duff Beer Garden in the new Springfield section of the park .

= = Ride summary = =

= = = Queue = = =

To enter the ride 's queue area , visitors must walk through a 32 @-@ foot (9 @. 8 m) Krusty the Clown head which leads them into a pavilion under various circus tents themed to carnival stalls . Various posters in the queue display advertisements for the attractions at the park , while various television monitors display clips from the TV show billed as moments from Krusty 's past , as well as live animated footage from Krustyland . The queue area ends with a sign instructing guests to wait for a short time before entering " Krusty 's Carnival Midway " .

= = = Pre @-@ show 1 = = =

In the midway , riders line @-@ up into rows to wait for a confirmation from Krusty . TV screens posted inside the walls on the left and right sides of the room display the residents of Springfield running the midway booths at the park . Soon , Krusty appears on another screen in front of guests and prepares to pick the first family to ride his " Thrilltacular : Upsy @-@ Downsy Spins @-@ Aroundsy Teen @-@ Operated Thrillride " , the most extreme ride at the park . While Krusty is not looking , Sideshow Bob appears in a Scratchy costume and steps on Homer Simpson 's foot causing him to yell " D 'oh ! " and Krusty picks the Simpson family . Krusty asks them to pick another group to go with them , and Bart chooses the riders . While Krusty leads them into a waiting room , Sideshow Bob bursts out into evil laughter .

= = = Pre @-@ show 2 = = =

Riders are then ushered into the pre @-@ flight " Funhouse " room by a team member . Here , Krusty leads the Simpsons into a backstage area where Grampa and Maggie Simpson are told not to ride due to certain safety restrictions (Maggie didn 't meet the 40 in height requirement , and Grampa had certain heart conditions that could been aggravated) . Grampa falls asleep while Maggie crawls into a nuclear reactor room , causing her to grow larger . Meanwhile , Krusty leads the Simpsons into a ride room where he tells them to enjoy the ride , before Sideshow Bob appears , knocks Krusty out and tells the Simpsons Family to enter the ride vehicle . Homer enters , followed by the rest of the family . Sideshow Bob then tells the Simpsons and the riders that they must watch

a safety spiel from Itchy and Scratchy . The screen then displays a recap of the safety reminders while riders are ushered into the main ride room .

= = = Ride = = =

The ride portion is four and a half minutes long . Riders with heart conditions , motion sickness , claustrophobia or similar conditions are not recommended to ride .

After riders enter a Krusty themed ride car vehicle , Jeremy Freedman appears on a TV screen in the ride cabin and tells the guests that they are with him . He then says to keep the screaming down so he can study for a math test , because if he does not get a C or higher , he will get kicked out of the audio @-@ visual club . Eventually after a minute or so , Sideshow Bob cuts off his signal and takes control of the screen , the riders get startled , telling them that he has taken over Krustyland and flips a switch from thrilling to killing which activates the vehicles and lifts out of the room , starting the ride with the Simpsons in front of them . The coaster begins going down various drops before Homer gets hit by the wrecking " steel " ball controlled by Sideshow Bob before it smashes into the track , breaking it . Homer and the riders fly into a different part of the roller coaster track before the wrecking ball starts chasing them . Soon , the riders fly off the coaster and into the " Happy Little Elves in Panda Land " attraction with Bart and Lisa , where Bob takes control of an evil panda and sends the vehicles crashing through the attraction . The ride then flies off the attraction and enters " Captain Dinosaur 's Pirate Rip @-@ Off " with Homer and Marge . Sideshow Bob appears in a projection on the waterfall in the attraction and tells Homer to resist temptations inside . (This is a parody from Pirates of the Caribbean (attraction)) As riders pass through the waterfall , they get sprayed with water effects . Homer grabs a barrel of beer in the ride which soon triggers a trap that causes them to exit out of the attraction and arrive at " Krusty 's Wet and Smoky Stunt Show " where they are taken racing in circles while tied to a killer whale before Bob corners them at the attractions exit . Maggie , still giant @-@ sized , appears and grabs and bangs him into the vehicle , which almost falls into Hell before it is saved by Professor Frink . Bob then steals Maggie 's pacifier and tells her that she must destroy Springfield to get it back . Riders then take a ride through Springfield before encountering Maggie again , who mistakes their car for a new pacifier , and sucks on them repeatedly , before spitting them out (getting riders wet) , onto overhead power lines and catapulting them into the Simpsons ' house . While Maggie is sucking on the riders , the aroma of baby powder is released . The family is sitting on their couch when Kang and Kodos turns the house into Krusty 's " Death Drop " ride . The riders are then dropped down from the sky , encountering various Simpsons characters along the way . They land back at the entrance to Krustyland , where Bob prepares to kill them , before the couch the Simpsons are sitting on drops onto him . Maggie then appears and pushes down the Krusty head over the Simpsons . The vehicle is then calmly lowered back down to the ground while mist , fire , electricity and smoke effects spray , and Krusty appears on the TV screen in the loading room . For the Orlando attraction , Krusty is sitting in a control room and pushes an emergency button on the camera , causing the vehicle to vibrate , the riders get startled again , ending the ride . In the Hollywood version , Krusty is sitting in a control room and takes a picture of the guests (The on @-@ ride photo is taken here for the Hollywood attraction) . After the gullwing doors on the car lift up , guests exit the ride .

= = Production = =

= = = History = = =

Planning for The Simpsons Ride started two years prior to its opening . The Simpsons creators James L. Brooks and Matt Groening , as well as executive producer Al Jean , collaborated with the Universal Studios creative team , Universal Creative , to help develop the ride . Music for the ride was composed by Jim Dooley , who worked with composer Hans Zimmer on the feature film The Simpsons Movie . The ride is located at both Universal Studios Florida and Universal Studios

Hollywood in the former Back to the Future : The Ride buildings at both locations . The Back to the Future opened in Florida in 1991 and closed March 30 , 2007 , while the Hollywood version opened in 1993 and closed on September 3 , 2007 .

The construction began at Universal Studios Florida in May 2007 , and the original concrete on the ground from Back to the Future : The Ride was dismantled and replaced by a red and blue ground holding trees and benches . The building was given a complete overhaul ; the cars were changed and the original Intamin mechanics system was updated by Oceaneering International . The construction began at Universal Studios Hollywood in mid @-@ September 2007 , with the disposal of the building 's Back to the Future insignia . Outdoor painting on the building began in January 2008 .

= = = Ride mechanics = = =

The four @-@ minute ride uses 85 @-@ foot IMAX Dome screens and Sony Projectors . There are 24 ride cars , each seating eight people , and approximately 2000 people can ride it per hour . The projection system uses four overlapping Sony SXR 4K resolution projectors on each dome , using custom @-@ made semi @-@ circular fisheye lenses to project undistorted images at a rate of 60 frames per second (in comparison , most feature films project at 24 frames per second) . The video is projected onto two dome screens which are made of 416 panels (each 4 feet by two feet) and are approximately 80 feet tall and 85 feet wide . The animation in the ride uses computer generated 3D animation rendered by Blur Studio and Reel FX , rather than the traditional 2 @-@ D animation seen on The Simpsons and the queue and pre @-@ show of the ride . The animation reference was provided by Film Roman , the animation studio that animates the series . Each car contains 12 speakers and a Dolby 6 @. @ 1 surround sound , while the domes contain an additional 90 speakers .

The ride vehicles are themed to look like cars from a classic dark ride , and like the previous Back to the Future attraction , the vehicles feature fake wheels and gull @-@ wing doors . Each dome features 12 8 @-@ passenger ride vehicles arranged in three tiered rows of four . Each vehicle is mounted on a motion platform atop a scissor lift , which raises the vehicle 9 feet into the dome . The motion platforms are capable of a total motion of three feet . In addition to the motion @-@ based ride vehicles , riders also feel water effects , smoke , mist , and experience lighting effects and scents .

The Simpsons Ride uses new technology that cuts down on its energy consumption . According to Universal Studios , the ride is able to save over 55 @,@ 000 watts on average and 662 @,@ 000 watt @-@ hours per day . The ride includes over 2 @,@ 500 LEDs , the largest number in theme park history , which allows the ride to cut down on lighting energy by almost one quarter when compared to incandescent lighting .

= = = Voice cast = = =

The ride features more than 24 regular characters from The Simpsons and features the voices of the regular cast members , as well as Pamela Hayden , Russi Taylor and Kelsey Grammer . Harry Shearer , however , decided not to participate in the ride , so none of his characters have vocal parts and many do not appear in the ride at all . In homage to the Back to the Future ride that it has replaced , The Simpsons Ride 's queue video features a brief animated cameo from Doc Brown who is voiced by Christopher Lloyd .

Nancy Cartwright - Bart Simpson , Maggie Simpson , Nelson Muntz , Ralph Wiggum , and The Happy Little Elves

Dan Castellaneta - Homer Simpson , Krusty the Clown , Grampa Simpson , Groundskeeper Willie , Squeaky Voiced Teen , Hans Moleman , Barney Gumble , Kodos , Repo man , and Mr. Freidman

Julie Kavner - Marge Simpson , Patty Bouvier and Selma Bouvier

Yeardley Smith - Lisa Simpson

Hank Azaria - Chief Wiggum , Apu Nahasapeemapetilon , Moe Szyslak , Professor Frink , Cletus

Spuckler , Officer Lou , the Sarcasitic Man , Snake Jailbird and Pants @-@ Off Johnson
Kelsey Grammer - Sideshow Bob
Pamela Hayden - Milhouse Van Houten
Russi Taylor - Martin Prince
Christopher Lloyd - Doc Brown

= = Other attractions = =

In October 2007 , gift shops modeled after the Kwik @-@ E @-@ Mart were built , replacing the Back To The Future : The Store gift shop at Universal Studios Florida and the Time Travelers Depot gift shop at Universal Studios Hollywood . The stores sell Simpsons @-@ related merchandise . Carts were opened near the stores which sell Squishees , (which are The Simpsons ' parody of 7 @-@ Eleven 's Slurpees .)

At Universal Studios Florida and Universal Studios Hollywood , the park converted much of the World Expo and some of the Upper Lot in Universal Studios Hollywood into one based on Springfield . The new area includes some iconic landmarks from The Simpsons such as Krusty Burger , Frying Dutchman , Luigi 's Pizza , Lard Lad Donuts , Bumblebee Man 's Taco Truck , Moe 's Tavern , The Android 's Dungeon & Baseball Card Shop and a Duff Brewery . The park also added one amusement ride named " Kang & Kodos ' Twirl ' n ' Hurl "

= = Reception = =

The Simpsons Ride was well received by fans after it opened . Seth Kubersky of Orlando Weekly described the ride as " a more than worthy successor " to Back to the Future : The Ride . Brady MacDonald of the Los Angeles Times described the ride as " visually stunning " and said it " truly delivers ? with loads of in @-@ jokes and satire for serious fanatics and tons of thrills and fun for casual fans . " Elise Thompson of the LAist said " the ride is a total blast , with plenty of laughs as well as thrills . "

Jay Cridlin of the St. Petersburg Times wrote that " the ride is packed with more original , funny material than you 'd expect to see in a sitcom , much less a theme park . " However , he admitted that the ride was " a little discombobulating " .

The Universal Studios Florida version of the ride hosted its one millionth rider on 14 July 2008 , reaching the milestone faster than any other attraction in the resort . The ride was named the best new attraction of 2008 by the website Themeparkinsider.com.