

= Men in Black : Alien Attack =

Men in Black : Alien Attack is an interactive dark ride located at Universal Studios Florida in Orlando , Florida . As the name suggests , the ride is themed to the 1997 film , Men in Black (MIB) . The ride opened in 2000 after a three @-@ year development process . The ride has generally been well received , winning an Outstanding Achievement award from the Themed Entertainment Association .

Riders enter a MIB training facility disguised as a pavilion at the 1964 New York World 's Fair . After navigating through a themed queue and pre @-@ show , riders board a spinning dark ride system . Once dispatched riders are tasked to kill aliens using the supplied laser guns , and subsequently accumulate points . At the time of its opening , the ride was the biggest dark ride ever built at a Universal park , spanning 70 @,@ 000 square feet (6 @,@ 500 m2) and featuring over 125 animatronic aliens .

= = History = =

After the release of the first Men in Black (MIB) film in 1997 , Universal Creative , the research and development division of Universal Parks & Resorts , set about developing a MIB @-@ themed shooting dark ride for Universal Studios Florida . After the ride system was finalised in mid @-@ 1998 , construction began on the ride 's large show building . By late 1998 , sources speculated that a Men in Black @-@ themed attraction would be built . Planning documents filed with Orlando City Hall in March 1999 , described an alien @-@ themed laser tag ride , supporting previous rumors . After an official announcement of the \$ 70 million attraction in October 1999 @,@

Men in Black : Alien Attack officially opened to the public on April 14 , 2000 , in the World Expo area of the park , replacing the Back to the Future Part III Locomotive Display which were relocated two years prior . In 2001 , a year after its opening , Men in Black : Alien Attack was awarded a Thea Award for Outstanding Achievement by the Themed Entertainment Association .

= = Experience = =

= = = Exterior queue = = =

Guests approach the building under the guise of visiting an exhibit called The Universe & You - Are We Alone ? which has been transplanted from the 1964 New York World Expo . The exterior queue is flanked by posters advertising extraterrestrial activity and microphones giving " updates " on the fair .

= = = Pre @-@ show = = =

Guests are then ushered into the building and into the retro @-@ modern exhibit . The 1960s narration , however , is cut short by a MIB agent terminating the false program and issuing the " recruits " into Men in Black Headquarters . One of the walls of the exhibit splits , opening up into an elevator , which travels deep into the Earth . Guests who have an Express Pass and use it for this ride takes another entrance which , instead of riding the elevator , walk up a long hallway and meets the guests with no Express Passes after they have walked through the hallway . Single riders follow a third queue .

= = = Interior queue = = =

Upon exiting the elevator , guests enter a hallway within the secret MIB Headquarters . Traveling down the hall , they pass the film 's famous " worm guys " on break , several interactive doors to various labs , and through the alien scanners . At the end of the hallway , guests overlook the

immigration and controls room , with a large video screen broadcasting the training information and alien twins , Bob and Bhnxx operating controls . They then move into the weapons room , and finally into the training facility , where a training vehicle awaits . Guests who use an Express Pass skip some rooms and meet the normal riders when they see the alien twins in the control rooms , then follow the normal riders but in a different path .

= = Ride = =

Pitted against another team of players (riding on a separate vehicle) , the recruits board their training vehicles equipped with laser guns , called S4 Alienators (" Jumbo Judy ") and proceed into the training room , blasting at cardboard cutouts and crudely drawn images of aliens amid flashing red lights . Soon , however , MIB Director Zed (played by Rip Torn) informs the trainees that an alien prison ship has crash landed in the middle of New York City . The guns are then " set to full power " as the trainees are instantly launched into the heart of New York , attempting to score as many points as they can by shooting the aliens in their vulnerable areas (the eyes and shoulders) . Aliens vary from large , plain @-@ in @-@ sight creatures to small ones hiding in windows and bushes . Certain aliens will fire back causing the cart to spin out of control .

After a brief romp through the city , the two head @-@ to @-@ head vehicles face each other and pass on either side of a large green scanner . The scanner reveals that the opposing car is really full of aliens in disguise , thus prompting a shoot @-@ out between the two paired vehicles . Both cars race to shoot the other 's " fusion exhaust port , " a glowing red light atop their vehicle . A hit causes the opposing vehicle to wildly spin out of control , offering more time to collect points while they spin .

The battle between the cars comes to an end when Jay (played by Will Smith) appears on a giant television screen in Times Square , alerting the riders to " get their game faces on " because a " really big bug " has been found . Turning the corner , riders come face @-@ to @-@ face with Edgar , a gigantic cockroach @-@ like alien seen in the first film . The animatronic bug in the ride stands 30 feet (9 @.@ 1 m) tall , measures 50 feet (15 m) wide , has 8 @-@ foot @-@ long (2 @.@ 4 m) teeth , and 20 @-@ foot @-@ long (6 @.@ 1 m) claws . The bug is immune to the weak guns ' laser fire , so Zed orders the riders to press the much @-@ dreaded red button (which activates the Subatomic Thermonuclear Disruptor) . There is a small window of time when the button is effective , and every rider that presses the button during this window is granted a 100 @,@ 000 point bonus (average first time riders will score about 40 @,@ 000 to 60 @,@ 000 points , without the bonus , while experienced riders with good aim will already be anywhere between 500 @,@ 000 and 900 @,@ 000 points) . Both cars enter into the bugs mouth and spin out of control amid fog and strobe flashes .

During the wind down , both teams have their scores averaged and Agent J appears to declare them MIB material while encouraging the losing team to try again . The two vehicles separate to view the final scene ; Losing teams are shown an alien " Coach " saying " Basically , you zigged when you shoulda zagged ! You gotta learn when to run and gun and when to lock and load baby . Try again ! " . The winning team pulls up to an alien " Tailor " finishing a black suit and telling the riders " your suit will be ready next Wednesday " . These various combinations allow for 35 different endings .

Agent J neutralizes both teams regardless and the vehicles re @-@ enter a retro @-@ themed atrium with the " Universe & You " logo on the wall in front of them , and the big question answered : " Are We Alone ? Of Course We Are ! " Riders then exit into the Men In Black Gift Shop .

= = Production = =

The production of Men in Black : Alien Attack was completed by Universal Creative . Vice president of attraction development Philip Hettema headed up the project , with Dave Cobb as the creative director . Other Universal employees included Jimmy Pickering (production designer) , Craig Hanna & John Murdy (show designers for story and concept) , Desiree Soto (character art director

) , Mary Lamm @-@ Kaleta (show set art director) and Joel Kagan (ride management director) . Will Smith and Rip Torn reprised their roles as Agent J and Z , respectively . Andy Garfield composed the music in the attraction Men in Black : Alien Attack . The lyrics for the song " The Universe and You " were written by the attraction 's Creative Director David Cobb and the attraction 's Document Control Coordinator Timothy Bernardi .

= = = Ride system = = =

At the time of Men in Black : Alien Attack 's development , Universal Creative were installing two new dark ride systems at the neighbouring Islands of Adventure theme park . The first system was designed for The Amazing Adventures of Spider @-@ Man and was manufactured by Oceaneering International . It featured track @-@ mounted motion bases with six degrees of freedom that were able to tour physical sets and allow riders to view 3D projections . The second system was developed by MTS Systems Corporation for The Cat in the Hat . This system was simpler , offering track @-@ mounted spinning platforms , with no additional degrees of freedom . The MIB design team initially intended to utilise the Spider @-@ Man ride system ; however , when shooting tests were performed on the ride , the vast motion of the vehicles made it impossible for riders to achieve a reasonable score . As a result , The Cat in the Hat system was selected for the MIB attraction .

The Men in Black : Alien Attack dark ride system was manufactured by MTS , with Rod Millen Special Vehicles theming the upper half of the ride vehicles . The system consists of two tracks , allowing riders of two vehicles to be pitted against each other . Each vehicle has two onboard computers which control the motion , lighting , audio and game play , with all vehicles communicating wirelessly to a central controller . The vehicles each seat six riders in two rows of three . The ride system consists of a total of 44 vehicles , allowing for 2 @, @ 200 riders per hour . Riders must be 42 inches (110 cm) or taller to ride . The infrared guns mounted on the vehicles were developed by Universal in conjunction with toy and laser tag manufacturers . A patent for the ride system was filed on July 8 , 1998 , and was granted on April 24 , 2001 . The patent credits Craig Hanna , Jennifer Sauer , and Philip Hettema as the inventors , with Universal Studios as the assignee .

= = = Theming design = = =

The initial storyline developed for the attraction would have seen riders enter a replica of the Orlando International Airport , before being ushered onto people movers taking them to the underground to the MIB training facility . However , executives were unsure of the concept and instead wanted at least one recognisable item from the 1997 film to be on the outside facade . Responding to the concern , designers chose the film 's flying saucer @-@ shaped towers , adding elements of a building from the 1964 World 's Fair , Dodgers Stadium , and the St. Louis Arch to form the facade . Other elements of the storyline also did not make the final cut . The immigration office from the film is featured in the attraction 's queue ; however , it was intended that it would feature numerous animatronics . However , due to the large animatronics budget for the ride itself , this idea was scrapped . In homage , ride employees for the first few months of the ride 's operation would take their breaks in the room , to give the effect of a working office .

At the time of the ride 's opening , Universal officials described Men in Black : Alien Attack as both the biggest attraction at Universal Studios Florida , and as their most ambitious use of animatronics ever . The 70 @, @ 000 square feet (6 @, @ 500 m2) show building featured 127 animatronics as interactive targets . Eighty of the animatronics were designed in @-@ house by Universal , with the remaining ones being adapted from the film . The animatronics were manufactured by Advanced Animatronics , AVG , and ASI . An average of seven sensors cover each animatronic . Other special effects inside the show building include lighting and 13 fog machines ? the latter using 7 @, @ 000 US gallons (26 @, @ 000 L) of liquid nitrogen daily .