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Say Aloha to Alola

The popular game series Pokémon Sun and Moon are announced to be released worldwide, except in Europe, today.

NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK Nov. 22, 2016 -- Nintendo, the immensely successful game publishing company, will be responsible for making Pokémon Sun and Moon available in most gaming shops in North America. This pair of quintessential additions to the Pokémon family are expected to be the most successful games in the franchise. The games will feature Generation VII Pokémon as well as provide unprecedented forms of previously released ones. The two versions are available on the Nintendo 3DS gaming console.

The two new iterations of the Pokémon franchise are, like their paired predecessors, very similar to each other in terms of the actual game itself. Some major differences include respective games favoring a certain time of the day, different super-powered Pokémon totems, and exclusive Pokémon depending on which game is owned.

Pokémon Sun and Moon are released as a celebration for the 20th Anniversary of Pokémon Red and Green, the very first games for the series. The novel games are set in the Alola region, which is based off of Hawaii.

“I really went back to kind of just the basics to really re-examine at this time 20 years of Pokémon: What are Pokémon? What kind of creatures are they as living beings?” Shigeru Ohmori, one of the Pokémon Sun and Moon directors, mused over the concept of the game in an interview. “I wanted to focus on this idea of life and how the sun and moon are involved with creating life on this planet, and in terms of a region that would be best representative of that.”

Old and new Pokémon lovers will appreciate the warm sun and exploding life embedded into these contemporary installments. Certain Pokémon species from the Kanto region have altered their appearances to fit better in the microclimates of the Alola region. These Pokémon variations are called Alola forms and serve as a special surprise for long-time fans of the game.

In addition to searching for new and old Pokémon between the aesthetically pleasing islands of Alola, this game duo features an entirely new Pokémon gym system called the Island Challenge. To become the strongest Trainer, or the Island Challenge Champion, the player must overcome each of the four island’s unique trials before battling a Totem Pokémon. These outstanding larger Pokémon will have a special aura to aid it in battle to help provide an even more thrilling match for trial-goers.

Taking on one of these Totem Pokémon can be quite a daunting task, and so a special type of move called the Z-Move has been created to help players tackle their victories. To use this unique and powerful move, trainers need to have a Z-Ring and a Z-Crystal. Not every Pokémon

can use a Z-Move, however, meaning that those that can are sought after and more powerful than anyone might expect!

Though it is obvious that the new Pokémon additions have a lot of innovative changes compared to previous versions, they still instill the same nostalgia of old-school games. The controls are still intuitive and recognizable, but now there is a complex-item system as well as full animations and hundreds of new Pokémon. Just like the sun and the moon, this duo pair brightly shines on the series and pulls in old and new players absorbed in this international Pokémon craze.

About Nintendo

Founded in 1889, Nintendo Co., Ltd. is one of the world's largest video game companies with a market value of over \$85 billion. The company has created some of the world's best-selling game franchises such as Mario, The Legend of Zelda, and Pokémon as well as produced extremely popular gaming consoles such as the Nintendo 3DS and Wii U.

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