

## THE EVOLUTION OF WARNER BROS. STUDIO TOUR

1939

The land that will later become Warner Bros. Studio Tour was acquired by the Ministry of Defence as a production base for thousands of aircraft including the Mosquito Fighter and Halifax Bombers. As part of the aircraft factory an airstrip was created.

1980S

The airstrip was used by private flying club Leavesden Flight Centre and became a popular location for amateur pilots.



1997

A succession of major feature films made use of the studios including the first Star Wars prequels, *The Phantom Menace* and Tim Burton's *Sleepy Hollow*.

2001

Production began on *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* on 19th November 2001 – just three days after the release of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*.

The iconic set for Dumbledore's office was first built and created. Filmmakers created many of the books in the set using telephone directories bound in leather!

2004

Filming for *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* began on 4th May 2004.

A giant water tank was built at the Studios to film the underwater scenes for the Triwizard Tournament.

Daniel Radcliffe (Harry Potter) spent so much time underwater during filming, he gained his PADI diving certificate!

2007

Principal photography began on *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* on 24th September 2007.

Production Designer Stuart Craig and his artists went back to the original drawings and redesigned all of Diagon Alley, each building's architecture was carefully tweaked and refined.

Actor Rupert Grint (Ron Weasley) turned 21 during the shoot and crew celebrated with a children's themed party in the studio canteen.

2010

Warner Bros. purchased the site they occupied for over 10 years, becoming Warner Bros. Studios Leavesden.

Plans are announced to open Warner Bros. Studio Tour London – The Making of Harry Potter.

2012

Warner Bros. Studio Tour London – The Making of Harry Potter opened on 31st March 2012, offering visitors the ultimate opportunity to journey behind the scenes of Harry Potter.

Warner Bros. Studios Leavesden, a state-of-the-art film and television studio, opened on 11 June 2019, becoming the only film studio in the country to be owned and operated by a major Hollywood studio.

2015

Warner Bros. Studio Tour London announced its first expansion – Platform 9 ¾ featuring the original Hogwarts Express steam train. The new set opened to the public on 31st March 2015.

2018

Warner Bros. Studio Tour London welcomed its 10 millionth visitor through the Great Hall doors.



1967

When the war ended the site was bought by Rolls Royce and continued as a base for manufacturing aircraft and engines.

1994

James Bond: *GoldenEye* first leased the site and converted the aircraft hangers to film stages, workshops and offices making it a working film studio. After the filming of *GoldenEye*, the site became popular and was rebranded as Leavesden Studios.

2000

Heyday Films acquired use of the site on behalf of Warner Bros. for what would be the production of the first film in a new series – *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*.

Filming began on 29th September 2000 and the Great Hall was one of the first sets to be built – a vast and impressive space that could seat more than 400 children.

2003

Principal photography for *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* began at Leavesden Studios on 24th February 2003.

During filming, the Hagrid's Hut set at Leavesden was deconstructed and rebuilt 2,000 feet up a mountain in Scotland!

2006

Shooting began on the fifth Harry Potter film, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* on 6th February 2006.

The Ministry of Magic set was built for the first time, the largest set created for any of the Harry Potter films.

2009

Production began for both *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Parts 1 and 2* on 19th February 2009.

Five 32-ton trucks worth of polystyrene were needed to create the rubble for destruction of Hogwarts.

Daniel Radcliffe went through 160 pairs of glasses and around 70 wands throughout filming for the Harry Potter film series.

2011

Tickets for Warner Bros. Studio Tour London go on sale in October 2011.

2013

Warner Bros. welcomed HRH the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Prince Harry and J. K. Rowling for the site's inauguration on 26 April 2013.

2017

The Forbidden Forest was announced to be the latest set opening at Warner Bros. Studio Tour London on 31st March 2017, complete with Buckbeak the Hippogriff and Aragog the Acromantula.

2019

Warner Bros. Studio Tour London announced a new expansion featuring Gringotts Wizarding Bank that opened on 6th April 2019.

In summer 2019, Warner Bros. Studio Tour London received its 40,000th TripAdvisor review.

WBSTUDIOTOUR.CO.UK

TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE