TRAVEL

Winter holidays bright at Epcot

When nightfall hits Epcot on Nov. 25, the holiday lights will turn the park into a winter fantasy of radiance, marking the beginning of Epcot's brightest holiday season yet.

This year's celebration, which runs through Dec. 30, includes all that's merry and bright: a dazzling new "light bridge" connecting Future World and World Showcase, a spectacular new nighttime fireworks, music, light and laser show, and two weeks of a solemn candle-lit ceremony that includes a retelling of the Christmas story.

Disney's Candlelight procession will be presented Dec. 5-18 at 6:15 and 7:45 p.m.

The lights will be the brightest at Showcase Plaza, where a towering 65-foot Christmas tree will greet guests entering World Showcase with messages of peace and goodwill translated in 40 languages.

The tree will be lit every night during a tree lighting ceremony featuring the Voices of Liberty choir, fanfare trumpeters and storytellers from around the world. An extra flip of the switch and a magical bolt of electricity will illuminate Lights of Winter, turning the plaza into a winter wonderland.

Lights of Winter is a dazzling display of 20,000 lights that literally envelops Epcot guests in a canopy of sparkling lights. These light arches, which cover the bridge into World Showcase, bring a popular European tradition to Epcot.

"Just like our Christmas parades in America, many European countries kick off the winter holiday festivals with the lighting of arches that go over their main streets," said show producer Jim Heffelfinger. "We've taken this concept and have brought it to Epcot."

Just as the new light display will kick off the evening, the new Holiday IllumiNations will take it out with a bang. This evening spectacular of lights, lasers, music and fireworks will capture the spirit of Epcot's international holiday celebration with the theme "Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men."

The show will be fully synchronized to seasonal music created by an 80-piece orchestra in Czechoslavakia and, for the first time ever, will feature vocals, including a children's choir.

Happy holidays: *Mickey, Minnie and the whole gang will join together to bring a little holiday magic to Epcot every evening beginning Nov. 25.*

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