



A Resource Guide for
Harry Potter
Fans



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Introduction

Sending out owls to all fans of Harry Potter

Whether you're a die-hard Potterhead, a fan who loves the movies, or a pure-blood who sticks to the books, there's something here for you.

This resource guide is a starting point for exploring more of the Harry Potter series and J.K. Rowling's Wizarding World, which is a vast universe in canon and in fandom. You'll find resources listed, followed by a short description of what to expect from them, and why they're worth checking out. Even though this guide is geared towards fans based in the UK, there are plenty of online resources to connect you with others around the world. The focus is more on the Harry Potter series, though the Fantastic Beasts series and The Cursed Child play are also included.

Marauders' Mapping the Way

Don't worry, you won't need your wand to cast *Lumos* to illuminate the way, this guide has been designed to be as simple and straightforward to navigate as possible. There are hyperlinks in the Contents and in the text to jump to relevant parts of the guide.

The guide has four sections, '[Exploring the Canon](#)', '[Exploring the Fandom](#)', '[Places to Visit](#)' and a '[Shopping Guide](#)' for fans who visit London UK, the location of Diagon Alley in the series. There's also a '[Glossary](#)' at the end, explaining common fan phrases (if you're not sure what 'canon' and 'fandom' means, then have a quick peek now).

What's the age range for this guide?

This guide is mainly for people aged over 11 years, though some parts of the 'Exploring the Fandom' section has parts which are not suitable for those that are under 18 years, so parents should use their discretion. Resources and areas that contain explicit content have been noted.

Should I be worried about spoilers?

Efforts have been made to avoid major spoilers as much as possible.

Aren't there already other guides for this kind of thing?

There are fan wikis (listed in the '[Additional Information](#)' in this guide) which explain some areas in more detail, but this guide aims to give you a clear starting point for things you might want to explore further.

We hope you enjoy reading this guide as much as we enjoyed writing it. So, what are you waiting for? Get your broom and get ready for an adventure!

Contents

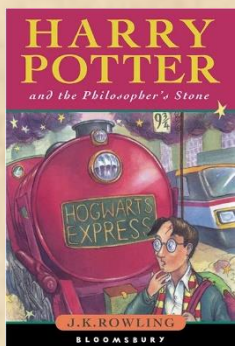
Exploring the Canon.....	3
Books	3
Films	9
Plays	15
Games.....	16
Additional Information.....	18
Exploring the Fandom	21
General Sites.....	21
Fanfiction.....	23
Fan Art and Memes.....	25
Music.....	26
Knitting and Crocheting.....	29
Sports.....	30
Quidditch.....	30
Running.....	31
Cosplay.....	32
Roleplay	32
Podcasts.....	33
Activism.....	35
Places to Visit	35
Shopping guide.....	39
Glossary	42
Reflection.....	43

Exploring the Canon

Books

The Original Series

J.K. Rowling's Wizarding World began with the Harry Potter book series, when the first book was published in 1997. Since then the books have been translated into 76 different languages. The first seven books that started off the series are listed below in chronological order. There are lots of editions, including illustrated ones by artist Jim Kay, editions specific to Hogwarts Houses, ebook and audiobook versions and an upcoming edition of the first book by Minalima (coming out in October 2020, see the [Shopping Guide](#) for more). The ISBNs listed below are for the current Bloomsbury printed paperback editions in the UK, but we've stuck with photos of the original editions for the nostalgia.

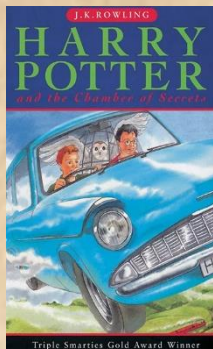


Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J.K. Rowling

First published: 1997 **Current Edition:** 2014 **ISBN:** 9781408855652

Publisher: Bloomsbury **RRP:** £6.99

The magic starts here. Harry first finds out he's a wizard and is invited to attend Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, saving him from life with the nasty and dull Dursleys. The American edition changes the title from 'Philosopher' to 'Sorcerer', as folks in marketing assumed 'Sorcerer' sounded more exciting, and would help with book sales initially. The story goes that J.K. Rowling was rejected numerous times before Bloomsbury took up the project. Only 500 copies were published at first, with 300 of those going to libraries. Needless to say, if you have one of those first editions, you might have enough to open your own Gringott's vault.



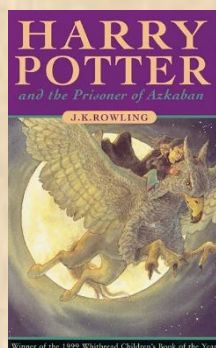
Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets by J.K. Rowling

First published: 1998 **Current Edition:** 2014 **ISBN:** 9781408855669

Publisher: Bloomsbury **RRP:** £7.99

Harry's adventures continue as he embarks on his second year at Hogwarts School. It gets off to quite a flying (car) start, but quickly turns more sinister as an ancient beast is awakened inside Hogwarts Castle.

The book immediately became number one in UK bestseller lists, and Rowling became the first author to win the British Book Awards Children's Book of the Year for two years in a row.



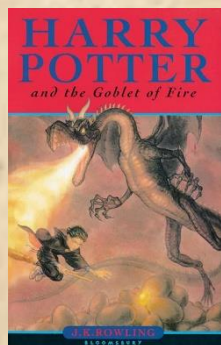
Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban by J.K. Rowling

First published: 1999 **Current Edition:** 2014 **ISBN:** 9781408855676

Publisher: Bloomsbury **RRP:** £7.99

Harry returns to Hogwarts for his third year amid the concerning news that a prisoner has escaped from Azkaban, a wizarding prison. This book sees the introduction of Professor Remus Lupin, who Rowling was

excited about introducing to readers. According to [MentalFloss](#), this book sold 68,000 copies in the UK within three days of its release, making it the fastest-selling British book of all time in 1999. It would go on to sell more than 65 million copies worldwide.

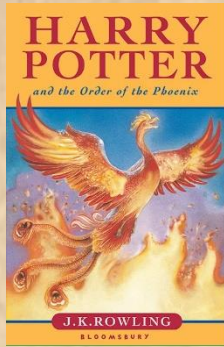


Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire by J.K. Rowling

First published: 2000 **Current Edition:** 2014 **ISBN:** 9781408855683

Publisher: Bloomsbury **RRP:** £8.99

Are you ready for the Triwizard Tournament? Hogwarts is joined by two other European wizarding schools as champions compete to prove their magical ability, intelligence and courage, and to gain the honour and glory of winning the Tournament, as well as the Triwizard Cup. Unfortunately, there are bigger plans afoot that will send Harry's world spiraling into darkness. This was the first book where Americans didn't have to wait for the U.S. edition to be released, as both the UK and U.S. editions were released on the same day.

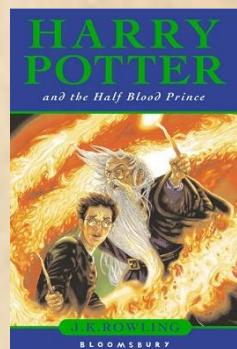


Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix by J.K. Rowling

First published: 2003 **Current Edition:** 2014 **ISBN:** 9781408855690

Publisher: Bloomsbury **RRP:** £8.99

There are lots of exciting adventures and battles in this volume, including a visit to the Ministry of Magic, a new teacher causing trouble at Hogwarts and Harry's discovery of an old Order that's integral in the fight against the dark wizard, Voldemort. At 257,045 words, this is the longest book in the Harry Potter series, but it gave J.K. Rowling a chance to expand the wizarding world further for avid readers.

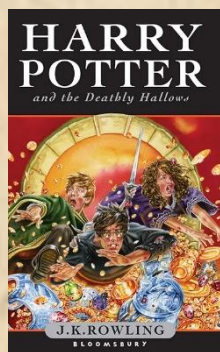


Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince by J.K. Rowling

First published: 2005 **Current Edition:** 2014 **ISBN:** 9781408855706

Publisher: Bloomsbury **RRP:** £8.99

Harry is anxious when Dumbledore comes to visit him and the Dursley's at Privet Drive, but our hero's journey in defeating Voldemort is only just beginning. We learn about horcruxes and more about the dark wizard threatening both the Muggle and wizarding world in the sixth thrilling novel of the series. Within 24 hours of its publication, nine million copies of this book had been sold in the United States and in Britain alone. It became the fastest selling book in history at that time.



Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows by J.K. Rowling

First published: 2007 **Current Edition:** 2014 **ISBN:** 9781408855713

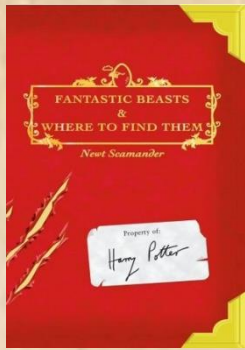
Publisher: Bloomsbury **RRP:** £8.99

The final dramatic installment sees Harry, Ron and Hermione embark on a perilous quest to defeat Voldemort. Hogwarts is no longer safe, sinister forces conspire to drive the friends apart and a full-blown war between good and evil looms. This book was so highly anticipated that, rumour has it, the publishers spent £20million on facilities to keep its secrets under wraps.

Adding to the Story

J.K. Rowling then set about adding books to her series to expand the universe she had created. The companion volumes listed below not only broadened the wizarding world, but helped raise money for charity in the Muggle world too.

Companion Volumes

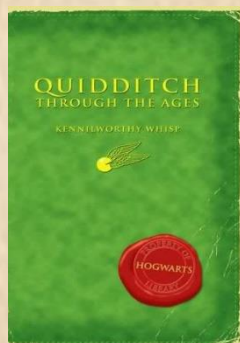


Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them by J.K. Rowling

First published: 2001 **Current Edition:** 2018 **ISBN:** 9781408896945

Publisher: Bloomsbury **RRP:** £5.99

Originally listed as being written by Newt Scamander, this book was written by J.K. Rowling to mimic one of the books which was on Harry's reading list for his first year at Hogwarts. 80% of proceeds for this book originally went solely to raise money for Comic Relief, but the new edition shares 50% of proceeds with Lumos, a children's charity founded by J.K. Rowling. The book lists details of 85 magical creatures and was compiled by Scamander through observations made over years of travel across five continents. The first edition of the book (in fiction) was published in 1927, and Harry's copy (the first Muggle book published in the real world) is the 52nd edition.

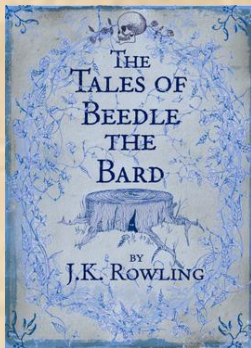


Quidditch Through the Ages by J.K. Rowling

First published: 2001 **Current Edition:** 2017 **ISBN:** 9781408883082

Publisher: Bloomsbury **RRP:** £5.99

First published under the pseudonym name Kennilworthy Whisp, again this book was written by J.K. Rowling to raise money for Comic Relief. Now sales of the book go to Comic Relief and Lumos. Whisp is said to be a Quidditch expert and fan who has written many books about the sport, and collects vintage broomsticks. The book includes a history of the sport, the evolution of flying broomsticks, and has a directory of Quidditch teams in Britain and Ireland.



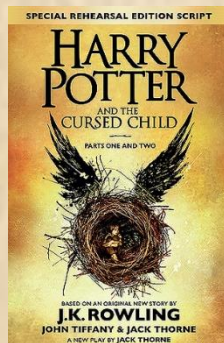
The Tales of Beedle the Bard by J.K. Rowling

First published: 2008 **Current Edition:** 2017 **ISBN:** 9781408883099
Publisher: Bloomsbury **RRP:** £5.99

This book features in the last book of the original series, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows. It's a popular collection of wizarding children's fairy tales, and Rowling had fun exploring how children in the magical world would have different tales told to them by parents. In wizarding fairytales, witches and wizards are not simply walk-on characters, or in the background (or the foes), but instead they become the heroes and heroines of the stories. In the last Harry Potter book, Hermione receives a copy of The Tales of Beedle the Bard, and the Tale of the Three Brothers features prominently in the plot. Hermione's copy has a symbol in it which is later identified as the Deathly Hallows. Rowling said: "writing it has been the most wonderful way to say goodbye to a world I loved and lived in for seventeen years". Sales of the book help to fund the charity Lumos.

The Scripts

The Leaky Cauldron (in [Additional Information](#)) claims that reading the scripts and screenplays can give us details that we might miss in the play and films. If you really want to delve deeper into the canon then it's worth checking these books out.



Harry Potter and the Cursed Child: Parts One and Two

by Jack Thorne (script and story), John Tiffany (story) and J.K. Rowling (story)

First published: 2016 **Current Edition:** 2017 **ISBN:** 9780751565355
Publisher: Little, Brown Book Group **RRP:** £20.00

This play is officially described as "the eighth story, nineteen years later". Published in 2016, the story follows Harry Potter, as well as Albus Severus Potter and Scorpius Malfoy. The first edition of the book was published on 31st July, Harry's birthday, and Rowling's birthday too. The play divided the fandom a little, with some fans saying that the dialogue was perfect, but other fans commenting that the story seemed more like a bad work of fanfiction (and many saying they had read better fanfics than this), but it's worth remembering that this is just a script, and seeing the show on stage is a totally different experience (see [Plays](#) for more).

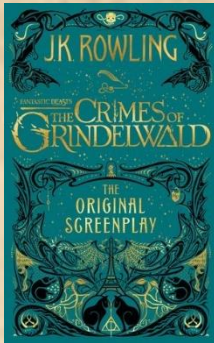


Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them: The Original Screenplay by J.K. Rowling

First published: 2016 **Current Edition:** 2016 **ISBN:** 9781408708989

Publisher: Little, Brown Book Group **RRP:** £16.99

This is the first film in the Fantastic Beasts series, which is set in New York in 1926. Rowling's debut as a screenwriter follows the protagonist Newt Scamander, a Magizoologist, and the author of one of Harry's textbooks (Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them). Newt is aiming to release one of the creatures he has in his briefcase to its natural home in Arizona, but runs into trouble as his case is unknowingly swapped with a No-Maj (the American equivalent of the word 'Muggle' to denote people born without magic). The story also begins exploring the rise of Gellert Grindelwald, who was a contemporary and a dark wizard who set out to transform the wizarding world.



Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald – The Original Screenplay by J.K. Rowling

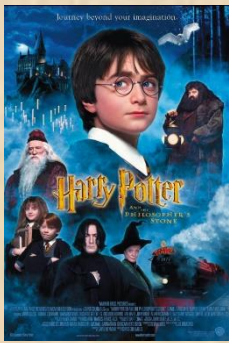
First published: 2018 **Current Edition:** 2018 **ISBN:** 9780751578287

Publisher: Little, Brown Book Group **RRP:** £16.99

Newt's story continues in 1927 as he is sent to Paris on a mission, but only finds himself further entangled in the continued rise of the dark wizard, Grindelwald. The screenplay gives us a few extra details than you might first spot in the film. For example, there are similarities between Grindelwald and Voldemort when the former casts a spell that grants one of his followers a new forked tongue. This is like Voldemort granting Wormtail a silver hand in the Harry Potter series (check out some of the essays from The Leaky Cauldron in [Additional Information](#) for more analytical nuggets like that). There's also a few more secrets revealed such as the extent to a certain Blood Pact...

Films

The Harry Potter film rights were purchased by Warner Brothers in 1999, who set about making film adaptations of the original series. They also went on to make the Fantastic Beasts series. The plots of the films follow those of the books quite closely, so below you'll find facts and interesting tidbits about the making of the films, rather than their content. It's very difficult as a fan to ignore the films of the series, no matter how much of a pure-blood you might think you are.



Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone **['Sorcerer's Stone' in the USA]**

Released: 2001 **Director:** Chris Columbus **Screenwriter:** Steve Kloves
Producer: David Heyman **Running time:** 2 hours 39 mins

Rowling requested from the outset that all actors in the Harry Potter films be British. The author had specific people in mind for some of the characters, such as Robbie Coltrane as Rubeus Hagrid and Alan Rickman as Professor Severus Snape.

Daniel Radcliffe has said he was in the bath when his dad came running in and said, 'Guess who they want to play Harry Potter!?' Radcliffe said he started to cry, and that it was probably the best moment of his life. Rupert Grint apparently submitted a rap as his audition for the part of Ron Weasley. Emma Watson was the last girl in her school to audition for the role of Hermione Granger, and she was reluctant to do so, but her teachers encouraged her.



Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

Released: 2002 **Director:** Chris Columbus **Screenwriter:** Steve Kloves **Producer:** David Heyman **Running time:** 2 hours 54 mins

Despite being based on the shortest book in the series, this film ended up being the longest of the films in the series.

This film sees the return of the main cast from the previous film, such as Richard Harris to play Professor Dumbledore (sadly the last time the actor played Dumbledore before his death) as well as Kenneth Branagh to play Professor Gilderoy Lockhart, and Jason Isaacs as Lucius Malfoy. Isaacs was quite influential (just like his character) in deciding on Lucius' appearance. Originally filmmakers thought Lucius should have a sharp pin-striped suit, but Isaacs said that Lucius, as a fierce pure-blood and hater of Muggles, would probably do everything to look nothing like them. So, his hair was long, instead of short and slicked back. And his robes are as wizardly and extravagant as possible, and like the diva he is, Isaacs even requested a cane for his character. He loved walking with it so much that he tried to walk off with it after filming, but was caught.



Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

Released: 2004 **Director:** Alfonso Cuarón **Screenwriter:** Steve Kloves **Producer:** David Heyman, Chris Columbus and Mark Radcliffe **Running time:** 2 hours 22 mins

There are quite a few new actors in Prisoner of Azkaban, including Michael Gambon as Professor Dumbledore (following Harris' death), Gary Oldman as Sirius Black, Timothy Spall as Peter Pettigrew, Emma Thompson as Professor Sybil Trelawney and David Thewlis as Professor Remus Lupin.

As Cuarón was new to the films, he asked Watson, Radcliffe and Grint to each write about their characters. The actors responded just as their characters would. Watson came back with ten pages, going above and beyond in homework, just like Hermione would. Radcliffe wrote about a page, similar to Harry, he was too busy to spend too long worrying about anything academic. And Grint didn't write anything, similar to Ron's laid-back attitude in the series towards schoolwork. Cuarón learned everything he needed from this task; mainly that these actors were perfect for their parts.



Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

Released: 2005 **Director:** Mike Newell **Screenwriter:** Steve Kloves
Producer: David Heyman **Running time:** 2 hours 37 mins

This was the first film to be released with a 12A rating (PG-13 and equivalent around the world) as the series start to get darker from this instalment onwards. This is the first film where Ralph Fiennes appears as Lord Voldemort. Fiennes had to shave his head and armpits for filming, and had veins painted on his head and arms for every day of filming. He had prosthetics covering his eyebrows, but he requested not to have too much on his face, as he was concerned it would affect his facial expressions and acting.

It's worth mentioning that this film sparked a hilarious meme to ripple through the Harry Potter fandom. In one particular scene Dumbledore asks Harry a question 'calmly' in the book, but in the film... well it didn't translate so accurately:



(Artwork by Kelly Lynch. Read more about the meme [here](#))



Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

Released: 2007 **Director:** David Yates **Screenwriter:** Michael Goldenberg **Producer:** David Heyman and David Barron
Running time: 2 hours 22 mins

Even though Order of the Phoenix was the longest book of the series, this is the shortest of the films, which frustrated some fans. There's also no Quidditch, which Radcliffe (as someone who hated the method of filming for those scenes) didn't mind, but some fans were disappointed. In fact, there were shots and lines that featured in the trailers that don't appear in the final film or in any extra scenes on the DVDs. Here, we're introduced to Imelda Staunton as the sickly sweet/evil Professor Dolores Umbridge, and Helena Bonham Carter as the dark witch, Bellatrix Lestrange. The original script had no mention of the house-elf Kreacher, but Rowling insisted he be included, which gave fans at the time an indication as to his importance in later books.



Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince

Released: 2009 **Director:** David Yates **Screenwriter:** Steve Kloves
Producer: David Heyman and David Barron
Running time: 2 hours 34 mins

In the first draft of the script, Dumbledore was meant to talk to Harry about love, and mention that when he was young, he had a crush on a girl. However, Rowling cut the line, outing Dumbledore as gay, which sent shockwaves through the fandom. This film sees the introduction of Jim Broadbent as Professor Horace Slughorn, and the return of Quidditch, which Rupert Grint was excited about as Ron didn't play Quidditch before this part of the series. Grint had to have a few weeks of stunt training beforehand, and in scenes where Quidditch players fly off their brooms, there was a giant swing used to launch them.



Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1

Released: 2010 **Director:** David Yates **Screenwriter:** Steve Kloves

Producer: David Heyman, David Barron and J.K. Rowling

Running time: 2 hours 27 mins

The two parts of Deathly Hallows were filmed back-to-back, with a total of 236 days. Near the beginning of this film is the “seven Harrys” scene, which was so complex, Radcliffe counted over ninety takes for just one shot. One of David Heyman’s (Producer) favourite scenes of the whole series is in this film, when Harry dances with Hermione to the song “O Children”, by Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds. It doesn’t appear in the books, but is a beautiful, bittersweet moment nonetheless.



Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2

Released: 2011 **Director:** David Yates **Screenwriter:** Steve Kloves

Producer: David Heyman, David Barron and J.K. Rowling

Running time: 2 hours 10 mins

One part of the film sees Hermione take Polyjuice potion in order to impersonate Bellatrix Lestrange. For the scene, Helena Bonham Carter asked Emma Watson to act first, so she would know how to act. Essentially for this scene, Helena Bonham Carter is acting like Emma Watson, acting like Hermione, who is acting like Bellatrix (a true witch-ception moment!).

As a gift at the end of the series, Radcliffe brought Grint a print of a still from the film series, which he signed. In it, Harry is stepping on Ron’s head (which seems like the kind of present Harry would probably get Ron).

The final shot filmed during shooting involved Radcliffe, Grint and Watson throwing themselves onto a giant blue mat. When the Director shouted “Cut!” all three of them burst into tears.



Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them

Released: 2016 **Director:** David Yates **Screenwriter:** J.K. Rowling
Producer: David Heyman, J.K. Rowling, Steve Kloves and Lionel Wigram **Running time:** 2 hours 12 mins

Rowling personally chose Eddie Redmayne to play Newt Scamander, and he was cast without an audition, as she said he was perfect for the role. The cast also includes Ezra Miller as Credence Barebone, and Colin Farrell as Percival Graves. The actors got to design their own wands for the films. In 2017, this became the first Wizarding World film to win an Academy Award, for Best Costume Design.

Redmayne admitted that his favourite of all the creatures in the films is Newt's little pet Bowtruckle, so much so that he wore a little model of it at the premiere in New York.



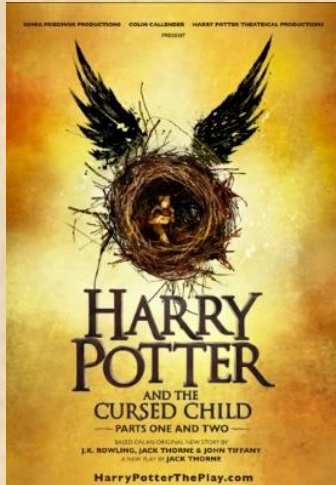
Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald

Released: 2018 **Director:** David Yates **Screenwriter:** J.K. Rowling
Producer: David Heyman, J.K. Rowling, Steve Kloves and Lionel Wigram **Running time:** 2 hours 14 mins

As with Redmayne, Rowling chose Johnny Depp to play Gellert Grindelwald, and Depp accepted without even reading any scripts. He also commented that unlike Rowling's hand in other films in the Wizarding World series, he was given quite a lot of free reign to make the character his own. It was his choice, for example, to have Grindelwald have mismatching eyes, as he thought the character almost has two personalities or brains inside, with Gellert's identity somewhere in the middle. Premiered in Paris, unfortunately this is the lowest grossing film in the Wizarding World franchise, but with more films set to be released over the next few years, it's worth catching up on the story to stay in the know.

Plays

Note: Due to COVID-19 all performances have stopped, but are expected to resume once lockdown measures have been lifted in their respective countries.



Harry Potter and the Cursed Child Part One and Part Two

Writer: Jack Thorne, J.K. Rowling and John Tiffany

Date Premiered: 30 July 2016

Place premiered: Palace Theatre, London

<https://www.harrypottertheplay.com/>

This play has won a whopping 40 awards across the world including Best New Play, Best Director, Best Costume Design and Best Set Design among others in the Laurence Olivier Awards in Britain, where the play first premiered. Anthony Boyle who played Scorpius Malfoy in the original West End and Broadway casts received lots of praise from critics and fans for his performance.

- **Current productions:**
 - London, UK: Palace Theatre
 - New York, USA: The Lyric Theatre
 - Melbourne, Australia: Princess Theatre
 - San Francisco, USA: Curran Theater
- **Upcoming productions:**
 - Hamburg, Germany: Mehr! Theater (October 2020)
 - Toronto, Canada: Ed Mirvish Theatre (delayed to 2021)
 - Tokyo, Japan: TBS Akasaka ACT Theater (Summer 2022)

Games

Video games were produced for each installment of the film series. They're easy to find online, but the resources listed here are other video games, and mobile games that relate to the series that you might want to try out.

Video Games



LEGO Harry Potter: Years 1-4

First released: 2010 **Developers:** Traveller's Tales and TT Fusion

Platforms: Mobile (iOS, Android), PC, Mac, Nintendo 3DS, Wii, Playstation 3, Playstation 4, Playstation Portable, Xbox 360, Xbox One, Nintendo Switch **Mode:** Single or multiplayer

Based on Harry's adventures during the first four Harry Potter films, this game creates a fun and new way to re-live the magic of J.K. Rowling's Wizarding World. There are funny cut-scenes that are universal to all languages, and the game is fun for Harry Potter fans of all ages. From Hogwarts, to Diagon Alley, to the Forbidden Forest, players can expect puzzle-solving, spellcasting, and even potion-making and much more in their quest to defeat Voldemort.



LEGO Harry Potter: Years 5-7

First released: 2011 **Developers:** Traveller's Tales and TT Fusion

Platforms: Mobile (iOS and Android), PC, Mac, Playstation 3, Playstation 4, Playstation Portable, Playstation Vita, Wii, Xbox 360, Xbox One, Nintendo Switch **Mode:** Single or multiplayer

The adventure continues in this game based on original Harry Potter films from Order of the Phoenix onwards. New locations in the game include Grimmauld Place, the Ministry of Magic, Godric's Hollow and more. This game is a little harder than Years 1-4, as you encounter bigger and more challenging puzzles, just like Harry. But there's still plenty of humour to cheer you up through the dark times.

Mobile Games



Harry Potter: Wizards Unite

First released: 2019 **Developers:** Niantic

Platforms: Android, iOS **Mode:** Single player (multiplayer available in fortress battles)

From the developers that created the wildly successful Pokemon Go mobile game, comes a free Harry Potter themed augmented reality game. The plot is set after the epilogue of the last book, and asks players to be part of the SOS (Statute of Secrecy) Task Force, to try and contain magic that is at risk of revealing the wizarding world to Muggles. The game uses your mobile location to show you 'confoundables' close-by that need to be captured and collected with various spells, as well as items to collect, as well as 'inns' and 'fortresses' where you can collect spell energy, and fight battles either solo, or with others who are also in the area. The game is constantly being updated with things like 'Adventure Sync' (to count how far you travel even when the game is off so you can still benefit and unlock portkeys) as well as a recent addition of the Knightbus to transport you to the fortress at Hogwarts Castle, where you can team up and battle with players from across the globe.



Harry Potter: Hogwarts Mystery

First released: 2018 **Developers:** Jam City

Platforms: Android, iOS **Mode:** Single player

The plot of this role-play game is set between Harry's birth and when he finds out he is a wizard. The game takes place at Hogwarts School, and the player is the main character in this story where you try to uncover the mystery surrounded the cursed vaults at the Castle. Features of the game include being able to customize your personal avatar, attending lessons, and making choices that affect the game's narrative.

Additional Information

Ready to delve a little deeper into the world of Harry Potter? The following websites provide oodles of information about the canon and fandom surrounding Harry Potter. We've included information on whether you need an account or not to view the site in the access sections, and it's worth mentioning that all the following sites are free to join. You'll notice that we're merging into the fandom area the further you go down this list...



Wizarding World

<https://www.wizardingworld.com/>

Access: some parts of the site can be read without an account, but if you want to do the sorting quiz, or find out your Patronus or wand details then you'll need to sign up

Listed as the official home of Harry Potter and Fantastic Beasts, this is a relatively new site (launched in 2020) that aims to be official hub of both of Rowling's magical series and everything that entails. Originally this site was known as Pottermore amongst fans (if you're wondering whatever happened to that, this is it), and they've joined up with Warner Bros. to create an interesting site where fans can sink their teeth into the canon.

Here you'll find the official sorting quiz to find out your Hogwarts house (sure there are plenty of other quizzes on the internet, but this is the official one), your Ilvermorny house (the American version of Hogwarts), find out what form your Patronus takes and even find out which wand you should have. There are other fun quizzes on the site to test your knowledge of the series, as well as fun facts and articles, and clips from the films.

MuggleNet

The #1 Wizarding World Resource Since 1999

MuggleNet

<https://www.mugglenet.com/>

Access: open, but an account lets you join in the discussions and contribute to the site

Launched in 1999, the fansite MuggleNet is still going strong. Here you can find news, editorials, an encyclopedia of the Harry Potter books and films, and more. You can join as a member for free to chat in the discussion forums and talk about predictions, thoughts, and generally to chat about the fandom. You can also find a fanfiction part of the website (formally MuggleNet FanFiction (MNFF)), and there are often caption competitions as well as contests and polls.



The Harry Potter Lexicon

<https://www.hp-lexicon.org/>

Access: open

The Lexicon aims to document everything that J.K. Rowling has herself created. For that reason, you won't find anything about the films here, but instead you'll find detailed information from the canon created by the books. What sets the Lexicon apart is the emphasis on research into the canon, and the way in which themes are tagged and spoken about, for example 'anger' or 'escape'. There are also essays written by fans and academics available on this site, dating back to when the site was first launched in 2000. If you're looking for meaning or to understand the canon a little deeper, then it's worth checking the Lexicon out.



The-Leaky-Cauldron.org

<http://www.the-leaky-cauldron.org/>

Access: open

Having won Rowling's Fan Site Award, Rowling stated that she is a huge fan of The Leaky Cauldron site, that it has accurate information and attracts knowledgeable and entertaining debate. You'll find news relating to all things Harry Potter and Wizarding World here, as well as interviews, reports from the film sets, essays and detailed articles about plot points and more.



Harry Potter Wiki

https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/Main_Page

Access: open

Like Wikipedia, this site is an encyclopedic resource and community, but dedicated to all things in the Wizarding World. Founded in 2005, there are over 16,400 entries on the site, explaining everything from characters, to spells, potions, creatures, locations and buildings, and events in the books. All the content is compiled by fans of the series. There are articles that cover each of the films, books and even some parts of the fandom as well.

If you need a quick place to go to check out details like when a character was born, or what house they were in at school, for a fanfic that you're writing, then this is a useful resource.

Exploring the Fandom

General Sites

Before we get into the nitty-gritty of the fandom, it's worth noting some of the general sites where you'll find Harry Potter content. As you read further down the guide, remember these general sites, as there'll be relevant videos, posts and threads on these sites. To help you on your adventure, we've added links direct to relevant tags so you can start exploring.



YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/>

Access: open

For all of the different aspects of the fandom we will point to below, YouTube is a place where you can find examples of all of them. Whether it's music videos of favourite pairings, someone reading passages of cringe-worthy fanfics, fans discussing themes in the books, music videos from wizard rock artists, or people showing off their cosplay, there's plenty to explore on YouTube.



Reddit

<https://www.reddit.com/>

Access: open (but an account needed to comment and post)

From fan theories, to memes, to fanfic communities, to tattoos, Reddit is a vast site full of different communities you can join for whatever part of the fandom you want to join in with. There are even specific communities for the mobile games listed above (if you want helpful tips it's a good place to go). With tens of thousands of users in each community, you're sure to find friends with similar interests. Jump into the Harry Potter Community [here](#).



Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/>

Access: open

There are over 26 million posts on Instagram about Harry Potter, ranging from movie facts, memes, art, knitting, to photos of tattoos and [cosplays](#). It's worth noting that Instagram is optimized for use with smartphones, and whilst you can view, comment and like posts on a desktop, you can't post unless you use a smartphone, iPad or tablet device.



Tumblr

<https://www.tumblr.com/>

Access: open, but the site is easier to navigate with an account (free)

Tumblr is a microblogging site, founded in 2007, and a go-to place for fans of all things. There are over 488 million blogs on Tumblr so it's a huge site. You can effortlessly share photos, images, quotes, and text, and also reblog posts from other blogs to your own. Here you'll find plenty to do with all things Harry Potter, from creative digital art from the films, to gifs, fan art, memes, fanfics, roleplay and fan theories. It's also a place where people post photos of their cosplays, knits, audio, podcasts, and much more. To get started, you'll need to search for tags, and this is both the best and worst thing about Tumblr, as not everyone tags their posts properly or consistently. That said, it's easy to find like-minded fans and blogs if you browse the reblog and like lists of a post you also like.

Fanfiction

Fanfiction are stories written by fans inspired the original series, and the term is often shortened to fanfic. These explore alternative plots, the background plots of minor characters, and often pair different characters together in romantic relationships. Fanfics can range from adventure, to romance, to explicit scenes, and most sites which offer access to fanfics often have filters to be able to search for fanfics which you want to explore in particular. If you feel like you're not clued up on all the language used in fanfics or fandom (things like ships, slash, OTP) then it's worth having a quick look at the [Glossary](#) to make sure you're up to speed.



Fanfiction.Net (FF.net)

<https://www.fanfiction.net/>

Access: open (free account needed to post your own fics and participate)

This site was founded in 1998 by computer programmer Xing Li. It's an archive with over 12 million registered users and has stories in over 40 languages, with over 600,000 fanfic stories relating to Harry Potter. Each fanfic has a maturity rating, genre, and wordcount listed along with its blurb which is written entirely by the fans. There's also the ability to review what other users have written. The site was involved in some controversy when lots of fanfics were deleted and the site was updated. As such it lost some favour from the fandom, but there's still plenty to read there. You don't need an account to read the stories, but there are benefits to having an account, like joining groups, leaving comments and reviews, and messaging other writers and users.



Archive of our Own (AO3)

<https://archiveofourown.org/>

Access: open

AO3 is a repository for fanfics, with over 5.9 million works spanning over 36,000 fandoms, with some works having crossovers. There are over 236,000 Harry Potter fanfics to explore, with relatively sophisticated filters. Volunteer staff

at A03 aim to add tags to works to make them easier to find in searches. You don't need an account to read the fics, but if you'd like to upload your own stories, leave comments, or message other users then you will need an account. It's free, but you'll need to request an invitation to join (so not instant) but being as this is currently one of the most popular fanfic sites currently, it's worth it for writers.

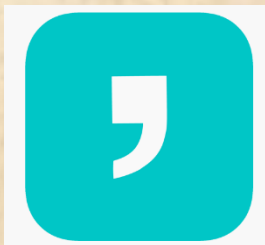


Harry Potter Fanfiction

<https://harrypotterfanfiction.com/>

Access: open

With over 84,000 fanfics, this site caters specifically to anyone in need of some Harry Potter fanfic. Unlike the two sites listed above, there's the option to add covers to fanfic works, and the site feels less bare than AO3 and FF.net. That said it can feel a little click-baity in places with its articles about the series and writing course, but as a site entirely dedicated to the Harry Potter series, it deserves a mention.

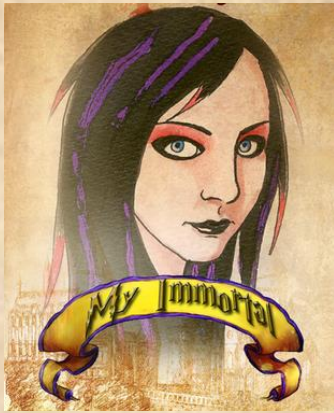


Commaful

<https://commaful.com/>

Access: open

Even though Commaful is a much smaller site in terms of number of fanfics, it has an interesting new way to share stories. It's much more focused on the aesthetic, allows authors to use more images, and flicking through stories is much faster (especially on a smartphone). If you're looking for a fresh take on how to present and read fanfics then it's worth checking out.



My Immortal by Tara Gilesbie

<https://myimmortalrehost.webs.com/>

*Note: This fanfic contains strong themes around sex, suicide, self-harm and should **not** be read by people under 18.*

One fanfic in particular gets a special mention as it is infamous throughout the Harry Potter fandom. Full of typos, emo and gothic attitude and ridiculous adult scenes, if you haven't heard about it, then you really should check it out. As far as writing goes, it's acknowledged as one of the worst Harry Potter fanfics ever written; so bad that it's good. Even today there are still events in the UK and US where people read out the fanfic in public. Or if you can't wait for the next event, you can listen to a famous dramatic reading of it on YouTube [here](#).

Fan Art and Memes

No fandom would be complete without its own memes and fan art to accompany it. Below are a few places to get started if you want to explore fan art, memes, comics and more.



DeviantArt

<https://www.deviantart.com/tag/harrypotter>

Access: open

Launched in 2000, DeviantArt is an online community where artists (or 'deviants' on the site) can upload their work, and converse with others. Art here includes everything from tradition art, digital art, literature, photography and more, along with tutorials. There are over a million works of art relating to Harry Potter and the Wizarding World on this site, and you can even purchase artworks on the site too.



Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/>

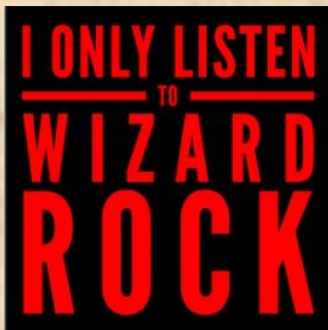
Access: account needed to view posts

Pinterest has over 320 million active monthly users, and there's lots of Harry Potter related content on there, from interesting facts about the books and movies, to funny memes, to fan art, to gifs, cosplay and more. Users can create an infinite number of boards to categorize images and posts they'd like to save.

Explore fanart:

- Instagram:
 - [#harrypotterfanart](#)
 - [#harrypotterart](#)
- Tumblr:
 - [#harrypotterfanart](#)
 - [#hpfanart](#)

Music



Wizard Rock

Wizard rock (sometimes referred to as 'wrock' by fans) in the Harry Potter fandom dates back to 2002 when the first wizard rock band was formed by the DeGeorge brothers (see 'Harry and the Potters' below). There have been well over 800 different wizard rock bands, still with more being formed to date with the help of micro-grants organized by Yes All Witches (find out more [here](#)). Artists write from the perspectives of various characters in the books, and sing about different events and topics in the series. The music ranges from punk to electronic, and the lyrics range from angsty, political, and romantic, often with humor and usually a little tongue-in-cheek.

Note: Some bands use explicit language in some of their songs, so parents should be aware before letting any children explore

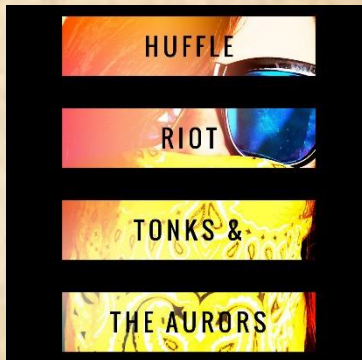
Example bands:



Harry and the Potters

<https://www.harryandthepotters.com/>

This band is what sparked the wizard rock phenomenon. The band is formed by Paul DeGeorge and his brother Joe DeGeorge, and Paul explains that he considered what sort of music Harry Potter himself would probably enjoy and want to sing, and considering the anti-authoritarian attitudes he often displayed in the books, DeGeorge decided that Harry would probably be a punk rocker. Harry and the Potters have played over 900 shows in libraries, rock clubs, art spaces, bookstores, basements, and all ages venues all over the world.



Tonks and the Aurors

<https://www.tonksandtheaurors.com/>

Created in 2007 and fronted by Steph Anderson, this band have described themselves as being the Bruce Springsteen of the wizard rock movement. Their songs are often political, with a feminist and social justice theme.

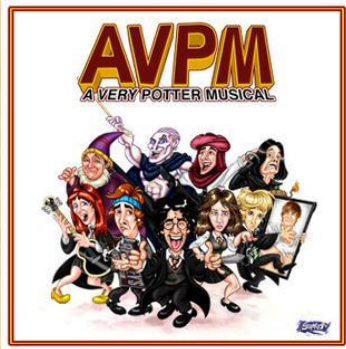


Your Wizard Rock Resource

<https://yourwizardrockresource.wordpress.com/>

Fanmade, this site aims to collect as much current information about the wizard rock scene. Here you'll find a catalogue of bands, information about their albums and EPs, news from bands, and even an ongoing project of compiling a comprehensive, chronological timeline of live wizard rock performances. The site also recently launched a Discord server for fellow wrock fans to connect with each other.

See also: WZRD Radio in [Podcasts](#).

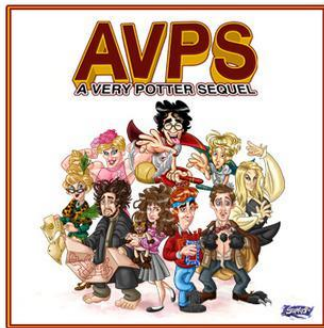


A Very Potter Musical (AVPM)

Music: Darren Criss and Andrew James Holmes **Script:** Matt Lang, Nick Lang and Brian Holden **Produced by:** Team Starkid
Premiered: University of Michigan 2009

<https://www.teamstarkid.com/a-very-potter-musical>

This musical is a parody of the original Harry Potter series. Full of jokes and catchy songs, the show went viral on youtube, even winning an award in 2009 from Entertainment Weekly as one of the 10 Best Viral Videos Of 2009. The musical has its own mini fandom, with lots of memes, gifs and fan art produced by fans. The title is often shortened to **AVPM**, so use that search term if you want to explore more.



A Very Potter Sequel (AVPS)

Music: Darren Criss and Andrew James Holmes **Script:** Matt Lang, Nick Lang and Brian Holden **Produced by:** Team Starkid
Premiered: University of Michigan 2009

<https://www.teamstarkid.com/a-very-potter-sequel>

Following the success of A Very Potter Musical, Team Starkid set about making a sequel to the first musical. Again, the plot follows some of the canon storyline, but also has its own twists, whilst packed full of recurring and new jokes, new music, and characters who didn't appear in the first musical, such as Lucius Malfoy and Dolores Umbridge.

Knitting and Crocheting

This might seem like a random inclusion for the guide, but knitting features a few times in the series. When Hagrid first takes Harry to Diagon Alley via a Muggle train, he takes out some knitting to pass the time of the journey. In Goblet of Fire Hermione starts knitting items for house-elves. And it's also an apparent favourite pastime of Albus Dumbledore, as well as Molly Weasley and Sybil Trelawney. This love was echoed in the fandom through help with the site Ravelry, which encouraged lots of fans to first pick up their own set of needles to get started.



Ravelry

<https://www.ravelry.com/>

Access: account needed (free)

Ravelry is an online community for people who knit and crochet. The site creates a space where they can keep track of, and share, projects they are working on, photos of their finished products, as well as share or look up patterns or yarn that may interest them. There are over 800 different patterns that relate to Harry Potter, including over 400 that are available for free. To access the site, you'll need to make a free account.



Knitting Wizardry: 27 Spellbinding Projects

by Amy Clarke Moore

Published: 2014 **ISBN:** 9781620338483

Publisher: Interweave Press

RRP: £16.99 (paperback) £3.99 (ebook)

From cardigans, socks, gauntlets and hats, there are plenty of beautiful patterns in this volume to inspire every Harry Potter fan to pick up their knitting needles. Many of these patterns started out on Ravelry, and have been presented in a European format in this volume.



Harry Potter Knitting Magic - The official Harry Potter knitting pattern book by Tanis Gray

Published: 2020 **ISBN:** 9781911641926 **Publisher:** Pavilion Books Company Limited **RRP:** £22.99

This is an official book from the Wizarding World franchise. For slightly more advanced knitters and crochet fans, you'll find lots of gorgeous projects here. From scarves to cardigans and jumpers, to owl and pixy knitted plushies.

Sports

Quidditch

Introduced in the first Harry Potter book, Quidditch has been modified for the 'Muggle' world, and is now played in over 40 different countries around the world. It's a fast-paced full-contact sport, and players must always keep a broom between their legs during the game.



International Quidditch Association

<https://www.iqasport.com/>

This association organizes the International Quidditch Association World Cup, which was first held in Oxford, UK in 2012. On this site you can find out more about the history of Quidditch in the real world, as well as the rules of the game, and resources for teams.



Quidditch UK

<https://www.quidditchuk.org/>

This site provides information about the national UK Quidditch team, as well as a list of the UK clubs, and resources on how to get started with your own club.



Quidditch Premier League

<https://www.quidditchpremierleague.com/>

The Quidditch Premier League is comprised of teams from the UK, France, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands. The season runs in the summer between June to August.

Running



Potterhead Running Club

<https://potterheadrunning.org/>

The Potterhead Running Club is a charity which encourages fans to run events and marathons to raise money. They're a virtual running club, and virtual runs are events that take place physically (but with a virtual community behind you, cheering you on). You choose where to run, at any time and any pace, or as part of another 'real-world' race, such as a marathon. Registration costs £23 which covers the cost of a custom finisher's medal, and personalized custom bib.

Cosplay

Cosplay (shortened from costume-play) is when fans dress up as characters from the canon series. Fans get creative with hair, make up, and sometimes make their own props and costumes. Conventions and events are good places to see fans in cosplay, and most of them post images on social media sites. There isn't really an active site for cosplayers, instead you'll see their posts popping up on the 'General Sites' we listed above. We've collected a few links below to get you started though.

- Facebook: [Harry Potter Cosplay Community](#) (group, 3500+ members)
- Instagram: [#harrypottercosplay](#)
- Tumblr: [#harrypottercosplay](#)

Roleplay

Roleplay (RP) can take the form of 'live action role play' (LARP) or online through the use of message boards and dedicated sites. It's a form of ultimate escapism and for Harry Potter fans, it's still going quite strong. For this section we'll focus on online RP on message boards, where each member has a dedicated character that writes prose and speech in response to other member's characters. Sites can follow the canon, but often have their own plotlines, and original characters (OC).



RPG Directory

<http://rpg-directory.com/>

Access: open but if you want to join in with discussions then you'll need a free account

A lot of RP sites are run by fans themselves on message-board and forum hosting sites such as Jcink and Invision, and they can be hard to find, as well as being somewhat ephemeral. Luckily RPG Directory lists active boards, and is a place where board owners can advertise their own sites to try and encourage new members to join and take up characters to play. On RPG Directory, you'll also find resources to help you with the coding for your own site, and graphics too. There are boards for various different fandoms, to jump straight in and view the Harry Potter themed ones, [click here](#).



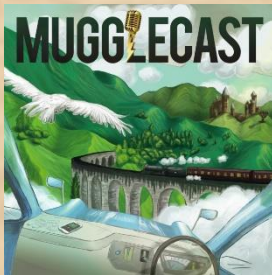
Hogwarts Extreme (Hex)

<https://www.hexrpg.com/>

Access: free but an account is needed

Often shortened to 'Hex', this is an interactive site which allows users to experience Hogwarts through text-based RP. Hex was started in 2002 and is still active today. The site is moderated, and there are strict rules for anyone who breaks them, so the site creates a safe environment for everyone to enjoy. Users can sign up to magical classes where they receive homework and credit so they can progress to the next year, they can RP with other members, join clubs, and even have virtual pets to have with them at Hogwarts.

Podcasts

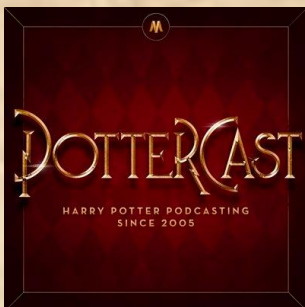


MuggleCast

<https://www.mugglecast.com/>

Founded: 2005 **Updated:** weekly

Starting off with over 50,000 listeners weekly when they were founded in 2005, MuggleCast continues to have a popular following among Harry Potter fans. Their episodes range from revisiting chapters in the books, interviews with actors from the film series, film commentaries, politics surrounding the fandom, news from J.K. Rowling's new projects, and more.



PotterCast

<http://pottercast.mischiefmedia.com/>

Founded: 2005 **Updated:** usually once a month

The official podcast of The Leaky Cauldron fansite. As one of the longest running podcasts about the wizarding world that's still active, there's lots to explore. On the site you can explore categories of past episodes, from interviews (including J.K. Rowling, and Harry and the Potters band), news, discussions about the books in rereads, and even politics surrounding the fandom.

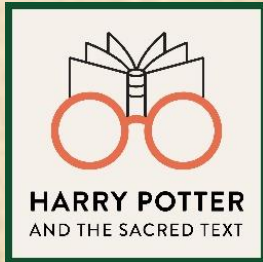


WZRD Radio Podcast

<https://wzrdradiopod.wordpress.com/>

Founded: 2020 **Updated:** monthly

WZRD Radio is a new podcast for 2020, dedicated to wizard rock. In each episode you'll hear a few tracks from various wizard rock artists, and also have an update of Harry Potter fandom related events happening, usually in the USA. You can find an events calendar on their site, as well as other resources to connect you to other fans.



Harry Potter and the Sacred Text

<https://www.harrypottersacredtext.com/>

Founded: 2016 **Updated:** weekly

The makers of this podcast regard the original seven books of the series by J.K. Rowling to be 'sacred texts', and they read, think about and talk of them as such. Described as an English Literature class discussing the books, or 'Bible studies for J.K. Rowling fans', the podcasts also explored the canon of the first seven books to find meaning and learn valuable lessons.



SpeakBeasty

<https://speakbeasty.com/>

Founded: 2015 **Updated:** bi-weekly on Sundays

Founded by MuggleNet, this podcast explores the Fantastic Beasts series of the Wizarding World. SpeakBeasty provides listeners with updates about filming, fun chats, speculations about the upcoming films, and exploring plots and themes from the series. They sometimes have special guests, including Dan Fogler who played the No-Maj Jacob Kowalski in the films.

Activism



The Harry Potter Alliance (HPA)

<https://www.thehpalliance.org/>

Born from the wizard rock movement, The HPA aim to make activism accessible, to encourage fans to engage in campaigns to support communities in need, and also equip fans with campaigning and leadership skills.

They've successfully created libraries in communities that are underserved, have donated over 400,000 books across the world, and even organized a global walk to raise awareness to get Warner Brothers to change their sourcing of Harry Potter chocolate to be 100% Fairtrade. On their site you can find information about local 'chapters' near you, and discover how you can get involved, or even set up a chapter near you.

Places to Visit

Note: Due to COVID-19 many of these have closed temporarily. Please see their websites for more information.

Official locations:



Harry Potter Warner Brothers Studio Tour, UK

<https://www.wbstudiotour.co.uk/>

Location: Warner Bros. Studio Tour London, Studio Tour Drive, Leavesden, WD25 7LR **Duration:** roughly 3 ½ hours, though only the beginning is guided, and you can spend longer there if you want.

Tickets: prices start at £47 for adults, £38 for children, group and family deals are available. Tickets **must** be booked in advance

Opened in 2012, the Studio Tour is an absolute must for Harry Potter fans. You can explore the studio and sets where the films were made, as well as see props, costumes, and even concept art produced for the films. New sections are often added, including the Dark Arts, the Hogwarts Express train, the Forbidden Forest, and most recently Gringotts Bank. The first part of the tour is guided to introduce visitors, but after the Great Hall, visitors are left to their own pace.

Visits must be booked in advance, and the suggested minimum time to explore the studio is 90 minutes, but fans often stay much longer.



The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, Universal Orlando, USA

<https://www.universalorlando.com/web/en/us/universal-orlando-resort/the-wizarding-world-of-harry-potter/hub>

Location: Orlando, USA **Tickets:** start at £97 per person

Spread across two theme parks (which means you'll have to buy two tickets if you want to visit both), you'll find Diagon Alley in Universal Studios, and Hogsmeade in Islands of Adventure. Here you can explore Diagon Alley to shop, dine at The Leaky Cauldron, visit Hogsmeade, and Hogwarts Castle, as well as a few rides. To travel between the two parks, there's the option to board the Hogwarts Express train, though this will require an extra ticket. There's lots to explore here, and even the chance to purchase an interactive wand (\$55) that will let you cast spells and interact with parts of the set around the park. It can be pricey, but has raving reviews from Harry Potter fans.

Fan made tours:

Note: In May 2020 all companies that host Harry Potter tours have been issued a cease and desist order by Warner Brothers. Please check with the company before booking

There are a few of different companies who run Harry Potter tours to explore film locations and also inspiration for places like Diagon Alley and Knockturn Alley. Where tours are free, it's customary to tip the tour guide at the end if you enjoyed the tour.



Tour for Muggles

<https://www.tourformuggles.com/>

Location: London, UK **Duration:** 2 ½ hours **Tickets:** £16 adults, £14 for children under 11 years

This tour covers nearly all of the filming locations used in central London, as well as areas that served as inspiration for the books. You'll need an Oyster card, or Apple or Google pay in order to make a short journey within Zone 1 using public transport for this tour. The tour doesn't include Platform 9 ¾ at Kings Cross Station, but there's plenty of other fun things to discover on this tour.



Brit Movie Tours:

Pottering in Harry's London

<https://britmovietours.com/bookings/pottering-in-harrys-london-tours/>

Location: London, UK

Walking Tour - Duration: 2 ½ hours **Tickets:** £12 adults, £10 children under 16 years

Coach Tour – Duration: 3 hours (depending on traffic) **Tickets:** £30 adults, £21 children under 16 years

These tours cover all the filming locations in central London for the Harry Potter films, including the entrance to the Ministry of Magic, the Leaky Cauldron pub, the inspiration for Diagon Alley and more. For the walking tour you'll need a contactless card/Oyster/travelcard to make one journey using public transport, but it's worth it to see even more locations from the movies.



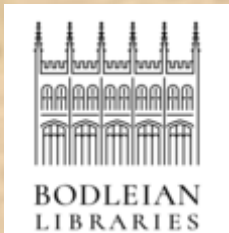
The Potter Trail (still operating virtually through COVID-19)

<https://www.pottertrail.com/>

Location: Edinburgh UK, and online during COVID-

19 **Duration:** 1 ½ hours **Tickets:** free, though donations at the end of the tour are appreciated (virtual tours via Zoom during COVID-19 are £40)

J.K. Rowling was living in Edinburgh when she started writing the Harry Potter series. On this tour you'll see where the real Tom Riddle is buried, the café where Rowling wrote some of *The Philosopher's Stone*, be sorted into a Hogwarts house outside the school that was the inspiration for the wizarding school, and more.



The Bodleian Library, Oxford, UK

<https://visit.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/tours>

Location: Oxford, UK **Tickets:** £8 per person for a guided tour

The Duke Humfrey's Library, and some of the rooms at the Bodleian were used as a film location for some of the Harry Potter series. If you're a fan of reading in general, the tour has lots of fun information about the history of libraries from medieval times too, and is well worth going to explore. Note: you can get tickets for a self-guided tour for £4 per person, but you won't get to see the Duke Humfrey's library which was the film location for Hogwarts School Library.

Shopping guide

Due to the lockdown measures taken around COVID-19 all of the physical shops listed below have temporarily closed. You can still shop online at some of them.

One of Harry's first introductions to the wizarding world is his trip with Hagrid to Diagon Alley to buy his school supplies. In the book, Diagon Alley is located behind The Leaky Cauldron pub, which is on Charing Cross Road. Most of the shops listed below are based on or around that area of London, so if you're planning a trip to the city, make sure you stop by these shops to get your Potter-fix.



MinaLima

26 Greek Street, Soho, London, W1D 5DE

<https://minalima.com/>

MinaLima is the brainchild of two of the artists who worked on the Harry Potter films together; Miraphora Mina and Eduardo Lima. The Daily Prophet Newspaper, The Quibbler, Wealeys' Wizard Wheezes, and posters and books in the all the Harry Potter and Fantastic Beasts films were designed by MinaLima. They create limited edition prints of designs used in the films, as well as cards, posters, badges, books and more featuring their designs.



House of Spells

69-71 Charing Cross Road, West End, London, WC2H 0NE

<https://houseofspells.co.uk/>

This shop stocks a wide range of licensed products from the Harry Potter and Fantastic Beasts franchise, as well as items relating to Game of Thrones, Lord of the Ring and The Hobbit.

From notebooks to Hogwarts house clothing, replica wands to homeware and accessories, there's plenty here to make any fan excited.

PRIMARK®

Primark

14-28 Oxford Street, Fitzrovia, London, W1D 1AU (and across the UK)

<https://www.primark.com/> (site is for information only, there's no online ordering available for Primark)

Primark has stores across Europe, but the shop on Oxford Street has a dedicated entrance on Tottenham Court Road which has been transformed into a Harry Potter fans dream. All of their Wizarding World stock is located together, with flying envelopes floating above, and other décor to make it seem like you've stepped into the films. Primark offers affordable clothing (for women, men and children), accessories, bedsheets, pillows and mugs among other Harry Potter themed merchandise.



Hardy's Sweet Shop

52 Charing Cross Road, Covent Garden, London W2CH 0BB (and across the UK)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/hardyssweets/> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/hardyssweets> (no official site)

Hardy's is an old-fashioned sweet shop, which makes you feel like you're stepping into Honeyduke's Sweet Shop from Harry Potter. They have everything from sherbet lemons, to licorice sticks (or wands if you're imaginative), to actually licensed Harry Potter sweets like Bertie Bott's Every Flavour Beans and Chocolate Frogs. They unfortunately don't have an online store anymore, but you can check out their Facebook and Twitter pages for an idea of the types of things they offer in their physical stores.



The Noble Collection

26-28 Neal Street, London, WC2H 9QQ

<https://noblecollection.co.uk/>

The Noble Collection has ranges dedicated to the Harry Potter and Fantastic Beasts films. They create officially licensed replicas, from wands to jewelry, to models and props from the films as well as stationary. Their products are available at toyshops like Hamleys, but in December 2017 they opened a physical store themselves in Covent Garden.



The Harry Potter Shop at Platform 9 ¾

King's Cross Station, London, N1 9AP

<https://www.harrypotterplatform934.com/>

Opened in December 2012, this was the first Harry Potter Shop to open anywhere in the world outside of a themed visitor attraction.

The shop is literally located because platforms 9 and 10 in Kings Cross Railway Station, and outside of the shop is a trolley emerging through the wall where visitors can get their photos taken. Here you'll find lots of Harry Potter merchandise, with exclusives to Platform 9 ¾.



The Making of Harry Potter Shop

Warner Bros. Studio Tour London, Studio Tour Drive, Leavesden, WD25 7LR

<https://shop.wbstudiotour.co.uk/>

Probably the Holy Grail in terms of shopping in the UK for Harry Potter fans, this shop is jam-packed full of lots of merchandise from the film series. Everything from replica wands, clothing, toys, stationary, jewelry, sweets and more. The shop has themed sections for different houses, a section for wands, a Honeyduke's Sweet Shop section among others.



Etsy

<https://www.etsy.com/>

Access: no account needed to browse or purchase, but with an account you can save items to lists and interact with sellers

Etsy is an online store where anyone can have a 'shop' and sell items. Usually it is items they have made themselves, or things which are vintage, rare, and often quirky. There is a whole host of Harry Potter and Wizarding World related products on this site, from badges to bags, knitted goods, to items for the home and more.

Glossary

Canon: the official story as written by the authors or screenwriters

Fandom: the community of fans

Fanfiction: stories inspired by characters or events from the canon, written by fans. Often shortened to fanfic

OTP: a.k.a One True Pairing – a fan's number one favourite romantic couple

Ship: a romantic relationship that a fan supports, which may or may not have been in the canonical stories. Sometimes fans talk about an author 'sinking their ship' when the canon lists one of the characters as being romantically involved with another that the fan does not agree with

Slash: fiction or art when two same-gender characters are paired together (usually explicit)

Reflection

Being a Harry Potter fan since I first started reading the books from age 11, this guide was a lot of fun to make. The fandom was a lifeline for many young people like me, and the internet connected me with like-minded people who had a shared love of Harry Potter. As many fans grew up with the characters and books as they were released, the wizarding world can form a core part of a fan's personal identity, even into adulthood. Whilst writing this guide I came across more parts of Rowling's Wizarding World and fandom that I hadn't been aware of before, as it has become so vast, and I enjoyed exploring resources.

Something I learned early on in the assignment is that as the Wizarding World is a global franchise, creating a guide that encompassed *everything* would have been too big a task. I had to be selective, and assessed each resource carefully before including it. I think it was important to set the scope of the guide to be for fans based in the UK. For example, in the 'Shopping Guide' I knew I wanted to include shops that are close to Charing Cross Road in London, as this is the location of Diagon Alley in the series, and thought fans would enjoy that information. But if I set the scope of the guide to one for worldwide fans, it would have felt exclusionary to only list shopping locations based in the UK.

Choosing which program to use to make the guide and settling on a layout which would be appropriate was a challenge. I started my basic list of titles and areas I wanted to include in a Microsoft Word document, then played around with PowerPoint to try and get the layout I wanted. In the end I returned to Word as I decided that a portrait layout would probably suit this guide best. Ideally this guide probably would have been better as a webpage, where diverse images such as gifs could have been included. As stated above, Harry Potter fans can be fierce in their love for the series, and aesthetic is important, as often they wish to escape into that world.

I chose parchment as the background as that is what Harry uses when he is writing his homework, and I wanted to give the guide a 'wizardry' feel which I thought fans would appreciate. I also downloaded a Harry Potter font which is inspired by the font used in the film titles, and used them for the titles in the guide¹. The design was tricky as that isn't an area I'm well versed in, and I appreciate that if this was a resource guide for a

¹ Font is called "Harry P" by Phoenix Phonts and was downloaded from <https://www.dafont.com/harry-p.font?text=Wizarding+world>. The website states it is '100% free' but as it is similar to the font used for the film titles, it could run into copyright issues. But with all fan-made resources *for* fans, this is a grey area.

professional organisation, that was to be published, it would hopefully be given to the organisation's Communications and Marketing teams to spruce up.

Another thing I realised quite early on was knowing how to edit the quantity of information included on each resource. I started with writing a lot about the books, but soon recognised that a resource guide should aim to be factual, objective and brief. The annotations needed to be short and sweet, a starting point and a sign post to readers, highlighting places where they can find out more information for themselves.

With regards to tone, I thought about trying to remain formal, but as this is a guide for fans, I thought that would come across as boring. Instead I tried to make the tone conversational instead of bombarding the reader with facts. I imagined I was writing the guide for a fellow Harry Potter fan, who is reading this in their spare time. There are a few terms used in the guide that fans will recognise easily, like 'Muggle'. I checked the original book series to confirm capitalisations of words to make sure the guide was consistent. For example, Muggle is always written with a capital M, but 'wizarding' is written in lowercase, and pure-blood has a hyphen. Also Rowling styles herself as J.K. Rowling without spaces between the initials, so I made that consistent in the guide as well.

After some thought, I felt it was important to include a Glossary to make the guide as accessible as possible. There are fans who may have only watched the films but not have engaged with the fandom before, so I wanted to make them feel comfortable with some of the general terms they might encounter on the resources I listed.

In terms of resources, I knew that I would have to start with the canon works written by J.K. Rowling, before going on to explore the fandom. I was concerned about spending too long on the canon, but didn't feel comfortable not listing them as resources. The guide would have felt incomplete without them.

Choosing what information to include for each of the books was another thing I gave thought to. Including the ISBN numbers of the books was something I took into serious consideration. If I put the details for the first editions then users would be taken to first editions, now worth thousands of pounds at auction. Also, there have been so many repeated publications of the books that it would have been fiddly to choose which one to list. But when considering who would be using the guide, I decided to go for more general information. The main thing was getting the titles listed in order, and the user can then go and find copies themselves. In terms of the images, I wanted to stick to the

original UK covers from the first editions, as this is what is familiar to so many fans. Again, I had to remind myself that the subject guide is a starting point, not an all-inclusive guide. If I had listed every single edition and reprint, it could have easily used up all the spaces for the resources.

In an early version of this document, I listed the film scores and also original music written for *The Cursed Child*, but when it came to writing annotations, I felt like a lot of the information would be repeated. This was the same with the individual video games released for each of the books, and I thought fans would find that tiresome, before they'd even gotten to Exploring the Fandom.

Sites such as The Harry Potter Lexicon have published their own books, and fanfic authors have also self-published, such as The Shoebox Project, but what I liked about the majority of this guide is that it highlighted free resources where fans could go to explore the wizarding world. There is such a wealth of things that are free online for everyone to access, and especially considering this guide was completed during lockdown due to COVID-19, I'm proud of the fact that a lot of the resources can be accessed online.