

[00:00:35.840] - Intro

Welcome to the UK Travel Planning Podcast. Your host is the founder of The UK Travel Planning website, Tracy Collins. In this podcast, Tracy shares destination guides, travel tips, and itinerary ideas, as well as interviews with a variety of guests who share their knowledge and experience of UK travel to help you plan your perfect UK vacation. Join us as we explore the UK from cosmopolitan cities, to quaint villages, from historic castles to beautiful islands and from the picturesque countryside to seaside towns.

[00:00:36.850] - Tracy

Hello and welcome to Episode 46 of the UK Travel Planning Podcast. This week I have special guest, Karen again. Come on to join me on the podcast, who you will recognise as the voice of our introduction. Hi, Karen. Nice to that you'll be able to join us again.

[00:00:52.480] - Karen

Hi, Tracy. Good to be back again. I love coming on.

[00:00:54.780] - Tracy

It's great to talk to you. I know people are listening to our episodes because we all just have a chat.

[00:01:00.330] - Karen

We're good friends and we have a good natter.

[00:01:03.270] - Tracy

Absolutely. So do you want to just introduce... What we're going to talk about in this episode, which I guess people already know because they'll have that on their head, is about visiting Harry Potter Studios just outside London. So both Karen and I have been a few times, so we thought this would be a good chance for us to have a chat a little bit about Harry Potter Studios and our experiences and some tips that we've learned from our visits. But, Karen, if you want to introduce yourself, that would be great.

[00:01:25.420] - Karen

Yeah. Hi, I'm Karen. I run a website called Smart Steps to Australia, helping families make the move to Australia. And now I'm lucky enough to live close by to Tracy. So we're sitting here in her house now doing the podcast. And I go back to the UK for trips as well. And my kids absolutely love Harry Potter. So we were lucky enough last year to go to Harry Potter Studios as well. And we thought that while chatting about it, Tracy and I would just do a bit of a podcast to share a few insider tips about what it's like and all the best bits of it and what to do with how to plan it, how to get there and all of that good stuff.

[00:02:01.480] - Tracy

Absolutely. And actually, if you want to listen to that episode all about Karen's trip, it's actually Episode 37 of the podcast. So it's Karen's trip report from her six week family adventure from Australia to the UK. So that episode is available to listen to. So let's talk about Harry Potter Studios because it comes up very often in the Facebook group, quite often because people have actually missed out on tickets. So that's one of the things we will talk about. So where is Harry Potter Studios? I guess is the first question. So do you want to answer that one, Karen?

[00:02:35.460] - Karen

It's about 20 miles north of London, near Watford in Hertfordshire. We were actually based on the South Coast when we were visiting. We were in Hampshire, and so we were trying to figure out how the best way to get there was going to be. So I remember picking Tracy's brains a lot and asking her a lot of questions before we decided to book the tickets and get there. So in terms of how far in the fans to book tickets, when we went in October last year, we booked the tickets a few weeks ahead. So probably about four, six weeks ahead, and they were quite limited. There weren't very many slots available.

[00:03:14.220] - Tracy

And that was for October. And I think that's worth stressing that really, if you're going into peak time and we're talking really from now, April to even September, you really need to book it months ahead. I know somebody was saying this morning they were trying to book for June and they were all sold out. So it's particularly busy during the school holiday week. So that's over the end of July and August. The end of May, June holiday in the UK is particularly busy. Weekends are really busy. So your best bet, if you want to try and get the tickets, is to actually book for during a weekday and first thing in the morning. So if you can get there earlier. Because I was actually reading today that peak time, I hope I should, is 4 PM in the afternoon, which I wouldn't have guessed actually, but that's what they say.

[00:04:00.940] - Karen

It's interesting because we're going to talk a little bit later about how long you need to spend looking around. And I think when you arrive is really important for that. We'll cover that in a few minutes. But yeah, my advice is just book it as early as you can, because for us, it was one of the most important parts of our trip. It was something the kids really wanted to do. One of our kids is a massive Harry Potter fan, and she would have got very upset if we hadn't been able to fit it in. And I know that I've spoken to a few other people and recommended that they book, and they haven't realised just how early they needed to book and they've missed out because they weren't booking in advance enough.

[00:04:36.490] - Tracy

Absolutely. It's a bit like the Jacobite train as well in Scotland, which takes you over the Glenfinnan Viaduct, aka the train to Hogwarts. Again, that gets booked up months and months in advance. There are some things in the UK you absolutely have to book well in advance. And actually, we have organised our holiday. We organised our trip to Scotland around the day that we had the Jacobite train booked. It was that important to get that. And I know we've done itinerary consults with people and they're like, the only day they have absolutely set in stone are the day on the Jacobite, the day on Harry Potter Studios, because once you've got those tickets, you can then organise everything else.

[00:05:13.950] - Karen

Around it. Yeah, we printed out a calendar sheet and put in the really important things into a calendar so that we knew what things were unmovable, what we had to get done, because there were certain parts of the trip and this was definitely one of them that we could not miss out on.

[00:05:27.580] - Tracy

Absolutely. So I guess the next question that we get asked is, should you book a tour versus self travel? Okay. So one time a tour is a really good idea is if you have missed out on a ticket, because that is often the only way that you will get a ticket. But if you book ahead of time, you should be able to buy yourself a ticket and it's easy to get there yourself. It really is easy if you're in London because you just take a train from Euston Station to Watford Junction, which just takes about 20, 25 minutes, and then you take a free shuttle bus outside the train station. So you walk out the train station, turn left and you'll see the Harry Potter Studios bus. It's really regular. As long as you've got your ticket, you just show them and then that's a free trip there and back from Watford Junction Station to Harry Potter Studios, which takes around about 15 minutes. And I will also just say, because I know this guest asked as well is, yes, you can use your oyster card or contact us to get yourself from Euston train station to Watford Junction train station. Now, I know you didn't do that, so we've always done that. We've always gone independently and taken the bus. But I know you took the tour last.

[00:06:37.010] - Karen

Year, Karen. We did. So the tour goes from London Victoria directly to the studios. The reason that we decided to book the tour, although we did it in a bit of a disjointed way, I booked the Harry Potter Studios tickets direct, and then I booked the bus ticket with Golden Tours separately because it worked out a little bit cheaper than booking the all encompassing pass, but it didn't work out as well as I was hoping because the bus ticket didn't quite complement the tour time ticket that I'd managed to book for entry. So it was a little bit disjointed, but that was okay. We decided to book the tour purely because we were traveling with a group of nine of us, including five kids. And we thought it would just be easier to just get on a bus and go straight there rather than popping on and hopping off because we were originally traveling from Portsmouth or from Havant, it was, near Portsmouth, all the way to London. And then we were catching the bus then all the way to the studio. So we just thought it was

just a bit easier and more direct. We'd also have luggage with us to spend a couple of days in London after it. And we just thought it was going to be a lot easier. But in hindsight, where we waited just tips for anyone travelling with young kids, when you're waiting for the bus for the Golden Tours, there are no toilets right away in the area where you're waiting. So we had that as a bit of an issue with little kids who needed the toilet five minutes before the bus was going to go. So that was a bit of fun. But the actual bus took a while to get there. And I actually really wished we hadn't bothered with the tour and that we'd just gone there direct off our own steam and just got the train because it would have made life so much easier. We would have been much more flexible. I know we've got little kids to corral and move around, but it would have just been a lot easier to have not got the tour and just got the train directly.

[00:08:29.650] - Tracy

Instead, it would have given me a bit more flexibility for time, wouldn't it? I think what is useful, I know for people who have missed out on London, and I've talked to people that they find that booking the tour is easier with the transport and the ticket is just easier because they don't want to think about taking the getting to Euston and then taking the train. But actually, it really is easy. But Golden Tours are the recommended partner with Harry Potter Studios, and we have got links to their tours in an article we've got about Harry Potter Studios, which I will share in the in the show notes. And obviously, if you're short on time, and we get asked this quite often as well as, can I combine Harry Potter Studios with somewhere else? And there are tours that will combine a walking tour and the Harry Potter Studios and Harry Potter Studios and Oxford. So if you're really short on time and you really want to go to the studios and then you want to go to Oxford, you can take one of those tours. I guess it's figuring out what works best for you. But I know for us in the past, we've just found it so much easier to get there ourselves and do that.

[00:09:32.300] - Karen

Or even driving. There's a lot of parking there as well. I know my husband's pretty confident driving around London in all different places. So he actually, I think we would have probably got on really well just driving there and having a full day there and being able to come and go as we wanted. But the shuttle buses that you mentioned at the train station, there were so many of them. When we arrived at Harry Potter Studios, there were always shuttle buses there to take people to the train station. They were coming and going all the time. So I was a bit worried that if you got the train, that you'd be stuck at the train station.

[00:10:02.640] - Tracy

Oh, no, they're really regular. Yeah, it's really good. So you've got yourself Harry Potter Studios, whichever way where they've taken a tour or whether you've bought your ticket and gone there by train. So how long do you need? So this comes up really often. So I've been in Harry Potter Studios twice. Once with my daughter and last year, Doug and I went. And I can guarantee we spent at least four hours there each time.

[00:10:26.440] - Karen

Yeah. Oh, at least four hours. Because we only booked our tickets, let's say, four to six weeks ahead, we found that on the time we wanted to go, we could only get in an afternoon slot, which meant really, we didn't have huge amount of time to spare. And also with us having booked the tour, we had a bus time to come back on that limited the time a little bit. And we read the website that said you need three to four hours to look around it. But if you've got anyone going in the group that really loves Harry Potter, you need longer than that. We could have been there for eight hours. I would have been happy being there for that long. My kids would have... Because we really had to rush around quite a few bits of it, and we didn't really have a lot of time to sit and have a coffee in between or anything like that. It was just full on because we knew we needed quite a bit of time in the shop at the end to look around because kids really don't make decisions very quickly.

[00:11:16.600] - Tracy

Well, there's so many things to choose from in that shop at the end as well.

[00:11:19.800] - Karen

The shop is huge. So I think we spent at least an hour in the shop at the end, and I think we could have easily spent longer than that if we had more time. So for me, if we... Well, we will go back for sure. I would say we'll be looking at aiming for a really full, clear day. We'll be looking at booking really early morning. Then we can leave whenever we want in the afternoon. Yeah, you can spend the day.

[00:11:39.560] - Tracy

And we can tie to the time. So I know somebody asked, I'm actually going to throw this in because it's also about the audio tool. I'll just mention that now. So you get the option when we arrived with the option to have the audio tool, which is about £5.25, I think at this moment in time, for headphones. Now, I did get that and I didn't use it. So it just ended up hanging on my neck, I think. And I didn't use it at all. I maybe used it once or twice. And yeah, it just didn't really work. And also because Doug didn't have one, it was a bit rude if I was to have a headphones. But I thought I'd get it and try it and see. I'm not a big fan of them anyway, but I thought I'd get it. But I know you bought them for everybody.

[00:12:16.400] - Karen

I went to buy them and thought, I'll just get them for everybody. So all nine of us had them. I really enjoyed it because I love the books and the movies and I really enjoyed going around and learning a little bit more background. But really, we could have had one between the nine of us because within five seconds, the kids couldn't figure out what it was talking about. They were getting mixed up between the buttons and the attractions that we were watching. And within minutes, they'd given all of them to us to carry and we ended up having to carry all of these heavy audio block things and the headphones all round with us. And it was just a bit of a pain. So I'm not sure you need them. I think if anyone's going to have one, maybe one for the group and share it. But I don't think you need one each.

[00:13:00.020] - Tracy

I probably wouldn't get one next time. So I guess as well as the ticket, because the question we've had from somebody in the Facebook group is, what else could you spend your money on outside of the gift shop? Well, we will talk about other things that you can spend your money on because as you walk around, there are various things which you can talk about. But I asked that when you go into the lobby and show your ticket, the audio to guide is one. And there's also a souvenir. Souvenir book.

[00:13:26.800] - Karen

Yeah, we got one of those. I can't recall having looked at it, but we got it as part of the trip.

[00:13:31.980] - Tracy

So I think that's about £9.95. So we didn't buy one of those, I guess, just didn't want to carry it around.

[00:13:39.950] - Karen

What I will say is I personally find the tickets to get into the studio's really good value, really inexpensive. But obviously, they make a lot of money on all of the extra things because as you're going around, they lure you into getting all these photos done and all this. And the kids want to buy all the photos and they can add up to.

[00:14:00.060] - Tracy

A lot at the end of it. And actually that would be, I guess, talking about the end of the five tips. But I think one tip to consider is really to try and get a set yourself a budget because there are so many things that can be tempted to get. So we didn't have any of the photos taken, but I did get a book with my daughter's name engraved on it at the train station shop because I couldn't resist that. And she's got quite an unusual name. So trying to get things with her name on isn't that easy. So I was like, okay, I'll get that for her. So that was a nice surprise. But there's some amazing things to buy as well. But you do have to take that in consideration, especially with kids, because I bet kids want to do all of it.

[00:14:41.390] - Karen

We did all the things. We like riding the broomstick and all the things, we didn't buy the photos. We decided we would save our money until the shop at the end because they knew very specifically that they wanted to buy different things in the shop. So we did spend a little bit in the first cafe and had cake and things when we first arrived. But yeah, we saved all of our main money for spending in the

shop and we did spend quite a lot in the shop at the end.

[00:15:07.500] - Tracy

So I guess we'll talk about... So when you arrive at the airport, you're going to go to the lobby. So it's useful to know if you're when you arrive there. So there is a cloak room, so you can check in coats, bags, suitcases free of charge, because that's just really useful to know, obviously, if you're travelling on, that you can do that. There is also space for buggies and prams because they try to limit the amount of, I guess, prams and buggies that are going around at a time. I think that you can book those in when you book your ticket so that they know that however many people are travelling around with that are going to have prams and buggies, but you can actually check them in there. So yes, they may check your bags before you actually go into the studio, but that's just a regular security thing that you'll find in lots of different places around the world and in London and the UK that you go into these days. So there are toilets, which is really useful. So I guess when you arrived, you just had to go in. Yeah, first of all, of course, for the little kids. Yeah, and baby changing facilities as well. So that's good to know. So this is all before you actually go in for the tour. So that's how you arrive. So I've only eaten and had some drinks in the Backlot cafe, but there are actually places to get food and drink when you arrive. And now you've done that, haven't you?

[00:16:25.810] - Karen

We did that. The kids spied some cakes in the counter, so they made a stop for hot chocolate and cakes when we first arrived. So that was just a nice little break after being on the bus for a little while.

[00:16:35.240] - Tracy

That's perfect. So after that, you walk through and start the studio tour. So it's useful to say as well, so if your kids have missed going to the toilet, that you can actually... There are toilets during the tour itself as well. So you don't have to worry about them, you can find them. And then also, really importantly is just food and drink as well that you can get a hot meal sandwich at the Backlot cafe, which is located about halfway through the studio tour. And actually, we found, a couple of times we've been, that's where we've taken a break and we've had something to eat. So they have burgers and chicken nuggets and that fast food pizza, those sorts of foods available, sandwiches as well. But our favourite thing to do when we go to the back lot cafe is to try some butter beer. So you can get some butter beer from the cafe and basically you get a souvenir tankard as well, which costs £6.95. So I think we've got a few of those over time. And then you can also try the ice cream, which is £4.95. So it's a time just checking on the website to make sure they were relevant prices. So did you stop off in the Backlot cafe, Karen? No?

[00:17:56.340] - Karen

We didn't. Again, we were running short on time than we wanted to be, and the kids really wanted to try butter beer. But I pointed out that if we stopped, then they would have less time in the shop at the end, which they were so keen on doing. So they decided we had to just push on and carry on because, as I say, I don't think four hours was really enough, four or three hours, whatever it was we ended up having there. It was really enough to do it all and relax through it. But next time, that's something we would build in time to do.

[00:18:25.550] - Tracy

And I was thinking, so when you first go in, you've got all of the like the different sets, haven't you? So you walk through, you've got the hall set up for... Great feast and everything. Great feast and everything. And then at the end, you've got the... So we're in some of the... Like the dummies with the clothes on. And then you can go through and you see all of the different sets, which is great to see. They're just in the set up as they were when they filmed them. So that's really good for us. We can spend hours just.

[00:18:59.640] - Karen

Looking at those. You can spend hours in there, honestly.

[00:19:02.060] - Tracy

We could have spent a long time. And then Diagon Alley is one of my favourites. That's really cool to

walk down there. You get some really good photos walking down Diagon Alley.

[00:19:10.820] - Karen

So that's the point. There's so many photo opportunities as you go that you don't necessarily have to buy all of the visual ones that they can create for you. You can do ones where you take yourself of the kids saying up to their broom and holding their broom and holding a wand and doing all the different things. So yeah, there's plenty of great photo opportunities and you can have a look at the Knight bus and go through the Dursley's kitchen.

[00:19:39.330] - Tracy

Because I was thinking after the Backlot cafe, then you've got the outdoor area. So you've got the Dursley's house, you've got the Knight bus.

[00:19:53.720] - Karen

The green houses.

[00:19:55.610] - Tracy

When we were there last year, they hadn't opened yet. So I was in June, you would have seen those. And that's the thing about Harry Potter Studios, because they have different themes throughout the year, but they've also got new things opening. So even if you've been before, there's new things to see when you go, which is fantastic. So we didn't see the green houses, I lost a bit. Now you want me? I want to go this year again to see those. So again, you can sit in the car, you can sit in the motorbike. You can take your own photos. We've got plenty of photos that we've taken. You can pose by the Dursley's house. You can have your photo taken at the street. I can't remember the name of the street now.

[00:20:34.800] - Karen

It's Privet Drive.

[00:20:35.460] - Tracy

Privet Drive. Privet Drive, of course. You can have your photo taken at Privet Drive. So there's lots to do and see. And then you're outside because that Backlot cafe, you can eat inside or you can eat outside. And it usually is pretty busy. I know when we've been there, it has been pretty busy. But we always get a butter beer. We usually share one between the two of us to be fair because they're quite expensive.

[00:20:58.480] - Karen

What's it tastes like?

[00:21:00.220] - Tracy

Like they said, butterscotch and shortbread, and I think that's probably about right. I love butterscotch, so I guess that it really appeals to me. I think we might have had an ice cream last year as well, actually, just to try it. And that's also a good point as well to have a sit down.

[00:21:18.410] - Karen

It's a big day. It's a lot of walking and there's a lot to see and it's exciting. And especially if you're traveling with kids that need a bit of downtime in between of it all.

[00:21:27.720] - Tracy

Absolutely. And then the other things I'm trying to think about, my personal favourite thing is a walk through. I always like seeing the sets. I just love seeing the set. And then last year they had the dragon coming into Gringotts Bank. That's so well done. It was absolutely amazing to see that. And that was something new we hadn't seen. Really? Yeah, that was really good. What about you? Have you got any personal favourite?

[00:21:53.580] - Karen

I loved walking. At the end. You walk around actual Hogwarts, the big model of Hogwarts that you

walk around that they used in the filming of the movie. It's incredible to just walk around it and have a look at it.

[00:22:07.240] - Tracy

And it's amazing, isn't it? It's absolutely beautiful. And you get to see the latter part of the tour. You get to see all of the costumes. You can see the dress that Hermione wore, the ball, and she was tiny. She was so tiny. And then you get to see all of the special effects, how they did all of the different makeup effects and the models that they made. My brother does that. He's actually a spray paint and makes models, not for this movie. He does tanks and aeroplanes. That's what he does. So I know what goes in is involved in that, how much detail, how much time it takes to make those things. So that's always really interesting to see as well. Yeah, so it's absolutely brilliant. And of course, when you've got through all of that, and obviously you see the train as well, and you can take your photograph, push in the trolley at platform nine and three quarters.

[00:23:06.400] - Karen

I didn't see the trolley.

[00:23:08.530] - Tracy

Oh, yes. The trolley is there so you can have a photograph taken there. And then obviously you've got the train and then there's an opportunity to sit on the actual the Hogwarts train and have some photographs. I noticed that. And obviously there's a shop there where I bought my daughter's present. So then at the very end, you get to the big shop.

[00:23:26.100] - Karen

Yes. And it is a big shop and you need to make a plan in the big shop, especially if you've got kids that are all very excited. And it was one of the first stops on our trip and we'd made the mistake of saying each of them could have so much spending money for the trip. And I think they all spent most of their spending money in that shop. There's also a wand counter where you can have a look at all of the wands of all of the characters, and they've got them all stacked up like wands in the background. And you can try out each wand and pick which one you want, which took quite a lot of effort.

[00:23:58.950] - Tracy

So I want more on that. Actually, if I waive the wand, it'll just take the air time I have to fly to get to the UK.

[00:24:06.330] - Karen

Or clean your house or something.

[00:24:07.620] - Tracy

Or clean your house would be a good one. But for me at the moment, because I'm flying to the UK, by the time this episode comes out, I will be in the UK. I just would like to wave a magic wand and not have to fly. I could just be in the UK. So that's what I would want one for. So if they ever sell one like that, I'll be first in line. So what did your kids buy?

[00:24:27.120] - Karen

We bought a couple of wands. My daughter bought the diadem of Ravenclaw wand that had this beautiful jewel on it. So they didn't have every single wand in stock. Unfortunately, she really wanted Hermione's wand. They didn't have it, but they did tell us you could buy it online after for the same price. So there is an option if you do get home and you want to order things online, there is a shop you can do that from. But the kids just picked up the ones and picked the one that they felt chose them, which was the right ones. And yeah, they both got ones. One bought a golden snitch. They bought gifts as well to take back to people in Australia in school, like key rings and fridge magnets and little bits and bobs. But we were in that shop for a very long time, for a good hour at least. But then obviously, you've got to just think about how whatever you're buying, you've got to transport home with you. So wands are in quite big boxes. So that was fun. We had to put those in our hand luggage for the journey home or inside a suitcase. It was a bit bulky. But yeah, we enjoyed going around the shop. There was plenty to pick from. The kids wanted robes and all kinds of things. We had to bring

them back down a little bit. They just wanted everything.

[00:25:46.930] - Tracy

There is so much to it that you can choose from. And then you can choose whichever house you want to be in as well. And they've got everything that goes with every house. And they've got all the different sweets they can buy all those. There is so much to buy. I have got photos of the shop. I've got photos of the all the way through, actually, because... So we've been a couple of times and last year I did take lots of photos, including, I think, I might have taken a picture of in the cafe or of our butter beer anyway, and the different things that you see along the way. Actually, I mean, the Harry Potter website is excellent. The official website is really good. But I thought we'd end with some top tips for anybody who's planning the visit. And I think one of the important things is, because this might be if you're going with a party that not everybody is in Harry Potter, or it's been a long time since you've read the books or watched the movies, a really good thing to do before you go is to do that, do your homework, isn't it?

[00:26:45.910] - Karen

Yeah. And watch the movies. On the plane, a lot of the planes have all of the movies on there. So I know my kids on the way there and on the way back were working their way through all of the movies again. Because when you're looking at the outfits that people are wearing in the movie, you want to recognise them and be, understand what you're looking at as you're going around and remembering the different parts of the movie. So I think watching the movies is a really important one before you go.

[00:27:11.860] - Tracy

Absolutely. And I guess the other tip, and I guess we've said it as we've been talking is really to give yourself enough time to enjoy it. This might be somewhere that you visit only once in a lifetime. So take your time, enjoy it. There is a lot to see. There's a lot to take in. So really just soak it in, especially Harry Potter fans. Honestly, I have had people say that it was the highlight of the trip. They absolutely loved it.

[00:27:38.910] - Karen

It was one of the highlights of our trip, actually. And we really, really all absolutely loved it. And we went with some people who'd been twice already that lived quite nearby. They'll continue to keep going to it because they said, you see, every time it doesn't get boring.

[00:27:52.370] - Tracy

And they say they've got different themes and they've got new things opening up. So I guess some of the thing is that for kids, there's plenty to do. They can have a ride on a broomstick. There's an interactive class, I think, with... What do they call it when you put it over your face? What do you call those...

[00:28:07.720] - Karen

Virtual reality.

[00:28:08.420] - Tracy

You can tell I'm getting on. I have no idea. Virtual reality. Obviously, go out in the courtyard, go onto the Knight bus, get yourself, have a photo at Privet Drive, ride on Sirius's motorbike, have your photo taken, sit in the car and have your picture taken there. Enjoy it. You can do all that. So it's really good. That's all that interactivity can actually get involved. So loads for kids.

[00:28:31.020] - Karen

There was extra things like spotting a golden snitch in the rooms and things like that. Even the kids that didn't really know the movies got really into looking for and getting their passport stamped. And they could ask any of the staff members who were in the rooms for hints about where they should be looking and things. And they just really loved doing all of that.

[00:28:50.430] - Tracy

Yeah, I think that's really good. I remember last year we got the little book where you could find them, get stamps as you went around. So I think that's important as well. It's like there's lots of people there. So the people that work in Harry Potter, they know the place, they know the Harry Potter stories. So ask them if you have any questions.

[00:29:08.110] - Karen

Yeah, they were really good fun and they were really good with the kids and just having a laugh with the kids and things. And the kids would ask them questions and things. And also, just to say, I think the youngest in our group was six, maybe seven, six or seven at the time. And even he really enjoyed running around and enjoyed it. I think you can easily take younger kids, they'll be entertained anyway, even if they don't understand what's going on. But the kids that were a little bit older, that was between eight and 12, really loved it. They really got a lot out of it. And they actually all went back to school and did show and tell where they took their wands in and did little PowerPoint presentations about all the best bits and what they enjoyed. So they took a lot out of it.

[00:29:52.800] - Tracy

That's really cool. So the last thing I'm going to say, and it's like, do not, if you want to go, book it, book it you in advance. Don't leave it. Do not leave it. If you know how to visit Harry Point Studios, one of the things that you absolutely want to do when you visit the UK, do check well ahead of time and just get it booked.

[00:30:09.190] - Karen

Book it and do it early if you can, so that you're not tied to a time that you have to leave. And also just quickly, one more thing with the Golden Tours bus that we did book, we were on an afternoon slot and the return bus was, I can't remember, 3, 4 hours after we arrived. We asked the bus driver if we could catch the next bus back if we were really enjoying it. There was only one bus left after that. So it would have been the last bus if we'd waited. And he said that if there's space, you can easily catch the next bus. It's not a problem. Obviously, we didn't end up doing that because it was the last bus of the night and we didn't want to risk it

[00:30:44.820] - Tracy

You didn't have a choice.

[00:30:46.040] - Karen

We didn't want to risk it. You can extend it a little bit if you need to, if you want to spend a little bit more time there, even if you're on the tour.

[00:30:52.640] - Tracy

Okay, so that's brilliant. So I guess that wraps up our chat about Harry Potter Studios. And everything we talked about will be in the show notes for this episode, which will be at uktravelplanning.com/episode-46. So everything we talked about, links to the different tours, photos that we took during our time visiting Harry Potter Studios. You can find all the information there. So do go and check it out and also listen to Karen's early episode 37 about her trip around the UK last October, her six week trip because it was a lot of fun.

[00:31:29.750] - Karen

It was.

[00:31:30.540] - Tracy

But I think for this week, I think, Karen, thanks very much for joining us. It has been lovely to talk to you as always.

[00:31:36.050] - Karen

Thanks for having me again.

[00:31:37.340] - Tracy

Yeah. And so that just leaves me to say usual sign off, which is happy UK travel planning.

