

Crystal Cliffs Expedition

Attraction Treatment

Logline

The Society for the Preservation of Ancients (SPA) has hobbled together a train tour of the shrines and cave dwellings of the Ancient Protectors located in the cliffs. Here, crystals cluster in ornate patterns creating a dwelling within the caves for a people no longer here. The Society believes in the free access to this place for any Seekers of Light to view with strict restrictions upon taking any object (yes, that rock there too!).

Recently, some crystals have vanished from their rightful home: an action hitherto unseen by the Society. Despite these thefts, SPA continues to live into its mission, asking all viewers to keep their eyes peeled for any potential thieves. An inhuman shadow crawls nearby with incredibly different plans.

Technical Profile

Motion-Based Dark Ride Story Coaster

Load In

Guests approach the train care at the gateway. The carts are both advanced and rudimentary in construction showing a detailed understanding of connective parts without any of the aesthetics to mask it.

The city gate has a large Protective Crystal above that shimmers brilliantly. The gateway both utilizes the columnar rock of the cliff and includes an ancient architectural ornamentation carved into its face.

When the carts take off for the journey, the Crystal pulses with color and energy. Could it be that these vehicles are powered by the Crystal above?

The Ride

Past the gate, the cart rattles along a street filled with relics and homes. The spacing is tight and close together with façades just one size too large for humans. Small crystals shine on the outside of every home as a protective measure. The quiet nature of a place, once filled with life, creates a foreboding, albeit intriguing and fascinating, atmosphere.

In front of us, we see a dark amorphous shadow pass. One of the house's crystals flashes brightly and then extinguishes in the distance, just as we heard described before. We are not threatened in this moment, but we are also not alone.

Through one thoroughfare, we see the Great Road leading to the city center! What buildings we see along the way climbing up cliffs! This was a place of thriving, not a cave to hide away in. A great city to rival the most famous of ancient sites!

We continue our course along this outer road and dive into a deeper cave set on the city limit. A relic is placed above the entrance as a mark of the holy place we enter. Upon entering, the crystals increase exponentially into an open natural foyer.

Nestled in the center, displayed in an almost ceremonious fashion, lies the City Crystal. This crystal pulses with a new kind of energy. Its color shifts in the presence of the humans riding the cart, and it pulses like a heartbeat. The cart stops as a sound emits from the Crystal. This must be part of the tour, right?

In the corner a Shadow emerges, amorphous at first, but taking shape into something...hideous. The crystals in the foyer along with the City Crystal transform from the humming peacefulness of people's presence into a faint fearful whistle as colors shift to colder and then into a color emitting deep jealous desire, altered by the presence of this Shadow. The Shadow crawls over the cart and its cold presence can be felt sweeping over the cart's occupants.

It dashes for the City Crystal, settling quite near it. From the Shadow's position emerges a physical hand attempting to clutch it. A surge of light ripples from the City Crystal and throughout the room. The room goes quiet. Another surge of light from the Crystals reveal that the central City Crystal has vanished.

In the distance, a low rumble is heard. Something is awake...

The cart suddenly speeds away into the darkness as crystals fly by our view! They send an emergency signal pulse throughout the space, begging for help from something unseen. While tumbling through the caverns at high speeds, the sides of the walls and ceilings seem to be moving. Are the caves falling in? Or is it something else?

As the cart lurches around one more curve, we've caught up to the Shadow, clutching the large crystal with its greedy claws. From behind a cave wall, a large creature lurches forth: an Ancient Protector! It awakes from its slumber, sensing the need of the crystals for aid.

The Protector holds a boulder in its hand ready to launch it at the Shadow, which escapes. Spotting us in the cart, it touches a nearby crystal which sends our cart whirling backwards!

More eyes flicker open and limbs move and rumble as we finally close in on the Shadow, who now flies beside the cart. The cart then banks a turn, and the Shadow settles into the next room and stops suddenly.

We see another large Protector who clutches onto crystals in the walls. The lights and energy within the crystals gather, as do the crystals throughout the room. The Shadows darts back and forth unable to see any escape. The sound of the energy of the crystals grows incredibly loud and just as it appears on the verge of bursting, the cart launches forward!

The cart flies through blue swirling mist and loops in this space. We arrive back in the City Crystals original abode and a large hand places it back in its home from above. It's been restored!

The cart maneuvers out of the sacred cave and down a shorter side street of homes. We return to the loading area. On the way, though, we see a rocky face and eyes look to us and close once more, ready to sleep again.