

Habbo Hotel UK 5 years old

Habbo Hotel UK is now 5 years old. That's half a decade. That's a long time. In dog years that's a really long time. It's been a long road, getting from there to here. In those five years we've had Mobiles Disco which was created for to promote the Mobiles band back in Autumn 1999 (although it predated Habbo, the site was still live when Habbo UK launched), we also had Lumisota (the cool snow ball based game which, again predated Habbo UK but was still live when UK launched), we've had Crossroads- based on the now twice canceled UK soap opera, and Coke Music. The rooms that were used in the Crossroads site were put into Habbo once the Crossroads site went down; the Welcome Lounge was one of these rooms.

It all started in a shed apparently. Kyrpov and Apparatus had just finished building a time machine and had no idea what to do with it. They thought about traveling back in time. Kyrpov wanted to go back to the wild west, but Apparatus pointed out that it was a time machine and not a time and space machine. So they decided they would build a space machine. They were halfway through building it when it occurred to them that a space machine already existed- it was called a jet plane. Something however went completely wrong and the air plane was sent back in time to 1898. And the plane was found by some brothers and thus air travel was born...

Wait a moment.

Hotel Kultakala was launched in Autumn 2000; in English that means Hotel Goldfish. It is rumored that it was going to be called Hotel Ferret at one stage, but no one believes that rumor.

The UK site's beta phase began on January 25th 2001 (although everyone and the dog, Max, disagrees on this date), it was a black day for all of Latvia. Back in those days it was just lone, Daisy, Dany and a few other peeps in the UK office. Things got a lot worse when they hired Oneday, who was a very poor boy who lived in the gutters. Back in those days you could only trade by holding a piece of furni over another Habbo and hoping that he/she didn't move. They worked in a lovely office in North London, despite the very nasty people who worked in the office next door (oh! tales abound! of Oneday being sworn at, of them shouting loud enough to make the entire floor peer out of our offices and giggle at one another like school girls who have blasted their brains on pixie sticks).

Back in those days you could also swear; owners of rooms could choose whether or not swearing would be allowed in their rooms. In public spaces however you couldn't swear. Back in them crazy days Hobbas just roamed rooms at random, hunting down evil. There were Hobbas, then there were Super Hobbas, and then there were newbie Hobbas. There were also moderators.

We've had a lot of famous and not so famous visitors come to the Hotel over the years. We've had Compound who went missing. We had Shrek, who went missing. Piers went missing, but only 12 users noticed. Cupid went missing as well. Who else? Well we've had director-turned-adventurer Donnie Santini, the half human/half dragon Mei Ling (you have guessed by now how bad our memory is...), we've had mysterious Orbs of Doom, we've had The Rasmus (yay!!!!) and the Gorillaz (wooo!!!) and... I'm sure we had a rabbit at some point. We must have. Oh yeah, we also had Red Devil who came, built a bunch of Battle Ball rooms and then exploded... although some say he ascended to a higher stage of the game.

Jibbi came and left. Wenders came and wouldn't leave until we threatened her. Pret, well we don't quite remember when he turned up, or how he left. Glitterkat mewed on the doorstep until we let her in. Gzsux was about for bit but left in a sulk when his team lost the Habbo Games.

Jay descended from the highlands but missed the shire and went back. Smash was called up from the dark places outside the known universe where Yog-Sothoth lies in wait. UKchaserAl walked in and asked for a job, and was given one. Impetuous parachuted in. Dionysus just stuck around and was given job after job after job until he found something that he didn't suck at. He then decided that to be cool he should pretend to be a ninja. Callie was spotted on a street corner, and Smash thought she would be a good Hotel Manager. Lost_Witness, he was just too damn good looking to not give a job to. Redtiz said that if given a job she would never set foot in England, so she was hired. Helkat, well she could make good tea. Heidster took time off as a roadie for Metallica and joined us. A good dozen other people came and went in that time, no one quite knows how many office managers we made our way through: We found one just last week living behind our fridge. Apparently she was still trying to figure out how to get Macs and PCs all on the same network...

Late in 2001 the first rare was released. A red Holopod called Hologirl. This was released as a test to see whether or not users were willing to pay 25 credits for an exclusive piece of furni; it had been noticed how hectic trading had been on the site since the release of a throne, a Holopod and a Samovar as gifts (actually no one seems to like the Samovar) They were and thus the concepts of rares were born... Just think how different the history of Habbo Hotel would have been if the test had failed.

Habbo Club came, lots of users complained, but still bought it. And the debate over HC continues to this day. Fortunately the debate under HC stopped pretty early on as there was nothing to support it. Users said it was unfair and that it caused social divisions within the site. Other users said that it only created divisions if users let it. Users pointed to the HC only guest rooms that were popping up and claimed this was unfair and discriminating against them. Another group asked why they would want to hangout with people who liked creating social divisions with HC only rooms. And then Public Rooms open to HC members were opened. Again, there were riots and a lot of innocent shrubbery was harmed. Ironically these rooms are very rarely visited now.

Battle Ball appeared on the scene like a breath of fresh air. It was brought to Habbo by Red Devil and the Battle Ball babes, a bunch of girls from Tunguska who were very odd indeed. As said, Red Devil disappeared but the game remained, a testament to Red Devil and his heroic spirit. He was a hero you see, and fought many great battles. Indeed, he is widely considered to be Habbo's 2nd superhero. The first being Safety Fairy..., of course.

Yes if this article was a clip-show it would be played to uplifting acoustic. A bit like the theme tune to Family Ties... (and who can forget the episode where Mom and Dad went off for the weekend and Alex turned the house into a motel, or the episode where Skippy got his head stuck in a banister... ah memories...) And to celebrate 5 years of Habbo we have the usual collection of competitions... So read on, take part, and discover new facets of your being... or win prizes, whatever suits you. Because you are special.