

LEGO Pirates of the Caribbean: The Video Game

[Insert *Pirates of the Caribbean* theme song here]

If you've got it nearby, pick up last month's issue right now. Flip to my *LEGO Star Wars III: The Clone Wars* review, replace every reference to *Star Wars* and its characters with *Pirates of the Caribbean* and company, substitute lightsabers and Jedi Starfighters with cutlasses and rowboats, add in a few franchise-specific alternatives here and there to make it worthy in the eyes of Johnny Depp, and you'll basically have everything you need to know about *LEGO Pirates of the Caribbean: The Video Game*. Traveller's Tales has once again followed their proven formula, churning out a game that is arguably overly familiar, but fun nonetheless.

Here's a quick explanation of what you can expect from the game. You're offered the chance to play through LEGO versions of the four *Pirates of the Caribbean* films in any order, each one providing a handful of levels set in familiar locations from the movies. A massive roster of unlockable characters

[details]

Platforms: 360 / 3DS / DS / PC / PS3 / PSP / Wii
Genre: Action platformer
Age restriction: 7+
DRM: Disc-based
Multiplayer: Local: 2 players
Online: None
Developer: Traveller's Tales
Website: <http://videogames.lego.com/en-US/LEGOPIRATESofTheCaribbeanTheVideoGame>
Publisher: Disney Interactive Studios
Distributor: Prima Interactive



/1/ There may be a huge amount of unlockable characters, but many of them simply offer cosmetic variations on existing characters. Here's an alternate Jack Sparrow.

/2/ These games have always had massive obsessive-compulsive appeal. Must... collect... everything!



awaits you, all of which are adorable LEGO versions of the films' familiar faces. In Story Mode, you blast through the levels by solving simple puzzles, battling foes and engaging in a generous portion of platforming. Tons of secrets are tucked away in the shadows and a multitude of collectable items sit around, just waiting for your grubby mitts to grab hold of them. Your LEGO character is always joined by a LEGO companion (in some cases you're joined by more than one) and you're free to switch between the provided characters at any point to take advantage of their unique abilities - which are essential for progression. If you've got friends, you might even be able to convince one of them to join you for a bit of couch co-op and tackle the game's challenges together. The first time you run through a level, your astounding investigative skills will likely reveal to you that you're unable to unlock every secret and access every hidden area, because the available characters lack the requisite abilities to reach them. That's where Free Play Mode (which you're granted access to upon completing a level in Story Mode)

comes in. Here you're allowed to switch between any of the dozens of characters you've unlocked to reach previously inaccessible areas using their distinctive abilities, revealing all of those delicious secrets and unlocking more of the game's vast array of content.

That's it really. It's lighter on the action than *LEGO Star Wars III*, instead placing more of its focus on puzzles and platforming. The hub area that you're able to visit between levels is not nearly as impressive as the one seen in *LEGO Star Wars III*, but there's some truly excellent level design in *LEGO Pirates* to make up for that. Of the many characters in the game, Cap'n Jack deserves special mention, because his lovable swagger transitions brilliantly into LEGO form. The game's charm is undeniable (as always) and it's presented brilliantly (as always), with all the humour and cuteness we've come to expect. If you've played any of the *LEGO* titles before, you'll know exactly what you're getting with this game. Aside from the theme, it's the same family-friendly fun that the series is known for. **NAG**

Barkskin

/ PLUS / It's fun / It's funny / Good level design / Tons of content
/ MINUS / Same rubbish camera / Nothing new here really

ONCE MORE, WITH PIRATES.

75

NAG



PS Vita

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Reviews

- L.A. Noire
- The Witcher 2: Assassins of Kings
- Duke Nukem Forever
- Brink
- + More!



BATTLEFIELD

3

Two words, Hands-on multiplayer! Or is that three words?

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If your DVD is missing we are really sorry. The truth is the DVD had to be redone this month after the burner was formatted. This has nothing to do with your particular DVD being missing - that's just bad luck, which is why we're sorry.