

Herr Von Daniken

[Swapan Biswas](#)

It is obviously better if I say less about Erich Von Daniken.

Only a few months ago, I prepared a [short write-up on Daniken](#). Though not elaborative, it contained his controversial biography including his past and present activities. Alongside with his farrago career what is going well now is the Mystery Park, a huge entertainment park at Interlaken in Switzerland.

On the way to Jungfrau from Zurich, we made a halt at Interlaken. Maintaining very low profile for more than a decade, only two years ago, Daniken had been reappeared by opening up a so-called Mystery Park. The very Park is Daniken's brainchild. He claims that this unique theme park was one his greatest dreams.

Interlaken is a picturesque city. Tourists in thousands flock in at Interlaken every year. Mystery Park attracts a portion of the transit tourists and cash in on hard currency. I was curious to see what this park offers in lieu of a sizable entry fee.



A bird's eye view of Mystery Park at Interlaken, Switzerland [The picture is taken from a website]

I was neither mystified nor overwhelmed with astonishment. The overall design that resembles a spaceport with a central sphere is not to be overlooked. Interestingly Daniken does not agree with the idea that the park looks like a spaceport. You can expect anything from a guy who loves to be illusive. Anyway a project of US\$ 85 M cannot be wrong with the design and it perfectly commensurates with Daniken's childish ideas of alien influences on early civilizations. This great Swiss venture is financed by some world-famous companies such as Swatch, Coca-Cola, Sony, TV companies and Swiss brewery giants, etc.

At the entrance, I jokingly enquired an administrative lady of her middle age.

“Where does Daniken live?”

“On the top of a nearby hill !” The lady answered appropriately.

“Cannot I see him?”

“Why not? You need an appointment” The lady smiled.

“Daniken is a rich man” I told.

“No, no. He spends money anyway” The lady carried on.

“Is not that of his childhood habit?”

“Yes Not etc.”

The smiling lady probably appreciated my banter on Daniken's career.

Mystery Park looks like a huge wheel where seven arms as spokes radiate from the centre and each ends with a pavilion. Seven pavilions are of seven wonders such as Nazca showing Nazca Lines, Contact shows cargo cults, Megastones of Stonshenge, Maya shows Maya calendar, Orient (Great Pyramid), Vimana explores flying machines stated in the Mahabharata and Challenge explores space flights. At the centre, a 41-metre high sphere is used for viewing mesmerizing sceneries of Interlaken. This is also Daniken's propaganda sphere where all his books are cunningly displayed. A few hundred books those were translated in various languages are kept. I was amazed to see his books in Bengali published from Calcutta. Interestingly his Diploma of receiving Doctorate from Bolivian University is also displayed. No frills ! No gimmicks !



Books are displayed at the Panorama sphere.



The wooden box bears the name of Calcutta as a major trading centre for exporting tea-leaves.

I visited three pavilions such as Vimana, Maya & Orient. Decorations of the pavilions are substantiated with cultural evidences. They are attractive. The large halls are meant for multimedia shows where Daniken's alien theories are presented. A single show lasts for 15 to 20 minutes. In one show, Daniken ghostly appeared in the screen. He pointed his index finger upwards seemingly all the answers lie in the sky or heaven or a place far away from our Earth. Daniken promised that Mystery Park would show greatest mysteries without giving any answers. But he is fooling the visitors, of course the gullibles.

Mystery Park is weak in its own merit. Scientists and scholars do not subscribe Daniken's funny ideas. The 'spaceport' is shrouded with a lot of criticisms from many corners. Antoine Wasserfallen, a Swiss academic has labeled The Mystery Park as 'Cultural Chernobyl' of Switzerland. Swiss Govt is also not much comfortable with the Park.

In Munich while touring the sites of Herr Hitler's uprising, we were told by Rob that Hitler was a special breed in 700 years of Bavarian history. I strongly believe that Herr Daniken is a special breed in Bohemian history. Let Swiss to determine the period in between no spin doctor like Daniken was witnessed !

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