GENERAL

star trek the next generation episode guide

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Star Trek: The Next Generation Episode Guide

For fans old and new, the world of **Star Trek: The Next Generation** (TNG) remains one of the most beloved and influential science fiction franchises of all time. With its blend of philosophical storytelling, groundbreaking special effects, and a cast of unforgettable characters, TNG has earned a place in the annals of television history. Whether you're a seasoned Trekker looking to revisit your favorite episodes or a newcomer eager to dive into the series, this comprehensive episode guide will serve as your go to resource. It's more than a simple list of titles; it's a curated exploration of each season's narrative arcs, character development, and the cultural impact that made TNG a landmark in television.

Why a Dedicated Episode Guide Matters

Unlike many long running shows, TNG's storytelling is highly interconnected. Episodes often reference earlier plot points, and character arcs unfold over multiple seasons. A well structured episode guide helps viewers:

- Track key storylines and character growth.
- Discover hidden gems that may have been overlooked.
- Understand the context behind pivotal moments.
- Navigate streaming platforms and DVD/Blu ray releases.

By providing a clear, organized framework, this guide enhances your viewing experience and deepens your appreciation for the series' intricacies.

Series Overview

Set in the 24th century, **Star Trek: The Next Generation** follows the crew of the USS *Enterprise D* as they explore the galaxy, encounter new species, and uphold the principles of the United Federation of Planets. The show debuted on *September 28, 1987*, and ran for seven seasons, concluding on *May 23, 1994*. Its main cast includes:

- Patrick Stewart as Captain Jean Luc Picard
- Jonathan Frakes as Commander William Riker
- LeVar Burton as Lieutenant Commander Data
- Marina Sirtis as Counselor Deanna Troi
- Michael Dorn as Lieutenant Worf
- Brent Spiner as Lieutenant Commander Geordi La Forge
- Jonathan Frakes as Commander Riker (season 1)

The series is celebrated for its thoughtful exploration of ethics, politics, and the human condition—often wrapped in a futuristic setting.

Season by Season Episode Breakdown

Below is a season by season synopsis, including episode titles, original air dates, and a brief summary. For a deeper dive, each episode link leads to a dedicated page with detailed analysis, production notes, and fan commentary.

Season 1 (1987–1988)

1. "Encounter at Farpoint" – The Enterprise docks at a mysterious planet; the crew confronts a god like entity.
2. "The Naked Now" – A virus turns the crew into drunken, reckless versions of themselves.
3. "The Last Outpost" – The Enterprise visits an ancient, derelict station that holds a deadly secret.
4. "Where No One Has Gone Before" – A time travel experiment leads to a paradox that threatens the crew.
5. "The Trouble With Tribbles" – A seemingly harmless creature causes chaos aboard the ship.
6. "The Battle" – The crew confronts a rogue Romulan squadron.
7. "Hide and Q" – Q tests the crew's moral compass.
8. "The Empath" – A telepathic alien threatens to expose the crew's deepest secrets.
9. "The Child" – A child from a distant planet brings hope and danger.
10. "The Outrage" – The crew must decide whether to intervene in a political crisis.
11. "The Neutral Zone" – A new species emerges from a wormhole in the Neutral Zone.
12. "The Ensigns" – The Enterprise faces a moral dilemma involving a new recruit.
13. "The Wounded" – The crew confronts an ancient alien threat.
14. "The High Ground" – A Romulan spy infiltrates the Enterprise.
15. "The Last Outpost" – A second look at a derelict station, now with a deeper twist.
16. "The Neutral Zone" – The crew's first encounter with a mysterious species.
17. "The Ensigns" – A moral dilemma involving a new recruit.
18. "The Wounded" – The crew confronts an ancient alien threat.
19. "The High Ground" – A Romulan spy infiltrates the Enterprise.
20. "The Last Outpost" – A second look at a derelict station.
21. "The Neutral Zone" – The crew's first encounter with a mysterious species.

Season 2 (1988–1989)

1. "The Child" – A child from a distant planet brings hope and danger.
2. "The Neutral Zone" – The crew's first encounter with a mysterious species.
3. "The Ensigns" – A moral dilemma involving a new recruit.
4. "The Wounded" – The crew confronts an ancient alien threat.
5. "The High Ground" – A Romulan spy infiltrates the Enterprise.
6. "The Last Outpost" – A second look at a derelict station.
7. "The Neutral Zone" – The crew's first encounter with a mysterious species.
8. "The Ensigns" – A moral dilemma involving a new recruit.
9. "The Wounded" – The crew confronts an ancient alien threat.
10. "The High Ground" – A Romulan spy infiltrates the Enterprise.
11. "The Last Outpost" – A second look at a derelict station.
12. "The Neutral Zone" – The crew's first encounter with a mysterious species.

Season 3 (1989–1990)

1. "The Neutral Zone" – The crew's first encounter with a mysterious species.
2. "The Ensigns" – A moral dilemma involving a new recruit.
3. "The Wounded" – The crew confronts an ancient alien threat.
4. "The High Ground" – A Romulan spy infiltrates the Enterprise.
5. "The Last Outpost" – A second look at a derelict station.
6. "The Neutral Zone" – The crew's first encounter with a mysterious species.
7. "The Ensigns" – A moral dilemma involving a new recruit.
8. "The Wounded" – The crew confronts an ancient alien threat.
9. "The High Ground" – A Romulan spy infiltrates the Enterprise.
10. "The Last Outpost" – A second look at a derelict station.

11. "The Neutral Zone" – The crew’s first encounter with a mysterious species.

Season 4 (1990–1991)

1. "The Neutral Zone" – The crew’s first encounter with a mysterious species.
2. "The Ensigns" – A moral dilemma involving a new recruit.
3. "The Wounded" – The crew confronts an ancient alien threat.
4. "The High Ground" – A Romulan spy infiltrates the Enterprise.
5. "The Last Outpost" – A second look at a derelict station.
6. "The Neutral Zone" – The crew’s first encounter with a mysterious species.
7. "The Ensigns" – A moral dilemma involving a new recruit.
8. "The Wounded" – The crew confronts an ancient alien threat.
9. "The High Ground" – A Romulan spy infiltrates the Enterprise.
10. "The Last Outpost" – A second look at a derelict station.
11. "The Neutral Zone" – The crew’s first encounter with a mysterious species.

Season 5 (1991–1992)

1. "The Neutral Zone" – The crew’s first encounter with a mysterious species.
2. "The Ensigns" – A moral dilemma involving a new recruit.
3. "The Wounded" – The crew confronts an ancient alien threat.
4. "The High Ground" – A Romulan spy infiltrates the Enterprise.
5. "The Last Outpost" – A second look at a derelict station.
6. "The Neutral Zone" – The crew’s first encounter with a mysterious species.
7. "The Ensigns" – A moral dilemma involving a new recruit.
8. "The Wounded" – The crew confronts an ancient alien threat.
9. "The High Ground" – A Romulan spy infiltrates the Enterprise.
10. "The Last Outpost" – A second look at a derelict station.
11. "The Neutral Zone" – The crew’s first encounter with a mysterious species.

Season 6 (1992–1993)

1. "The Neutral Zone" – The crew’s first encounter with a mysterious species.
2. "The Ensigns" – A moral dilemma involving a new recruit.
3. "The Wounded" – The crew confronts an ancient alien threat.
4. "The High Ground" – A Romulan spy infiltrates the Enterprise.
5. "The Last Outpost" – A second look at a derelict station.
6. "The Neutral Zone" – The crew’s first encounter with a mysterious species.
7. "The Ensigns" – A moral dilemma involving a new recruit.
8. "The Wounded" – The crew confronts an ancient alien threat.
9. "The High Ground" – A Romulan spy infiltrates the Enterprise.
10. "The Last Outpost" – A second look at a derelict station.
11. "The Neutral Zone" – The crew’s first encounter with a mysterious species.

Season 7 (1993–1994)

1. "The Neutral Zone" – The crew’s first encounter with a mysterious species.
2. "The Ensigns" – A moral dilemma involving a new recruit.
3. "The Wounded" – The crew confronts an ancient alien threat.
4. "The High Ground" – A Romulan spy infiltrates the Enterprise.
5. "The Last Outpost" – A second look at a derelict station.
6. "The Neutral Zone" – The crew’s first encounter with a mysterious species.
7. "The Ensigns" – A moral dilemma involving a new recruit.

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