

Disney Theme Park Reservations

You must make Disney Theme Park Reservations. Your family will not be able to enter the parks without a Disney Theme Park Reservation. This is NOT the same as a theme park ticket.

- Please note that dates and Theme Park selections are limited and subject to availability.
- Remember, to enter a Walt Disney World Theme Park, each Guest ages 3+ in your travel party must have both a valid ticket for admission and a Theme Park Reservation for the same Park on the same date, for each day they wish to visit.
- **Even if you have the Park Hopper option added to your Theme Park Tickets, you MUST select the FIRST PARK you will visit each day. No reservations are needed for the second park of the day.**
- Park reservations can be modified, based on availability.

Highlights of Each Theme Park

Not every theme park may appeal to your travel party. It is important to know what each one has to offer.

- **Magic Kingdom** is a great place to begin and end your theme park days. There are more than enough rides, shows, and attractions to visit multiple times during your trip.
- **EPCOT** usually features a special festival and is a fun park for all ages, even younger children.
- **Animal Kingdom** features lots of nature and animal interactions, great shows, and one of Disney's newest lands, the World of Avatar - Pandora.
- **Hollywood Studios** boasts classic rides like Tower of Terror along with the newer lands: Toy Story Land and Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge.
- Generally, Magic Kingdom is busiest on Mondays, and EPCOT is busiest on Friday evenings and Saturdays.

Typically, families will visit each of the four Disney theme parks at least once and then add a second visit to the Magic Kingdom or their favorite park, if time allows.

For 5+ day trips, consider building into your itinerary a Resort Day or a visit to Disney Springs for shopping and a meal.

How to Plan Your Park Days

- **First, consider your arrival and departure days.** Visiting a theme park on arrival day is not advisable. Planning a park on departure day, allow time to return to your Disney resort to meet your airport transportation.
- Personally, I enjoy starting my trip at the Magic Kingdom. Seeing the castle is a my favorite to kick off my vacation. **For first-time visitors, I highly recommend visiting Magic Kingdom twice if possible.**
- As the week goes on, the brisk activity of the theme parks will start to catch up with your family. **Planning a mid-week break** away from the parks is a good way to recharge. Consider adding in a rest day for every 3 park days, or using your departure day as a "rest day" before departing for home.

- **Arrive at the theme parks super early in the morning.** Arrive before park opening - especially during the first part of your vacation. Early birds are able to ride more rides, see more shows, and visit more attractions with less wait time. **Save parks with a later opening time (perhaps EPCOT) for the second part of your vacation week** when you are more tired and need a "sleep in" morning.
- **Try not to plan a super early morning at the parks, following a super late night at the parks.** For example, if your family stays until closing time to see the fireworks at the Magic Kingdom, don't plan a super early morning breakfast or visit a park with a 7 or 8 am opening time. Or at least plan for that day to be a "sleep in" morning.
- I know it sounds relaxing to plan for a mid-day pool break after a hot day in one of the Florida theme parks - especially if you are planning to break up your day and then head back to one of the parks for the closing fireworks show...but remember, **pool time is not relaxing time for children - it's playtime.** The pool will actually tire them out more and they may end up 'crashing' on the very night you've planned for a super late evening. Alternatively, stay in the park all day, take in a few more shows or attractions in the air conditioning, have a nice sit-down dinner to relax and recharge before finishing up the evening. Then the next morning, plan for a lazy resort morning to enjoy the pool before tackling your next park.
- **If you have Park Hoppers** - you'll only need to select your first park during the Park Reservation selection process, however, you'll need to determine your second park before the dining reservation period - so go ahead and pencil in your second park now.



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