

Saving Money at Walt Disney World

A Disney vacation is an investment and no matter what your budget, it is important to me that you get the BEST VALUE for your vacation dollars. Here are some of my favorite tips for saving money in the theme parks. *One of my favorite ways to save money in the theme parks is to share meals, especially Quick Service. The portions are so large, and we can easily share two meals or so amongst our family.*

BRING YOUR OWN WATER BOTTLES

It is so important to stay hydrated when visiting Walt Disney World. It is Florida, so the heat and humidity are extremely high, plus you are on the go and probably a little more active than in your daily life - we sometimes walk 13 miles in a day at Disney. If you are supposed to have 8 glasses of water a day on a normal day, then it's not a stretch to say you would need 12-16 glasses of water on a Disney day.

My best money saving tip for water is to bring a refillable water bottle into the theme parks with you.

There are a few water filling stations scattered throughout the theme parks (sometimes you'll even find them in the attraction queues) or you can get free cups of water at any counter service location (they are small so you will need several to fill a bottle). During the summer months, you may also find beverage dispensers of water sitting outside of the restaurants (which means you won't need to stand in line).

Since the quality of the taste of Florida tap water varies, another alternative is to have a case of water delivered to your hotel. We typically fill our hotel fridge/freezer with bottles. We take one cold and one frozen per person, which usually gets us to lunch.

SAVE ON SNACKS WITH GROCERY DELIVERY {Details: [Grocery Delivery at Walt Disney World](#)}

Having fun burns a lot of calories! To tide you and your family over between meals, there are a plethora of snack carts in the theme parks – offering everything from popcorn, pretzels, and pickles to fresh fruit and frozen drinks – which is great when you want a special treat.

I always have snacks on hand in my park bag too. Perfect for while you're standing in line at an attraction. I have trail mix, small cereal cups, granola bars, goldfish, etc delivered with our bottled water order from the grocery store. I have also been known to pack the majority of one of my checked bags with dry snacks.

If you plan on saving a little money by planning ahead pre-purchasing snacks, remember these park rules:

- No alcohol or glass.
- No plastic straws at Animal Kingdom.
- Paper straws are available by request at the resorts and parks.

- Small soft coolers are allowed in the parks - perfect for strollers or with ECV/scooters. Otherwise, consider renting a locker at the parks.

[I have also put together my 8 Snacks Under \\$8 at Walt Disney World. There are lots of great, budget friendly options!](#)

SHARE MEALS

We all have different eating habits, so what is shareable for one person may be a light snack for another :)

Remember, you can always order more food if people are still hungry and the food is gone. It's easy peasy to mobile order another entree if you need it!

PURCHASE ESSENTIALS BEFORE YOU GO

It is Florida, chances are you are going to get stuck in a rainstorm at some point during your vacation.

Disney knows this and they know you have no other options so they are going to charge you \$12 per poncho - well not you because you bought several disposable ponchos from the Dollar Store or Amazon.

Aside from rain, those ponchos will come in handy! You saved so much money, you use one as a blanket when sitting on the ground waiting for the parade or fireworks and one to protect yourself from the wet seat on Splash Mountain.

You are ok that it's disposable because who wants to carry around a wet poncho anyway?

Other items you should purchase before you go: cell phone power bank, hand sanitizer, cheap sunglasses (that you don't care if they get lost or broken), click sharpies, autograph book, and sunscreen. Some of my favorite Amazon Finds are below:

[Disney Amazon Finds](#)

PACK A PHARMACY

Someone is inevitably going to get sick or hurt. In my family, it is usually me.

After a few trips having to purchase Tylenol from the gift shop that cost more than my hotel room, I learned to pack my own.

Of course, you can't predict what is going to happen so I now pack Immodium, Pepto, Tylenol, Benadryl, Nyquil/Dayquil, Band-aids, etc.

I often pack band aids, peppermints, and cough drops in my bag too.

BRING YOUR SOUVENIRS

When you get to Walt Disney World your kids are going to want you to buy them everything they see. So to avoid meltdowns, without spending their college tuition, you just distract them!

They want a bubble wand, you have bubbles in your park bag.

They want a glow sword, you have dozens of glow bracelets from the Dollar Store.

A popular thing that some Pinterest moms thought up is for Tinker Bell to bring some “pixie dust” each night of your trip. The pixie dust is a little Disney-themed item you pick up at the Dollar Store, or on sale at Target.

When your child really wants something you can usually avoid the tantrum by getting them to wait and see what Tinker Bell brings that night. You can then let them pick out the ONE thing they want to bring home towards the end of the trip.

When our kids were younger, Mickey was known to drop by and leave a special costume for the park day, a stuffed animal friend, and a themed tee shirt, perfect for our next park visit.

If your kids are older, gifting some of those discounted Disney Gift Cards for their birthday or holiday occasions that happen before your trip is a smart way to give them control over their souvenir purchases.



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