

# Saving Time at Walt Disney World

Vacation time is precious, and when you choose a destination like Walt Disney World for your vacation, you want to make sure that you can maximize your time.

Your theme park day will probably last 7, 8, . . . 12 hours?? You have some magical, long days ahead of you! You are going to create SO many awesome memories!

Implement these tips, and you won't get flustered that your day is disappearing right in front of you.

## **MOBILE ORDER**

Place your Quick Service order ahead of time - do not wait in a counter service line if mobile order is available for that location. You save time waiting, deciding, and ordering.

We like to start our mobile order using the My Disney Experience app while waiting in line for an attraction and then submit the order when we get out/off of the ride and begin walking to the quick service location.

## **USE BOTH SIDES OF THE LINE**

In most security and counter service lines, you will see a Cast Member behind a table or in a little booth-type platform - you can and should use both sides.

Typically, there will be a long line on one of the sides; simply go to the other side.

Research has shown that most people will head to the right side, so the line to the left will usually be shorter.

## **SINGLE RIDER LINE**

Even if you are not a single rider, you can use this great feature to save time waiting in lines.

As long as you are not riding with children under seven or timid children who would not want to ride alone, you can use it. Just know your party will be separated.

There are currently four attractions that offer this feature:

- EXPEDITION EVEREST at Disney's Animal Kingdom
- ROCK 'N' ROLLER COASTER at Disney's Hollywood Studios
- MILLENNIUM FALCON: SMUGGLERS RUN at Disney's Hollywood Studios
- TEST TRACK at EPCOT

## **GET YOUR NEXT GENIE+ ATTRACTION**

Once you have scanned into the attraction, select your next Genie+ ride time immediately.

To make the most of this, start looking for your next one as soon as you swipe your magic band to redeem your current one.

This works best in Magic Kingdom, where there are many attractions offering the service. You can book your Genie+ attraction while you are in line and be off to the next thing as soon as you have finished riding!

### **UNDERSTAND YOUR TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS**

There are many ways to get from one place to another at Walt Disney World.

Not only is it important to know the most direct route, if you understand the transportation system and all your alternatives, but you can also quickly adapt if you just miss a bus or if the line for the monorail is a mile deep.

### **KNOW WHEN TO OCCASIONALLY SPLURGE AND USE RIDESHARE**

One of those alternative transportation options is to use a rideshare like Lyft or Uber.

If you have to go between resorts for a dining reservation or avoid the mass exodus after the fireworks, this will save you so much time.

**My favorite time to use one of these services is after a night in EPCOT. Once the nighttime show has finished, I leave through the International Gateway and get a Lyft from the Beach Club - it saves the walk back to the front of the park.**

### **HAVE YOUR CAMERAS and AUTOGRAPH BOOKS READY**

When you wait in line to meet a character, your turn will go much more smoothly and be less rushed if you have everything ready.

You are just standing there waiting. You might as well get your camera, autograph book, and pen ready!

### **FOLD YOUR STROLLER**

The other HUGE time saver happens while you are waiting for a bus; fold your stroller BEFORE it is your turn to get on.

It is so simple, but you would be surprised how many people miss this!! (*Psst, maybe you can start a chain reaction and encourage everyone to fold their strollers before they meet the bus's front door.*)

### **STUDY YOUR TOURING PLAN AND PARK MAP THE NIGHT BEFORE**

You'll find electronic maps for the parks in your My Disney Experience account and physical maps in the resort lobby and throughout the theme parks.

It is always an advantage to take a fresh look at the lay of the land before you start.

It just helps to know if you should go right or left *{I always go left}* once you enter the park for the attraction you want to hit first, and then have a vision for your path through the park for the rest of the day.

### **BREAKFAST IN ROOM**

Getting a quick start in the morning is a great way to save time and experience more at Disney. With so many different things to see, do, and experience, you want to make sure that you can maximize your time while on vacation.

By eating your Cheerios in your resort room or munching on a breakfast bar on the way to the bus, you can bypass the breakfast food court lines and head straight to catch the first bus bound for the theme parks.

If you are driving to Disney, pack some breakfast items or along with snacks, breakfast foods, and a case (or two) of water. Flying in? Place an Instacart, Amazon Fresh, or grocery order to be delivered directly to your resort.

**I usually pop into the food court to stock up on a few bowls of cereal and ½ gallon of milk on our arrival day (or the night before to avoid the food court lines during breakfast time.**

### **ASK FOR YOUR CHECK EARLY**

Character and Table Service dining is definitely worth the splurge – of time and money while on your Disney vacation.

Dedicating a leisurely hour to interact with the characters, rest your weary legs, and spend quality time with family is priceless.

However, there is one way to save time during your dining experience: ask for your check early.

If you are dining at one of the buffets or pre-fixe table service restaurants, this is a particularly convenient tip. Ask for the check as you order your drinks.

This way, you can have your Magic Band scanned or your credit card run asap, and then you are free to leave as soon as you finish eating or see the last character in the rotation.

Time is important! You can't see and do it all, but hopefully these tips will help you manage your time well at Walt Disney World. Please let me know if you have any questions!



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