

**Value Resorts:** Smallest rooms with double beds but they also have the smallest price tag. Big, bold and colorful icons make these hotels a hit with kids and, in many ways, are the most "Disney" of any of the resorts. Pools are themed but do not have pool slides. Each of the resorts has its own cafeteria style food court but no full service restaurants. These resorts enjoy the same great Disney benefits as the moderate and deluxe resorts at a much lower price point - benefits like poolside activities, extra magic Hours, free parking, and complimentary transportation to the Disney theme parks and airport. Standard rooms can accommodate four guests + one baby. You can also book FASTPASS+ reservations 30-days ahead of non-Disney hotel guests, 60 days prior to arrival. Family suites can accommodate six guests + one baby. Great choice for guests watching their budget or people who spend most of their time in the theme parks.

- **Disney's All-Star Resorts** – These are the original value resorts and guests are allowed to use the pools at any of the three hotels. Depending on the type of promotion offered, All-Star Sports and All-Star Music may be the least expensive resorts on Disney property. All-Star Music has the least expensive family suites on Disney property. All-Star Movies is very Disney, very cute and the Buzz and Woody buildings are popular with Toy Story fans.
- **Disney's Pop Century** – Bright and fun theme, this centrally located resort is also within easy walking distance of Disney's Art of Animation resort – giving guests another dining location. Bus transportation here is better than at most other Disney resorts, even moderates and deluxes.
- **Disney's Art of Animation** – This is where you'll find the most elaborate Disney theming – you'll feel like you've stepped right into Finding Nemo, Cars, The Lion King or The Little Mermaid. Most of the rooms here are family suites but there are a few standard rooms. Considered a "Value-Plus" resort, it costs a bit more than the other value resorts.

**Moderate Resorts:** These resorts are a bit bigger, the decor is a bit nicer, standard rooms have queen beds and the resorts are more elaborately landscaped than the value resorts. The pools have slides and the resorts have more dining or entertainment options. These hotels have more of a resort feel while keeping you in close proximity to all the magic and benefits Disney World has to offer. These hotels are a great option for guests' whose budgets allow for a nicer resort experience but who don't want to go all in for a deluxe resort.

- **Disney's Port Orleans French Quarter and Riverside Resorts** – These neighboring resorts offer boat transportation to Downtown Disney. Guest can use the pools and services at both resorts. Riverside has a food court and table-service restaurant while French Quarter only has a food court; both resorts offer live music in their lounges on select evenings. Riverside has some rooms that can accommodate five guests, if one guest is age nine or younger, making it one of the most economical choices for a family of five.

- **Disney's Caribbean Beach Resort** has some rooms that can accommodate five guests, if one guest is age nine or younger, making it one of the most economical choices for a family of five. It has the most elaborate pool and splash zone of any of the moderate resorts, rivaling the pools at some of the deluxe resorts.
- **Disney's Coronado Springs Resort** is a convention center resort and has the largest rooms of the any of the moderates. It has the best food court on Disney property, a fitness center and a very nice pool. It sometimes costs slightly more than the other moderate resorts.
- **Cabins at the Fort Wilderness Campground** – These cabins have full kitchens, are the most economical lodgings in the Magic Kingdom resort area and can accommodate up to six guests. The campground is a lot of fun but some people prefer a more hotel/resort feel than the "in the woods" feel the cabins provide.

**Deluxe Resorts:** These resorts have the biggest rooms and the most amenities - things like multiple restaurants, elaborately themed pools, spas, more entertainment and more services. These hotels are closer to the theme parks, providing the most convenience and a definite resort experience but they also come with the biggest price tag. A great option for people who want to enjoy their resort but possibly not worth the cost for guests who will spend most of their time in the theme parks.

**Magic Kingdom – Monorail Loop Hotels:** These hotels are close to the Magic Kingdom and are serviced by the monorail. Some rooms have Magic Kingdom views and all guests can view the fireworks and Electric Water Pageant from the marina areas of these resorts. All three have on-site character meals and other dining options. **Disney's Contemporary Resort** is one of the original two Disney World hotels and is within walking distance of the Magic Kingdom – it is special in that the monorail stops in and passes through the main tower of the hotel. **Disney's Polynesian Resort** is the other original Disney World hotel and it has a fun Hawaiian feel. **Disney's Grand Floridian Resort and Spa** is Disney's World's flagship resort and it is very pretty with live music in the lobby and an elegant "Old Florida" resort feel. They have some studios units with kitchenettes and one and two bedroom villas with full kitchens in addition to the standard hotel rooms.

**Disney's Wilderness Lodge** is another resort in the Magic Kingdom resort area but it is not on the monorail loop and you cannot clearly see the Magic Kingdom fireworks, though you can see the nightly Electric Water Pageant. The rooms are less expensive

than the monorail loop hotels and this resort frequently wins "best family resort" awards and has one of the highest rates of returning guests. This resort also has studios units with kitchenettes and one and two bedroom villas with full kitchens in addition to the standard hotel rooms. This resort will have ongoing construction projects throughout 2016.

**Epcot Resort Area:** These resorts are within walking distance of the International Gateway entrance to Epcot's World Showcase area. The close proximity of these resorts gives guests a great variety of convenient dining and entertainment options. **Disney's Yacht and Beach Club Resorts** share an incredible and huge sand-bottomed pool that includes a beach area, lazy-river, and pool slide. **Disney's Boardwalk Inn and Villas** has restaurants, shops, and entertainment venues to keep you busy without ever stepping into a theme park. **Walt Disney World's Swan & Dolphin resorts** are also in this area and they're lovely but they're not Disney-owned so they do not participate in Disney's Magical Express, free parking, or the Disney Dining Plans. The **Beach Club** and **Boardwalk Resorts** have studios units with kitchenettes and one and two bedroom villas with full kitchens in addition to the standard hotel rooms.

**Animal Kingdom Lodge** – Jambo House & Kidani Village are near **Disney's Animal Kingdom** theme park. This is a "stand alone" resort which means you don't have other nearby resorts to offer convenient dining and entertainment but it also means you get less non-resort guests wandering through the public areas of the resort. This is a gorgeous resort with savannah areas featuring animals like giraffes, bongos, flamingos and zebras. Jambo House has standard hotel rooms, studios units with kitchenettes and one and two bedroom villas with full kitchens in addition to the standard hotel rooms. Kidani Village only has studios units with kitchenettes, and one and two bedroom villas with full kitchens – it does not have standard hotel rooms.

**Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort and Old Key West Resort** are near Downtown Disney. These are "Disney Vacation Club" (DVC) properties featuring studios units with kitchenettes and one and two bedroom units with full kitchens; these resorts do not have standard hotel rooms. When booked as part of a Disney World vacation package, these units have daily maid service. The resorts are large and have beautiful pools. Because they have kitchens, they do not have as many restaurant options as the other deluxe resorts. Saratoga Springs Resort has some secluded free standing "Treehouse" units that can accommodate up to nine guests.

For full descriptions and photos of these resorts, see: [buildabettermousetrip.com/disney-world-hotels/](http://buildabettermousetrip.com/disney-world-hotels/) Our agents will be happy to answer your questions about the resort and provide a [free, no-obligation quote](#).

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or call 877.815.6515 to talk to one of  
our Disney Vacation experts

This “how-to” guide covers the ticket needs of the vast majority of Walt Disney World visitors. Disney does offer annual passes and some other options that only affect very small, specific situations but the above information applies to almost everyone who visits the Disney World theme parks, whether you purchase your ticket as part of a Walt Disney World Resort vacation package or you just walk up and buy a ticket at the gate. Your [Build A Better Mouse Trip](#) agent will make help you select a ticket that covers all of your Disney vacation priorities without wasting money on options you won't use when you purchase tickets or book your vacation through us. There is no extra charge for our services.

### Disney World Basic Ticket

This is your Disney theme park pass. You can purchase varying lengths (one to ten days) and add on various options but all tickets start with this foundation. The basic ticket is available for one or more days and allows you to enter one Disney World theme park (Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Disney's Hollywood Studios or Animal Kingdom) per day. You cannot enter a Disney water park with this ticket and you cannot start in one park and then move to a different theme park within the same day with this ticket. It is the most economical option for entering the Disney parks. Disney recently made a change to their one day tickets, charging a little more for a Magic Kingdom one-day ticket but there is no extra cost for the Magic Kingdom when you purchase a two-day or longer ticket. Unused days expire 14-days after first use of the ticket.


### Park Hopper Option

You'll frequently hear people say “park hopper tickets” or “basic tickets” but, in truth, Park Hopping is an option that you add to a basic ticket. This option increases the cost of your ticket, but allows you to move between the four Disney theme parks at your convenience; you are not restricted to one park per day. You don't pay by the day for Park Hopping, the option is good for the full length of your ticket. The park hopping option is discounted a bit on one day tickets. Remember that each of the Disney theme parks has more than enough activities to fill a full day and moving from one park to another takes time – park hopping may not benefit every guest. Park Hopping can be nice if you want the flexibility offered to move about the four parks, especially if you have children and your trip only allows for one full Magic Kingdom day and want to use extra time to return to this park. Park Hopping does not include water park or DisneyQuest admissions and does NOT allow you to hop between these destinations.

### Water Park Fun and More Option

This is another upgrade to the basic ticket; it grants entrance to the two Disney World water parks (Blizzard Beach and Typhoon Lagoon), Disney Quest in Downtown Disney, to the two miniature golf courses (prior to 4PM), spectator admission for amateur events at Wide World of Sports, and Disney Oak Trail golf benefits. There is a discount when you purchase both the **Water Park Fun & More** option and the **Park Hopper** Option. The number of total entrances allowed is equal to the number of days on your Basic Ticket. Because these admissions are separate from the theme park entrances, you can go to a theme park and a water park on the same day with this option even without paying for the Park Hopper option. I love this option during warm months, especially if I have a full week or more at Disney World, but it may not be a great value for short trips. Families with toddlers and very young children may find that this option isn't especially practical. Remember too that Disney closes one water park for refurbishment from late October – mid-March. If you're going in the winter months, you may want to wait until your vacation to add this option when you have a better sense of the actual temperatures during your trip; this option can be added at the guest services desk at your resort or at any of the parks. You can purchase a separate single-day admission to the water parks or DisneyQuest but this option is the best deal if you plan to do two or more of these activities.

Note: If you want to go to a Water Park and DisneyQuest on the same day, you can. Doing that will use two admissions from your **Water Park Fun & More** option. You are limited to one miniature golf game per day.



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With this guide to the best Quick-Service restaurants at Disney World, you won't be stuck eating burgers and chicken nuggets on your next Disney World vacation – even if you never step foot into one of the sit-down restaurants.

### Magic Kingdom:

- **Be Our Guest** (Fantasyland – Breakfast & Lunch) – This Restaurant is themed after Beast's castle in **Beauty and the Beast** and has been incredibly popular since opening. The restaurant is a table-service location at dinner and is a quick-service location at breakfast & lunch. Reservations are accepted for all meals and frequently fill six months in advance. The prices are a bit higher than most quick-service locations but the food is a step up as well, with items like braised pork with mashed potatoes and green beans, vegetable quiche, and Carved Prime Chuck Roast Sandwich. The children's meals are also some of the best in quality and variety with choices like Turkey meatloaf, seared Mahi Mahi, and whole-grain macaroni with marinara sauce.
- **Columbia Harbour House** (Liberty Square) – Great variety with choices like Lobster roll, Fried shrimp, grilled salmon with couscous, and a yummy broccoli peppercorn salad. Children can get a tuna sandwich, chicken nuggets, or macaroni and cheese. The setting is pleasant and you can almost always find a table upstairs.
- **Cosmic Rays** (Tomorrowland) – Another restaurant with good variety – rotisserie chicken, burger and sandwiches station, and salads. The kids' meals are not as impressive – chicken nuggets, turkey sandwich or Smuckers Uncrustables. The thing that is kind of weird is that you may have to line up at different stations to get what you want – not everything is available at every station. The fun thing about this restaurant is an Animatronic space alien lounge singer named Sunny Eclipse that entertains diners.
- **Sleepy Hollow Refreshments** (Liberty Square) – This spot is quickly a fan following with their waffles sandwiches (served from 11AM – 5PM). The Nutella and Fresh Fruit Waffle Sandwich is a thing of beauty but they also have choices like the Sweet & Spicy Chicken or Ham, Proscuitto & Swiss waffle sandwiches. This is also one of the most economical meals you can get with sandwiches coming in at the \$6 - \$8 range.

### Epcot – so many great choices, so little time:

- **Sunshine Seasons** (Future World – Land Pavilion) – Makes every "Best Of" list because they have such wonderful variety. The food is fresh and flavorful and it is one of the few locations that offer free refills on your beverage. Asparagus Chicken Chowder, Togarashi Seared Tuna Noodle Salad, Turkey & Monterey Jack on Ciabatta, Sweet and Sour Chicken, oak grilled fish, slow roasted pork chop, and other tasty options guarantee that there will be something for everyone.

- **Great Sandwiches & delicious desserts at Kringla Bakeri og Café** (Norway Pavilion) and Boulangerie Patisserie (France Pavilion)
- **Tangierine Café** (Morocco Pavilion) – Shawarma platters, specialty wraps, Kefta sandwich, and a yummy Mediterranean Sliders Combo take you off the burger trail at this delicious restaurant – unless you're a kid, they do have a hamburger kids meal.
- **Katsura Grill** (Japan Pavilion) has California Rolls, Tokyo Sushi combo, Tempura Shrimp Udon, Teriyaki chicken & salmon, and other tasty Japanese dishes. I love dining outdoors here.
- **La Cantina de San Angel** (Mexico Pavilion) has tacos, empanadas, and really yummy nachos. Try one of their flavored Mexican sodas.

### Disney's Hollywood Studios:

- **Fairfax Fare** – Not a lot of variety but Chicken and Spareribs with baked beans and coleslaw always hit the spot. This location has a gourmet hot dog with macaroni and cheese and truffle oil that some people just love.
- **Starring Rolls** – Their tasty sandwiches and incredible desserts always put this location on every "Best of" list. They're only open until 4 or 5PM and the Peanut Butter & Jelly kids meal is a disappointment.
- **Studios Catering Company** – Nice variety of sandwiches, wraps & sloppy joes.
- **Backlot Express:** Standard fare with decent variety and several options for kids. People that like the movie industry love this location.

### Animal Kingdom:

- **Flame Tree Barbeque** – This is one of our personal favorites – St. Louis style ribs, smoked chicken, smoked turkey breast are all delicious. Nice selection of kids meals too. Take a minute to notice the Predator/ Prey motif in the signs and tables. The deserts here are a little weird – the key lime mousse looks like it has frog slime on the top. Outdoor seating only.
- **Harambe Market** – Healthy & tasty choices like grilled

chicken kabobs, spice rubbed ribs, sausages, beef gyro flatbread & salads.

- **Pizzafari** – Honestly, the food here is uninspired (pizza, Italian-style sandwich, salads) but inside seating, air conditioning and the bright and colorful rooms (nocturnal, camouflage, bug, four seasons and upside down rooms) make it a fun choice.
- **Yak & Yeti Local Foods Café** - Another location that only has outdoor seating but the view is lovely and the Asian food is tasty enough.

### Downtown Disney

- **Earl of Sandwich** – this is one of the most economical locations on Disney property and the sandwiches are really good.
- **Wolfgang Puck Express** – Wood-fired pizza, Sandwiches, Soups and Salads.
- **Bongos Cuban Café Walk-Up Window:** Ropa Viega, Pollo Asado, Arroz con Pollo, Cuban sandwiches, soups and salads. Nice selection of options for kids.

### Disney Hotel Food Courts –

- The value resorts do not have sit-down restaurants so their food courts typically have more offerings than the other resorts; convenient if you're staying at those resorts but not necessarily something to go out of your way for.
- **Contemporary Resort – Contempo Café:** Nice selection of flatbreads, hot & cold sandwiches, salads, and pasta (pasta is dinner only) make this a nice choice. Getting to watch the monorail go by is another reason this location makes our list.
- **Disney's Coronado Springs Resort – Pepper Market:** If you're on a dining plan, this food court is definitely worth the trip. There are several stations with sandwiches, salads, Mexican food, pizzas, pastas and other "real" food items. The setting is lovely. Great value if you're on a Disney dining plan; prices a little higher than a lot of quick-service locations if you're paying out of pocket.
- **Disney's Polynesian Resort – Captain Cook's Snack Company.** Head here for breakfast before going to the Magic Kingdom and enjoy the Polynesian resort's famous Tonga Toast (banana stuffed, sugar crusted French toast). We usually split one order between two people and add a protein item to balance the sweetness. The lunch and dinner menus have a decent variety and this is the only place at Disney World other than the Magic Kingdom where you can get a Dole Whip (pineapple soft-serve).
- **Disney's Wilderness Lodge – Roaring Forks:** The Roast Beef and Blue Cheese sandwich with House-made chips is what draws people here. The restaurant's seating area is a bit small and the rest of the menu is a little limited.

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# Everything you need to know about Disney's Extra Magic Hours

## A Build A Better Mouse Trip How-To Guide

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**Extra Magic Hours** are an exclusive benefit for the guests of the Walt Disney World hotels, granting them access to a Disney theme park that is closed to the general public. Depending on the season, there may be one or two extra Magic Hour parks on any given day. The Disney theme parks typically open to the public at 9:00AM but, during a **morning Extra Magic Hour**, Disney hotel guests can enter one hour earlier – typically at 8:00AM. **Evening Extra Magic Hours** let Disney hotel guests stay in a park two hours past the regular closing time. Disney park hours and Extra Magic Hours are released six months in advance – though they are subject to revision. At first glance, hitting the most Extra Magic Hours possible may seem like a great idea but there are some things you'll want to think through first.

**Extremely Important:** If you're not staying at a Disney resort, you really need to know the Extra Magic Hours schedule so that you can avoid them and the crowds that go with them. You sure don't want to get to the park just in time to get in long lines behind people who have already been there for an hour.

**Thinking Point #1 – Crowds:** Disney has over 30,000 hotel rooms and no one goes to Disney World alone – this means that the Extra Magic Hour park will always be the most crowded park of the day. That may not be a big deal at non-peak times but it is a very big deal during holidays and other high crowd times like Spring Break or the height of summer travel. If you're going at during the busy season, you can probably enjoy more attractions in less time by going to a less crowded park. **Exception:** If you have Park Hopper Tickets, you can enjoy a less crowded park during regular hours and then hop over to the Evening Extra Magic Hours park and enjoy the best of both worlds.

**Thinking Point #2 – Getting Up Early on Vacation:** If the Morning Extra Magic Hour starts at 8:00AM, you'll need to leave your resort no later than 7:30AM to take advantage of it. Will your family want to get up at 6:30AM on vacation, especially if they were in a theme park late the night before? Sleeping through the Extra Magic Hour and then arriving in time to get in lines that have been forming for 2 or more hours is not to your advantage at all – you're definitely better off going to a less crowded park in this situation. If you're a family of early risers, this won't be an issue and the morning Extra Magic Hour may be perfect for you, giving you a chance to enjoy the parks when you're at your peak and allowing you to take a mid-day break to swim or relax.

**Thinking Point #3 – How late is too late?** Epcot closes at 9:00PM almost without exception. The closing time at **Magic Kingdom** and **Disney's Hollywood Studios** varies a lot – from 7:00PM to Midnight, depending on the season. **Animal Kingdom** almost never has evening Extra Magic Hours. The theme parks are at their least crowded the first two hours that they're open so I really want you to make park opening a priority. If you're headed to the parks by 8:15AM, will you or your kids really be able to enjoy being up until 10:00PM or later? If you do stay out that late, will it mean getting to the park late tomorrow and missing out on the short lines then? My kids treat Disney World like Marine Boot Camp – they go hard from first thing in the morning until the Disney cast members are pushing us out of the park at the end of the day but not everyone takes this "you can sleep when you're dead" approach to vacation. When will the fun stop being fun for your family?

**Thinking Point #4 – When two hours is really just one hour:** Disney says that the Evening Extra Magic Hours are two hours but you really need to look at the park hours on either side of the Extra Magic hour day and sometimes you'll find that the Magic Kingdom or Disney's Hollywood Studios will close an hour earlier to the general public so you're really only getting one hour more than you would get a day earlier or later. If you're only gaining one hour, are you better off going on a less crowded day? One extra hour with less people might be great when it isn't too late.

**Thinking Point #5 –When you have to choose between Extra Magic Hours and the Main Street Electrical Parade or the Wishes fireworks at the Magic Kingdom.** Check the Disney calendar because, during the lower seasons, Disney will sometimes eliminate the **Wishes Fireworks** or the **Main Street Electrical Parade** on days with Extra Magic Hours. Both of those events are pretty special and you may not want to miss them – especially if this is a "once in a lifetime" trip. You may want to hit the Magic Kingdom on a different day, especially if your trip falls at a time when the Extra Magic hours mean fewer regular park hours. This may not be an issue if you have two days allocated for the **Magic Kingdom** or have park hopper tickets and can catch the parade and Fireworks after visiting the **Animal Kingdom**, which usually closes earlier.

**Thinking Point #6 – Extra Magic Hours when low crowds mean shorter park hours.** I know that a lot of the above points may lead you to decide against Extra Magic Hours in certain situations but Extra Magic Hours can be a great thing when crowd levels are really low and Disney reduces park hours. I love evening Extra Magic Hours in this situation.

**Thinking Point #7 – Extra Magic Hours when it is crazy-hot outside.** Florida can be uncomfortably hot from June into October. If the middle of the day is going to be miserable, you may want to head back to your resort for a rest or go to a water park. In this situation, the Extra Magic Hours can give you the time you need to experience the parks but please use a good [touring plan](#) to help you manage crowds.

**Thinking Point #7 – When You Have Park Hopper Tickets.** The Disney World Basic Ticket allows guests to visit one theme park per day but Disney also offers an upgrade called the Park Hopper Option. This option costs extra, is good for the length of your ticket and allows you to move between the Disney Theme Parks at your convenience. Guests with Basic Ticket really need to be careful when planning around Extra Magic Hours because, once you've entered a park, you're committed to that park for the day. You can leave and re-enter the same park but you can't switch to another one. The Park Hopper option costs more but it does give you some flexibility – for example, you can go to the Animal Kingdom for a morning Extra Magic Hour and enjoy that park while crowds are low, then head over to another park to enjoy some attractions and the evening entertainment.

**Thinking Point #8 – Night Owls & Vampires:** I've already mentioned that the crowds are lowest the first few hours the park is open so it really makes sense to get there at least 20 minutes before they open the gates. On the other hand, some people like stay out late and sleep in on vacation. If this sounds like you, definitely use [TouringPlan.com's](#) "late start" touring plans to manage crowds coupled with evening Extra Magic Hours and go for it. You will want to make good use of FASTPASS+ for the attractions that get crazy lines or hit them at the very end of the evening.

**Itinerary planning** is one of the services our Disney-focused travel agents provide for every one of our clients and we help you navigate all of these issues, as well as crowds and limited parade and fireworks schedules. Our services are free when you book your Disney vacation through [Build A Better Mouse Trip](#) – doesn't it make sense to put an expert in your corner when thinking through the steps to planning a great trip?

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# Walt Disney World Height Restricted Attractions

## A Build A Better Mouse Trip How-To Guide

Disney has an outstanding safety record. Not only did Walt Disney create the genre of the theme park that is being copied worldwide, their theme park operations are well thought out and carefully monitored. If your child is not tall enough to experience an attraction, it is for safety reasons. That being said, most children shy away from strangers, such as the cast members, and may not stand up straight. We advise people to have your kids practice measuring before you go until they are used to it. Also, set the expectation. If the Cast Member says no, then they can not ride. Avoid melt downs by carefully measuring and letting the child know ahead of times what attractions they will not be able to experience.

**Tomorrowland Indy Speedway** 32"(82cm)  
Magic Kingdom 52" (132cm) to drive

**Buzz Lightyear's AstroBlaster** 51"  
DisneyQuest (130cm)

**Cyberspace Mountain** 51"  
DisneyQuest (130cm)

**Crush 'n' Gusher** 48"  
Typhoon Lagoon (122cm)

**Downhill Double Dipper** 48"  
Blizzard Beach (122cm)

**Humunga Kowabunga** 48"  
Typhoon Lagoon (122cm)

**Mighty Ducks Pinball Slam** 48"  
DisneyQuest (122cm)

**Primeval Whirl** 48"  
Animal Kingdom (122cm)

**Rock'n'Roller Coaster starring Aerosmith** 48"  
Hollywood Studios (122cm)

**Ski Patrol Training Camp** 48"  
Blizzard Beach (122cm)

**Slush Gusher** 48"  
Blizzard Beach (122cm)

**Sum of All Thrills** 48" (122cm)  
Epcot 54" (137cm)to invert

**Summit Plummet** 48"  
Blizzard Beach (122cm)

**Expedition Everest** 44"  
Animal Kingdom (112cm)

**Mission:Space** 44"  
Epcot (112cm)

**Space Mountain** 44"  
Magic Kingdom (112cm)

**Big Thunder Mountain Railroad** 40"  
Magic Kingdom (102cm)

**Dinosaur** 40"  
Animal Kingdom (102cm)

**Soarin'** 40"  
Epcot (102cm)

**Splash Mountain** 40"  
Magic Kingdom (102cm)

**Star Tours** 40"  
Hollywood Studios (102cm)

**Stitch's Great Escape** 40"  
Magic Kingdom (102cm)

**Test Track** 40"  
Epcot (102cm)

**The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror** 40"  
Hollywood Studios (102cm)

**Seven Dwarfs Mine Train** 38"  
Magic Kingdom (97cm)

**Kali River Rapids** 38"  
Animal Kingdom (97cm)

**The Barnstormer** 35"  
Magic Kingdom (89cm)

**Chairlift** 32"  
Blizzard Beach (82cm)

**Ketchakiddee Creek** Under 48" (122cm) only  
Typhoon Lagoon

**Tike's Peak** Under 48" (122cm) only  
Blizzard Beach



Disney World's original FASTPASS program has been replaced with a new system called FASTPASS+. In the parks you will see it referenced as FP+. The new FP+ is still in its test phase so information is subject to change. A very important change is that FP+ works differently depending on whether or not you are staying at a Walt Disney World Resort hotel but all guests can choose up to three (3) FP+ experiences per day in advance, as long as you have purchased tickets (separately or as part of a package). You are currently limited to one park per day. It does not yet accommodate Park Hopping (visiting more than one park per day). Additional FP+ reservations can be acquired one-at-a-time once the initial three have been used.

### FP+ for Walt Disney World Resort hotel guests:

You have a big advantage when you book a Walt Disney World Resort hotel vacation with theme park tickets because you can make FP+ selections up to 60 days prior to arrival which gives you a 30-day advantage over everyone else. Register at [www.StartYourDisneyExperience.com](http://www.StartYourDisneyExperience.com) and link your resort confirmation number to your account using the "my reservations" tab and selecting the "Resort Reservation or Vacation Package" option; Disney may have already done this for you. If your tickets are separate from your room reservation, you will also need to link your ticket numbers using the "Tickets" option; you should be able to link a "will-call" or voucher number as well. If you need to link multiple tickets, use the "Add A Guest" option.

Once you have the tickets registered, you may want to customize the colors of your Magic Bands using the "Magic Bands" option. Magic Bands are wrist bands that replace room key cards and are used for park admission and things like Disney Dining Plan credits, dining reservations, and FP+ reservations. United States residents will receive their Magic Bands by mail about one month prior to arrival and International guests will receive their Magic Bands at check-in.

### FP+ for people not staying at a Walt Disney World Resort Hotel:

If you are not staying at a Disney resort, you can book FP+ reservations online 30 days prior to arrival if you have purchased tickets in advance. If not, you will have to make FP+ selections once you've entered the theme park. You will want to set up an account at [www.mydisneyexperience.com](http://www.mydisneyexperience.com) and link your admission ticket numbers (or voucher/will call number) to the account. You'll also want to download the app to your mobile device as it will prove useful when you are in the parks. You will not receive Magic Bands but you can purchase them separately, if desired.

### Booking FASTPASS+ Instructions

- 1) Your "My Disney Experience" account will work with standard computers or mobile devices but many people report that it is easier to register and make FP+ selections on a "real" computer and then use mobile devices while in the parks.
- 2) FP+ reservations are distributed on a first-come-first-served basis so it makes sense to secure your FP+ preferences as soon as

you are able. Look under "Plan and Manage" for the FP+ link that should open a field that lets you select a date. The date you enter here should correspond with a day you plan to go into a theme park and may be different than your arrival date. You will only be able to make FP+ reservations for the number of days included on your tickets and for dates that are part of your hotel reservation. You don't have to visit the Disney parks on consecutive days if your resort stay is longer than your ticket length.

3) Select the members of your group who want FP+ reservations at the same time. Again, this will only work for members who have tickets tied to this account. Everyone in your party may not want the same FP+ options and that's okay too; just select the people who do want to go to the same attractions.

4) Now you'll need to select the Disney World theme park that you want to visit on the day you entered – it will be Magic Kingdom, Animal Kingdom, Disney's Hollywood Studios or Epcot. At this time, you can only make FP+ reservations for one theme park per day.

5) You should now see a list of available FP+ options for the park selected. The system will automatically exclude any rides or attractions that are not operating on the day you've selected. Pick up to three (3) FP+ attractions that interest you. Disney is experimenting with tiered options in a couple of parks so just follow the instructions for making selections within each tier. You cannot select the same option more than once.

6) The system will offer up to four FP+ time windows to choose from – this is to allow for different types of guest touring patterns. Remember that the parks are at their least crowded for the first 1.5 – 2 hours after park opening. Since the whole point of FP+ is to avoid long waits, the best option may be selecting FP+ times that are later in the morning or afternoon so that you can take advantage of the low crowds right after park opening to get in other rides and attractions that are important to you when the stand-by lines are at their shortest. You'll use your FP+ reservations later in the day when lines are longer. You'll be able to modify the individual FP+ times later so don't panic if the option that seems to make the most sense has one FP+ option that conflicts with your plans.

7) After you've selected the option that generally makes the most sense with your plans, you can begin to modify individual times using the "Make Changes" button. Alternative times will be offered and you just select the time available that is the most convenient for your overall plan. Don't stop here though – the change won't actually happen until you click the "Confirm your changes" link. Repeat for the other desired days and parks during your visits.

8) Remember that you can log back in and make additional changes – subject to availability – as often as you need to so don't wait to make your FP+ reservations just because you're hoping for a cancellation at a restaurant or are unsure about your plans.

9) Book with [BuildABetterMouseTrip.com](http://BuildABetterMouseTrip.com) and you'll receive a free TouringPlans subscription so you can input your FP+ times into the personalized Theme Park itineraries that will keep lines and

waits to an absolute minimum. Don't hesitate to ask your travel agent for help – this new system is a little confusing and we're happy to help smooth out the wrinkles so that you have a wonderful trip.

### Using FASTPASS+ Instructions

Using FP+ Once in the park, go to the FP+ entrance of the attraction you selected within the one hour window of your FP+ reservation. A Cast Member direct you to touch your Magic Band or ticket (each guest) to a round scanner that will turn green if you have a valid FP+ reservation and you'll be allowed to enter the attraction.

Children age two or younger do not need theme park admission tickets and don't get FP+ reservations but may accompany a parent with a FP+ reservation.

### Additional Notes:

- There is a help for people having trouble with the [StartYourDisneyExperience.com](http://StartYourDisneyExperience.com) website; call 407-939-7765.
- Guests within a room who have different length tickets may have issues with the "MyDisneyExperience" website as it may limit FP+ to the shortest length ticket linked to the reservation. If that happens, call the help desk.
- Each of the four Disney World theme parks have several kiosks where you can make FP+ reservations. This is nice for people making same-day reservations because you no longer have to walk all over to get and then later use FASTPASS tickets. You can also use these stations when you've used your initial FP+ reservations and want to add more though these can only be done one at a time. These reservations can be linked to your "My Disney Experience" account so that you can track them throughout the day on your mobile device or just note FP+ times.
- The FP+ kiosks located near the park entrance will often be the very crowded in the early part of the day. Kiosks in the interior of the park may be more crowded as the day progresses. If one Kiosk area is really busy, consider trying another. If you arrive prior to park opening (which we recommend), you may want to experience a few of your "must see" attractions while the lines are at their shortest before getting your FP+ reservations though don't wait too long.
- If you make same-day FP+ reservations at a kiosk, you may find it easiest to keep track of your reservation times by using your cell phone to photograph the screen that shows your confirmed FP+ reservations.
- There is a challenge where the character meet-and-greet FP+ options are concerned – children must be accompanied by a parent and both must use a FP+ selection, even if it is only the child who wants to meet the character. This will only be a problem for a family where, for an example, one child wants to meet the princesses and another wants to meet Ariel (a different location). In this situation, the parent would end up using two FP+ reservations in order to accompany the children.

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or call 877.815.6515 to talk to one of

The Rider Switch Pass is important information for anyone traveling with younger children who will not be big enough – or brave enough - to ride certain attractions. The rider swap pass allows adults traveling with small children or family members with special needs to efficiently trade places on any attraction with a height or age restriction. You can always get a Rider Switch Pass when your child is too small for a height restricted attraction but some parents don't realize that you may also use this service for the child who is physically tall enough for a particular attraction but is frightened and doesn't want to ride.

### Here's how it works

**Standby Lines:** Both parents take the little tyke to the standby entrance and ask the Cast Member (Disney employee) how Rider Switch works for this attraction. In most cases, you will all go through the line together and, somewhere before boarding the attraction, you will receive a pass that lets one parent exit with the non-rider while the rest of the party rides now. In most cases, the waiting adult will be issued a Rider Swap Pass that allows him or her to ride the attraction at any point in the day using the FASTPASS® entrance. Ask the Cast Member how many riders can ride using the Rider Switch Pass. Disney knows that nobody likes to ride alone so at least two people can ride using one Rider Switch Pass. Other attractions let up to three or four people ride using one Rider Switch Pass.

There are play areas and baby care areas throughout the parks so that you can let the little one play, or take care of their needs while waiting.

**FASTPASS+ Lines:** You use a similar method to get a Rider Switch Pass when using the FASTPASS+ system. When it is your FASTPASS+ time, present your non-riding child to the Cast Member at the FASTPASS+ entrance at your and ask for a Rider Switch Pass. The Cast Member will issue a Rider Switch Pass to the waiting adult. Before riding, ask how many people can accompany the Rider Switch Pass-holder. Being able to have one or more people accompany you is why you get a Rider Switch Pass – the waiting adult would end up riding alone if you just waited and used the scheduled FASTPASS+ reservation. This also provides protection against losing a FASTPASS+ reservation if the first group of riders don't return prior to end of the FASTPASS+ window.

Here's how this looks with a more specific example - your little one is too small to ride Tower of Terror but your group has Tower of Terror FASTPASS+ reservations. When you go to ride Tower of Terror, take the baby to the Disney Cast Member at the FASTPASS+ entrance. The Cast Member will scan your Magic Band or ticket and confirm your FASTPASS+ reservation and then issue a Rider Switch Pass. The non-riding child and waiting adult can find something to do while the first group rides. Check to see how many people can ride using the one rider swap pass; three people can usually ride Tower of Terror using one Rider Swap Pass – the pass-holder and two extra friends/family

members. Someone from the first group can now take charge of the non-riding child while the first waiting adult and a couple others of others enter and ride without having to get in the back of the line.

### Why this is important

- 1) You don't have to line up twice or one parent doesn't have to just miss out on popular attractions because you have younger children that are too small, unsure or nervous about an attraction.
- 2) Just from a practical standpoint, you need to know the most efficient means of letting everyone ride height restricted attractions.
- 3) More importantly (at least for the older kids in your party), the baby actually gives you a tactical advantage during peak travel times. Because the Rider Switch Pass lets up to 3 people accompany the pass-holder, this is the best way to ensure that the older kids get to ride the headliners / thrill rides multiple times. This is a huge advantage and saves a lot of backtracking. Once your older kids get the hang of this, you may not see your little darling for long periods of time in the afternoons as they use their mobile super-FASTPASS. It should encourage sibling bonding :-)

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or call 877.815.6515 to talk to one of  
our Disney Vacation experts


# Disney's Magical Express Free Airport Shuttle Bus

## A Build A Better Mouse Trip How-To Guide

Disney's Magical Express (DME) is a no-cost shuttle service available to Walt Disney World Resort hotel guests flying in and out of Orlando International Airport (MCO). The buses are clean and air-conditioned and an easy way to start your Walt Disney World vacation. Advance reservations are required.

- Checked luggage arrives up to 4 hours after you, so pack any items you will need immediately – medications, a change of clothes, swimsuits – in a carry-on. You do not need to be present when it arrives, it will be placed in your room.
- When you arrive in Orlando, go directly to the Disney Airport Welcome center on the first floor in the main terminal. You do not need to go to the baggage claim area unless your flight lands after 10PM.
- Greeters at the Disney Airport Welcome Center will assist you with check-in and direct you to the appropriate line or queue for your resort. Each bus travels to only four Disney resorts so you will not have to stop at every hotel on Disney property before getting to yours.
- Disney has contracted with Mears Transportation Group to provide this service. The bus drivers are not Walt Disney World employees and tipping is permitted so you may want to have some small bills available, especially if they assist with your luggage. (Disney Transportation Cast Members can not accept tips)
- Once at your WDW resort, proceed to the hotel check-in desk.

- Luggage is not picked up from the room. You will need to carry it to the check-in area or you may request Bell Services / Luggage Assistance from the resort front desk.
- Guests flying domestically on select airlines can check your bags for the flight right there at the resort Check-In desk, located in or near the lobby. Check-in is available from 6:00 AM to 1:00 PM daily. You must check the bags at least 3 hours but no more than 12 hours prior to departure. Each adult passenger must present a valid government-issue photo ID at check-in, just as you would at the airport. Your entire party must be present at check-in. You can check seat assignments and will receive your boarding passes, allowing you to avoid the lines at the airport
- You will be departing from your resort area even if your hotel check-out time is earlier than your Magical Express departure time. If you have a later flight and have time to continue enjoying Disneyworld prior to departure, you may store your luggage at the hotel luggage services area. Please allow plenty of time to return to the resort and collect your bags before departure.
- The bus driver will ask what airline you are using. There are four drop-off points at the airport for your convenience.
- Again, you may want to have some small bills available to tip the driver.



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our Disney Vacation experts

### Going to Walt Disney World:

- Take your Magic Bands or the Disney Magic Express vouchers in your printed documents on the plane with you. They make it easier to check in; a photo ID will also work, if you forget them.
- Attach your Disney Magical Express Luggage tags to your bags before checking them in at your airport. You can check your bags all the way through to the Resort hotel, unless your flight lands after 10PM.

### Leaving Walt Disney World:

- On the day before check-out, notification will be left in your room advising you of your shuttle pick-up time and place. Pick-up time is generally about 3 hours prior to your flight time.