

1) Campfire Sing-Along with Chip & Dale at the Disney Fort Wilderness Campground. A Disney Cast Member plays guitar and leads songs while Chip & Dale go around to the guests. This is our favorite freebie because the character meals are so expensive but this really sweet character experience is absolutely free – you don't need theme park admission or anything. Read more: buildabettermousetrip.com/campfire-activities

2) A Disney movie is shown on outdoor screens at all the Disney-owned Resorts. When: Every Night. Disney's Beach & Yacht Clubs do this activity together. For the current movie schedule see: buildabettermousetrip.com/wdw-outdoor-movie-schedule/

3) Barnyard Animal Viewing area at Disney's Fort Wilderness Campground. When: Daily – closes mid-afternoon. Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge has two savannahs with giraffes and other animals you can view when dining at or visiting the resort.

4) The Electric Water Pageant is a floating parade offered nightly on the Seven Seas Lagoon by the Magic Kingdom resort area. Read more: buildabettermousetrip.com/electric-water-pageant

5) Are you staying at a Disney resort? Ask for the Recreation and Activity Guide. For example, the Animal Kingdom Lodge offers a nightly storyteller near the fire pit. At the Wilderness Lodge, you can pick up a list of resort "Hidden Mickey's" from guest services and go on a hunt. Other resorts have similar events.

6) Boat & Monorail rides – Disney transportation is available to everyone visiting Disney World and you don't need theme park admission to enjoy a free ride on the monorails or boats. My favorite boat ride is the one that goes between the Contemporary Resort, Fort Wilderness Campground and Wilderness Lodge.

7) Free Trading Cards – The Disney transportation drivers (bus, monorail, boat, etc) may have trading cards, if you ask for them. The African "Goodwill Ambassadors" at the Animal Kingdom Lodge Hotel may also have trading cards with information about their native country.

8) Enjoy the BoardWalk Ballyhoo guided tour at the BoardWalk Inn. This free tour departs promptly at 9am Wednesday through Saturday. No reservation required. Check in at the Belle Vue lounge no later than 8:45am. The Boardwalk Inn is in the Epcot Resort area and frequently has evening entertainment and activities as well.

9) Wake Up Calls – Your Disney World Resort hotel room comes with an alarm clock and most cell phones offer an alarm

function but you may want to order a wake-up call anyway and let the kids answer to hear a morning greeting from Mickey Mouse or Stitch.

10) Free Use of Life Jackets at the Resort Pools (Resort Guests Only) – You'll find bins with life jackets near each of the Disney World resort hotel feature pools for use while you enjoy the pool.

11) Holiday Decorations in the Deluxe Resort – Every year, most of the Disney World Deluxe resorts get an absolutely amazing Gingerbread creation that is put on display in the resort lobby to be enjoyed by anyone who visits the resort – you do not have to stay at the hotel to see them.

12) Live music in the lobby of the Grand Floridian Resort – A pianist performs in the afternoons and jazz orchestra performs on the second floor balcony in the evenings.

13) Live Music at Disney's Port Orleans Riverside & French Quarter Resorts- YeeHaw Bob Jackson performs a very fun, family friendly sing-along in the River Roost Lounge at Disney's Port Orleans Riverside Resort on Wednesday – Saturday nights from 8:30 – 11:30PM. Tom Casey plays piano and sings jazz selections at Scat Cat's Lounge in Port Orleans French Quarter Resort on Friday – Monday nights at 8:30, 9:30, & 10:30PM. No cover charge – beverages & light refreshments available for purchase.

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- Qualifying promotions and discounts automatically applied to your existing reservation so that you always get the best available price.
- Expert Disney restaurant advice and dining reservation assistance.

14) Free Special Resort Tours – Several Disney resorts have free tours offered at various times during the week. Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge offers the Sanaa Cultural Tour, the African-Inspired, Disney Designed tour and a Culinary Tour (with free samples). Disney's Art of Animation Resort regularly offers drawing classes. Call the resort at the phone numbers found at buildabettermousetrip.com/disney-world-hotels/ to get tour times during your visit.

15) Airline Boarding Pass Printing – Each of the Disney World Resort Hotels has an airline check-in desk that is generally open until about 1PM daily. Resort guests can check in for flights, check baggage on certain airlines, and even get your boarding pass printed. Are you flying with Southwest? The airline check-in desk or your resort Guest Services desk can help you check in 24 hours prior to your departure flight so that you get in a decent boarding group – you must be present and have your flight confirmation number to do this.

16) Showers near the Pools – Check-out is at 11AM but Disney resort guests are still welcome to enjoy resort amenities like the pool on their check-out day. All of the resorts except Disney's Fort Wilderness Campground have pool towels and changing rooms with showers so that you can clean up before catching your departure flight.

17) There is no admission required to enter Downtown Disney (soon to be Disney Springs) and parking is free.

18) Downtown Disney has lots of great live entertainment in the evenings – the best guide I've seen for current offerings is found by clicking the Downtown Disney tab at <http://www.wdwent.com/>

19) Special Events - Downtown Disney hosts several free events throughout the year. The Festival of the Masters Art Weekend is usually in November, Festival of the Seasons runs from mid-November to the end of December and includes a Santa meet-and-greet. Other events like car shows or Pin Trading events also occur periodically.

20) DJ Kids' Dance Party at Waterside Stage – occurs intermittently from 7PM – 10PM daily.

21) Earl of Sandwich eClub coupons – Within two weeks of your trip, you may want to join the Earl of Sandwich eClub. We received a coupon good for a free triple chocolate brownie just for joining. Earl of Sandwich is one of the most economical restaurants on Disney World property. <http://www.earlofsandwichusa.com/the-eclub/>

22) Free theme park admission for children age 2 and under. These little ones are also able to share with a parent or sibling at restaurants that ordinarily have a “per person” charge. Because they don’t have a ticket, children age two and younger don’t get FASTPASS tickets but can enter rides and attractions with their parent, unless there is an age or height restriction.

23) Rider Switch Pass – This is a free service offered to help families with small children manage lines at height or age restricted attractions. This allows one parent to wait with the youngster while the rest of the family experiences the attraction. When they’re done, the waiting parent can use the FASTPASS entrance to ride and, because riding alone is no fun, you can usually bring one – three extra people with you. Get your rider switch pass from the Cast Member at the ride entrance.

24) Free Pin Badges - Are you celebrating a birthday, anniversary, or honeymoon? Is this your first visit to Walt Disney World? Be sure to stop by guest services at any Disney theme park to get the free special pin/button. Wear it and you’ll get a lot of well wishes from Cast Members and you might even get some special treatment along the way.

25) Package Holding & Resort Delivery Services – You don’t have to carry around souvenir purchases all day. Packages can be sent to a holding desk near the front of the park to be collected later in the day; you retain the receipt so there is no danger of loss. Guests staying in an official Disney World hotel can have purchases sent to their resort – items will arrive the next day so don’t do this the day prior to departure.

26) Photopass Photographers can take pictures using your own camera when there isn’t a line. This is so great because it allows the whole family to appear in the photo.

27) Epcot - There are free soda samples from around the world at Club Cool in Epcot. They’re interesting to try and most are tasty. One is horrible but I won’t spoil the surprise.

28) Epcot - You can send e-postcards with your picture included to friends & family from the ImageWorks lab kiosks at the end of the Journey into Imagination with Figment ride in the Imagination Pavilion. Funny animated e-postcards can be sent from the kiosks found at the Training Lab at the end of the Mission Space ride. Free e-postcards are also available from the Kiosk near the Kidcot area in the Mexico Pavilion.

29) Epcot - Speaking of Kidcot Stations – did you know that your child can decorate a free cardstock “Duffy, the Disney Bear” or “Perry the Platypus” puppet at any Kidcot station in Epcot? Look for the stations near attractions and especially in the World Showcase. A Cast Member at the Kidcot stations will stamp the handle of the puppet with a Disney themed country stamp. These usually close in the late afternoon. If the attendant in the China pavilion is from China or from Japan in the Japan Pavilion, ask

them to write your child’s name in their language on the mask. Seeing their name written in another language was a highlight for my kids.

30) Epcot / World Showcase – Agent P World Showcase Adventure - This new activity is a great way to hold older kids’ interest in the World Showcase as they embark on secret agent type mini-adventures in a World Showcase country pavilion. There are seven different adventures.

31) Free Trading Cards –The Sorcerers of the Magic Kingdom game/attraction has trading cards – pick them up at the Fire Station on Main Street.

32) Your child may be able to get a “Guest Skipper” card on the Jungle Cruise ride or a “license” at the Tomorrowland Speedway.

33) Magic Kingdom - Are you a proud military veteran? Stop by the Magic Kingdom City Hall in early in the morning and ask if you can be the “Veteran of the Day” for the Flag Retreat Ceremony (usually around 5:00 PM). If chosen, you may receive a certificate as a souvenir of the experience.

34) Free Hair Glitter - Magic Kingdom: Castle Couture and Sir Mickey’s (in back of the castle) and will often sprinkle children’s hair with glitter for free. While this isn’t free, you might also be interested to know that the barber shop will put in colored hair gel for just \$5.

35) Animal Kingdom – Wilderness Explorers Clubs. This new activity is based on the fictional version of the Boy Scouts featured in the Disney-Pixar film “Up”. The program is geared towards elementary school age kids but guests of all ages are welcome to participate. Kids receive a free handbook detailing the 30 merit badges (stickers placed in the book) they can earn and receive a sticker to wear. Included with admission.

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36) Stickers – We received a free sticker riding the Fort Wilderness boat. Sonny Eclipse stickers are sometimes available at Cosmic Ray’s Starlight Cafe (Magic Kingdom).

37) Free Ice Water at Disney Quick-Service Restaurants – Since all of the Disney quick-service restaurants will happily sell you a bottle of water, we thought it worth mentioning that you can get a free glass of ice water at any Disney World restaurant.

38) Free Samples – The Main Street Confectionary (Magic Kingdom) and Ghirardelli’s (Downtown Disney) both usually offer some kind of sweet sample when you come into the shop. If you’re dining at Sunshine Seasons (Epcot Quick-Service restaurant), you can usually get a small tasting portion of foods offered in the various stations so you can try before you buy.

39) Free Soda Refills – Most Disney World quick-service restaurants do not offer free refills but there are a few exceptions: Be Our Guest (Magic Kingdom), Backlot Express (Disney’s Hollywood Studios), Restaurantaurus (Animal Kingdom), Sunshine Seasons (Epcot) and The Electric Umbrella (Epcot).

40) Free Recipes – Did you really enjoy something you ate in one of the Disney World table-service restaurants? Ask your server for the recipe – sometimes they can email them to you. The Brown Derby in Disney’s Hollywood Studios has recipe cards already printed and ready to go for their Grapefruit Cake and their Cobb Salad.

41) First Aid Stations – Each of the Disney World theme parks has a first aid station that can provide over-the-counter remedies like an aspirin or bandages.

42) Free Wi-Fi at the Disney World hotels & theme parks – It took forever to see this finally offered!

43) Goofy’s Candy Company in Downtown Disney will often let you try a small tasting sample of the Goofy’s Glaciers (slushie) flavors.

44) Magic Kingdom—There is a free electronics recharging station in the Tangled area of Fantasyland.

45) Register with www.mydisneyexperience.com whether you’re staying on Disney property or not. It is a free website Disney created to help guests plan their trips, make dining and FASTPASS+ reservation (must pre-purchase tickets) and they have a free lines app to help you find rides with short lines.

46) Arribas Brothers in Downtown Disney often has free glass blowing demonstrations. You can also sometimes see glass artistry demonstrations in the Mexico & Germany pavilions at Epcot.

Bonus: It is fun to watch candied apples and treats being made through the front display windows at the Candy Cauldron in Downtown Disney and the Main Street Confectionary.