



## ADVENTURES WITH A MOUSE -MOUSEPROS MARNEY

Marney Ostrowski

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### **Tips and Tricks for planning the best possible trip**

- There is A LOT of walking on a Disney vacation. If you are someone that doesn't exercise or walk daily, don't wait to start walking. Your body and feet will thank you. A little pre-planning can make the difference when you are circling the parks!
- Your Disney trip is NOT a time to wear "cute" or new shoes. You will average about 20 miles a day of walking. I will throw in a pair of flippies in my back pack for the end of the day but I wear a comfy pair of sneakers or sandals that I know will take me through the miles. The same rule of thumb applies for your outfit of the day. Comfort will always trump a cute outfit especially if it isn't comfortable.
- Disney rash is a real thing. The heat and walking can trigger this vasculitis. This is another reason to have a walking plan in place prior to your trip. Here's more information on it:  
<https://www.webmd.com/skin-problems-and-treatments/what-is-disney-rash>
- The Florida sun and heat – be prepared to beat the heat with some simple tips, tricks, and plans in place. Make sure you are wearing your sunscreen and reapplying throughout the day. Remember a bad burn on day one will make you more miserable throughout the rest of your trip. Make sure to be drinking plenty of water and allowing yourself down times in the shade. Having some hats, water misters, fans and cooling towels can help you from overheating. Plan your park time around the mid-day sun. Start early, break mid-day for some pool and nap time and finish out the evening in the park when the temps have cooled down. Lastly, I mentioned it before but it's worth a repeat. **WATER!** Have a water bottle handy and refill it throughout the parks and hydrate throughout the day.



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- If you don't have one already, you need to set up your myDisney experience app. You can do that here:  
<https://disneyworld.disney.go.com/login?returnUrl=%2Fplan%2F>  
You will need this app to navigate your plans and reservations.
- Have a plan but don't go crazy trying to adhere to tight parameters. Disney's lines can be unpredictable and your family may want to enjoy an attraction longer than you planned. Make a list of the "must dos" for every day so that you ensure to cross those things off your list. Having fun and making memories will far outweigh the need to be strict to get it all done. You should know you will NOT get it all done no matter how much you've studied and planned. Allow flexibility in your trip. It will be so much more enjoyable. If you are staying in a WDW Resort, take advantage of the extra morning hours or the occasional extended evening hours.
- Consider your dining options before your dining window opens. For resort stays, your dining will be available 60 days before the first day of your planned vacation. Have a few ideas in mind and be flexible because securing dining options can be difficult, especially during more crowded times of year. The same is said for special events or tickets. If you wait until you are on vacation, chances will be very slim that you will get the event you've been dreaming of.
- Memory Maker – consider getting this for your trip so that you will be in a lot of memorable family pictures. It will help you move along instead of locating a stray vacation goer to take your family pictures. There are points throughout the parks that a Disney photographer will direct you and snap the perfect pics for you to admire for years to come. You can see these pictures on your myDisney experience app.
- Grab Park maps on your way in the park so that you have a map in hand. A visual large map can help you navigate the various worlds in



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each of the parks and help you get where you're going more quickly. These same maps are located on your myDisney experience app.

- Learn how to navigate your myDisney experience app prior to arrival at the parks. It will become your best friend in finding out ride wait times, securing attractions on Genie+ or individual lighting lanes. I wear my phone on a lanyard around my neck so I'm not going in and out of my backpack constantly.
- Magic Bands are not needed to get into the parks, accessing your hotel rooms and resort pools, but it can be a quick way to access any of those things. You are able to access those same plans in your myDisney experience app on your phone. If you use a Magic Band, consider setting up a credit card and pin for easy purchases at Quick service food restaurants and kiosks and for easy souvenir purchases.
- Consider buying a few essentials prior to going to the parks. Having a water bottle, ponchos and autograph books will obviously be more economical if purchased in advance then when in need. Not to mention having to go searching for all those items when you're in the park.
- If you are purchasing goodies throughout the parks and staying on premises, consider having the store ship your items to your hotel for you. It elevates lugging around more items then you need to while enjoying your days in the parks.
- Pack a backpack to take into the parks. You'll be surprised at how many times you'll want to reach for something during the day. Here's what always in my bag:
  - Water thermos' – you can refill these throughout the parks.
  - Sunglasses
  - First aid Ziploc including: Advil, Tylenol, band aids, mole skin, Neosporin, powder and feminine hygiene products, biofreeze
  - Hand sanitizer



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- Disposable ponchos for a quick rain storm or some of the wilder water rides
  - Phone power bank to help keep your phone charged all day - you'll use your phone all day for plans, ride times and accessing shows and maps
  - Carabiner clips for water bottles or shopping bags
  - Cooling towels
  - Neck Fan
  - Wet bag - for wet ponchos / swim suits
  - Reusable snack bags - we always have a few snacks we bring into the park to help save money and to ensure we are getting some healthy food during our trip
  - Autograph book / pen - it's much more economical to purchase one in advance
  - Lanyard for trading pins
  - Visor or hat
- Stroller pre-planning
    - Stroller organizer
    - Carabiners to hang extra objects
    - Stroller fan
    - ID tag to look your stroller in a sea of strollers when they are parked in a stroller lot. Don't waste time walking through a lot of strollers trying to find yours. I've witnessed grown adults in tears wandering around trying to locate their wheels.

Here is a list of suggested items on Amazon:

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2L2IHRSPG6G34?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2L2IHRSPG6G34?ref=wl_share)



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AND LASTLY, enjoy the trip you worked so hard to plan and enjoy! As your specialized travel agent, I pride myself in helping families plan an incredible vacation with memories to last a life time.

A few money savings ideas:

- Purchase gift cards at Target with your Red card to save 5% off. Purchasing a card every month adds up. You can condense your gift cards before your trip at: <https://www.disneygiftcard.com>
- Opening a Chase Disney Visa will earn you points every time you use your card. It will also save you money while on site at various restaurants and shopping spots. The points you earn can be redeemed towards a Disney gift card! You can find the terms and conditions here: <https://www.referyourchasecard.com/200a/72ONA7LWZF> You can even earn a credit on your vacation if booked with a Disney Visa!
- Consider linking your payment method to your Magic Band (it's protected by a pin) and in your apple wallet (iPhone users). It makes everything more convenient and you won't need to go rifling through your backpack for your wallet at the bottom of your bag.
- Purchase t-shirts and ears prior to your trip to save some money. There will always be gizmos and gadgets in the park that every child will want but having a few things in place prior, can help your wallet!
- Bring in water and snacks to the parks. Fountain water is free throughout the park but bottled water isn't. I'd rather save \$5.00 a bottle of water and use it to buy the trinket I've had my eye on.
- Don't buy candy - it will melt! Don't waste 10 dollars on that adorable cookie covered in m&m's (unless you really want it) just to schlep it



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around all day and find that at the end of the day it's a puddle of chocolate and crumbs. They are cute but you can buy candy at your resort convenience store.

- Garden Grocers, Amazon, and Instacart can deliver grocery items to your resort for a small fee. Most rooms have small refrigerators and a coffee maker. Villas have will have full kitchens. A little planning and some ingenuity can help offset the cost of larger sit-down meals. My family always order jugs of water for our thermos', single serve peanut butter, apples/bananas, yogurt, and coffee creamer. We tend to fill up in the morning before we set out for early morning rope drops at the parks. This not only saves us money but saves us valuable time (Starbucks lines are crazy too!). We also order pretzels, Smartfood popcorn and nuts for post theme park snacks before we head off to bed.

I hope all these tips and tricks help you plan out the most Magical trip! If you have any ideas that have helped your family, I'd love to know!

Thanks for allowing me to be your Travel Agent!

*Marney Ostrowski*