







10 Tips and recommendations +1 for a visit to Walt Disney World


Visiting Walt Disney World is an exciting, fun and magical experience. In order to try and make the absolute best of it here are some very popular tips and recommendations that my family and I use often. These may not apply to everyone, and to those of you who have been there a time or two, it is probably second nature; but hopefully you still find these useful. So, in no particular order, here they are:


 **It RAINS in Florida!** Now for those of you who have been there this is a known fact, but for the guests who may be experiencing their first trip it's good to know. Thunderstorms pop up during the day (typically in the afternoon) so check the weather and try to plan your day accordingly. Shops and dining locations will get crowded during a downpour. However, the streets will be emptier for those of us willing to get wet.

 **Two Pair CAN beat 3 of a kind!** This also ties into the first tip. Not only will there be walking, followed by some walking, with just a touch of walking for dessert, **BUT** most likely your shoes will get wet. Mother Nature is not always the cause either - remember there are water rides and attractions, splash zones, and of course, SWEAT. A dry comfy pair of shoes will be a welcomed change from slipping on a wet pair of sneakers in the morning.


 **SEE IT, BUY IT!** Trust me on this one, there have been several times when walking around Walt Disney World I see that souvenir, collectible or shirt that I just have to have, thinking: "I'll stop and grab it later" only to find - **SOLD OUT!** This definitely tends to happen with seasonal or event merchandise, so be sure you get what you want when you see it- you deserve it.

 **SEND IT HOME!** Relating back to the last tip, do not make "I don't want to carry it around all day" the reason you put off that purchase. Unfortunately, Disney has announced at this time that you can no longer send merchandise to the front of the park or back to your resort. **BUT**, they still allow you to ship merchandise back to your home (for a fee). Almost every Walt Disney World shopping location allows this but still check before hand.


 **Straws that SUCK!** YES, we all know why paper straws are almost everywhere, especially in Disney's Animal Kingdom, but they do not hold up very well. As of late, Disney has stopped handing out paper straws (and lids) altogether. At some locations, they are still available upon request. **SO NOW**, more than ever; it is a great idea to pick up some reusable straws for everyone in your group (and a few extra, just in case). When you're thirsty and need to enjoy that **"TASTY BEVERAGE OF CHOICE"**, a sturdy straw can make all the difference.




Water, water everywhere and some of it's FREE! Stay hydrated - you hear it all the time throughout the entire year. It is a **great rule** to adhere to. In case you are not from Florida, the tap water does have a taste and buying bottles of water all the time could cost you as much as another day or two on vacation. My wife cannot stand it, so she invested in a filtered, insulated water bottle. You can also go to any dining location and ask for a cup of ice water or even hit the water fountains with this handy item. Just transfer the water into the bottle and you're good to go! Personally, I kind of like the taste of the water in Florida - it tastes like HOME!




Kernels of knowledge. One of the most popular snacks in all of Walt Disney World is POPCORN. These yummy little morsels will just make you smile. Ok, let's be honest, you're gonna smell it almost **EVERYWHERE** you go and eventually the urge will win and you will give into the pop side. So, if you like the stuff be sure to buy a refillable bucket at once. You'll pay a fraction of the cost when you refill it as opposed to buying a bag every time. Just like I tell myself all the time, "the more you eat, the more you save".



Walking on sunshine, and don't it feel HOT? One more unique fact about Florida is that it gets hot; oh and humid too, let's not forget the humidity. This one I was skeptical about at first; the infamous "cooling towel". I did not think this little damp piece of material would help in the Florida heat, but much to my surprise, it actually did. I definitely recommend one especially for the little ones, as well as us who are getting on in years, and everyone else too, I guess. There are ones available with the iconic Mickey Heads on it, so treat yourself to an early souvenir as soon as you arrive. You may just appreciate it.



Time Keeps on ticking, ticking, ticking and TICKING! So give yourself plenty of it. People seem to think that Walt Disney World is a magical place; and it **IS**, but it hasn't figured out how to stop time...yet. Getting from one place to another in a park and especially **TO** a park can eat up a good chunk of time, even with all the ways Disney provides transportation to and from locations all over property, it will take a while to reach your destination. Planning accordingly can save a lot of aggravation when it comes to reaching your dining reservation on time or catching the fireworks for a prefect end to the day.



APP-arently it's a big deal! My how the world has changed since my first visit back in the 80's. At least I'm glad my wardrobe did! But technology is here to stay, so make the best of it. One of your best friends during your stay at Walt Disney World will be the MY DISNEY EXPERIENCE app. This little gem will be your navigator, your calendar, your alarm clock, and your make-it-up-on-the-fly go to site. MY DISNEY EXPERIENCE is a great way to check wait times for your favorite attractions, see what characters are out and about, and mobile order many meals so you can avoid yet another line to stand in. Take time to download it prior to your trip and get familiar with working through it — it will be time well spent.

THE BONUS TIP!

And now the moment you have all been waiting for: "the backside of..." just kidding. But there is one more tip that I love sharing and get ribbed by my friends and co-workers for the most, and that is...



Battling HOME sickness. I suffer from home sickness a little differently than most, but I am not alone. For me, I start getting home sick when I have more days of my Walt Disney World vacation behind than ahead of me. That mid-way point really hits hard. Like I've said, I LOVE DISNEY. So, if you are like me (and I know you're out there), or you will be soon (it happens to the best of us), here is what my family has decided to do to ease the pain, and frankly it keeps me in a better mood for their sake. Have that return **HOME** date picked out during your current vacation. It sure does take the sting out of leaving the Walt Disney World Resort before your return home knowing **YOU'LL BE BACK**.

By the way, **WE** can help with that too!!

I hope you find these tips helpful and that maybe they even bring a smile to your face. Please shoot me an email letting me know your thoughts and if you have any great tips or recommendations you would like to share with everyone. I hope you have safe travels wherever life takes you, and if there is any way I can assist with your Walt Disney World Resort vacation please contact me because remember at Wickedly Charming Travel we are "conjuring up your next magical vacation".

Look forward to hearing from you,

BJ

