



Disney World: 30 Tips and Tricks

- 1: In “Disneyspeak”, a travel agent is called an “Authorized Disney Vacation Planner.” Using them to book and plan your trip is a great way to save time and stress, and it doesn’t cost you anything! We get commission from Disney, so *authorized* planners won’t charge you for booking the trip or helping to plan.
- 2: Arrive at the park before it opens, regardless of the time of year. We suggest arriving 30-45 minutes before scheduled opening times. Midday sees the highest crowds, so we suggest taking any lunch break or rest period at this point. Crowds normally diminish later in the afternoon.
- 3: You will often find the longest lines (to enter parks and attractions) towards the middle. Seek out shorter lines furthest to the sides.
- 4: Chances are, it will rain/sprinkle at least once during your trip. Throw-away ponchos at Walt Disney World are almost \$10/each. Purchase packs of throw-away ponchos at the dollar store or amazon before your trip for ~\$1/each.
- 5: Speaking of rain, Disney vacationers often run for cover. Put your poncho on and wait it out. Orlando rain showers are often brief. By the time the skies clear, you will breeze through the lines.
- 6: Lines close at the official park closing time. However, the park stays open for at least one more hour. Therefore, plan to get in line before the park “closes” and you will be safe to ride an attraction past the official park closing time.
- 7: Many stores remain open after rides close, so you can do your souvenir shopping before leaving the park.
- 8: All Disney parks allow you to get free water at counter service restaurants.
- 9: If you have trouble finding availability for Disney Springs restaurants, check [OpenTable](#) for additional reservation times, or call the restaurant directly.
- 10: Order bottled water, snacks, toiletries, etc. on Amazon.com, then have them shipped directly to your hotel. This can save you money and time spent shopping during your Disney vacation. Plus, you won’t have to pack these items in your luggage. Be aware that Disney charges a \$5 delivery fee per package. Check with non resort hotels, packages may be free.
- 11: If you are using a stroller, tie a ribbon (or another identification marker) to the handle. This way you can easily identify your stroller.
- 12: Disney Enchantment, the fireworks show that debuted last year, draws large crowds despite being mediocre. (In its defense, there’s only so “bad” watching pyro explode over Cinderella Castle can be!) For where to watch, consult the [Best Magic Kingdom Fireworks Viewing Spots](#) post, which contains a map of the best & worst viewing locations, and stake out a spot around 45 minutes in advance.
- 13: If you are celebrating a special occasion, make sure to pick up a button reflecting the celebration at your resort hotel or in the parks from Guest Services. You *may* receive special treatment if wearing the buttons.
- 14: Read this [Free Things at Walt Disney World](#) post for other freebies!
- 15: A sidewalk runs between Disney’s Hollywood Studios and Epcot, plus all the resorts in between. Walking from park to park takes around 30 minutes and can be faster than any other transportation between the two parks.

Disney World Tips and Tricks Continued

- 16: Disney's Character Warehouse is an outlet carrying heavily discounted Disney Parks merchandise, with two locations in Orlando. We *highly* recommend getting souvenirs at these outlets.
- 17: Uber and Lyft are significantly cheaper and more efficient than taxis.
- 18: Slinky Dog Dash is the most popular Genie+ Lightning Lane reservation, and it's incredibly difficult to score. However, the roller coaster often has shorter waits at the end of the night. Jump into line shortly before park closing, when you can expect to wait ~30 minutes, even when posted wait time is ~60 minutes.
- 19: Toy Story Land is lacking in shade, so it's best to avoid during the middle of the day or when rain is in the forecast. We recommend going first thing in the morning or after sunset. This is also when you'll encounter the lowest crowds in the new land at Disney's Hollywood Studios!
- 20: Family photos taken from the front, dead-center of Cinderella Castle are most popular, but the back of the Castle is arguably prettier and a much more unique location for that family photo.
- 21: The best burger is found at an unexpected location: Geysers Point Bar & Grill.
- 22: Bell Services at Disney hotels will store your luggage, meaning you can enjoy the parks if you arrive too early on check-in day or have a late flight out on check-out day.
- 23: Florida weather from November through February is unpredictable. Pack everything from shorts to a light jacket unless you're really confident in the forecast.
- 24: Adults can always order from the kid's menu, which is a great way to save money while still getting a meal that will satiate smaller/moderate appetites.
- 25: Request a free wake-up call each morning from Mickey or Stitch on the resort hotel phone. It's better than a buzzing alarm, and it's a cool way to wake up (it might even get your kids excited to start the day!).
- 26: Disney hotels will hold packages mailed to guests for pickup by the guests. This is a great way to save money on Disney prices (or checked bag fees) by mailing yourself food or supplies you might need on the trip. Some hotels charge a small pickup fee.
- 27: Disney introduced mobile ordering in 2017, and what once was a convenient option has now become a way of life! Many quick service locations will strongly suggest that guests use Mobile Ordering. (By strongly suggest, we mean borderline mandatory unless you're paying with cash or need assistance!) This alleviates long lines and makes your ordering process much simpler and quicker.
- 28: Treat Yourself to a Dole Whip! Walt Disney World magic can be found all over the resort, but one must have treat that encompasses all that enchantment is the pineapple Dole Whip. There was a time when obtaining this legendary snack was hard to come by, but since the demand has skyrocketed over the past few years.
- 29: Don't Forget to take Breaks. Take breaks from the heat and do more indoor attractions. Not only will you need to beat the Florida theme park heat, you'll .
- 30: Be Flexible! Doing your research and being flexible during your trip will help it feel more relaxing. You might not be able to do absolutely everything you wanted, and it's important to not set your expectations too high.



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