

Magic Kingdom 101

What You Should Know About Visiting
Walt Disney World's Most Popular Park!



DisneyFanatic
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"To all who come to this happy place - Welcome!"

Walt Disney

Magic Kingdom in Walt Disney World is the world's most popular theme park. Here is a quick tutorial of basic information to get you acquainted with the place where dreams come true...

9. Transportation

Because of its location on the far side of Seven Seas Lagoon, there is absolutely no way to just walk right into the Magic Kingdom. You must either get to the entrance by boat or by monorail. And here's how... If you park in the lot, a tram will carry you from your car to the ticket counter, then you can choose to either take the ferryboat or the monorail to get to the park entrance. If you stay at one of the resorts on the lagoon (Grand Floridian, Polynesian, Contemporary, or Fort Wilderness), you can take the resort boat straight to the park entrance. The monorail also makes stops at Polynesian, Grand Floridian, and Contemporary if you prefer that mode. From any other resort you must take the bus to the Transportation and Ticket Center, where you will board the monorail to the park entrance. Ask an ever-friendly Cast Member (Disney employee) for directions if anything seems confusing, but usually the signage makes things pretty clear.

8. Layout

Magic Kingdom is actually a collection of six distinct "lands" which all surround Cinderella's Castle. As you walk into the park, you encounter "Main Street USA", a delightful land of shops, snack foods, character meetings, live entertainment, and more. The street ends basically at the front of Cinderella's Castle. To your right you'll find "Tomorrowland", a futuristic world of space-themed rides and entertainment. To the left of the castle is "Adventureland" where you'll encounter pirates and jungle expeditions. Behind the castle is "Fantasyland" - the epitome of Disney. Movie-themed rides, beloved characters, and classic Disney magic await you there. In between Fantasyland and Adventureland you'll find the tiny colonial-themed area of "Liberty Square" and the rootin'-tootin' wild west of "Frontierland".

7. FastPass+

To make the most of your Magic Kingdom visit you'll want to reserve FastPass+es for popular rides. FastPass+ is your key to shorter wait times, which means more magic. Magic Kingdom has 28 FastPass+ options for you to choose from. When you come to the experience that you reserved, do not enter the regular queue. There will be a separate, quicker FastPass+ queue that you'll need to locate (usually right beside the regular entrance).

6. Dining

There are three ways to dine in the Magic Kingdom. **1. Table Service** is your sit-down-with-a-waiter type of fare. For Table Service restaurants you are HIGHLY advised to get advance reservations. Within the Table Service category, you'll also be able to make choices regarding Character Dining (where characters actually greet you at your table), Buffets, and Menu Service. Call a Disney planning agent if you are having trouble with your Table Service options or reservations. We recommend [Mickey Travels](#). **2. Counter Service** restaurants allow you to order your meal fast-food

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style. These places are great for saving on time and money. You'll seat yourself and bring your own food to the table on trays. **3. Snack Food** places are pretty self-explanatory. They are the place to go for a salty or sweet treat to keep your energy up. Sometimes there will be a few tables nearby, but most Snack Food places don't have that luxury since their food is meant to be enjoyed on-the-go.

5. Characters

Magic Kingdom is the best place to fill your autograph book! Meeting times for individual characters vary, so you must check the daily schedule. Here's a list of characters you will typically be able to meet in pretty regular intervals: Anna & Elsa, Ariel, Buzz Lightyear, Cinderella, Daisy, Donald, Goofy, Merida, Mickey, Minnie, Gaston, Chip & Dale, Woody & Jessie, and Rapunzel. Fast-Pass+es are available for Anna & Elsa, Ariel, Cinderella & Rapunzel, Mickey, or Tinker Bell. Additional characters that make limited appearances may include: Abu & Aladdin, Alice, Jack Sparrow, Peter Pan, Aurora, Tiana, Pluto, Marie, Stitch, Snow White, Mad Hatter, Pooh & Tigger, and sometimes even more. Their meet and greet times are much more narrow, so be sure to schedule accordingly.



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4. Live Entertainment

Shows and parades offer a great chance to take a break while enjoying some high-quality entertainment. Main Street USA offers many live entertainment options ranging from the Casey's Corner Pianist to the 'Move it! Shake it! Dance Street Party!' 'Dream Along With Mickey' is a whimsical character show right in front of the castle, complete with pyrotechnics. 'The Festival of Fantasy Parade' is not to be missed. It happens usually once daily and runs throughout half of the park. You can find the route in your guide map (a paper map that you can pick up at the entrance), and there is FastPass+ seating available.

3. Park Rules

Magic Kingdom's rules and regulations are posted on their website. Most are pretty obvious, but a few standouts are worth noting. The following items are not permitted: weapons of any kind, selfie sticks, and complete character dress-up for adults (ones that would be confused with the actual characters). Bags are searched prior to entrance for guests' safety, and prohibited items will be confiscated. There is to be no vulgar language, no cutting in line, and no interference with any of the entertainment. All guests are required to wear appropriate clothing and shoes at all times (including children).

2. Accessibility

Strollers are allowed and encouraged around the park, and there are few areas which are not stroller accessible. However, most line queues will not allow strollers, so you'll need to have kids walk to the entrance. When getting children out of the stroller, you must park it in a designated stroller parking zone, or a Cast Member will move it there. Magic Kingdom is also wheelchair friendly. Most rides are handicap accessible, though the level of accessibility varies. Check with a Cast Member at each ride's entrance to see if you must transfer from your wheelchair, or if it is equipped to allow you to enjoy the ride seated in your wheelchair. Electric scooters are permitted (not the two-wheeled kind), but they must remain at a walking pace. Strollers, wheelchairs, and scooters are all available to be rented from the Magic Kingdom if that is what is best for your party. Service animals are allowed at Magic Kingdom, but they may not be granted access to some attractions depending on the nature of the ride.

1. After Dark

Magic Kingdom is typically open the latest of all the Disney World Parks. There are several unique things to do at night, so don't turn in early! Try some of your favorite rides in the dark for a different perspective. Then head over for the 'Electrical Water Parade' in the lagoon and also the 'Electrical Parade' on Main Street. Then stick around for 'Celebrate the Magic', a tribute to Disney movies presented right on the castle itself. Whatever you do, don't miss 'Wishes', the nighttime fireworks spectacular. You've never seen fireworks quite like this! Hang around until closing for a special 'Kiss Goodnight' from Cast Members.

Finally, don't let all these Magic Kingdom details overwhelm you. Contact our [Authorized Disney Planning](#) partner to assist you with every step of planning. Enjoy the magic!





“We believed in our idea - a family park where parents and children could have fun- together.”

- Walt Disney

No matter how many times I go to Magic Kingdom, no Disney experience can match the thrill and awe I get walking under the arches and onto Main Street, U.S.A. and seeing Cinderella's Castle in the distance. Six lands comprise Magic Kingdom: these tips will help you get the most out of your day while there.

Main Street, U.S.A

TIP 14. Main Street is the opening act to your day at Magic Kingdom. If you look up to the second and third floor windows above the shops, you will notice a variety of names and company listings. The names are for people who were influential in creating Disney World and the various company names are the actual company names Walt Disney created when he was buying all of the land for Disney World, known back then as 'the Florida Project.' Disney's attention to detail is amazing and if you're moving too quickly, you'll miss out!

TIP 13. Main Street offers the best place to take pictures with the family in front of Cinderella's Castle. Since Magic Kingdom is the most popular of the four parks, it tends to get busy quick. If you want a photo without all the crowds, consider making a breakfast reservation at the Crystal Palace, located off to the left at the end of Main Street. If you have a reservation before the park opens, you'll walk to the restaurant and Disney's photographers are already in place to capture a great shot of you and your family! Plus, you'll get a great breakfast and the company of Pooh, Piglet, Eeyore, and Tigger, too!

Adventureland

TIP 12. In Adventureland, you can explore the Swiss Family Treehouse or ride the Magic Carpets of Aladdin. Two classic, must-do Disney attractions are located here. Pirates of the Caribbean and the Jungle Cruise are both amazingly fun boat rides. If you're looking for a break from the sun, Pirates of the Caribbean offers a nice reprieve from the punishing Florida heat. There is also a hallway that connects Adventureland and Frontierland – equipped with bathrooms, this is also one of the FastPass+ kiosk locations. If you didn't make your FastPasses in advance, stop by here first thing! You can also stop back here after using your three FastPasses and see if you can get more!

TIP 11. Jungle Cruise is a great ride and features humor for both kids and adults. If you go out on a voyage later in the evening, the skippers tend to get a little more "adult" in their humor. Even if they don't, it is still relaxing to enjoy a cruise down the rivers of Asia, Africa, and South America. As your walking back up into Adventureland, be sure to stop by Aloha Isle for some Dole Whip! No trip is complete without this Disney treat!

Frontierland

TIP 10. The American West is featured in Frontierland. It is also home to two of the most popular attractions in Magic Kingdom: Splash Mountain and Big Thunder Mountain Railroad. It also has some of the best food carts in the entire park – whether you're looking for popcorn, corn dogs, or pretzels, no one should be leaving Frontierland hungry!

TIP 9. While it is tempting to take a ride on Splash Mountain during the heat of the day and you certainly may want to, try and ride it after sunset, too. The ride is extremely relaxing at night and you catch some amazing views of Cinderella's Castle all aglow. This is truer in November and December when holiday lights are festooned in the park! Splash Mountain is a definite FastPass+ on any trip to Magic Kingdom – lines have been known to balloon past 90 minutes on particularly busy days.

TIP 8. Big Thunder Mountain Railroad holds you hostage on a runaway mine train through the Old West. Contrary to most roller coasters, the best place to ride this coaster is in the back! Much like Splash Mountain, the ride feels completely different when riding at night. If you can't make it till sunset, be sure to wait until the afternoon to take a ride! There is grease on the track and the sun warms it up. As the grease warms up, the ride gets a little bit faster than first thing in the morning.

Liberty Square

TIP 7. Take a step back into colonial America in Liberty Square. It is easy to miss Liberty Square since it is sandwiched between Fantasyland and Frontierland, but there is a lot to enjoy here! A great place for dinner is at the Liberty Tree Tavern – this restaurant serves an all-you-care-to-enjoy family style dinner of turkey, roast beef, pork, vegetables and stuffing! If you're not that hungry, be sure to stop by Sleepy Hollow and get some delicious waffle sandwiches! They also have a selection of ice cream and coffee.

TIP 6. Haunted Mansion is located in the back of Liberty Square. Even if the line is short, don't run through the queue – there are some fun things to explore in the line. A "touchstone" orchestra and a haunted bookcase are just some of things you can enjoy while waiting for your ride! Be sure to keep your eyes peeled for a hidden Mickey when traveling in the dining room!

Fantasyland

TIP 5. Home to the new Princess Fairytale Hall and Seven Dwarfs Mine Train, Fantasyland is the first destination for many families at rope drop. You may want to consider heading there first thing or using some of your FastPasses for the attractions here. If you're looking for a delicious treat in the morning, head to Gaston's Tavern before jumping on a ride.

TIP 4. Ever want to try pulling Excalibur from the stone? You can try in Fantasyland! Head to the front of the Prince Charming Regal Carrousel and see if you are going to be the next King Arthur. The back of Cinderella's Castle is home to the entrance to Cinderella's Royal Table. This is an extremely hard character dining reservation to get. If you want to eat there, make sure you make your advance dining reservation as soon as you can!



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TIP 3. There are a lot of people who miss Mr. Toad's Wild Ride. You can see the Imagineers subtle nod to the classic ride in the Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh. If you look over your left shoulder as you enter Owl's House, you can see a picture of Mr. Toad handing the deed to Owl. Just another detail to appreciate!

TIP 2. Storybook Circus is another area of Fantasyland. Be sure to check out Big Top Treats for some delicious Disney creations! If anyone is looking to rest their feet, but still enjoy a ride, head for Dumbo the Flying Elephant. When the ride was relocated during the construction of New Fantasyland, capacity was doubled on the ride, but a waiting area was constructed. There is a playground for kids, but tired adults can sit down and enjoy a well-deserved break before taking to the sky!

Tomorrowland

TIP 1. Tomorrowland has two underappreciated, in my opinion, rides. Tomorrowland Transportation Authority PeopleMover offers elevated views of the whole of Tomorrowland (including a trip inside Space Mountain). The ride rarely has a line and is rideable multiple times in an afternoon.

BONUS TIP. Our family always stops by Monsters, Inc. Laugh Floor – not only is it a great stop for air-conditioning, but the comedy is hilarious! The monsedians (monsters + comedians) do pick some people out of the audience to help the show along. Most of our family have had to participate one way or the other – again, this hidden gem rarely has much of a wait and it something that kids and adults alike can enjoy!

Written by Tyler Obenauf





“Here you leave today and enter the world of yesterday, tomorrow and fantasy.”

Walt Disney

The oldest park at Walt Disney World is also home to the greatest rides that Disney has to offer. Split into six different lands, Magic Kingdom is quintessential Disney. The following is a complete listing of rides that Magic Kingdom has to offer, as well as some insider tips for getting the most out of your experience at Disney World!

Adventureland

20. Magic Carpets of Aladdin

This ride is fun for the entire family. You get to take a circular journey on Jasmine and Aladdin’s magic carpet. The ride allows you to control the upward and downward movements of your carpet. When approaching the ride from the main entrance to Adventureland, be careful to mind the spitting camel!!

19. Pirates of the Caribbean

This classic Disney boat ride takes you on a journey through the seas when pirates ruled the open waters. Beware of cannon fire on this ride as it may get you a bit wet! The best time to ride is early in the morning or late in the evening!

18. Jungle Cruise

Also a Disney classic, this relaxing boat tour takes you on a journey through rivers in South America, Africa, and Asia. The nature of the ride is very much dictated by the skipper that you have – if traveling without children, be sure to check out a later sailing – the skippers tend to be a little bit more “adult” in their humor if the little ones are not on board.



Frontierland

17. Big Thunder Mountain Railroad

Your whole family will enjoy their runaway mine train ride through the old west! The ride is very popular, so be sure to ride it early or use one of your FastPasses to ensure your ride time. Additionally, the rails are coated with grease. This grease warms as the day goes on – so if you want a faster ride, be sure to ride in the middle of the afternoon. Also – be sure to check out one of the back seats – the ride gets pretty intense back there!

16. Splash Mountain

This boat ride takes you through the animated portions of the Song of the South, featuring the classic “Zippity Doo Dah!” The log flume ride meanders through enjoyable scenes and ends with the thrilling ascent to the top of the hill and a five story drop into the Briar Patch! Before your log plummets down, be sure to enjoy the spectacular view of Cinderella’s Castle!

Liberty Square

15. Liberty Square Riverboat

Enjoy a scenic and relaxing cruise along the Rivers of America. This ride departs continuously throughout the day and you'll get to enjoy views of Tom Sawyer Island, as well as the rest of Frontierland.

14. The Haunted Mansion

999 happy haunts invite you to become a permanent guest on this ride. You'll board your Doom Buggy and experience the chills that the Haunted Mansion has to offer. Be sure to be on the look out during the dining room/ballroom scene to see if you can find the Hidden Mickey!

Fantasyland

13. it's a small world

This ride is quintessential Disney. The song may be repetitive (and get stuck in your head for the rest of your trip), but this relaxing boat ride takes you on the journey through the cultures of the world. Be sure to take some time and enjoy the intricacies of the theming in this ride!

12. Peter Pan's Flight

Refuse to grow up with this magical journey through London and Neverland. This ride is enjoyable for all members of the family, but is insanely popular – it is recommended you use one of your FastPasses to secure a place in line or make sure to visit early in the morning or late at night. Lines have been known to approach 90 minutes!

11. Prince Charming Regal Carrousel

You'll enjoy this classic carrousel located just behind Cinderella's Castle. The ride rarely has much of a wait. If you have some time, be sure to see if you can find Cinderella's favorite horse!

10. The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh

Take a journey through the Hundred Acre Wood for a visit with Pooh & friends. Everyone can find something to enjoy on this ride – Disney purists will appreciate the nod to Mr. Toad's Wild Ride and kids will love all of the interactive items placed through the queue!

9. Mad Tea Party

Have a very merry un birthday in this classic ride based on the tea party from "Alice in Wonderland." See if you can spin yourself around and around using the silver discs located in the middle of your teacup. It is rumored that the purple teacups are the fastest spinners – this blogger has tried it and certainly can attest to being spun six ways from Sunday!

8. Seven Dwarfs Mine Train

The newest and most innovative ride in Magic Kingdom, this coaster takes you on a journey through the woods and mine of the Seven Dwarfs! Featuring a wonderfully themed and interactive queue, and innovative ride system, this coaster is not to be missed. Be sure to head there first thing to avoid waiting in lines that regularly peak close to 90 minutes!

7. Under the Sea Journey of the Little Mermaid

Relive your favorite moments from this delightful movie. This ride features a giant clamshell for you and your family to travel through Ariel's world. Once you're done, you can always walk on over to Ariel's Grotto and meet her in person!



6. Dumbo the Flying Elephant

Disney recently revamped this iconic ride. Now featuring two separate rides, the line moves even faster! And the waiting experience is even more pleasurable while you bide your time in an air-conditioned tent with seating and a playground for the kids. You may not want to get on the ride when they tell you it is your turn!

5. The Barnstormer

This thrilling ride is a great way to introduce your kids to the wonderment of rollercoasters. Don't let the coasters diminutive size fool you, there are definitely some thrills and chills to enjoy on this ride!

Tommorrowland

4. Tomorrowland Speedway

There are few people that I know whose first experience behind the wheel wasn't here at Tomorrowland Speedway. These go-karts barrel around turns at about 3 miles per hour and allow the little ones in the group a chance to drive – don't worry mom and dad, the go karts turn themselves using a metal track system that all cars ride on.

3. Space Mountain

The final, classic Disney mountain, this Disney ride is very much a rite of passage for thrill seekers, Space Mountain sends you on an interstellar voyage through space! A dark coaster, the ride keeps you in suspense the entire time – you never know what is coming next!

2. Tomorrowland Transit Authority PeopleMover

This is a very enjoyable ride that allows you to get off your feet and out of the sun for a little bit. I always enjoy a ride on this when visiting Tomorrowland – you get an aerial view of Tomorrowland and will even get to peek inside Space Mountain!

1. Buzz Lightyear's Space Ranger Spin

This ride defies explanation – you board a ride vehicle that takes you through various scenes where you battle the evil forces of Emperor Zurg using your on-board laser gun to inflict damage! All of this is made much more difficult by your vehicle spinning around and around all while you try and get the highest score!

Magic Kingdom has much more to offer in addition

to these rides – there are many more classic attractions to enjoy as well! Don't be too caught up in the thrill of the rides to pass up some Disney mainstays like the Hall of Presidents, Country Bear Jamboree, or Monsters, Inc. Laugh Floor just to name a few!

Written by Tyler Obenauf





“When you believe in a thing, believe in it all the way, implicitly and unquestionable.”

Walt Disney

When people think Walt Disney World, they think Magic Kingdom. They think Cinderella Castle. Magic Kingdom is where it all began. It's the heart of Disney World. With that being said, it can be a little overwhelming planning for a day at Disney's most popular park. You don't want to miss anything, yet you don't want to rush through everything. Here's a list of the top 15 things you simply cannot miss while visiting Magic Kingdom Park.

15. Take a Ride on The Jungle Cruise

There are plenty of classic attractions at Magic Kingdom and where better to start our list than a good ole family favorite! Jungle Cruise is fun for the whole family, for sure! Also, make sure to visit during the holiday season when it transforms into The Jingle Cruise.

14. Bibbidi Bobbidi Boutique

This is usually number one on any little princess's list. Make reservations so your little one can get pampered like a princess right inside Cinderella Castle!

13. Watch a Street Show

Besides parades and fireworks, you'll also notice some street performers waltzing around **Main Street**. Stop and watch the Dapper Dan's! They're a fan favorite!

12. Main Street Confectionary

Once you walk into this candy store, smells of freshly made chocolate, candy apples, and warm cookies fill the air. It's the perfect place for anyone with a sweet tooth!

11. Brave Pirates of the Caribbean

Are you brave enough to sail the seas with a bunch of rowdy pirates? It's another classic Disney World attraction that simply cannot be missed!

10. Dole Whip It Up!

If you haven't tried one before, I'm sure you have at least heard of it! The Dole Whip is a staple on any Disney Vacation.

9. Ride Haunted Mansion

Here's to another classic Disney attraction that you absolutely cannot skip! It's a fan favorite and once you ride it, you'll see why.

8. Get a Picture with a Character

So basically if you are planning a trip to any Disney park, you are probably thinking about what characters you want to meet, especially if you have little ones. But even if you don't, taking a picture with at least one character is a must.

7. Dine at Be Our Guest Restaurant

Be Our Guest is the newest table service restaurant at Magic Kingdom. It's themed after the Disney film *Beauty and the Beast*, and it's nothing short of incredible.

6. Ride It's a Small World

Everyone knows about it's a small world, even if they have never been to a Disney park. You have to ride it at least once in your life. But beware; the song will be stuck in your head. All day long.

5. Magic Kingdom Rope Drop

The opening ceremony at Magic Kingdom is a truly unique experience. When else would you be able to see all the Disney characters at once?

4. Pictures by Cinderella Castle

When you think of Magic Kingdom, you think Cinderella Castle. It's the icon of Disney World, and everyone needs a picture by it.

3. Ride the "mountains"

Space Mountain, Splash Mountain, and Big Thunder Mountain Railroad are the three classic rollercoasters at Magic Kingdom. Also try, Seven Dwarfs Mine Train, the newest addition to the Magic Kingdom rollercoaster family.

2. Festival of Fantasy Parade

I guarantee you, this is like no parade you have ever seen before. It's incredible, to say the least. Wait for the Maleficent float, you are sure to be amazed.

1. Wishes

Wishes, Magic Kingdom's Firework show, is something you absolutely cannot miss. I mean, it's number one on our list for a reason. The music, the magic, the fireworks, it's amazing. It will leave you speechless.

By now I'm sure you're getting super excited for your trip to Magic Kingdom. You've read through this list and probably more than one of these sticks out for you. So make your own Magic Kingdom "bucket list", and make sure to include these 15 must-do things. And most importantly, have fun!

Written by Meghann McFadden





“Fantasy, if it’s really convincing, can’t become dated, for the simple reason that it represents a flight into a dimension that lies beyond the reach of time.”

Walt Disney Company

It’s easy to make mistakes, especially while on vacation. We’re all human, right? Fortunately for you, we want to make sure you don’t make these 18 easily avoidable mistakes people make when at Magic Kingdom.

18. Heading to the Right

Okay, so this one isn’t scientifically proven, but legend has it, everybody always goes to the right when they arrive at Magic Kingdom. If you head left first, you can hit rides like Jungle Cruise or Pirates of the Caribbean before anyone else gets there.

17. Missing Out on a Dole Whip

Plus, if you head to the left first, you can stop and get a delicious Dole Whip! They’re only found at Magic Kingdom and the Polynesian Resort, so make sure you get one when you see it! Cause once you leave, you’re outta luck!

16. Not Meeting at Least One Character

Sometimes we think that we don’t really need to meet the characters and get our picture taken, but once you leave you kind of regret it. We’ve all been there, but instead set aside an hour to find a character you really love and take a cute picture with them. Sometimes you might even run into one with no line! It’s all part of the Disney experience!

15. Not Taking Time to Browse the Gift Shops

People who have been to Disney World often know that there are things in the gift shops that can only be found in the park. Sometimes rookies don’t realize this. So my advice is take time to look through the gift shops and buy it when you see it!

14. Skipping the Rides with Long Wait Lines

For example, you really want to ride Seven Dwarfs Mine Train, but the line is super long. I say, wait in the line, for two reasons. One, once you leave, you won’t get to ride it at home! And who wants to wait until the next time you visit? And two, some of the lines have amazing queues. Mine Train is one of them.

13. Not Making Advanced Dining Reservations

So lunchtime rolls around and you’re family is starving. You didn’t make any table service restaurant reservations



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and everything is booked up. Make sure you make reservations if you think you'll want them. You can book up to 180 days! In this case, you can take advantage of one of Magic Kingdom's many counter-service restaurants. [Here's a list of our favorites.](#)

12. Not Taking Advantage of your Surroundings

Make sure you take time to stop and look where you are. You're at Magic Kingdom for crying out loud! Take pictures! If you rush from ride to ride you'll lose sight of just how beautiful the park really is. You can get some absolutely stunning pictures at Magic Kingdom; you just have to open your eyes.

11. Not Stopping to Notice the Details

It's the same with noticing the little details. If you're running through the park, you'll miss some of the little details that make Disney stand out from all other theme parks. Look for Jaq and Gus inside Cinderella Castle or read the names on the windows of Main Street. There's so much to see, take your time and appreciate everything Disney has to offer.



10. Not Making Fastpasses

If you don't take advantage of the Fastpass system, you could spend more time waiting in line than you really have to. If you are staying on Disney property you can make your selections 60 days in advance. If you are staying off property you can make them 30 days in advance. Either way, make them!

9. Not Taking Breaks

This is one of the BIGGEST mistakes rookies make when spending the day at Magic Kingdom, especially if you have little ones. Magic Kingdom is usually open from 9 a.m. until midnight. If you planning on being there for rope drop and

for fireworks, you are going to need a break. Whether it's heading back to the resort for a nap or taking several small breaks at the park, I guarantee you will need them!

8. Not Dividing the Day

One of the best ways to maximize your fun is to split your day at the park. Most people opt for attending the park later in the afternoon when the Magic Kingdom is at its hottest and most crowded. Instead, start with an early morning and plan to arrive when the park opens. The weather will be cooler and the lines will be shorter, allowing easier access to popular rides like the Seven Dwarfs Mine Train or Peter Pan's Flight. Around noon, going back to the hotel for a nap can never hurt, especially when traveling with children. Return later that evening for a beautiful nighttime atmosphere.

7. Not Dressing Comfortably

Seeing women struggle to walk at Magic Kingdom in heels or wedges is certainly a sight to see. Leave the fancy footwear for a night in Downtown Disney, not for exploring a theme park. Opt for breathable sneakers or shoes that will keep you from foot pain later.

6. Not People Watching

Disney is known for drawing international crowds of people to the Magic Kingdom. Take the time to people watch as you enjoy your popcorn or eat your ice cream. Count all the toddlers dressed as Elsa or Anna. You never even know who you will meet waiting in line on your Disney vacation!

5. Not Grabbing A Snack

Walking around the park is exhausting and fueling up throughout the day is key to keeping up your energy. Whether you wish to bring your own snacks or to buy, there are plenty of ways to keep you and your fellow travelers well-fed. Stop for some fries, Mickey ice cream, turkey legs, or any other small snacks that will keep you going. There is a snack option for every taste and craving!



4. Not Getting a Souvenir

Every Disney vacation I've ever been on has led to the accumulation of everything from stained glass Beauty and the Beast wall décor to miniature Mickey Mouse figurines. Whatever your budget, getting something to remember the trip by makes the experience all the more memorable. Check out ["11 Fabulous Walt Disney World Souvenirs You'll Actually Use Once You Get Home."](#)

3. Not Being Prepared For Florida weather

Florida can go from bright and sunny to torrential downpour before you can say, "Did you pack the umbrella?" Be sure to check the weather BEFORE you go to the park. Ponchos tend to be the most convenient for theme parks as they are hands free and don't require to be opened and closed upon entering different rides or attractions.

2. Not Having a Game Plan

Know where you want to go before you go. This can be especially helpful if this is your first time going to the park. Getting a grip of the layout of the park and mapping the places you want to visit can help save valuable time throughout the day. Check out a park map online and mark your game plan.

1. Not Taking Pictures

The Magic Kingdom is the perfect background and showcase for photo shoots! Take staple pictures with characters and in front of the castle. Don't forget to take photos in more obscure places such as near the Cinderella fountain or on Tom Sawyer's island. You will not only have the memories, but you will also have some beautiful photos to post on social media! My Magic Kingdom photo collection is extensive, and every time I go, I still find new places to take pictures!

Well, if you are planning your very first trip to Magic Kingdom, make sure you take these 10 tips into consideration. And most importantly, have fun and enjoy your time there! Do you have any tips for our first timers?

Written by Meghann McFadden and Sara Shayanian

After stepping off of the monorail, your bus, or boat, and passing through the gates of the Magic Kingdom, guests are treated to the sights, sounds, and scents of Main Street, U.S.A. Designed to replicate a turn-of-the-century main street in Anytown, U.S.A., there is much to see and do here, even though there aren't any rides here. Many guests walk quickly past most things on Main Street, U.S.A, but here is our list 20 things to make sure you see and do on Main Street!



20. Main Street Trolley Show

This performance are shown during the mornings at Magic Kingdom. These entertainers travel down Main Street and welcome guests to the Magic Kingdom through a variety of song-and-dance numbers. Be sure to grab a Times Guide when entering the park if you want to see this show!

19. Character Interaction in Town Square

Directly in the middle of Town Square near the flagpole, guests can meet a variety of characters throughout the morning and the early afternoon. The characters vary, so you'll have to keep an eye out to meet your favorites!

18. Get Your Ears Lowered

On the left-hand side of Town Square, guests can get a haircut at the Harmony Barber Shop. Be sure to call in advance to get an appointment so you don't have to wait. Families can even schedule a child's first haircut at the Harmony Barber Shop for some extra special memories including mouse ears!

17. Grab Some Popcorn

MY favorite thing to eat on Main Street is a popcorn from the popcorn cart just beyond the left entrance under the Walt Disney World Railroad. The aroma as you walk past is intoxicating and it takes a very strong will indeed to say no!

16. Visit The Chapeau Shop (That's French For Hats!)

Located on the right-hand side of Town Square, this store sells a dizzying selection of delightful Mickey ears and other hats. However, our favorite part of a visit here is to check out the old-fashioned crank wall phone. Pick up the phone and don't be surprised if you hear someone on the other end!

15. Visit the Confectionary

This old-fashioned candy store offers everything for your sweet tooth. Guests can munch on candy apples, marshmallow rice treats drizzled in chocolate and candy, or grab a box of taffy. Be sure to spend some time watching the Cast Members making some of the delicious treats that you can enjoy!

14. Catch a Performance by the Dapper Dans

This barbershop quartet wanders around Main Street serenading guests with classic songs. There are no set performance times, but they will be easily to spot in their bright-colored vests and matching pants!

13. Stop by the Fire Station

Rather than seeing a fire truck or taking a slide down a fireman's pole, guests can sign up for and collect cards for the immensely popular and addicting Sorcerer's of the Magic Kingdom game! In this game, guests battle villains at various portals throughout the park using spell cards that can be collected on each visit to the Magic Kingdom!

12. Take Part in the Flag Retreat

Everyday at 5 PM, guests can watch the flag be taken down in the middle of Town Square. Watching this ceremony adds to the small-town feel of Main Street and encourages a sense of patriotism.

11. Find a Great Keepsake

The right side of Main Street is adorned with gift shops that cater to an individual's more expensive tastes. In these stores, guests can purchase small curios from the Magic Kingdom, crystal glass decorations, jewelry, purses, and even artwork. It's even fun for the casual browser, no purchase necessary!

10. Get Your Caffeine Fix

In the Magic Kingdom, guests can grab a quick drink or snack at the Main Street Bakery, a.k.a. Starbucks. While many die-hard Disney fans disapprove of the inclusion of the It appears that most guests like Starbucks, as it usually has a decent-sized crowd!

9. Meet Mickey Mouse and Tinkerbell

Located in the Town Square Theatre, guests can meet Mickey Mouse or Tinkerbell. Lines for both these interactions are generally short. Guests who choose to meet Mickey Mouse are in for a treat as this Mickey interacts and talks with guests!



8. Cool Off with Some Ice Cream

Located at the end of Main Street, the Plaza Ice Cream Parlor offers a wonderful selection of ice creams and sundaes to help guests survive the Florida heat! With the newly expanded Hub, guests can grab a cone or a dish and have a seat on the grass and take in some magnificent views!

7. Delicious Snacks and Some Entertainment

If you still have some room left in your stomach at the end of Main Street, be sure to pop into Casey's

Corner. This counter-service restaurant serves up an array of hot dogs to satisfy any craving. I enjoy grabbing the bite-size corn dogs and heading outside to watch the sensational pianist as he entertains guests!

6. Grab a Meal at a Table Service Restaurant

Main Street has no rides but it makes up for this with table-service restaurants to satisfy a variety of tastebuds. Guests can dine at Tony's Town Square for fabulous Italian fare, the Plaza for family-friendly favorites, and the Crystal Palace for an incomparable buffet. Remember to grab an advanced dining reservation to ensure your table.

5. Stop by the Emporium

This gift shop offers classic Disney souvenirs – t-shirts, plush animals, sweatshirts, pins, and jewelry. I truly enjoy stopping by the Emporium because they also tend to have harder to find items, too!

4. Explore the Train Station

Even though it is right at the front of the park, the train station gets overlooked as guests hurry down Main Street to the attractions of the Magic Kingdom or rush to grab a train. There is much to appreciate in the station itself. Take some time on your next trip to look around and enjoy the details!

3. Take in Wishes or a Parade

Main Street is featured prominently as a backdrop for the daily parades at Magic Kingdom, and is one of the best viewing spot for Wishes. Either way, make sure to arrive a little early to snag your favorite spot (and maybe to grab a little snack)!

2. Look at the Names on the Main Street Windows

As tribute to those individuals who were influential or helpful to the construction of the Magic Kingdom and dedication to the Disney company, a variety of names are featured on the windows lining both sides of Main Street. If you are looking to find out more about these names, guests can partake in the [Keys to the Kingdom Tour](#) (available at an additional cost).

1. Gaze in Awe

I never tire of going under the railroad station and making my way through the Town Square to start walking up Main Street and catching the wonderful framed vista of Cinderella's Castle in the distance. In all of my times there, I still have that moment of shock and then realization that I am being transported to another time and place of magic and wonder!

Main Street is the thematic opening to the Magic Kingdom. Take the time it deserves to explore and appreciate the details that went into creating it. What is your favorite thing about Main Street, U.S.A.?

Written by Tyler Obenauf





"Fantasy, if it's really convincing, can't become dated, for the simple reason that it represents a flight into a dimension that lies beyond the reach of time."

- Walt Disney Company

Fantasyland in Disney's Magic Kingdom is the best place to feel like a kid. More than any other area on Disney property, Fantasyland allows guests of all ages to be completely immersed in their favorite Disney films. With so much to see and do, there are 10 things you absolutely must experience on your next visit.

10. Visit the Gift Shops

No matter which gift shop you visit in Fantasyland, there are little touches all around the stores to integrate them into the attractions and films they represent. For example, Fantasy Faire has as its' focal point, Donald Duck coming out of the ceiling with musical instruments as seen in Mickey's Philharmagic and Castle Couture features Aurora's gown which changes colors from blue to pink throughout the day. Besides souvenirs, there are great tributes to the films throughout the stores.

9. Ride Peter Pan's Flight

If you're not in the park the moment it opens, you'll either need a Fastpass for this attraction or lots of patience as the queue length can reach well over an hour, sometimes an hour and a half during summer hours. Especially with the new interactive queue, guests can see the Darling children's rooms and play with the shadows on the wall while they wait. Check out ["7 Impressive Facts About Peter Pan's Flight."](#)

8. Ride Small World

Love it or hate it, Small World is a Fantasyland staple. Sure, you'll get stuck in the last room and the song will be stuck in your head for hours, but it's tradition. At the very least, the queue is indoors so it's a great option for when it rains.

7. Ride Prince Charming Regal Carousel

This classic affords a great view of Cinderella Castle and sits right in the middle of Fantasyland. With different size horses for all ages, the two-minute ride features handmade equines from 1917 which have been in Detroit and New Jersey before Walt Disney rescued the carousel and had it restored and themed to fit with the Cinderella story for Magic Kingdom. It's the oldest attraction in the park and usually has very short lines.



6. Watch Mickey's Philharmagic

This 4-D experience is not only indoors, air-conditioned, and equipped with comfortable seating, but it also features Mickey, Donald, and characters from a number of Disney films. These include The Little Mermaid, The Lion King, Aladdin, and Peter Pan. The 3-D effects and surrounding screen make the scenery come alive and 4-D effects like splashing water and scents help to immerse you on the journey Donald takes as he tries to get Mickey's iconic hat back, even if he was playing with it when he shouldn't have to begin with. It's perfect for all ages.

5. Watch/Participate in Enchanted Tales With Belle

Enchanted Tales with Belle is a show that asks guests to participate in helping to tell a story from the film Beauty and the Beast. Even parents are asked to help play some familiar roles as costumes and props are assigned. Then, everyone meets Belle in her library and those who participate get a special gift from the princess.

4. Walk Through Cinderella Castle

When there isn't a show taking place in front of Cinderella Castle, guests can actually walk through it on their way from the hub to Fantasyland. Along the way, view a beautiful mosaic that depicts scenes from the Cinderella story. Each panel is made of hand-cut tiles and it took about 22 months to complete the entire project. Check out ["19 Impressive Facts About Cinderella's Castle At Disney World."](#)



3. Greet All The Characters

Fantasyland features the most characters in Magic Kingdom. Guests can meet Minnie, Donald, Daisy, and Goofy in the circus area, Anna, Elsa, Rapunzel or Cinderella in Princess Fairytale Hall, Pooh and Tigger by their attraction, the White Rabbit by Mad Hatter's Tea Cups, and Cinderella's step-mother and step-sisters by the New Fantasyland wall.

2. Ride Seven Dwarfs Mine Train

The only thrill ride in Fantasyland, Seven Dwarfs Mine Train continues to be one of the most popular attractions in Magic Kingdom. A combination of dark ride and coaster, it's perfect for families as you travel into the diamond mines and sing along with the dwarfs before passing by their cottage. But beware the witch!

1. Eat In A Castle

Fantasyland has expanded the number of castles it contains and guests have the option of dining with two of them. One is Cinderella's Royal Table found inside the iconic castle. Step inside Cinderella Castle and be treated like royalty in this highly sought after dining experience. Another popular restaurant is Be Our Guest Restaurant which takes Disney fans inside the Beast's castle. Dine in the Ballroom, West Wing, or Library and step into scenes inspired by the Beauty and the Beast film. You can even try the grey stuff and meet the Beast himself.

Of course, there are so many other things to see and do in Fantasyland. As this area of Magic Kingdom is so popular with young children, it's best to arrive at the park early when lines are the shortest. Then you get Fantasyland all to yourself.

Written by Kristina



“All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.”

Walt Disney

10. Mad Tea Party

Join Alice and the Mad Hatter from Disney’s “Alice in Wonderland” feature film, and take a spin on a giant tea cup. It’s just like the “Unbirthday” celebration with Alice, the Mat Hatter, and the white rabbit, except you are now in the tea cup rather than drinking out of a teacup. The entire ride spins, and each teacup (which can hold two or three riders) can spin individually by grabbing the wheel in the middle of each teacup and spin, spin, spin as hard as you can. The harder you pull on the wheel, the faster you spin! If you suffer from any degree of motion sickness, this ride is not for you. FastPass+ is not available for this ride. There is no height requirement.

9. Barnstormer With the Great Goofini

This is the one roller coaster in Walt Disney World designed specifically for children, but parents will also enjoy riding along. Located in the Storybook Circus area of Fantasyland, this ride is very popular with the younger guests, and therefore, the lines are usually long. You’ll board an airplane, then enjoy a swooping, twisting and turning flight, ending with a blast through a billboard coming out on the other side. All this action takes place in less than two minutes. The ride vehicles are small and are not designed to hold very large adults. Sometimes, Mom or Dad will have to ride in a plane by themselves. FastPass+ is available for this ride. There is a height requirement of 35” to ride.



8. Dumbo The Flying Elephant

Based on the Disney animated feature film, “Dumbo”, this classic ride has moved to the Storybook Circus area of Fantasyland, and a second carousel of flying Dumbos has been added to this very popular ride. There is an interactive play area with slides, climbing nets and other fun activities for the smaller guests, including a special area for toddlers. There are even bleachers for parents to sit down while they watch their children play. Each party is given a pager when they enter the tent which goes off when its time to ride. How’s that for ingenuity! Hats off to the imaginers! FastPass+ is available for this ride. There is no height requirement.

7. The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh

Take a charming journey in a four-seater hunny pot and join Pooh Bear and his friends on a short adventure in search of the elusive pot of honey, Pooh’s favorite food. Along the way you will experience a blustery day, bouncing with Tigger, swirling with honey-stealing Hufflepumps and Woozles, and after a thunderstorm, float on water to rescue

Piglet from the Floody Place Falls. This ride is short, but sweet, and the whole family will be delighted by all the fun and enjoyment of riding a hunny pot through the Hundred Acre Woods. FastPass+ is available for this ride. There is no height requirement.

6. The Seven Dwarfs Mine Train

Disney's animated classic film is the inspiration for this newest addition to New Fantasyland. There is an awesome interactive queue that will keep youngsters busy as they move along the line. Step into a realistic replica of the mine cars from the movie, and get ready for a rollicking, speedy adventure through the Seven Dwarfs Mine. The ride features a new first-of-its-kind ride system in which each individual car swings from side to side at each turn, twist and drop. This unique design guarantees a different experience each time it's ridden. From the mountains, through the Dwarfs' diamond mine, and past the Dwarfs' cottage where Snow White is laughing and dancing with her new-found friends, your exciting journey will be over too soon! FastPass+ is available for this ride. There is a height requirement of 38".



5. It's A Small World

"It's A Small World" had its' debut at the 1964-65 World's Fair in New York. After the Fair the attraction was moved to Disneyland in California and immediately became one of the most popular rides at the Park. Because of its immense popularity, another version of "It's A Small World" became a part of Walt Disney World when it opened in October, 1971. On this ride, you board a boat and enter a world of children from many nations nation on the planet Earth. As your boat slowly glides on international waters, hundreds of audioanimatronic children representing their countries are seen in their native costumes while dancing and singing that tune we all remember—"It's A World of Laughter, A World of Tears.....It's A Small World After All". In addition to the authenticity of the children's costumes and cultural

dance styles, each country has been elaborately designed and decorated to clearly show off its' finest contributions to the world. There is so much happening on either side of the boat that it takes at least two trips to take it all in. This is one of those Disney favorites that you don't want to miss! FastPass+ is available for this ride.

4. Peter Pan's Flight

Peter Pan's Flight is another original ride that has been at Walt Disney World since its 'opening in October, 1971. With a sprinkling of pixie dust by Tinker Bell and Peter Pan's announcement, "Come on everybody, here we goooooo!", your pirate ship begins its nighttime flight over London. Each ride vehicle can hold two adults and one small child and because your "flying ship" is suspended by a rail on the ceiling, you get the overwhelming sensation of flight. Even though this is a dark ride, Disney imagineers used black lights and special fiber optics to bring the city of London to life. From your ship, you can look down on the city, and see the twinkling lights of cars, buses, Buckingham Palace, and even Big Ben, which are getting smaller and smaller as your vehicle moves higher and higher into the clouds. Your destination is Neverland, home of the lost boys, Captain Hook, Mr. Smee, a tribe of Indians, and a tick-tocking crocodile. You will relive several scenes from the movie, including the swashbuckling sword fight between Peter Pan and Captain Hook. Of course, we all know who wins! FastPass+ is available for this ride. There is no height requirement.

3. Prince Charming Regal Carousel

In 1967 Disney imagineers discovered this historic carousel, which was built in 1917, at Olympic Park, in New Jersey.

Disney purchased it, and after major renovations, it became a part of Walt Disney World, and welcomed its first riders at WDW's opening day. This carousel was originally called Cinderella's Golden Carousel, then in 2010 the name was changed to Prince Charming Regal Carousel. Officially classified as the oldest ride at Walt Disney World, it is truly magnificent with its 90 beautifully decorated horses, moving up and down to the tune of an old-fashioned organ playing classic Disney melodies. I can remember climbing up on one of those beautiful horses, then pretending I was Cinderella galloping around my Kingdom. I still ride it today. Why not? Fantasyland and the Magic Kingdom have no age limit on fun and "magic"! FastPass+ is not available for this ride. There is no height requirement.

3. Mickey's PhilharMagic

This elegantly designed indoor theater attraction brings to life, in 3-D format, a whimsical concert presentation starring some of Disney's most famous characters, including Mickey, Minnie, Donald, Goofy, Ariel, Aladdin, Peter Pan, Simba, and many more. The show revolves around Donald, and as usual, he gets himself into a bizarre and mind-boggling situation. His troubles begin when he puts on Mickey's Sorcerer's Hat after being warned by Mickey not to do so. The remainder of the show follows Donald as he tries to retrieve his hat during a magical vortex that carries him in and out of different scenes from famous Disney films. In each clip, he is trying to get Mickey's hat back while interacting with characters from "Beauty and the Beast", "Aladdin", "Peter Pan", and many more. Donald's hysterical attempts to grab the Sorcerer's Hat keeps the audience laughing out loud! There are also extraordinary special effects—the smell of a freshly baked apple pie, a blast of wind when champagne bottles pop their corks, etc. Sit back and enjoy this magical trip into a world of musical numbers and 3D animation like you've never seen before. FastPass+ is available for this attraction.

2. Enchanted Tales With Belle

Millions of people have enjoyed the classic Disney feature film, "Beauty and the Beast". This attraction is an interactive meet-and-greet located in the Enchanted Forest, as part of the New Fantasyland. Follow the cobblestone walkway to Maurice's Cottage, overshadowed by the daunting image of Beast's Castle. The inside of the cottage looks like a scene right out of the movie. The main room is filled with stacks of books, hand crafted furniture, and even a portrait of young Belle with her mother. Maurice's workshop is filled with his tools and inventions, and in the center of the room is a Magic Mirror, given to him by Beast so he could visit Belle whenever he wished. The guests soon find out that the Magic Mirror is also a portal which transports them to the library in Beast's Castle. It is here they meet Madame Wardrobe who asks for volunteers to help surprise Belle with an re-enactment of the day she and Beast fell in love. With the help of a Disney cast member, the "performers" are assigned their parts and given a wardrobe and a variety of props. When Belle arrives, she is surprised and thrilled to see so many visitors, and even more delighted by the outstanding performance, which concludes with everyone singing and dancing to the popular musical tune, "Be Our Guest". Belle then greets all the performers individually whilst cameras snap commemorating the moment, and then presents each one with a special Bookmark. This is an absolutely charming and unique meet-and-greet. FastPass+ is available for this attraction.

1. Princess Fairytale Hall

This great hall offers guests two meet-and-greet choices, either Cinderella with another visiting Princess, or the famous royal sisters from Arendelle - Anna & Elsa. The gorgeous Royal Hall is decorated with sparkling chandeliers, colorful banners, and beautiful stained glass windows depicting scenes and characters from famous Disney Princess films. Also for your viewing pleasure is Cinderella's glass slipper which is illuminated in a special case. **Due to the popularity of Anna & Elsa, Disney is trying a new approach of cutting off the line when it reaches a certain point, then handing out tickets with a specific return time on them.** Fast Pass+ is recommended for this attraction.





"I believe in being an innovator."

Walt Disney

The Magic Kingdom in Walt Disney World is an amusement park like no other, with all kinds of exciting and magical rides and attractions. Spend an entire day at the Magic Kingdom, and you will have journeyed through the past and into the future, either by train, trolley car, miniature race car, spaceship, peplemover, boat, mine train, or possibly a flying carpet, log raft, floating ship, flying elephant, goofy airplane, a giant clamshell, doom buggy, or a floating log. Each ride or attraction has a story to tell and will send you on an adventure you will never forget. Walt Disney had these words to say about his beloved Disneyland: "Disneyland will never be completed. It will continue to grow as long as there is imagination left in the world". I am sure he would feel the same way about Walt Disney World, which, like Disneyland, is constantly changing and evolving. WDW is, after all, the "most magical place on earth!" Here are 11 things we love in Tomorrowland.

9. Buzz Lightyear's Space Ranger Spin

"To Infinity and Beyond!"—These famous words spoken by Buzz Lightyear welcome you to his special Space Ranger training course. Here each Space Ranger candidate climbs aboard an XP-38 Space Cruiser, which holds two pilots and is equipped with a central joy stick for spinning. On the front of the cruiser are two laser cannons which will be used to aim and shoot at hundreds of targets as they turn, spin, and pop up as your vehicle spins around. The colors and shapes of the targets are varied and each target is worth a different amount of points, which are totaled and digitally displayed, showing your Space Ranger ranking and level achieved. FastPass+ is available for this ride. There is no height requirement.

8. Stitch's Great Escape

This attraction is a "theater-in-the-round" presentation featuring Stitch, the quirky little alien from Disney's "Lilo & Stitch". There are two preshows while guests wait to enter the main theater. Before Stitch met Lilo, he was a mischievous little troublemaker always causing problems, and is eventually caught by the Galactic Federation. In the preshows the audience members are recruited as security personnel and given instructions on how to assist with the incoming teleportation of a dangerous High Security level-3 prisoner.

When Experiment 626 (Stitch) arrives, the audience is taken into the main theater, where they are seated and confined to their seats by shoulder restraints (scanning devices for DNA). During the approximately 10-minute show, Stitch escapes into the theater, and all havoc erupts, and every audience member will actually feel Stitch's antics as he jumps on shoulders, tickles heads, runs all around the theater while dodging the laser cannons firing at him to prevent his escape from the building. It's a fun, laughable experience for all, and we all know what happens to Stitch, hence the title of the ride. FastPass+ is available for this attraction but you may not need it due to low crowd volume.



7. Monsters, Inc. Laugh Floor

The Laugh Floor is another indoor theater attraction featuring Mike Wazowski and Roz from the original Disney movie, "Monsters, Inc." The premise of the monster-comedy club is to present a variety of monster comedians in a special performance before an audience of humans, thus collecting a multitude of laughs in order to generate electricity for



Monstropolis. There is a short pre-show that runs while guests are waiting to enter the theater. During the wait you can text your favorite joke to a special number, and it may be used in the performance.

After you have been seated in the theater, Mike Wazowski as the Monster of Ceremonies and Roz, greet their audience with some not-so-funny jokes and comments. Then he introduces the monster comedians who will be entertaining the special human guests. Through the magic of Disney Imagineers and movable cameras placed in all the right places, Disney "performers" backstage can scan the audience and pick someone to interact

with. A Disney Cast Member brings a microphone to the selected guest so they can respond to the outlandish questions or comments by the monster comedian. Cameras mounted on the ceiling spotlight certain members of the audience on big screens at the front of the theater, displaying silly captions underneath. You can be sitting there enjoying the show, laughing, when suddenly, there you are on the big screens when you realize everyone is laughing at you. It's a real hoot! This attraction is a great way to have a seat, enjoy a laugh or two, and enjoy some great comedy! FastPass+ is available for this attraction but not necessary.

6. Walt Disney's Carousel of Progress

This iconic attraction which joined Walt Disney World in 1975 is actually a rotating carousel theater which carries guests into the home of four generations of the same audio-animatronic family from the early 1900's to the present day. Each scene depicts the newest innovative advances in recent technology. Dad, who narrates each scene gives a detailed description of each new modern marvel. As he describes each item, it is spotlighted and comes to life to demonstrate how it works. At the end of each scene, the entire theater rotates and stops at the next decade. From pre-electricity to computers, Dad and his family show how technology is always improving our lives, and the future is always just a dream away.

This is not a thrill ride, but is arguably one of the most memorable attractions at Walt Disney World. It's one of those special rides the whole family can enjoy together. By the time the ride is over, everyone, including Dad, his entire family, and the family dog, Rover, are singing the same tune, "Oh, there's a great big beautiful tomorrow....." We all know how the song goes! No FastPass+ is available for this ride.

5. Astro Orbiter

On this ride, you can pilot your own spacecraft. To access the Astro Oriber, you ride an elevator up to the loading area where you will board one of several silver rocket ships, which can hold two riders, one behind the other. Once on board you can use your joystick to raise and lower your rocket as it goes round and round and up and down, at a pretty fast pace. You actually go faster as you lower your rocket. Try raising it all the way up, then slowly lower it. You'll feel the pull of gravity. Also, you might want to experience this ride at night. It affords a breathtaking view of Tomorrowland in its' twinkling nighttime glory! FastPass+ is not available for this ride. There is no height requirement.

4. Space Mountain

This is a mountain allright - a mountain of thrills and chills! This indoor roller coaster boasts plenty of twists, sharp turns, and dynamic dips in the dark. The lines for this ride are always long, but most of the queue is indoors. This dimly lit queue seems endless, but along the way there are interactive training stations, much like a video game, which can be accessed in several different spots along the way.

By the time you reach the loading zone, you can hear the shrieks and screams coming from space travelers enjoying their flight. Once you get to the loading platform, you will board your six-passenger rocket and enjoy a wild ride into space! FastPass+ is available for this ride. There is a 44-inch height requirement.

3. Tomorrowland Transit Authority PeopleMover

As the name implies, this ride is constantly moving. You access it by stepping onto a moving conveyor belt which takes you up to the loading area where you step into your ride vehicle which is moving at the same speed. These vehicles seat four, two facing forward and two facing backward. The PeopleMover is a relaxing way to take a narrated tour of Tomorrowland. Your vehicle will take you in and out of shops and attractions, all affording a bird's eye view of the action. It's especially fascinating when you travel through Space Mountain and Buzz Lightyear's Space Ranger Spin. On a really busy, crowded day at the Magic Kingdom, the PeopleMover is an ideal ride to kick back and enjoy a relaxing 10 minutes. We recommend trying it at night, when you'll get an awesome view of the dazzling light displays of Tomorrowland. No FastPass+ is needed for this ride, and there is no ride requirement.

2. Tomorrowland Speedway

This popular ride is one of the Disney's original attractions. Guests, young and old, become race car drivers in one of these miniature gas-powered Indianapolis 500-style race cars. Just climb in, put the pedal to the metal, and you're on your way. The cars are on a rail, but they do tend to go back and forth a lot, depending on the driver. Each car seats two, usually two children, or one adult and one child. Along this 2000-foot track, there are banks and turns and other motorists, so slow down if you get close to the car in front of you. Safe driving is a must on this ride. There is an observation bridge where spectators can watch the action. FastPass+ is available for this ride. You must be 54" to drive alone and 32" to ride as a passenger.



1. Walking path to Fantasyland – all of the theme parks are replete with small alcoves and nooks for you to explore. One of my favorites is the “secret” path located between the Tomorrowland Speedway and the exit of Space Mountain. The path meanders around and gives you a view of the backside of the Tomorrowland Speedway.

Unfortunately this walkway includes a smoking area, but it would not surprise me to see smoking being completely banned in the parks soon. You will also notice a dog walking area for those guests who have assistance dogs. The path ends in the Storybook Circus area of Fantasyland near the Barnstormer and by the Fantasyland Train Station.

Tomorrowland is often equated with Space Mountain since it is the signature thrill ride there, but there is so much more to see, enjoy, and explore in Tomorrowland.

Written by Cecilia Duvall & Tyler Obenauf



“You’re braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.”

Winnie the Pooh

Originally envisioned to capitalize on the success of early Walt Disney nature documentaries like *The African Lion*, Disneyland’s Adventureland was initially going to feature live animals. When zoologists convinced Walt that live animals would present too many problems to overcome, the land evolved into something a little bit different. Now a fixture of every Disneyland-styled theme park at every Disney Resort around the world, each park’s Adventureland nonetheless has a different interpretation of the original. In the Magic Kingdom at Disney World, there are two “sub-lands” called the Arabian Village and Caribbean Plaza. And while the attractions don’t always hold too steadfastly to those themes, their popularity is a testament to their variety and nostalgic appeal. Here are some of the experiences that you can’t miss in Magic Kingdom’s Adventureland:

12. Meet Princess Jasmine and Aladdin

Who better to host a meet and greet in the Arabian Village of Adventureland than Aladdin and Princess Jasmine? The stars of the 1992 Disney animated film remain a popular draw, though their friends Genie and Abu are more likely to be spotted during special events like [Mickey’s Not So Scary Halloween Party](#) or [Mickey’s Very Merry Christmas Party](#).

11. Magic Carpets of Aladdin

Magic Carpets of Aladdin is a Dumbo-style ride in which flying carpets replace flying elephants. Seating is available in two rows for each magic carpet, which allows for more riders per party than Dumbo allows. Riders in the front seat are able to control the height at which their magic carpet flies by using a joystick. Watch out for the large camel... it spits!

10. Swiss Family Treehouse

This attraction is admittedly not for everyone. It involves being able to climb over 100 steps to tour a recreation of the treehouse built by the Robinson family in the classic 1960 Disney live-action film *Swiss Family Robinson*. You can view their living quarters, the crow’s nest, and the jungle lookout that they built in the tree by salvaging parts of their stranded ship. However, when the children in your party are buzzing on a sugar high from their Dole Whips, there’s no better way to have them burn off a little energy than by sending them on a tour of the Swiss Family Treehouse!

9. A Pirate’s Adventure ~ Treasures of the Seven Seas

Similar to the [Sorcerers of the Magic Kingdom](#) interactive game, Disney introduced *A Pirate’s Adventure ~ Treasures of the Seven Seas* in Adventureland in 2013. Using a map and a magic talisman, the members of your party embark on a quest for treasures while eluding Captain Barbossa! Touching your talisman to the appropriate

symbol at each location activates narration to guide you on your way, as well as 30 seconds of live-action activity. This is a fun activity to do at any time, but particularly when you're waiting for a FastPass time or when lines have gotten a bit long on all the rides.

8. Pirate's Bazaar

Almost as good as stumbling into Barbossa's plundered loot on the Isla de Muerta, Pirate's Bazaar in Adventureland has just about any pirate souvenir you could need – from costumes and eyepatches to pistols and swords. Keep your eyes open for a couple of special items in the shop, including a medallion made from one of the cursed pieces of Aztec gold and the Key to the Dead Man's Chest.

7. Tortuga Tavern

While it is only open seasonally for lunch, Tortuga Tavern is a favorite of guests who enjoy having this Mexican food option available. Much like Pecos Bill's Tall Tale Inn and Café – with which it shares seating – the chicken and beef burritos and rice bowl entrees are served plain and guests are invited to visit the toppings bar to finish off their lunch creations. While not quite as extensive as the Pecos Bill toppings bar, this feature allows guests to create the exact entrée they desire. Tortuga Tavern has a reputation for being somewhat less crowded than Pecos Bill for lunch and for delivering a decent value.



6. Captain Jack Sparrow's Pirate Tutorial

Our favorite pirate of the Caribbean, Captain Jack Sparrow is recruiting young guests to begin training to become pirates themselves. Learn to fight (or flee) like a pirate! Take the oath, and join the crew! A testament to the wonderful face characters that portray Captain Jack, this entertaining, audience-interactive show always draws a fun and festive crowd and occurs several times a day.

5. Pirates League

If your young scalawag wants to take his or her desire to be a pirate to the next level, this separately-ticketed experience is sure to please! For

that matter, **The Pirates League** is available to guests of all ages. Be transformed into a pirate or mermaid (including makeup), learn to speak like a proper sea dog, and seek the hidden treasure with Captain Jack and his crew. Not only does this experience get rave reviews, you'll attract attention with your pirate makeover for the rest of the day. But be sure to book early!

4. Walt Disney's Enchanted Tiki Room

The Enchanted Tiki Room attraction retains the Polynesian vibe that was once featured throughout Adventureland. The attraction has changed over the years from its opening in 1971, but was retooled to the original story and soundtrack and re-opened as Walt Disney's Enchanted Tiki Room in 2011. Said to be one of Walt's favorite attractions, the original version at Disneyland was the first to use Audio-Animatronic figures. Seek out this attraction to really feel Walt's presence in the park.

3. Aloha Isle

Aloha Isle is home to the delicious, classic Disney treat, the Dole Whip. 'Nuff said. (Readers who are unfamiliar with the Dole Whip must put this item at the top of their next Magic Kingdom to-do list!)

2. Jungle Cruise

The attraction that was supposed to feature the live animals that Walt had desired in his original Adventureland instead relies on Audio-Animatronics to bring the jungle to life. And where once the soundtrack was semi-serious, it is now delivered in a campy, fun narration by a Cast member. If sight gags and puns make you groan, this ride might not be your cup of tea. But if you're in the mood to laugh and roll your eyes, Jungle Cruise can't be beat!



1. Pirates of the Caribbean

A ride that inspired a movie which in turn inspired updates to the ride - Pirates of the Caribbean remains a perennial favorite in all of the Disney parks. That being said, it's hard to believe that Magic Kingdom initially opened without this attraction and had no intention of including it. Frequent guest comments of "where are the pirates?" made them reconsider and in 1973 Pirates joined the park's lineup. Updates based on the successful Pirates of the Caribbean film series starring Johnny Depp have served only to increase the ride's popularity in recent years. So step aboard to enjoy the pillaging and plundering, and remember that dead men tell no tales!

From water rides to musical revues, children's rides to delicious treats, Adventureland delivers something for everyone and remains a favorite land of many Disney fanatics. Which Adventureland attraction would be your number one?

Written by Don Poinsette



"Laughter is America's most important export."

Walt Disney

Frontierland and Liberty Square are celebrations of American freedom and the idomitable human spirit. Your family will find many things to explore, discover and experience. Here are 8 'must do' rides and attractions in Frontierland and Liberty Square.

Liberty Square

7. The Haunted Mansion

Where can you encounter 999 "grim grinning ghosts"? The answer is the Haunted Mansion in Liberty Square. This is where these happy haunts reside, and by the appearance of this massive dreary looking mansion, they have haunted here for quite some time, just waiting for some unsuspecting visitors to join them for a ghoulish good time.

On your way to the front door, you can enjoy an interactive area where you can see, hear, and touch gravestones and push musical notes on a haunted crypt. This helps pass the time while the line moves along, sometimes slowly on a really crowded day. When you arrive at the entrance, a "ghost host" invites you into the parlor where your ghostly tour begins. After a brief look at some "stretching" portraits, you are directed into a dark passageway where you board a "doom buggy" (which can fit two adults) for your excursion into the depths of this "haunted mansion".

This ride is a spirit and scream-filled, musical journey through the halls, dining room, attic, and cemetery of the 999 ghostly apparitions who are happy to make your acquaintance. If you decide to remain here, you'll be the 1000th resident. But alas, if you decide to depart these haunted halls, watch out for three particularly pesky ghosts who will try their best to hitch a ride with you. FastPass+ is available for this ride. There is no height requirement but young guests may find this ride a bit too intense.



6. The Hall of Presidents

This is an indoor theater presentation. As you enter the lobby of this beautiful theater, you are surrounded by presidential portraits, real articles owned by previous Presidents, a display of First Lady dresses, and other presidential memorabilia.

Once you are seated in the elegant hall, the lights go dim, followed by a film depicting the struggles our country faced in the midst of the Civil War, eloquently narrated by Morgan Freeman. After the film, an audioanimatronic Abraham Lincoln rises from his chair and delivers his famous “Gettysburg Address”, then another film continues with highlights of America’s struggles and triumphs after the Civil War until the present. Through the ingenuity of the Disney imagineers and advancements in even more sophisticated audioanimatronics, all 44 of America’s Presidents appear on stage at the same time, either sitting or standing, moving back and forth, motioning with their arms, turning their heads, moving their lips, etc. President George Washington speaks to the audience, followed by a speech by Barack Obama. This attraction is truly a celebration of the American dream! Fast Pass is not available for this attraction.

5. Liberty Square Riverboat

The Liberty Square Riverboat, the Liberty Belle, is an authentic replica of an old steam-powered paddle wheel riverboat. Step on board for a leisurely trip on the Rivers of America while circling Tom Sawyer’s Island. There are three decks on the Liberty Belle with a few seats, but most areas are standing room only. The round trip takes less than 20 minutes, and you get an awesome, unobstructed view of Frontierland, Liberty Square, and Adventureland. Fast Pass is not available for this attraction.

Frontierland

4. Big Thunder Mountain Railroad

“Hang onto your hats, cause this here’s the wildest ride in the wilderness!”, and with those words, you take off in an old-fashioned railroad around a Southwestern landscape complete with caves, waterfalls, spiral shaped buttes, big horned sheep, sulphur pools, and even dinosaur bones. It’s a roller coaster ride with dips through caverns, sharp turns around mountains, an avalanche, a flood, and many other startling surprises. Even the queue area is filled with items reminiscent of the “Old West”, and the Big Thunder Mining Company. There are cranks to turn and plungers that detonate blasting caps, creating explosions you can watch as you look out onto the mountain.

This is definitely a thrill ride, and as you round those turns, you will get pulled from one side to the next, and the dips will absolutely put some air between you and your seat, so hold on tight! Fast Pass is available for this ride. There is a height requirement of 40”.



3. Splash Mountain

This delightful log ride based on Disney’s classic film, “Song of the South”, will take you on a whimsical journey to the Briar Patch, and through the magic of Disney audioanimatronics, bring to life the laughable characters of Brer Fox, Brer Bear, and Brer Rabbit along with all their comical antics. On your way to the briar patch you will meet many other “critters” in the “Laughing Place” who entertain the riders with their twirling, jumping, splashing and singing and croaking. The action here is jovial, fun, and makes everyone feel like laughing. Most of this ride is fairly tame with three short drops at the beginning, but just when you think the trip is over, your log travels up a steep incline, and when you reach the top, you rapidly plunge 52 feet through the briar patch and usually get a “little” wet

from the large splash at the end, hence the name, Splash Mountain. This is a ride filled with laughter, musical numbers (“Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah”, “How Do You Do”, “Everybody Has A Laughing Place”), and a thrilling drop at the end. Fast Pass is available for this ride. There is a height requirement of 40”.

2. Tom Sawyer’s Island

Tom Sawyer’s Island is a giant playground for children and adults. Accessible only by motorized rafts, this walk

through attraction is a place where everyone can be a child again, and relive the days of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn. You can climb rocks, explore caves with secret passageways, or follow a winding path through an old mine. There are two old fashioned bridges to cross, one made of barrels and one made of rope. It is a real challenge to make it across to the other side. When you're through exploring, just catch a ride on the next available raft headed back to Frontierland.

1. Country Bear Jamboree

Grizzly Hall in Frontierland is the home of one of the most famous stage productions in the history of Walt Disney World, where this extraordinary show made its debut on opening day in October, 1971. This old fashioned jamboree features 20 audio animatronic bears, of all shapes, sizes, and talent. The Master of Ceremonies is a 7 foot tall bear named Henry, who introduces some "beary" talented entertainers, such as Teddi Berra, a trio of delightful darlings, Bubbles, Bunny and Beulah, Liverlips McGrowl, the Five Bear Rugs band, and of course Big Al. This old-fashioned hoedown will make you want to "clap your hands, and stomp your feet, and try to keep right with em', cause one sure thing the bear band's got is good old fashioned rhythm!" It would be simply "unbearable" if you missed out on the Country Bear Jamboree!

Written by Cecilia Duvall





"If you dream a thing more than once, it's sure to come true."

Princess Aurora

The Magic Kingdom has more meet and greet opportunities than any of the other parks. There are also plenty of characters here that can't be found in other park locations. You may not agree, but I consider "circus performer/poodle trainer Minnie Mouse" different than the typical Minnie you see elsewhere. In no particular order, here are the characters that you can meet exclusively at the Magic Kingdom. (Remember, "exclusively" means that the characters only have one scheduled park meet and greet location; some may also be found at character meals in other parks, but that is not considered a scheduled "meet and greet").

1 & 2. Anna and Elsa

The lovely Frozen ladies are not hard to find, per se, especially now that they have their own greeting location in Princess Fairytale Hall. Actually meeting them, however, has become an almost exclusive experience. If you want to meet the princesses, you really should reserve your FastPass+ the full 60 days in advance of your trip. In fact, you're going to want to sit by your computer, waiting for the clock to strike midnight on your 60-day mark if you want to nab this most coveted FastPass+. The standby line even disappeared for a brief test period, but seems to have become available again. If you plan to use the standby line, you'll want to beeline there right at rope drop, or anticipate a very long (hours) wait.

3. Fairy Godmother

Fairy Godmother can be found behind Cinderella's Castle. This is your only opportunity to see her, so line up with your autograph book and camera. Maybe you'll even have a wish granted!

4, 5, & 6. The Tremaine Family

Also known as Cinderella's wicked step-mother and step-sisters, you'll find the Tremaine ladies greeting guests near the entrance to New Fantasyland (around the new, gray wall). I've even seen them take a ride on the carousel in the morning! Meeting the Tremaine's isn't just for young ladies - if you have a young prince with you, you may be very amused by the way that the Tremaine's interact with him. Just be careful - if you don't want Lady Tremaine as a mother-in-law, don't take her up on her offer for your son to marry her daughter!



7. Rapunzel

Fancy some time with Rapunzel? You can find her at Princess Fairytale Hall, in the same room with Cinderella. You can reserve a FastPass+ to meet this lovely lady.

8. Cinderella

Cindy's only regular park meet and greet is at Princess Fairytale Hall, alongside Rapunzel. While they meet in the same room, they'll pose with you for separate pictures. FastPass+ is available.

9 & 10. Princess Tiana & Prince Naveen

The lovely Tiana can be found greeting guests during the morning and evening hours in Liberty Square behind Ye Olde Christmas Shoppe. If you wait to see her in the evening, you'll also see Prince Naveen! This is one of the few instances where a prince and princess couple meets regularly in the parks.



11. Gaston

This burly fellow is hard to miss, since he's roughly the size of a barge. You'll find him outside the Gaston's Tavern in New Fantasyland at certain times during the day. Don't forget to swoon and complement his physique!

12. Tinkerbell

Tinkerbell has moved out of her Pixie Hollow location in Adventureland, and can now be seen at Town Square Theater. In times past, Tink would greet guests alongside some of her other friends from Pixie Hollow so maybe you'll have a chance to see them. Tinkerbell is very popular, so consider using FastPass+ to see her.

13. Jessie

You'll find Buzz and Woody in a few parks, but Jessie is a special find at the Magic Kingdom. Watch for her, along with Woody, near Splash Mountain and Big Thunder Mountain Railroad area.

14. White Rabbit

You may have seen Alice elsewhere, but the White Rabbit is generally only found near the Mad Tea Party ride in the Magic Kingdom. Sometimes he greets guests with Alice, and sometimes he is alone.

15. Merida

Your only chance to meet Merida, the heroine from Brave, is in Fairytale Garden, a small area between Cinderella's Castle and Tomorrowland. The wait isn't usually very long and Merida is quite vivacious. Make a point to see her and you're in for a real treat!

16. Peter Pan

You'll find Peter Pan discussing his adventures with guests at the entrance bridge to Adventureland. Peter may meet with or without Wendy (currently, she isn't listed on Disney's official website as being part of the meet and greet).

17 & 18. Daisy Fortuna (Daisy Duck) and Minnie Mouse

Daisy Duck looks especially cute dressed in circus performer garb, and can be found at Pete's Silly Sideshow (near Dumbo). You'll also meet Minnie here, dressed as a wild animal (err... poodle) trainer.

19 & 20. Astounding Donaldo (Donald Duck) and Goofy

In the other section of Pete's Silly Sideshow, you'll find Donald and Goofy. Goofy will be decked out in his Barnstormer costume, and Donald as "Astounding Donaldo."

21. Ariel

Ariel has her very own grotto, next to the Under the Sea ride. Her meet and greet is very popular and a cool respite from the Florida sun, so you might want to consider using a FastPass+.

22. Stitch

Stitch is becoming a bit harder to find, now that he no longer greets guests at Hollywood Studios. Now, you'll find him exclusively in the Magic Kingdom, in Tomorrowland. You also have an opportunity to meet him if you dine at Ohana at the Polynesian.

23. Marie

Marie, the sophisticated Aristocat, can be found strutting her stuff near the flag pole in Town Square.

24. TALKING Mickey Mouse

You can meet Mickey at every park, but he only talks in the Magic Kingdom. Don't miss him at Town Square Theater. FastPass+ is available and recommended.

Written by Meredith Smisek



"Today's special moments are tomorrow's memories."

- Genie, The Return of Jafar

The FastPass+ service at Disney World is truly a great thing. Some rides you absolutely have to have a FastPass+, if you don't want to wait in line for hours. But some rides have particularly short wait times and don't warrant a FastPass+. We have put together a list of 8 rides and attractions you shouldn't need a FastPass+ for.

8. Pirates of the Caribbean

This is a tricky one. I definitely wouldn't say this should be the number one choice on your FastPass+ list, but it wouldn't be a huge waste either. I've seen the wait as low as 10 minutes. But if you do have to wait, it's a pretty fun queue to walk through.

7. Haunted Mansion

This is another hit or miss, depending on what the crowds are like. Again, I've seen the wait down to 10 minutes, but I've also seen it up to almost an hour. With the new queue in place, it makes the wait a little more bearable.

6. The Barnstormer

Once again, the wait for this ride usually doesn't get terribly long. It wouldn't be the worst FastPass+ to make, but you could use your FastPass+ for something with a longer wait.

5. Monsters, Inc. Laugh Floor

This is a fun show to see, especially for the little ones. Luckily the wait times are usually low, so I wouldn't bother using a FastPass+ for this one.

4. Mad Tea Party

The lines move pretty fast for the teacups so a FastPass+ isn't always necessary.

3. Tomorrowland Speedway

The only bad thing about waiting for this ride is that it's all outside. If you are visiting during a hot time of the year, the wait can be terrible for that reason. Other than that, wait times are pretty manageable.

2. It's A Small World

It's a classic, yes, but for some reason the



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wait never gets too long. Sometimes, on busy days, it can get up to a half hour wait. If this is a must do for you and you're visiting during a busy time, then a FastPass+ wouldn't be a bad idea otherwise save it for a ride that's in greater demand.

1. Mickey's Philharmagic

I highly recommend skipping a FastPass+ for this one. I don't think I've ever seen the wait at more than five to ten minutes. Ever. It's a great show though, definitely worth seeing!



Hopefully this list will help you plan for your big day at Magic Kingdom. Definitely take full advantage of the FastPass system, you won't regret it! It will save you loads of time and stress. And we could always use more time and less stress! Especially on a Disney vacation.

Written by Meghann McFadden



“All it takes is faith and trust and pixie dust.”

- Peter Pan

The Magic Kingdom is the busiest park at the Walt Disney World Resort, which leaves plenty of room for error if you don't realize what you're in for. This list includes my top 10 rookie mistakes, read on to make sure you don't make any of them:

10. Arriving Late

Arriving to the Magic Kingdom in the middle of the day means that you'll just be entering the park at its' most crowded time. If you're staying until the park closes, this might not seem like a big deal, but you'll have missed one of the least crowded times of the day—rope drop. If you go to the park right when it opens, none of the attractions will have had time to develop long lines.

9. Leaving Early

Leaving the Magic Kingdom early is a mistake because the crowds tend to thin out as the night goes on. Many guests leave after Wishes, meaning that the park will become much less crowded and the lines will thin out for the guests who do choose to stay.

8. Using FastPasses+ For Attractions That Don't Need It

Unlike some of the other parks that have different tiers for FastPass+ selections, you are able to book three Fast-passes for whatever you want in the Magic Kingdom. This means that you should use your three selections for things that “need” a FastPass+ more than everything else. I'd recommend not using FastPass+ on things like Mickey's Philharmagic, or the parades and fireworks.

7. Not Following The Times Guide

Sometimes guests become disappointed that they missed a certain show or character greeting because they were too late. Rather than complaining, and bringing down the good mood you've had all day, refer to the Times Guide and the My Disney Experience App, so you'll be sure not to miss the entertainment you care about most.

6. Not knowing When Refurbishments Are Scheduled

You can easily find out when refurbishments are taking place by looking on the



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Walt Disney World website. Refurbishments are necessary to keep attractions in the best shape possible, however if you don't know when they are scheduled to take place, they can be disappointing to find out about while on vacation.

5. Not Expecting Crowds

You'll have a much better time in the Magic Kingdom if you understand from the start that the park will be crowded. You will have to maneuver your way through and around crowds, and it is inevitable that you'll have to wait an extended period of time for at least some attractions. This also means that you'll probably have to camp out a little bit and get your spot for the parades early. The sooner you come to terms with this, the more enjoyable your time in the park will be, as you won't be complaining about the crowds the whole time, they'll simply just be an expected part of your trip.

4. Leaving Right After Wishes

As you've probably noticed, leaving the park right after Wishes, means you're likely to get stuck in the cattle herd of thousands of other guests all trying to leave at the same time. Instead of getting stuck in the herd, which also means more crowded monorails, buses, and boats, let the rest of the crowd clear out first, and then go for the exit. Even if you're not interested in going to any more attractions, find a bench to relax on for a few minutes, or leisurely browse the shops on Main Street on the way out to pass the time.

3. Not Being Prepared For Rain

Being located in central Florida, it's not surprising that it can rain at any time. And by rain, I mean the skies can open up and torrential down pour at any time. Generally when this happens, the park empties. Many guests give up and head home for the night once the rain hits. This means, that if you come prepared for the rain, with proper footwear, a poncho and/or umbrella, waiting out the rain will be to your advantage. You'll experience an emptier park and shorter wait times if you stick around after the storm.

2. Not Taking In The Details

Like all of the theme parks, Magic Kingdom has so much to offer in the form of details that make Disney unique compared to other destinations. Even though you'll want to rush from attraction to attraction, take the time so slow down and take in all of the beauty and magic that make the park special.

1. Not Having A Plan

The Magic Kingdom is the busiest of the four Walt Disney World theme parks, so having some sort of plan for how you'd like to spend your day is even more important here compared to the other parks. With so many guests visiting this park at any given time, you'll want to have an idea of what you'll be doing throughout the day. Even if this means very basic things like, "we're going to start in Tomorrowland and end in Adventureland," setting an itinerary will be helpful. Part of having a plan ahead of time will also mean that you've done some research and will know the basics of what the park has to offer—this means that while you're actually in the park, you'll be able to spend more time enjoying the attractions and less time trying to figure out what attractions you actually want to experience.

Written by Brittany DiCologero





*"If you can dream it
you can do it."*

- Walt Disney

Rankings were just released for the most popular theme parks in the world and Magic Kingdom is ranked number one for yet another year. What this means for the average park guest is that there are crowds, lines, and congestion. However, there are many ways to get more out of your visit to the world's most popular theme park and the following are our top 10!

10. Rope Drop

Park hours can be used to your advantage. Face it, most people on vacation don't want to get up at daybreak to go to a theme park and walk around all day long. This means that crowd levels during the morning hours are significantly less than they are in the middle of the afternoon. You can easily tackle the more popular attractions with minimal wait times and not have to worry about using any of your precious FastPasses.

9. Go Clockwise

I don't know if this is caused by most people being right-handed or if most Disney fanatics have an affinity towards Space Mountain, the Tomorrowland Transit Authority, and the attractions of Fantasyland, but it takes awhile for Adventureland and Frontierland to start filling up with guests. If you hit these areas first thing, you can easily enjoy some classic attractions (and of course grab a Dole Whip and a Citrus Swirl)!

8. Use FastPasses and Schedule Them Correctly

If you arrive at rope drop, there is no reason to schedule FastPasses for the first few hours. Wait times will not justify you wasting them. Save the FastPasses for later in the morning or right after lunch. You will still be able to grab a few extra FastPasses from a kiosk after you use your initial three.

7. Get Advanced Dining Reservations

The Magic Kingdom has a wonderful assortment of restaurants, but since there are so many people who visit, it is difficult to walk up to a table service restaurant without a reservation. Don't overlook less popular restaurants like Liberty Tree Tavern has a great all-you-care-to-enjoy selection and the Plaza Restaurant is my favorite place to get a burger in the Magic Kingdom (and you can order ice cream from the parlor next door)! If you don't make advanced dining reservations, you can still grab a meal at one of Magic Kingdom's counter service restaurants.

6. Leave Shopping Until the End

Main Street U.S.A. features specialty shops selling everything from t-shirts, plush toys, magnets, mugs, games, and keychains to name a few. These stores stay open even after park closing during Extra Magic Hours. Save your shopping until after Wishes and the fireworks, then you won't be missing prime park time and have to carry your purchases around all day long!

5. Take in the Nighttime Shows

The Magic Kingdom has two very fun and inventive nighttime shows that are a 'must see!' The first is Celebrate the Magic. This show uses Cinderella's Castle as a backdrop for projections of classic Disney movies and characters accompanied by a stunning soundtrack. Make sure you have a straight-on view for the best vantage point of the show. The second is Wishes. This fireworks display captures the essence of the Magic Kingdom and the classic elements of Disney movies.

4. Try Something New

The theme parks are constantly evolving and adding new elements for guests to enjoy. It is easy to overlook them when you are trying to make your way to your favorite attraction or restaurant. Stop by the Fire Station to get involved with Sorcerer's of the Magic Kingdom or join in the Move It! Shake It! parade. You may discover a new favorite!

3. Dine With Disney Characters

If you're spending all day in Magic Kingdom, chances are you'll need a little break at some point in the day. Schedule a character dining experience inside the park so you can recharge AND enjoy face-time with Disney characters at the same time!

2. Use Extra Magic Hours at Night

There is something truly special about the Magic Kingdom at night. If you are staying on site, be sure to go to the Magic Kingdom at least one night during Extra Magic Hours. The smaller crowds allow you to appreciate the majesty of the park even more. You appreciate the smells, the sights, and the feel even more during this time of day.

1. Transportation

Steer clear of taking the bus from your resort to Magic Kingdom. If you take the bus, you'll miss the magical experience of Magic Kingdom appearing in front of you. My

favorite way to get to the park is by boat. You can see the rooftops of Main Street U.S.A. and the spires of Space Mountain coming into view and can take time to appreciate the whistles of the Walt Disney World Railroad. All of these lead to the culmination of seeing Cinderella's Castle after you walk under the train station into the park.

The Magic Kingdom has much to see and enjoy. Planning is essential to your experiencing what you want while you are there. Follow these tips and you'll be able to tackle the Magic Kingdom!

Written by Tyler Obenauf





*“If you are what you eat,
then I only want to eat
the good stuff!”*

- Remy, Ratatouille

Throughout the years, the food offered at Magic Kingdom has come a long way. Burgers and fries and hotdogs are still readily available around every corner, but if your palate is longing for something other than your typical park fare, you will now find plenty of unique, intriguing, and delicious eats gracing these once predictable menus. The menu items weren't the only things getting a facelift over the years—we have watched Disney create sensational, immersive dining experiences which have only grown more exciting as the years go by, often eliciting more enthusiasm than the rides and attractions themselves. Between the many counter service and table service restaurants, you may have a hard time deciding what direction to set your compass to when your stomach starts growling at Magic Kingdom. We here at Disney Fanatic have created a guide of the top 20 dining options—both table and counter service—at Magic Kingdom, because we want your appetites to be satisfied in the most magical way!

20. Main Street Bakery

Though this IS indeed a Starbucks now, it is still called the Main Street Bakery, at least according to the outside signage. If you aren't a fan of this controversial move by Disney, you may want to skip to the next number in our countdown, but if you CAN get past the fact that Starbucks has taken over this stop on Main Street and caused the Bakery's beloved cinnamon roll to disappear as if it wasn't loved and craved by millions, then read on. Many people love Starbucks, not just for their long list of addicting and tasty beverages, but also for their snacks, desserts and, yes, artisan breakfast sandwiches. These sandwiches are available until they are out of stock which means that if you're lucky you might have a chance of snagging a sausage, egg and cheese sandwich for lunch (which seems to be on trend at the moment). Though this option might not be considered a complete meal by many people, these sandwiches are hearty, filling, and quite tasty, and coupled with a Grande Toasted Graham Latte (yes, I'm a sucker for their seasonal drinks) it will undoubtedly tide you over until your next meal.

19. Liberty Square Market

I'm not a big “luncher,” which only means that even though I'm a foodie to the core, I don't like putting away large portions of food for lunch because being stuffed in the middle of the day only makes me tired. This makes grabbing a quick bite at the Liberty Square Market, tucked between the Hall of Presidents and Haunted Mansion attraction, perfect for folks like me who want a time-saving, less-stuffed-feeling meal option. Don't get me wrong, they don't serve rabbit food here and you CAN leave feeling completely full and satisfied. Offering unique choices like roasted corn on the cob with flavored seasonings (choose from Barbecue Spice, Italian Seasoning Blend, Lemon Pepper Blend, Smoked Paprika and Salt Blend, or Jamaican Jerk Spice), baked potatoes, hot dogs, and seasonal fresh fruits, this is a perfect stop for a quick and tasty meal on the go.

18. Lunching Pad

Located smack dab in the middle of Tomorrowland, the Lunching Pad is famous for their classic Coney Island Hot Dog and frozen carbonated beverages. Apple slices or chips come with the hot dog and if you opt to finish out your

meal with the sweet cream cheese pretzel for dessert, you will probably be in need of a couple belt-buckle-loosening, relaxing trips around the People Mover (located just above this food stop) before getting on with your day. The food here is simple, yet scrumptious.

17. The Plaza Restaurant

As one of the original restaurants in the Magic Kingdom, eating at this quaint, old-fashioned and cozy table-service restaurant tucked away just off the end of Main Street has become a tradition to many who enjoy their comfort food offerings and Art Nouveau-esque atmosphere. Their menu features delicious home-style meatloaf, Reuben sandwiches, Chicken-Strawberry Salads, and a Beef Brisket Onion Burger, among many other wonderful options. Often overlooked, this restaurant is considered a hidden gem by many guests.

16. Cosmic Ray's Starlight Café

Why do we adore this busy quick service restaurant? Two words—Sonny Eclipse. If you have little squirmers in your party (i.e. quick-eating toddlers), this is the perfect dining option to keep them entertained while you enjoy (not JUST eat) your food. Sonny is an audio-animatronic character (alien?) who fits right into the Tomorrowland theme and shares plenty of cheesy jokes and songs to keep patrons smiling throughout their meal. The house specialties include rotisserie chicken and ribs, burgers (and vegetarian burgers), hot dogs, Greek salad, chicken, turkey, and vegetable sandwiches, chicken nuggets and several other tasty selections. A generous toppings bar also graces this popular dining spot.



15. Tomorrowland Terrace Restaurant

Though my childhood memories of this restaurant include scarfing down an impossibly thick, doughy pizza square which I still to this day crave, the menu offerings at this quick service, SEASONAL, Tomorrowland eatery no longer include this American favorite. Instead, you'll find salads, hot dogs, burgers, chicken nuggets, and our favorite—the lobster roll. We love this dining option for the food, but the view is what gets us truly excited about dining here. At night, this location becomes a specialty ticketed fireworks viewing spot because of its stellar view of Cinderella Castle.

14. The Diamond Horseshoe

This Frontierland quick-service lunch spot is also seasonal to busy park days and though it offers only three options for lunch—a Barbeque Chicken Sandwich, a Turkey Sandwich, and Chef Salad—this charming saloon-like restaurant is a winner if you get the pleasure of being at the park when it's actually open. Our tip: If you order the salad, get the dressing on the side, but we recommend the Barbeque Chicken Sandwich—the clear favorite on the menu. Also make sure you order the Root Beer Slush to accompany your meal—the brain freeze is well worth it.

13. Friar's Nook

Mac n' Cheese is the name of the game at this quick-service Fantasyland dining spot, offering unique varieties of the classic comfort food. You can order Pot Roast Mac n' Cheese, Barbeque Chicken Mac n' Cheese, or the basic Mac n' Cheese, topped with toasted panko bread crumbs. Not only is the food here delicious and filling, but probably the

BEST thing to eat on the go. You will also find hot dogs, veggies and hummus and a couple of yummy desserts on the menu.

12. Tony's Town Square

I won't sugar-coat it—this place is typically a hit or miss for us. Though it's not a home-run every time, we have had plenty of wonderful dining experiences here in this Town Square table-service restaurant themed after the restaurant featured in the Disney classic *Lady and the Tramp*. And of course, because of the movie, you'll find that the Spaghetti and Meatball meal is one of the most popular, but their flatbreads and pizzas are definitely worth a try. All in all, if you've had one bad experience here, don't let that turn you off of this charming restaurant for good.

11. Tortuga Tavern

Because our seasonal pass doesn't let us see the light of a Magic Kingdom summer day, we rarely get to eat at this seasonal quick service dining spot located just across the Pirates of the Caribbean attraction in Adventureland. But Tortuga Tavern doesn't just open its doors during the summer, so we have had the occasional opportunity to scarf down some good grub at this must-eat dining location. Once offering Mexican food, this eatery now features three different barbeque sandwiches—Pork, Beef Brisket, and Chicken. You will also find a Roasted Corn and Vegetable Salad, which can also be topped with a barbequed meat offering of your choice sans sandwich bread.

10. Pinocchio's Village Haus (pictured right)

This quaint quick-service cottage restaurant with an overlook into the *It's a Small World* attraction offers yummy Italian menu items, and has, in our opinion, redeemed itself from the once bland offerings of an old forgettable menu. You can now feast on flat-bread pizzas, meatball subs, macaroni and cheese, Mediterranean salad, and Italian soups and sandwiches. Truly, they offer a little bit of something for everyone here! On busy days, you might even spot a Cast Member making her way through the restaurant, charming patrons with a Pinocchio-like marionette. Tip: The upstairs dining is limited, but is our favorite place to eat, especially if you can snag an outdoor table overlooking Prince Charming Regal Carousel.



9. Pecos Bill Tall Tale Inn and Café

So long, burgers and chicken nuggets and chili! Pecos Bill's is the most recent restaurant to undergo a complete menu overhaul and we couldn't be happier! This quick-service eatery located next door to the Country Bear Jamboree now features Mexican fare (which is presumably why Tortuga Tavern revamped their menu as well), offering items like Fajita Platters, Burritos, and Rice Bowls. The famous Fixins Bar which used to feature burger toppings now offers an assortment of sauces and salsas, as well as peppers, onions, and cheese. It's a welcome change in our opinion, as their previous menu was growing rather stale and offered arguably sub-par meals. Our tip: Grab lunch here just before the afternoon parade, and then head outside for one of our favorite viewing locations alongside the streets of Frontierland!

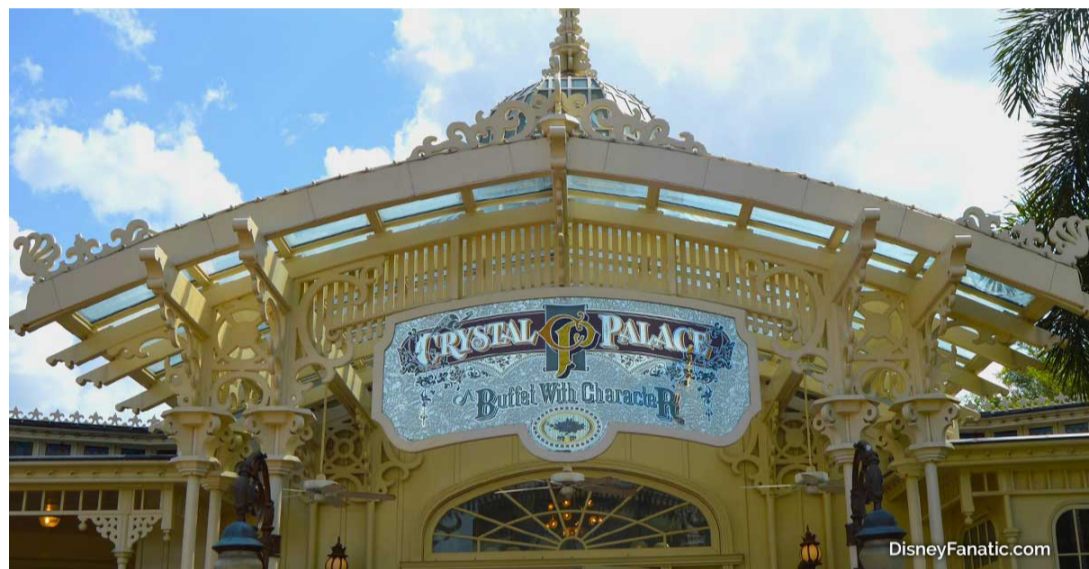
8. Gaston's Tavern

It isn't hard to decide on a meal here as they only offer one—you heard me right—ONE meal option: the roasted pork shank. Along with the pork shank, you'll find snacks and treats like hummus and chips, fruit, and the famous tavern

cinnamon roll. The spotlight shines brightly, however, on the pork shank, earning a reputation for being juicier and just plain tastier than the iconic turkey leg. The Roasted Pork Shank receives rave reviews and is definitely worth a try alongside the much-loved Lefrou's Brew. Seating is somewhat limited in this small, dark pub-like quick service stop located inside New Fantasyland, but if you are fortunate enough to snag a seat, you will most certainly feel like you are dining in the same tavern straight out of the movie *Beauty and the Beast*. And if you're lucky, Gaston himself might burst through the doors and grace you with his boisterous, egocentric, self-loving presence.

7. Crystal Palace

A buffet that comes with a character dining experience? Where do we sign up?! Well, you will need to make sure you DO sign up (i.e. make reservations) well in advance of your trip to secure a table at this very popular restaurant located just beyond Main Street, USA as you head toward Adventureland. Winnie the Pooh and his forest friends are found frolicking amongst the patrons here, dancing and snapping pics with guests in the middle of their meal experience. This location is open for breakfast, lunch AND dinner and features the characters all day long! Our tip: Book a breakfast reservation just before the park opens, allowing you entrance through the gates and giving you a unique opportunity to experience Magic Kingdom in its empty and quiet state as you head to the restaurant.



6. Cinderella's Royal Table

If you've ever wanted to dine with princesses in a luxuriously royal setting, here is your chance! We love the fact that you can dine here for breakfast, lunch, or dinner and that regardless of the time of day you will be visited by Cinderella and her regal friends while you eat. This signature dining experience will most certainly leave a lasting magical memory, not only because of the phenomenal entrees, but also because of the experience as a whole. You are dining in Cinderella's Castle, for goodness sake; does it get any more magical than that? This setting is perfect whether you are taking a family vacation with children or even as a romantic dining option. This is a must-do dining experience for everyone!

5. Sleepy Hollow Refreshments

There isn't much to this small outdoor quick service dining spot located just as you enter Liberty Square, but boy are the menu items worthy of attention and praise! Overlooking Cinderella Castle while you dine, you have the option of choosing between a sweet or savory waffle sandwich, and they are earth-shatteringly delicious (can you tell we LOVE them?!). The sweet and sour chicken sandwich is a winner in our book for a very, very filling lunch and if you have room for dessert, the Nutella and Fruit Waffle Sandwich is worth writing home about. You can also find funnel cakes here as well as my personal favorite, the homemade ice cream cookie sandwich.

4. Columbia Harbour House

We love the atmosphere almost as much as we love the seafaring food found at this quick service eatery located in Liberty Square. The dimly lit and cozy nautical two-story restaurant offers items like tuna sandwiches, hummus veggie sandwiches, lobster rolls, and fried shrimp platters. Our favorite thing about this place is the often missed second story dining section which is rarely crowded, overlooks the streets of Liberty Square, and is a great place to stretch your legs and enjoy a quiet, relaxed, non-rushed meal. We've never experienced a meal we haven't loved here, but if you wanted our top pick, it would hands down be the lobster roll. Tip: Even though the lobster roll is only featured on the lunch menu, you can request it during the dinner hours as well!



3. Casey's Corner

If you want a meal that hits it out of the ballpark, check out Casey's Corner, a quick service eatery located just at the end of Main Street, featuring hot dogs, fries, corn dog nuggets and, of course, Cracker Jacks! The ragtime pianist tickling the ivories outside this popular dining spot is not to be missed and if you get an opportunity to catch the daily opening ceremony where they choose a child to "throw the first pitch," you will adore this place even more! Following a rendition of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" the guests waiting to enter are all given a box

of Cracker Jacks on the house! Guests can choose between three types of hot dogs here: Barbeque Slaw Hot Dog, Polish Hot Dog, and Chili-Cheese Hot Dog.

2. Liberty Tree Tavern

Stepping foot into this table-service restaurant located in Liberty Square will instantly transport you to 18th century colonial America and the fine fare found here has all the old-fashioned fixings you would expect. Pot roasts, pastas, salads and burger entrées grace the lunch menu, while a Thanksgiving style family feast awaits you during the dinner hours. The dinner feast is all-you-can-eat and will happily fill your belly with roasted turkey breast, carved beef, and sliced pork with mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetables, stuffing, and macaroni & cheese. Whether you visit during lunch or dinner, make certain you leave room for the Ooey Goey Toffee Cake, one of the most delicious, most popular desserts at Walt Disney World.

1. Be Our Guest Restaurant

Currently the most sought after place to dine at Disney World, Be Our Guest Restaurant has all the whimsy and wonder of the Disney classic it was inspired by—Beauty and the Beast. The Imagineers left no stone unturned at this new(ish) restaurant located in New Fantasyland. As you dine inside one of three elaborately themed rooms in the Beast's castle, you will be treated to delicious French-inspired foods and mouthwatering desserts. Be Our Guest Restaurant offers a casual breakfast and lunch quick service food setting, while the dinner hour features table-service fine dining. The consistently delicious entrees found here coupled with the jaw-dropping ambiance make this restaurant our number one choice for dining at Magic Kingdom!

Written by Kelly Bruzzi