

Enjoying the Holidays at Disney

My name is Nancy and I have been a member of DZ for over a year. Last year our family went on a vacation to the most magical place on earth for Christmas. Our family and friends thought we were crazy but we really had a wonderful time. I learned many things on the internet that really helped us make the most out of ourvacation.

Going during Christmastime may not seem like the ideal time to go. The parks are packed, the weather is cool, parks close early and you cant be with all your family for the holidays. Well, those things may seem like negatives but they dont necessarily have to be.

My children are 11 and 16. They understood that we could celebrate with family on a different day, when we returned from our vacation. To them it was an added bonus - two Christmases!

There were pretty thick crowds most days, at the parks. We didnt mind, we went expecting just that. We had been there before so we werent too upset that we couldnt ride every ride, watch every show, or eat at some of the most popular

spots. It was fine. We went with a different frame of mind. We did not do park hopping each day. We chose a park for each day and the we made sure we each of us got to pick one ride/attraction each day that was a must do. Other than that, we did a lot of people watching. We took our time at meals, we watched the parades, we took things at a very slow pace.

One strategy we did have was to get to the parks about 20 minutes before they were due to open. That ensured us of getting at least 2 rides done before the crowds got real thick. We also stayed until closing at both MGM and Magic Kingdom. Hopping onto rides as the park closed.

Another negative thing that really wasnt a negative, was getting to bed at a decent time each night. We left the parks when they closed and would have a nice dinner. We went to Downtown Disney one night, to the Arabian Nights Dinner show another, to Medieval Times another, to Disney Quest another. These are all things that normally we would

not take the time away from the parks to try.

The decorations during the holidays are incredible. We got to see several hotels all decorated and loved it. There is so much detail to it all.

Some preplanning helped with making our room more festive, too. We brought a tiny fake tree with us, the kids put it together and decorated it with our Disney ornaments that we brought with us. We baked Christmas cookies and put them into ziplock bags. We left some out for the maid, we brought them with us to the jacuzzi one night and shared with our new friends.

Unknown to the kids I used UPS to send down quite a few packages for the kids. I only shipped down 'small gifts', left the larger ones at home for later. The kids were shocked! They were not expecting gifts until we got home.

There are so many wonderful reasons to go during the holidays, I hope you try it sometime!

Visit the Message Boards!

The boards are one of the most popular places on DZ. You can post questions/answers and advice. Or just hang around and make some new Friends!

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Early Entry

Don't forget to take advantage of Early Entry privileges for Disney resort guests!

It's a great way to get in some park time prior to scheduled park opening times. You can get quite a bit done in that time!

The schedule is as follows:

Sunday - Magic Kingdom

Monday - Animal Kingdom

Tuesday - MGM

Wednesday - Epcot

Thursday - Magic Kingdom

Friday - Animal Kingdom

Saturday - MGM

Pass the Good News Around to all your Disney friends!

Mission Space is Great

I just returned from the world and wanted to let everyone know that I loved Mission Space at Epcot.

It is a wonderfully themed ride with great effects. Disney at its greatest. Its dark, and very realistic. Note: wife did experience some slight motion sickness.

You are in a space ship with 3 other people. Its a snug fit, but not uncomfortable. You each get a job to do during the ride. There are buttons and a joystick to use.

The take off is the absolute best part. I dont know how many Gs you get, but its intense! During the ride you feel almost weightless, but not quite. Its quite an interesting feeling. They say you are spinning, but it doesnt really feel like dizzy type of spinning, in fact I didnt even feel it.

There are some little activities at the end of the ride, mostly for kids. I didnt spend time looking at them. Looked popular, though. Definitely try this ride!

- Mike & Reyna from Texas

Restaurant Review

Boma's at the Animal Kingdom Lodge by Samantha

We didnt stay at the Animal Kingdom Lodge but really wanted to see it so we chose a restaurant there for dinner. We chose Boma knowing nothing about it. We had no idea what to expect, all we knew was that it was a buffet. How can you go wrong with a buffet?

Well, we were very impressed with our first impression of the place! The African decor is realistic looking.

Boma offers a great selection of meats, vegetables, and fish based on African style foods. They had several different types of soups, and grilled meats

(Malibu Pepper Steak was awesome!), and fish with incredible sauces. Many interesting vegetable items, too. I suggest you go and just try little bites of things. You'll be surprised how much you'll enjoy your meal.

Its a buffet, but not a normal type. They have stations that you go to and they will have a variety of food at each one. The food is served in pots and pans and pretty dishes, not typical heat plate of most buffets. The food is tasty, and original. They had a section for kids, too, but I didnt really check that out.

Desserts were more tradi-

tional. They had puddings, Cookies, Mousse and my favorite: the Zebra Domes.

I was also impressed with the staff. They were very attentive and helpful describing what things were, if asked. I didnt feel rushed to eat and get out or anything like that.

The price was about \$20 per person, which was a fair price. I would make a reservation if you want to eat during regular meal times. We ate early (about 4:00) and as we were leaving there was a huge line out the door.

We give it 5 stars!

Mickeys Backyard BBQ is Fun!

by LeeAnn. After several trips to Disney World we had never done Mickey's BBQ at the Wilderness Campgrounds. My son met up with a boy at our hotel and their family was going so we decided to go along. It was very fun.

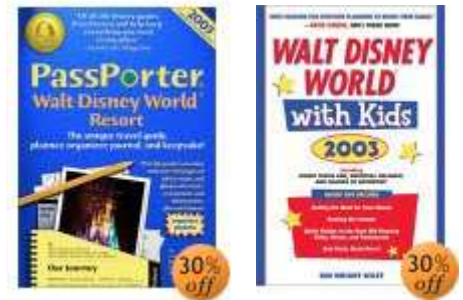
They have a live band who is great. I don't know if it's always the same band, but they play country western songs. People dance. They have line dancing, and just get up and do whatever kind of dancing you want.

The characters were fun, they came around to the tables, so you don't have to go find them. They stayed for several minutes, signed autographs, let you take photos, teased some of the guests and seemed to be enjoying the music as well.

Mickey and Minnie were both there. I think Pluto & Donald were there, too. The food was really good. I wasn't expecting much, but it was delicious.

They had bbq hot dogs, chicken, ribs, corn on the cob, potato salad, macaroni and cheese, beans, fruit, some other salad I can't remember what it was. They had the most delicious corn bread, too. And for dessert there was cake. It was a buffet so you could get all you want.

It was not very crowded, we did not have reservations and got right in. Give it a try if you have a night free and want to have fun at a good old Mickey BBQ.



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More Great News!

"I have good news to share with DZ friends. I have just gotten engaged to the man of my dreams. We will get married September 2004 and will hopefully do our honeymoon on Disney Cruiselines!"
- Stella

"Can you please put my great news in the newsletter. I am also expecting a new Disney fan soon. I did not conceive in Disney, but my unborn baby visited Disney during its 2nd month inside me! My baby will be born in February!"
- Kellie

"In the last newsletter someone listed a pregnancy announcement that literally brought me to tears. I want to wish that couple, and that baby the very best! Miracles do happen at Disney. I know first hand. Please allow me to share my Disney miracle. During one of our vacations years ago, I was relaxing with my son in the jacuzzi at the old Dixie Landings. I was chatting with a lady that was sitting there, too. We saw each other on a few occasions in the jacuzzi, and became friends. That is not the miracle. It turns out that her husband is my husband's

brother. They were both adopted and because of closed adoptions done years ago they had no way of finding each other. Only through my years of friendship with Ann did we find this out. I won't go into every single detail, but that jacuzzi friendship we formed brought our two families together in ways no one can imagine!"
-Linda, from Ohio

Would you like to announce your 'great news' - email it to us!
dznews@disneyzone.net

All articles in this issue were submitted by DZ visitors who entered a recent contest. We are proud to be able to publish their articles in the newsletter. There are still a couple more, would you like to write one? Please do! Email it to us at: dznews@disneyzone.net

Tell your friends about Disneyzone!

They can get their own copy of the DZ News emailed to them each month. All they have to do is go to the site and register. They will automatically be put on the list. If you would rather, you may print it out or just forward it!

DZ - The FRIENDLY Place for Disney World Info and Advice!

DZ Kids

Do these scrambled words.
by Kenny

ASMBI
ZUBZ
NDOLAN
IMKEYC
GRITGE
FOGOY
OTPUL
EYPDO

Here are the answers:

Simba, Buzz, Donald, Mickey, Tigger,
Goofy, Pluto, Dopey

Kids articles are very popular with DZ News readers. We welcome any sort of contribution kids would like to make to the newsletter. If your child would like to write something, or dictate something to you, we'd love to have it for a future newsletter. Please email all submissions to us at:
dznews@disneyzone.net

Contests...

DZ has a great contest that is going on right now - you can win round trip towncar (Orlando airport to Disney area) transportation!

Go enter the contest by visiting the contest page!

Contest Page:

www.disneyzone.net/contest.htm

- play and you could win a cool prize!

If you would like to donate a prize, please contact us!
prizes@disneyzone.net - You get some advertising on the site in exchange for your donation!

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One phone number OR a website address included and not included in word count. Interested? Please email us at
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Happy Birthday to . . .

Sharon, Marie, Colin, Allyson - 7, Meg - 41, Joey - 12, Alesha, Tom - 42, Jared - 11, Lisabeth - 16, Christian, Douglas - 12, Emilee, Tyler - 13, Cole - 5, Dan, Eric, Sheri - 31, Amanda - 3, Katrina, Chris - 7, Charles, Vicki, Courtney - 17, Jamie - 23, Karen - 50, Paul, Edwin, Joey - 12, Daniel - 6, Drew - 40, Emily - 9, Sarah - 13, Mari - 49, and Ryan - 3

To have birthdays listed, please send an email to birthdays@disneyzone.net

Ages are optional!



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Marlies Bredel

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