

Holiday Decorations around WDW

My family had visited WDW around the Christmas holidays. I am going to attempt to describe some of the gorgeous decorations we saw at the resorts we visited.

We stayed at the Yacht Club, and the decorations there were beautiful. Classy, and almost understated, but festive. As you drive up they have decorative banners on the light posts, they had lots of red & green plants & flowers, and some added lights.

You walk into the lobby area and see the lights strung up within greens, across the balcony of the 2nd floor. There was a gorgeous, big Christmas Tree in the center, all decorated with gorgeous ornaments and lights. They had scattered holiday swags and wreaths around the lobby area and throughout the resort. The shops and restaurants all had Holiday decorations, too. The Beach Club was decorated very similarly.

Port Orleans was decorated, too. It had very colorful decorations outside the resort, as well as

inside. They had colorful garlands wrapped around poles, had lights strung around the garlands. The lobby was not as festive as the Yacht Club, but it did have lights up along the ceiling, and some scattered fruit/ribbon swag type decorations.

The Contemporary was decorated very nicely too. They had a huge Christmas Tree outside near the entrance. You could see it from far away, as well as from the monorail. Inside they had trees, garlands, poinsettias, wreaths, and a very cute Mickey & Minnie sleigh. The one thing that I noticed was that they had a definite Disney theme to their decor.

Next we visited the Grand Floridian. Very classy, upscale type decorations here! Outside



the resort they had beds of poinsettias with lit up white reindeer standing/lying in them. It was gorgeous. At the entrance to the lobby they had large greenery garlands strung with lights and ribbons. Beyond you could see the gigantic Christmas Tree! It was huge! Went up through the middle of the bldg, with decorated balconies framing the tree. The tree was lit and decorated from head to toe. The tree seemed to go right up to the ceiling, but I don't think it did. There were other smaller trees scattered throughout the resort, and decorations all around. This resort's holiday decor was our favorite.

We went over to the Swan and they were decorated too. Less of a theme, but still very pretty. Reds and greens, various Christmas Trees, wreaths, and lights.

- Shelly & Robert

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!
www.disneyzone.net/boards.htm

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Please note:

Disneyzone (DZ) is not affiliated with Disney in any way. We are a group of Disney enthusiasts who want to help you in making your next Disney World vacation the best ever!

Early Entry is Back

Disney has brought back the 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!

Restaurant Reviews

My name is Christa and I am 9. I went to Disney World with my family last summer and my favorite restaurant was Crystal Palace in Magic Kingdom because they have Pooh and Tigger and them there who are my favorite characters. They let you eat as much as you want and you can stay there a long time and get pictures with Pooh and Tigger and get autographs. I made my mom and dad take us to eat there 3 times and they didn't even argue about it and they let us go there. It is the best place to eat and also see Pooh and Tigger and them.

*unedited, direct from Christa's note to her mom - for the DZ newsletter!

Bright and Early on Main Street

For the longest time I had wondered what it would be like to be the only one walking down Main Street. Guess what? It happened.

We went last year in February, it was a dreary morning but that didn't stop us. We had flown almost 7 hours to get to Disney World and no amount of dreariness was going to stop us from getting up and getting to the Magic Kingdom bright and early!

We had reservations for breakfast at Cinderella's Castle. Our reservation was an hour earlier than the park opened, so we were curious as to how that would work. We walked up to the Cast Member who was standing by the rope. He checked our info against a list and let us in.

Just like that - we were walking up Main Street towards the castle - just us! It was incredible. We took an entire roll of film of this - US on Main Street alone. We got

up to the Castle with about 5 minutes to wait for our reservation. They said for us to wait right there by the podium.

I quickly changed the roll of film in the camera and took some photos of the surrounding rides/attractions with NO ONE walking around. We got seated and had a wonderful breakfast.

This experience was worth the stress of getting up so early in the morning to call for the reservations. The princesses were beautiful, the food was delicious, the atmosphere just can't be beat. We were done eating just as the park opened, so we ran over to the Dumbo ride. That ride always has a long line. We had a great morning.

My tip: if you are going to eat at the castle, try to get a very early reservation and maybe you will be able to walk along Main Street without anyone else around! It's a very neat experience!

Would you like to write an article for a future newsletter? It is simple! Just make sure it's about Disney, and about your personal experience or opinion. We love restaurant reviews, resort reviews, planning advice, kids articles, money saving ideas, time saving tips, etc.

E-mail: kimmi@disneyzone.net or submit via the contact page on the site: www.disneyzone.net/contact.htm

What are DZ Visitors Thankful For??

Our current contest asked people what they were thankful for. We asked for a 'disney-related' thing, and it was interesting to read what people chose. Here are a few of the entries.

• **Cathy from MD** - I am thankful for Disney-made movies because they are great family movies that we can watch together.

• **Peggy from RI** - I am thankful for my health and a loving family that is healthy as well. I am also thankful for a long happy marriage and a comfortable lifestyle that makes it possible to travel to Disney and enjoy life a little more.

• **Jim from VA** - A place like Disneyworld where people can go and just forget the normal daily pressures of work, world problems, and just get rid of all their tensions.

• **Dennis from TX** - our trip to disneyworld next week.

• **Steven from CO** - I am thankful for my family. I am thankful for having a good job to provide for my family in times when people are being laid off. I am thankful for having the ability to take my family to the greatest place on earth, Disney World.

• **Wendy from NJ** - my family which is my husband and our three children ages 23, 21 and 19 who with us still feel the magic of disney and enjoy going there with us on vacation to disney and still allow me to take pictures of them in the same places I took pictures of them when they were toddlers and elementary school age.

• **Mike from NY** - Walt and his dreams because he has helped me and my family enjoy our dreams year after year. I'm thankful that he believed in quality, family values, talking mice and fairies that make wishes come true. Happy 100+ Walt

• **Beth from FL** - I am thankful for all of the wonderful Disney parks here in Orlando. It is so wonderful to live close enough that you can come and go as you please. Our children absolutely love all of them and mom and dad do too! :]

• **Faith from NJ** - I am extremely thankful that there is a magical place that I can look forward to visiting every year that makes my husband and I happier than we could possibly imagine. That place that I am referring to is Disney World. At the beginning of every year, my husband and I begin planning our trip to Disney World for that year and we start to count down the days until our magical journey to the most wonderful place on Earth. You see, my husband and I were married September 22, 2001 and we had our honeymoon trip all planned out to go to Disney World but then several tragedies struck for both of us. Our honeymoon trip to Disney World was the only thing that kept our spirits up during these tragic times. Let me just say that we had the greatest honeymoon every and thank goodness both of our fathers are doing much better now. This is why I am thankful for all things Disney!!

• **Robin from NY** - being able to take vacations at WDW. When I was a child WDW did not exist. I know I would have loved it as a child. I wish that I had been able to take my daughter there when she was much younger instead of when she was 16. I am very thankful that I was finally able to go there myself and to take my daughter there. My family and I still go there as often as we can and I love that you can still be a kid there. It was always be "The Happiest Place on Earth" to me. Thanks Walt!!!

• **Lillian from FL** - all my Disney Theme Park Vacation memories with my family.

• **Lori from IL** - the universal joy that mickey mouse brings.

• **Beth from PA** - I am thankful for the Magic that Disney brings to families. My DH and I were engaged at WDW and Honeymooned there. We have a lot of special memories from Disney that I will never forget. Disney gives you a sense of safety and fun while

you are in the parks. I think that this is something that everyone needs every once in a while, or every year for us.

• **Karen from LA** - I am thankful for Disney's existence. Disney brings families closer together no matter what age you are. My son is 13 years old and is still looking forward to going to Disney with his family.

• **Danny from MN** - I am thankful the opportunity that I have to take my family to the most wonderful theme park of all time, being my Father was in the service as a child, I never got the opportunity to visit the park as a kid, and I am so thankful to be able to bring my family to this park, so that my daughter can experience what I could only have dreamed of a child. She has all the Disney movies, and is only 6, this is the perfect time for her to go and enjoy, and let her mind take her to places that I have only dreamed of. we are going there in the end of January, and she cant wait.

• **Barbara from NJ** - I am thankful for the wonderful people I have found on Disney Zone, first of all! They were so helpful and kind, and made my recent trip to WDW even more magical than it could have been. had. I am thankful to God for the wonderful trip we just had. I am thankful for the money He blessed us with to afford it, the good weather, the safe flight, and good health during our stay. I am thankful for all the wonderful cast members who made our stay so pleasurable. That includes everyone from the security who helped us stay safe in the parks, to the characters who interacted so wonderfully with the kids, to the waitstaff of the restaurants, mousekeeping, luggage handlers, and the janitorial staff who kept the parks clean! Mostly, I am thankful for the time we all got to spend together as a family. Working moms are constantly suffering from guilty consciences, and it was such a blessing to be with my kids and not having to spend that time disciplining or teaching - to spend that time just having fun enjoying one another!

~~ Sorry I could not fit them all in.

Tell you 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

Megan is my name
Finding Tigger is my game
I love the way he walks
I love the way he talks
Tigger is silly
But he aint no filly.
I need to find him
Maybe I need to ask my friend Tim
to help me
We'll go up in a tree
See if we can see tigger
Up in a tree we'll be bigger.
Where can Tigger be?
Why is he hiding from me?
Oh Tigger where are You?
I know, he must be with Pooh.

Submitted by Megan's dad, Mike.

People love the kids articles, read these comments from DZ visitors:

The kids articles are great. They are my favorite thing in the newsletter. Can you put more than one in an issue? - Sue

I wanted to tell you how much I enjoy the kids submissions in the newsletter. They are great! Keep them coming! - Mary Ellen

Thank you for putting the kids articles in the newsletter. I love reading them! - Audrey

Contests...

DZ has FREE contests going on. The one going on right now is a fun one. Choose a Disney character - choose a word for each letter that describes something about them. Example:

Mouse
Intelligent
Nice
Neat
Irresistable
Eager to have fun

Contest Page: www.disneyzone.net/contest.htm - play and you could win a cool prize!

Donations of prizes are always welcome. If you would like to donate a prize, please contact us! prizes@disneyzone.net

Happy Birthday to . . .

Conner - 4, Jason, Ahlanna - 4, Christine, David - 41, Megan - 16, Bob - 52, Theresa, Matthew - 7, Blossom, Erick - 9, Evan, Moriah, Shayan - 12, Danielle - 7, Erin, Rosalie - 50, Holden - 3, Mark, Jodie, Grant - 15, Leia, Brock, Sally - 30 and Rebecca .

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

Ages are optional!



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