

Scrimp and Save and GO!

by Jennifer (Cole, Adam & Jay, too)

There is always a way to make things happen. No matter how remote the odds. Let me tell you how I was able to get myself and 3 kids to Disney.

My husband left us about 5 years ago, leaving me alone with 3 young boys. He gives us no financial assistance, so I was left to support the kids pretty much on my own. I am telling you this so you will see that ANYONE can vacation in Disney World, with a little creativity.

My boys are now 8,10 & 11. Back about 2 years ago I decided to try to take them on a vacation. A real vacation, not just camping again. We sat down and decided where we would like to go. Disney World was tops on everyones list. I had no idea how we would ever afford it. I work as a clerk at a grocery store, dont make very much money! I had to come up

with a plan!

I first went and opened up a savings account for us to put money into for the vacation. I then sat down with the kids and we discussed how we would save the money. The boys were going to collect aluminum cans from neighbors and fromd down at the park near our home, and we would recycle them. This worked out to about \$30 a month. That money went right into the account.

My oldest son started doing some odd jobs for neighbors, which brought in some added money and I did sewing at home for added income. As the time went on we did more and more as we realized how we could earn more money.

Together we managed to get between \$100-120 a month into our savings account just by doing these things. The next thing we did was called the rounding up trick. I read about this somewhere and it works. If

you go to the store and your bill comes to \$45.35 - give the cashier \$46 - or if you have it \$50. Then put ALL the change into an envelope. By the end of the week, and a few trips to the store, gas station, etc. we would have \$5-\$10. Thats another \$25-\$40 per month into our account.

After 18 months of these sorts of things, we had enough for a pretty nice vacation. We live about 7 hours away, so we drove. We stayed at the Port Orleans Riverside Resort (found a discount using mousesavers.com), got 5 Day hopper tickets, ate at least one big meal a day and was able to buy the kids each a few souvenirs.

This may not sound like much of an accomplishment to you, but living paycheck to paycheck, with 3 young boys, it was a dream come true for me! We are now starting to save for our next trip!

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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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

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

Polynesian Luau
by Alison

We did the Luau on our last trip. We had always wanted to try it but never did. We went up last minute and got into the late show. They sit you in long tables with many other people. We had very nice people with us.

The food is all you can eat, served family style. They had chicken, fish, pork, salad, rice, veggies and pineapple cake for dessert. The food was good. Nothing great. The show was very good. I really thought it was well-done. They had torches all around lighting the area, which was pretty. It was almost romantic feeling. We were a little chilly, though. We enjoyed the luau. I think everyone should go once.

What We Learned...

by Dawn & Russ

I want to thank everyone at Disneyzone for the time and effort put into the site and the message boards. I learned so much that it really made a difference in our trip. I learned so much, looking back I see how our trip might have ended up had I not found Disneyzone!

I learned about the room discounts and how you have to ask for them, how to do a little research and find discount codes.

I learned how to plan our days, how to try to fit in as much as possible without killing ourselves. How to pace the day, yet have a plan so we don't miss things.

I learned about priority seatings for meals. This was a godsend. We were there during the holidays and most restaurants were packed. We

had our priority reservations for each meal and never had to wait more than 5 minutes or so.

I learned how visiting the other resorts is an attraction in itself. We spend the entire last day resort hopping, checking out all the other resorts. This was so much fun! I don't think we would have thought to do that.

I also learned of the best places to sit to watch Illuminations, and the parades. And about the Fast Pass tickets, the only way to do the rides. We used them as often as possible.

I can go on and on, but I just wanted everyone to know that I really appreciate Disneyzone and I know that the knowledge I received from spending hours and hours online, I was able to make our trip to Disney World very special.

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/

Disney at Night

by Cathy

Recently, there seems to be a lot of complaining about Disney park hours being shortened. Now, while I can understand the frustration all us "DisneyNuts" are feeling, and while I feel the parks are the most magical part of Disney World, I think it is important to emphasize that a trip to Disney is about so much more than visiting the parks. After all, if you only wanted to visit the parks, I can think of many amusement parks closer to home that would cost a lot less money to visit. The magic of a Disney vacation day doesn't have to end when the parks close. So, how to make that evening a magical one?

Make sure to leave some time for resort hopping (even if you're not staying on property!). Disney resorts are some of the most unique hotels in the world. The theming is so authentic you'll feel like you're really visiting another time and place. Take a walk around the grounds of Port Orleans, stroll the beach at the Polynesian, listen to the piano in the lobby of the Grand Floridian or sit in front of the roaring fire at the Wilderness Lodge. Whatever you're looking for, fun, romance, quiet or loud, you can find it at a Disney resort!

How about a trip to Downtown Disney? If you really enjoy shopping, than this is the place for you. From World of Disney which is sure to have whatever Disney merchandise you could possibly want, to Once Upon a Toy with its fill-your-own boxes

of Mr. Potato Head parts, to the huge pin station, which is the perfect place to buy or trade, DTD has it all. And of course, DTD is about more than shelling out more bucks on Disney merchandise: try one of the many excellent restaurants; there's something for every taste. Or wander down to the West Side and do some non-Disney merchandise shopping. There are stores for all tastes! West Side is also home to DisneyQuest, Disney's giant, indoor electronic theme park. Try your hand at some video games, immerse yourself in a virtual ride, or spend some time surfing the 'net. Lastly at West Side, don't forget about the movie theater...with 24 screens there's sure to be something you'd like to see. And, of course, for the partiers out there, what better way to spend an evening than club hopping at Pleasure Island. Be sure to stick around for midnight to celebrate New Year's Eve!

Consider seeing a show. There's the Hoop-Dee-Doo Revue with food, fun and frolic. While engorging yourself on the all you can eat food (yummy!), enjoy watching a show with lots of singing, dancing and corny jokes. A must see! If you're more of an island enthusiast, check out the all new Spirit of Aloha dinner show at the Luau Cove. Plenty of food along with music and dancing from many Polynesian Islands awaits.

And, of course, don't forget Cirque de Soleil at DTD. Although it's a bit on the pricy side, it's worth every dollar.

The Boardwalk also makes for a fun evening. With many restaurants, any appetite is sure to be filled. There are quite a few shops to entertain the shopping fans among us. Check out the dueling pianos at Jellyrolls or dance the night away at Atlantic Dance. Stop and play a midway game, watch the street performers or rent a surrey bike and pedal your way through the crowds. The Boardwalk truly comes alive after the parks close.

There are also some fun family activities available at Disney. Try your hand at a round of miniature golf. Fantasia Gardens and Winter Summerland are easily the best courses I've played anywhere. At Fort Wilderness, take a fun hayride or check out the nightly campfire complete with marshmallows, singing, characters and a movie. Take a ride around on the monorail (smaller children will get a real kick out of this!) or ride the boat from DTD to Port Orleans. Even Disney transportation can be fun!

As you can see, just because the lights go off early at the parks, there's no reason to spend your evening sitting in a hotel room. And the ideas I've listed only scratch the surface. Some of your greatest trip memories will come from activities outside the parks. So grab your family, friends or significant other, and get out there to experience ALL the magic that Disney offers.

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

by Steven, age 8

I want to be a character when I grow up. I dont care what they call me, thats what I really want to be. I dont know how to be one or if its hard but I would love to live at Disney World all my life.

I could be like Peter Pan easy. I dont know how to fly or nothin' but they could teach me that part when I get there. Some of them characters are still kids so I think its not that hard. I want to wait till I get older so I wont need my mom there. Who picks them characters anyway?

*Note from Steven's mom: Steven wrote this for a writing assignment at school. I thought it was so cute I had to send it in to the DZ News. I hope you can put it in for everyone to read. I fixed some of his spelling and punctuation but its all his writing.

Contests...

DZ has FREE contests going on. A new one just started. Contest Page:
www.disneyzone.net/contest.htm - play and you could win a cool prize!

We are depleting our pile of prizes. Donations of Disney-related prizes are always welcome. 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!

Happy Birthday to . . .

Sharon-50, Brandon-7, Jackson-12, Devin, Eliza-16, Mike-40, Jason, Ethan-10, Amy, Kayla-11, Cora, Steven-9, Marc, Emily, Lisa-16, Andrew, Paul, Sara, Miranda-2.

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

Ages are optional!



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