

# DZ News

[www.disneyzone.net](http://www.disneyzone.net) • Volume 5, Issue 3 • March 2004

## The Joy of Planning

**Planning** is so much fun. I hope that every single person who reads this decides to do the trip planning themselves, and does not feel overwhelmed. I found the planning almost as fun as the vacation itself.

**Background** on me: Single mom of 2 teenagers. I had never been to Disney World, but had been to Disneyland when I was a child. I had always wanted to go, but just never did.

**My ex-husband** was not a traveller so it made it impossible. Now that I am the one making the vacation decisions I chose Disney World.

**I started** planning about 9 months before our trip. I bought a few guidebooks (the Unofficial Guide, Birnbaums & Frommers). I read them cover to cover. Still I felt I needed more information before I made any decisions. My son is a computer fanatic. He found several wonderful websites for me to read. I spent about 2 months reading everything I could get my eyes on!

**I went** through the different hotel choices with my kids. I made

up a chart with plusses and minusses for each one. Then listed specific things that I liked about each one. We finally decided on The Polynesian Resort. (Great choice).

**Dates** were chosen based on school vacations, my work schedule, and other activities the kids were doing. We went the first week of August 2003.

**Picking** the time of year, and the hotel were pretty big decisions. We really would have liked to skip the crowds, but I couldn't justify taking both kids out of school.

**After** I made those decisions, I had to choose the tickets we would buy. I read many different opinions about whether to get tickets that covered the entire stay, or just enough to cover the days we wanted to be in the parks. I knew the kids would want to do water parks and also Disney Quest so I had to get tickets that included those things. After lots of deliberation we chose tickets that covered everything from check in to check out! It was expensive, but allowed us freedom to do whatever we wanted, when-

ever we wanted.

**We spent** the next couple months figuring out where we wanted to eat. I wanted to be sure to have reservations made so we didn't waste tons of time waiting for tables. We, once again, read tons and tons of reviews & asked questions on websites to narrow down the choices. Got one sit down meal reservation for each day. Worked out well.

**Making the final itinerary** was a little tough. We made a chart of the parks, how much time we wanted for each one, what rides we knew we wanted to try. Then came up with a loose plan. We didn't end up sticking to it, though. We didn't realize the parks were so far apart, travelling between parks took up quite a bit of time.

**All our planning** really paid off, I felt prepared for what we found when we arrived. Any time spent was more than worth it, and it was tons of fun, too. Using a travel agent, in my opinion, would have taken away much of my joy.

Jenn & kids, Eastman  
Georgia

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## Are Your Vacations Relaxing?

Our family of 4 just returned from our vacation. I am wiped out and need a rest. We were there for 7 days. We had the absolute best time ever.

I don't think we got to bed before midnight any night and we were up at the crack of dawn each morning. We spent every minute of every day absorbing all the magic we could. This was our first trip, but I am sure not the last. I have told my fam-

ily that we will go back soon!

I had no idea how wonderful that place is, but I am so depressed that we are back home and our vacation is over. Do you ever feel that way?

Usually when we come home from a vacation we are happy to be back, not this time. I feel like we left the best place on earth! In fact I know we did.

I don't need to go into details about our trip, you know how great the place is. I am now a true Disney addict.

I mostly don't want to do that because it will make me even sadder to know that we are not there anymore.

Am I nuts? Is this normal?  
- Wendy

## Restaurant Reviews

The best restaurant at Disneyworld is Chef Mickey's. You get to eat all night long if you want and run around and play and not just eat the whole time. They got pizza and hot dogs and parent food and lots of great desserts. They got ice cream and cupcakes and jello and cookies.

The Disney characters have fun with you by playing around with you. You get to run around the place and yell and stuff. It's a good place to go for kids but may be not for parents because it's very noisy and messy there.  
Matt, age 8

I love Beaches and Cream. It is a very good place to eat. It is a fun place and has very good food to eat.

I had a very big hamburger with lots of cheese on it and ate every

bite. I had to eat it all so I could get an ice cream dessert and it was sure great. They have other desserts but the ice cream hot fudge sundae was my favorite thing.

We stayed at that hotel the Beach Club so we went to Beaches and Cream almost every single day. Try it you will sure like it.

Christa, age 11

**Disneyzone was lucky enough to get 3 great reviews from submitted by children. Enjoy!**

Cinderella's Castle is the very best place to have breakfast. Your mom has to call every morning in the middle of the night to get you a reservation. It

is a popular place to eat and I know why. Any kid who dreams about meeting princesses is going to be thrilled to eat there. I am older than my 2 young sisters and the breakfast in the castle was their favorite part of the trip.

The food is very good, and you get a lot. It is very special to eat in a castle and not very many people get to do it. Meeting real live princesses is a special thing too.

I recommend this restaurant if you have little girls, but it's even fun if you are not a little girl.  
Tia - age 13, Mesa, Arizona

Have a restaurant review or two you'd like to share with the DZ News readers—send them in!

# Disney Magic Poem

by: Christopher G.  
aka "Pinkid23" - Age 14

There are mountains high,  
Elephants fly in the sky,  
Nearby turkey legs do fry,  
On Splash Mountain people cry,  
On boats we float down the Nile,  
First we'd wait in line for a while,  
There are 999 ghosts, I hope they're not hostile,  
Socks and sandals, now there is a new style!

Animal Kingdom is not quite a zoo,

There are many rides and things to do,  
Is that big tree made of bamboo?  
Look over there, it's Winnie the Pooh!

At Spaceship Earth we'll get a head start,  
But before we do, lets check out that pin cart,  
"Stay close kids, don't get split apart."  
Come all, lets quicken our stride,  
So we can go on the Great Movie Ride.

Look at the heart of that old bride!  
Let's go back to the hotel and down the slide.

On the Mad Tea Party we spun,  
We had so much fun,  
Basking in the Florida sun,  
Now I think the day is done.

What is that I hear?  
Coming nearer to here?  
It's a Disney Cruise line ship around the bend.  
I guess the Disney magic will never end!

# Castmember Magic

I just wanted everyone to know that there are still Cast Members at WDW that go above and beyond the call of duty. On our recent family vacation there in January we had the pleasure of meeting two. One works at the Disney & Co. Store at MGM Studios and her name is Laura. She spent extra time with my two daughters trying to convince one that The Rock-N-Roller Coaster would be a fun ride for her to try. Since I knew how much my daughter really wanted to go on I thought

it was just great for her to spend the time explaining the ride to my daughter and trying to encourage her to try it. Even after she was unable to convince her and we had left the store she tracked the girls down two stores away to talk to her again.

I later learned that was because my husband had told her about the "pinky swear" the two girls had made about going on the ride. Laura came up to Alyssa and said "You can't break a pinky swear!" I'll make it easier on you I'll get

you a special pass so you don't have to wait in line at all. Still Alyssa would not agree until her father also agreed to go on.

So after the three of them went on the ride we took the picture back to show Laura. She was so glad to see it and so proud of Alyssa, she gave her a beautiful picture frame to put it in. I bet Walt would have done the exact same thing.

Robin-Liverpool NY

# Articles Needed!

Would you like to share your Disney experiences with others? Do you have some great tips that others might benefit from? Would you like to tell everyone about your favorite WDW restaurant? Have you stayed at one of the Disney resorts

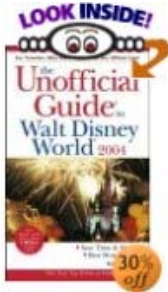
lately and want to share details?

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Have you visited the **DZ Message Boards** lately? It's a great spot to meet other Disney World enthusiasts! There are many topics to discuss, lots of very nice people to meet & a wealth of information for those planning Disney World vacations! Visit today! **CLICK HERE** to go to the boards!

The **NEW LOOK**. The newsletter has changed a little, this layout should make it easier to read. Also, all the links to email & websites now work. Which means you can click on them and they will actually take you to a website, or bring up your email client. Give it a try and visit some of the links within the newsletter!

DZ has a great **contest** that just began. You can win a great prize, just for participating!

Go enter the new contest, by visiting the contest page! **CLICK HERE** to go to the DZ Contest Page - 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!**

## DZ Kids

Disney planning with my dad isn't just something I do because he makes me. I do it because I really enjoy it. At least twice a week I go on the computer with him and plan for an hour and a half.

I enjoy learning about the new attractions and parades. My favorite part of all of the planning is making the schedule for the week we are there. We're plan-

ning to go to Disney in August, but we already are almost done planning.

For any adult who wants to spend time with their children and wants to be organized, I recommend you do this with a child. To me planning with my dad *is* part of the magic of Disney.

Marissa (12), Wantagh NY

## Happy Birthday...

Darby-8; Kellie's husband; Alexa-4; Jared-8; Sharon; Brandon-8; Jackson-13; Devin, Eliza-17; Mike-40; Jason, Ethan-11; Amy, Kayla-12; Cora, Steven-10; Marc, Emily, Lisa-17; Andrew, Paul, Sara, Shana, Miranda-3; Hope, Kent-15, Jacob, Samantha & Remy

Happy Birthday to you,  
Happy Birthday to you,  
Happy Birthday all Dzers  
Happy Birthday to you!

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