

## Do You Know How Much to TIP?

by Kristiana

Tipping is one thing that has always stumped me. Prior to our vacation to Disney World I spent many hours researching this topic. I wanted to be prepared. So here is what I found.

First of all, tipping is not or automatic. Too often, tips are taken for granted or expected regardless of the quality of service. Tipping should be done at your discretion and as a reward for good service. Sometimes tips are also used as a small bribe for special services, too.

These amounts listed are flexible, and I have listed the recommended amount.

**Hotel Bellmen:** \$1 per bag when the bags are delivered. If a special item, such as feather pillow or such is delivered, depending on the promptness, \$1-\$2.

**Room Service:** 15-20% based

on service, like in a restaurant.

**Hotel Maids:** I found quite a variance with this one. Most said \$1 per person per day for a normally messy room. If your room is thrashed, add another \$1 per person. Some lay out money daily, while others wait until the last day. If your maid really does a great job, and adds little touches, you can add more.

**Hotel Concierge:** If you use the concierge services for hard-to-get dinner reservations, or to have them set up golf times for you, things like that, \$5-\$10.

**Hotel Parking Valet/Attendant:** \$1-\$2 when the car is delivered. If you have a fancy car and want extra care taken, give \$1-\$2 when they take the keys from you.

**Restaurant Host/Hostess:** Not necessary to tip this person unless you ask for a specific table, in a preferred location or if

want special treatment for a holiday or special occasion. Giving them a tip does not ensure this, but it may help.

**Waiter/Waitress:** Typical 15-20% for a sit down restaurant. If you are at a buffet style meal, and your server comes around often to take dishes, and refill drinks, then the same tip is recommended. No tips necessary for counter service.

**Taxi, Limo and Bus drivers:** This varies by services offered. A towncar driver who picks you up at the airport and helps with luggage, etc. should receive approximately 15% gratuity, while a taxi or bus driver should get about \$1-\$2 per person.

Please take these amounts as suggestions, more or less depending on service!

Hope this helps someone who may be confused about tipping!

### 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

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!

## Ideas for Kids

My husband and I went to WDW with his cousins - four adults and four children.

One of the best ideas we had was to buy the disposable cameras for the kids.

Each day, we gave them a camera - one camera per child per day. We thought this would eliminate them bugging us about pictures, which it did, but it also gave them the chance to take pictures of all the things they really enjoyed. In fact, they were the ones who caught some great shots of the family while the adults were focused on WDW. I would highly recommend this to everyone!!

Give the kids their own waist packs and cameras and they will have a blast!

Melinda - Florence, SC

I have a great tip for kids. We decided to bring them a spiral bound notecard tablet and a pen. They each put it in a waist pack they had. Every time we had to wait in line I had the kids write a little something that we had done, or draw a picture, or even write down what we had for lunch, what their favorite thing of the day so far was, and that sort of thing. Each kid filled the tablet and since they were on notecards it is sturdier than paper. We look at the tablets often and love looking back on our kids insight of the various parts of the vacation.

Nadine - Texas

## Restaurant Reviews

### Breakfast at Spoodles by Stephen & Matthew

My son and I had a father/son vacation to WDW last June. We would like to share what we found to be a cost-saving way to eat. Since we stayed at the Yacht Club we decided to try Spoodles for breakfast.

Years ago when we last ate at Spoodles they had a breakfast buffet, but now offer only menu items. We split an order of their breakfast pizza/flat bread (I don't remember exactly what the menu called it) on our first visit, along with other items. WOW!!!! We both fell in love with that breakfast pizza. It is SO GOOD, a great size, and a very good price (something like \$5.95).

We loved it so much that we spent two other mornings at Spoodles and each had our own breakfast pizza with other items. The meals were great!

The price was good and we had enough food that we did not eat a regular lunch (we only had a small snack or drink until dinner). Although we ate at Spoodles at 7:30am we were filled enough to go for many, many hours.

Note——not a good idea if you want to go on the Tower of Terror or Rocking Rolling Coaster early!!!!

Just want to share this with others who are going to be in an Epcot resort area hotel.

Would you like to write an article for a future newsletter?

It is simple! Just make sure its 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

## Tips from DZ Visitors

When we go to Disney, usually on the second to the last night of our trip, we take the kids to the pool at the hotel and I do all of our laundry from the trip...not only does this give the kids extra time at the pool, but when I get home after a fabulous vacation my laundry is DONE!!!  
-Kathleen from Michigan.

I took my four-year-old on an early morning walk through Downtown Disney and arrived at the art shop there right after opening. It is beautiful, and in the light crowds of the morning, the staff there was fantastic.

If you are looking for a relaxing morning (which seemed like a break from the rest of the hustle and bustle of the vacation for us) spend the morning hours (9:00 a.m. 'til noon) at Downtown Disney, and start at the art store near the gate across from the Wyndham Palace (a great place to stay, by the way). By the time you see Lego's shop, you will be ready for a lunch in the rain forest. F.P. from Ohio

Walkie Talkies or 2 way radios are excellent for travel. Most of them work in a 2 mile radius. my hubby and I use it for the 1st time in Maui, Hawaii. It was perfect for the beach, malls, pools etc. instead of having the whole family stand in line. Why not have the rest of the family seated in a shaded area or air conditioned area. While the other stay in line. He can use the 2 way radio to let us know it time. -Tiff

Invest in renting a stroller, especially in Epcot. You will get from place to place a whole lot faster, and you won't end up carrying a tired child.

Our daughter is almost 7 and we got a stroller everyday for the last 5 days of our 7 day trip. We learned the hard way the 1st 2 days. The child is happier and more rested, and the parents are happier and better rested too.

If you go during the months when it rains and thunderstorms each afternoon (aug-oct I think), here are some suggestions on how to avoid the rain. Try to schedule dinner about 4:30 because the rain usually starts about then and goes until about 6pm. We try to eat dinner during that time. Another good thing to do is to go to Epcot during that time. There are many buildings with lots of activities inside like the Living Seas and the building where Body Wars is. Or just plan that time in your room recuperating from the day, then head back out after it stops raining. Dont plan pool time during this time because if there is lightning that is very dangerous. Lastly dont let the rain stop you if you want to do other things, just put on a poncho and go. The weather stays warm so the rain is not uncomfortable. And the rain does reduce the humidity level a bit. - Deanna

A trick to help with kids and buying souvenirs. Give your kids a set amount of money. Tell them how much they have, and then during the trip they can look around and see what they want. It will stop the "Gimmes" because they will know up front how much they can spend and they will be much more careful about choosing souvenirs if they know they can

only spend so much. For an example: my kids \$100 each for souvenirs on trips. They know that once that \$100 is gone, thats it. So they are very careful, they shop around, and make sure its what they want. If you just buy them things all the time throughout all the parks, all the days, you will go broke and they will end up with things that maybe they dont really want. It really works, give it a try! Oh my kids are now 9 and 14. We started this plan about 3 years ago and it worked just as well with a 6 year old. - Mac in NY

Bring things in separate packages for ease of packing and use. Individ. baggies of detergent for laundry, outfits for the kids in ziplock baggies for each outfit, individual film canisters with quarters & pennies for the pressed penny machines, each persons toiletry items in separate ziplock baggies. This eliminates the need to go scouring through everything to find what you need and its easy for kids to just grab a bag of clothes and have everything they need in it. - T.F. Canada

Did you know you can have things mailed home instead of cramming everything into suitcases? We did it last trip after hearing about this from someone at our resort. She had the gift shop package things up for her and ship them out. There was a fee for this service, over and above the postage, but she said it was very reasonable. We went another step and found a UPS Store very close to the WDW area and shipped things from there. They boxed them up and all. Great tip that I hope helps someone! - Barbara

## 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

#### Scrambled Words

by Louie, age 11

The following words are all disney characters with the letters of their names all scrambled up. Try to unscramble them.

OGOFY  
LKIF  
LIDAADN  
YKMIEC  
CELNARIDEL  
NHOT IWSWE  
OABLO  
ZUBZ  
MNIINE  
HORID BONO  
OGIWML  
YEOEER  
OEMKE  
LARIE  
ULSEEBLY  
RELACUL  
NACIKOO PATH  
PYDOE  
KOIS WMEZAWKI  
UTLOP  
IIFAR

hope you had fun!

### Contests...

DZ has FREE contests going on. A new one will be starting this week with a WONDERFUL prize! Check the contest page soon!  
Contest Page:  
[www.disneyzone.net/contest.htm](http://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](mailto:prizes@disneyzone.net) - You get some advertising on the site in exchange for your donation!

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## Happy Birthday to . . .

Nick - 12, Tanner -1, Bob, Sue, Erica - 14, Lacey - 5, Jared -7, Michael -12, Tonya, Rachel - 5, Hunter -5, Codey -8, Nino, Mary -5, Jonathan - 13, Casey, Adam, Patrick - 9, Doug, Michelle, Aaron - 14, Tyler, Skylar - 4, Megan -6 .



To have birthdays listed, please send an email to [birthdays@disneyzone.net](mailto:birthdays@disneyzone.net)

Ages are optional!

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