

Planning is Overwhelmingly Fun

by Lynn S.

Someone told me at the beginning of the planning process to just call a travel agent and have them make my reservations for our families first trip to Disney World. I actually thought I would do just that. But that same night my husband decided he would hop on the computer and try to get some pricing first. He happened upon Disneyzone. He printed out pages and pages of things for me to read, things to ask the travel agent.

I started reading through the pages he printed, then went to the site myself. I was amazed at how much there was to know, so many things that could really help us get the most out of our trip. I did call a travel agent and asked some questions. She didn't know the answers, not even to some of the questions I asked that I already had read about on the website. So I knew that I could probably do better myself. I was right.

She quoted me a package deal that included a flight, hotel and tickets, a car rental and a special meal of some sort. By doing what Disneyzone said, and going to various other sites to check prices, to use discount codes, and choose off-peak times to go, we saved over \$600. That's a lot of money to us. I was also amazed at how much fun I had comparing the different discounts and ticket options and all that.

I spent a few weeks comparing the resorts I'm going back and forth among the choices. The people on the message boards were a great wealth of information about the resorts. I didn't spend too much time initially on the message boards because I was afraid I would get addicted. But guess what, I got addicted to it anyhow.

I spent about a month doing all sorts of comparisons. I went to various airline sites, and to

various travel sites, and found a great flight at a great rate. I checked the car rental websites and then in the end chose to use Tiffany Towncar which I hope to be as impressed with as others are.

We went to mousesavers and found a discount code that saved us quite a bit on the room. We will buy the tickets when we get there. I know we could save a little buying them now, but it's not in the budget just yet.

I feel so prepared for this vacation. I feel like I know what to expect, what things not to miss, what things we can skip, and even have some touring strategies in place. We will get our Priority Seating times as soon as we are close enough in timeframe. We go in September! I will write a nice long trip report when we get back. Thanks to Everyone!!!!

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:

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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!

A Special Cast Member

We just got back from a very magical trip to Disneyworld. My 8 year old daughter broke her arm right before we left. We didn't let that stop us, we had a great time. I wanted to share a very nice story with you about our trip. Kellen chose a very yellow cast, when we arrived she chose a special pen and was going to have all the characters sign her cast. After about the 4th day her cast was nearly full. The 5th day, it was very hot & humid out. Poor Kellen was very hot in her cast. I bought her a spray bottle and she was having a wonderful time spraying herself, and everyone else around. No one seemed to

mind. We were sitting on a bench in MGM when she realized that the ink was starting to spread, from the water she was spraying on it. She started crying, saying it was ruined, that Tigger is her very favorite and his name was all smudged!

This very sweet CM working at a pin booth heard what was happening and came right over. She dried the cast off very carefully and told Kellen not to worry that she would help her get some new signatures. Only 2 got blurred, Tigger and Chip. Well, this wonderful CM, Tracie, got on her CB radio thing and called someone. About 5 min later up walks Tigger! He stayed and sat with her for about 10 minutes! He signed her hat, her shirt, her shorts and even the bottom of her sandals! It was the most wonderful part of the trip!

Restaurant Reviews

Biergarten by Brandi

This is one of my husband's favorite restaurants at Disney, so each trip we dine here. This year my son, daughter-in-law and 1 year old granddaughter dined with us (their first time). They really enjoyed it.

You dine at large tables with other people just like they actually do in German Biergartens. It looks as if you are outdoors, it is really very quaint.

The food is buffet style and a large variety to choose from. There are the authentic German Bratwurst, Sauerbraten, Spatzle, Sauerkraut along with chicken, hot dogs and the best roasted potatoes you ever had. There is

salad, cabbage - both red & green, dumplings, dill rolls and delicious pretzel bread. There is a great dessert section which includes German Chocolate Cake, Apple Strudel, Cheesecake, Vanilla pudding, applesauce, etc. The food is very good and a nice change.

There is also a dinner show with a German band and singer. Very entertaining. They have audience participation and also invite the guests up to do the polka. Every time we dine there we always have a great meal and a great time.

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

Beach Club Review

by the Tomassen Family

Our family of 5 stayed at the Beach Club recently. This was our 3rd trip to Disney and by far the best. We splurged to stay at a deluxe resort and it was worth every single solitary penny. We have 3 sons, 7, 15 and 17 years old. The older two took off by themselves on several occasions. I knew they could walk to many of the attractions and that eased my mind. My husband was Mr Golf during our trip so much of the time it was myself and my 7 year old. We spent countless hours at the Storm A Long Bay pool area. This pool area is a waterpark in itself and you can stay for hours and not get bored. My son played in the sand for quite a while, enjoyed the slide many times, rented a tube and floated for a while, tried to find the sinking sand, played in the whirlpool area, and even swam normally. I got lots of rest and relaxation. We spent one entire day there at the pool. Got up when the older two took off to MGM, and we just hung at the pool. We ate at Beaches and Cream for lunch, which was simply delicious. We also had ice cream sundaes there almost daily. Great spot to try if you havent ever been there. ITs a small place so sometimes its hard to get a seat, but other than that its great.

Our room was plenty big for the 5 of us. Our oldest son slept on the floor, middle son had one of the beds, youngest son had the pullout sofa thing, and we had the other bed. The bathroom area was tight, but that is my only complaint as far as the room goes. I loved the decor, all the light pastel colors and white furniture. We did get a partial water view, which was pretty. Our room

was a jaunt from the main entrance to the hotel, but we could use the epcot entrance (as we called it) and get to our room quicker.

I thought the laundry facilities and the quiet pool were very nice and never found them to be very crowded. I brought our own soap and dryer sheets so that made life a little easier. The machine tended to be eating people's money and not giving product. So we were lucky. My little guy and husband would swim while I was doing laundry. I found I had to do more laundry than I had planned, when its hot you change clothes more often.

We ate at Cape May Cafe a couple times, and thought the food was very good. We thought the buffet had a good variety and the food was fresh. Hubby and I ate at Yachtsman Steakhouse there at the hotel on our last night and enjoyed it tremendously. The food was wonderful, the service was, too. I had heard that the prices were very high, but I didnt find them to be any more expensive than a nice steakhouse near our home. I was very impressed with all the eateries at the Beach Club.

What also impressed me about the Beach Club was all the help. The cast members were very attentive and pleasant. Even when asking my son not to run in the lobby, they did it in a very kind

way. My husband really took advantage of the valet parking. He played golf each morning, and used our rental car. He was impressed that they always got his car very quickly for him, and always helped him load/unload the golf clubs.

The older boys felt the arcade was lacking a bit, for such a nice hotel. They really enjoyed the one at the Contemporary, when we visited that hotel. Their comments on the Beach Club were all positive. They loved that they could walk to Epcot, walk to the Boardwalk, take the boat to MGM, and had so much freedom because of the location.



We enjoyed the proximity to the Boardwalk, and walked over there a few times for meals, or to shop. The older boys and dad went to the ESPN club a few times, and enjoyed that.

Being that this was our 3rd trip, our youngest really wasn't too upset that we didn't spend every day at MK like we had in the past. This was a completely different style of vacation. Our group was more spread out and we relaxed a lot more than ever before. The older boys slept in, and hung out a lot. My husband played golf, then took a nap, then joined us in the afternoon. Things were just more slow paced than we normally do them. I am not complaining, I loved it. I loved everything about our trip.

If you ever can afford to stay at the Beach Club, please do it. The other Disney resorts are great, but this one is a vacation in itself.

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

Kids articles needed!

One of the most popular sections of the newsletter seems to be the kids articles! We get many emails about them each month. However, we are running low on kids submissions. Please ask your children to write something about a recent trip, or why Disney World is so wonderful, whatever - anything Disney-related will do.

Please send all DZ News submissions to us at: articles@disneyzone.net

Thanks!

from a reader:

I just love the kids section of the DZ Newsletter. It really makes me smile when I read them. Keep them coming.

Contests...

DZ has FREE contests going on. A new one just started with a WONDERFUL prize! Check the contest page soon!

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!

Advertising

The next page of the newsletter offers ads from various companies. DZ offers very reasonable rates for advertisers. Reach thousands of Disney World fans via the DZ News!

Current Rates:

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One phone number OR a website address included and not included in word count. Interested? Please email us at advertising@disneyzone.net

Happy Birthday to . . .

Laura, Terry - 41, Eric Max - 16, Bryn, Ariane - 13, Cailyn - 11, Eric, Emma, Jodie, Sarah - 8, Lonnie - 10, Ryan - 15, Scott, Gina, Wendee, Arlene, Kyle Samantha - 3, Todd - 31, Lynda, Christina, Joseph - 6, & Aaron - 11

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

Ages are optional!



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