

DZ News

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Camping Disney Style

Just a few years ago, if you would have asked me if I would want to camp at Disney world I would have definitely said NO way! My idea of roughing it was having no dvd player in the hotel room.

My husband & I since bought our family a very nice motorhome. Something else I never thought would happen, I might add. He talked me into it and its been wonderful. Our children are teenagers, which helps. They can pack for themselves and are able to have a little freedom once we 'dock'. We had always stayed at one of the deluxe resorts at Disney World and I never thought I would want any less.

My husband suggested we drive the motorhome down & stay in the Disney campground. I was not too thrilled with that idea. Even though I enjoy the motorhome, I wanted to fly down & be pampered in a nice lush room. He talked me into it, however, and I was pleasantly surprised at the enjoyment of it all. It was a 2 day

drive, stopping one night and experiencing some of Georgia hospitality. We didn't spend much time parked, however, we were anxious to get to Disney.

I had no idea what to expect with the campground area. I had never been there in all our trips. We were very surprised when we pulled up and saw the place. It does not look like a typical campground. Everything was clean! The check in went very smoothly, we drove on to our spot & hooked up. We were in a great location, loop 1600. We had some trees right along our campsite which gave us a little privacy. I was shocked at the amount of very large motorhomes & trailers all in one area. We thought our 40 footer would be too big, we were not the biggest one there!

The CMs at the campground were just as wonderful as those at the expensive Deluxe resorts! We felt all the magic, even in the dirt!

We enjoyed the campground

for all the camping sort of reasons. Met some wonderful people while we were sitting out and cooking, relaxing & enjoying it all. We like to be able to bring so many of our own 'things' on vacation. We liked escaping from the chaos of the parks & hotels to our own quiet little loop!

I really didn't miss the whole hotel thing. I felt like we had become part of a small little community at the campground and was shocked at the amount of time we spent there. When we stay in hotels we spend every waking moment out and about, this week we spend tons of time hanging around at the campground. We went and had breakfast at the Trails End, which was good. We got to see Hoop De Doo which was hilarious! My daughter went horseback riding a couple times.

We really got to experience a different part of Disney World. I am thrilled that we did it this way, it was a TON cheaper, more relaxing, and if you can believe it—more fun!

The Camillo Family,
AJ, Dena, Rick & Katie
Long Island, NY

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Saving Money at Disney World

Several people over the past few months have sent in tips on how to save money at Disney World. Here are their tips, in no particular order:

1. Travel in the off season. September through May, excluding all the holidays, are the least expensive times to stay. There are usually discounts on rooms, flights are cheaper, too.

Hanna, from IL

2. I think a great way to save money is to buy the refillable mugs at the resort you stay at. These are only good at your resort, but can really save some money. One drink alone is about \$3, and the mugs cost about \$10, so after 4 drinks you've paid for the mug! It makes a good souvenir, too. We stop on the way to the pool & get drinks, then fill them again when heading to the room. Its not fun carrying them around all day at the parks, so we leave them in the room when at parks. But Im sure we saved quite a bit using them around the resort.

Catherine, from NY

3. One way to save some money is to eat your largest meal at lunchtime. Lunch prices are much lower than dinner prices and you still get tons of food. We like to have a late lunch, and it

serves as both lunch and dinner. Then we have something light later in the evening. If you have a character buffet meal, you might not even be hungry later at night. We found that its easier to get a late lunchtime reservation, too.

M. Hoffman

4. If you are on a budget, bring film, batteries, sunscreen, hats, sunglasses, etc. from home! Prices for these items at the parks & at the hotels are astronomical! Bring more film & batteries than you think you will need. You can always take the extras home and use them later. A pack of 4 AA batteries cost us close to \$10 at Epcot! That's robbery!

Sammie Jo, NC

5. Did you know that prices for the hotel rooms change all the time? I found out that you can make a reservation one day, for a particular price, then later you can call back and get a deal and get it for a cheaper price. There are many websites which tell you codes to use for special rates. The rates are sometimes good for anyone to use and can save you a lot of money. The nice part is you just call Disney and they will change your rate to the new one with no hassle at all. I thought this was great!

Monica K

6. I know a way to save money on souvenir pur-

chases. You still buy them, but not as many. I have 4 kids and found that if I let them beg and want things the whole trip, I'd be broke. The first trip we kind of bought them things randomly throughout the trip. When it was time to pack up, I realized that I bought them way too many items. Way more than necessary. On our second trip we gave them each a souvenir budget and told them we'd only buy one tshirt, one hat each. Then they would have to use their budgetted souvenir fund for everything else they wanted. We allotted \$30 per child for whatever they wanted to spend it on. They could buy 4 little things, one big thing, it didn't matter. We also read on a message board to buy things at the end of your trip so kids have time to decide what it is that they really want. So we spent the last evening shopping for souvenirs. The kids enjoyed it just as much as going to a park! As we went through our vacation and they would ask for something, we'd just tell them to keep that in mind for when we went buying. It appeased them and they realized that it was going to be their decision. Worked wonders.

Kate, TX

Do you have any tips for fellow newsletter readers? Have you found any good ways to save money? Please send them to us at: ideas@disneyzone.net

Restaurant Reviews

California Grill was recommended to us by a friend. We made reservations a month in advance, which is advisable, and it was the best restaurant we ate at while visiting WDW.

The atmosphere is beautiful, and the food was incredible. Try to make reservations during the evening sunset. The restaurant is all glass and sits atop the Contemporary Hotel. At sunset all of the shades go up and the view is amazing.

And, if you are lucky enough to be there while the park is having their fireworks display then you can walk out and watch it from outside the restaurant and your dessert will be awaiting you when you come back in!

My husband and I are in our late 20's, but it is a wonderful restaurant for children as well. It was recommended to us by someone who takes their children there every year when they go.

Prices are on the high side, but the food was delicious and the atmosphere was spectacular!

- Anna, NJ

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

Flame Tree BBQ in Animal Kingdom—Restaurant Review

Walking in Animal Kingdom you will occasionally smell the delicious bbq cooking. After about 3 hours in the park we decided to go find where that bbq smell was coming from. Flame Tree BBQ is the culprit.

We had an early dinner at this restaurant, in Nov 2004. It is not really a restaurant, its more of a counter service type place. You get in line & order, then try to find a seat. We were lucky enough to find seats in the back area. It was shady.

The food was very, very good! We had ribs! They were very tender and fell off the bones. We also had bbq beef sandwiches which were wonderful. I would even say the best I have had in years!

Try the Flame Tree BBQ next time you are in Animal Kingdom. No reservations required.

lately and want to share details?

DZ News is as great as it is because so many of you contribute articles! Thanks!

Sharing My News

My boyfriend of 7 years proposed to me during our holiday trip this past Christmas. It was actually on Christmas eve, which was very romantic.

Here is what happened. We were at Epcot and he begged me to go to the ESPN club. I didn't want to go, but he kept begging. So I gave in. It was getting late and I really was disturbed because I wanted to see Illuminations. He promised we'd see it another night. So ok, we went!

We walked out the back entrance of Epcot, towards the Boardwalk. He stopped on the bridge, bent down to tie his shoe. There were TONS of people on the bridge. He got on his knee & right there in the middle of the bridge, surrounded by hundreds of strangers he proposed! I couldn't believe it. I was in shock! Of course I said YES! All the people around were clapping and made room for us to stand at the edge to watch the Illuminations Fireworks! It was the best night of my life! Disney magic at its best!

Rachel & Adam—to be married November 2005.

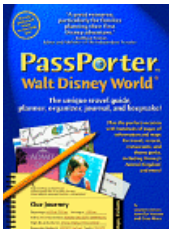
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Have you visited the **DZ Message Boards** lately? It's a great spot to meet other Disney World enthusiasts! There are many topics to discuss, lots of very nice people to meet & a wealth of information for those planning Disney World vacations! Visit 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 ended. And another one just started! Contests on DZ are ALWAYS FREE. 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

I made some scrambled words for the other kids. They are all things at the parks:

NALOOBLS

SHACETCRAR

EITSTCK

LERHCIDN

SINLE

ENESCHB

HROCURS

SSPHO

LPOPEE

Good luck guessing them. I hope they are not too hard.

- Breanna

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