



DZ News

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Disney Dining with Young Children

After our third trip with our 2 young children I feel like an expert at dining at Disney World with small children.

At Magic Kingdom:

Crystal Palace hands down is my kids favorite place. Great Pooh characters that do spend a good amount of time with the kids. The character interaction is something that my kids remember and talk about often. This is a standard buffet with many kid friendly food choices.

Liberty Tree Tavern: Hands down my personal favorite of all character meals, mainly because they bring the food to your table. The food here is plentiful, very good, and more like home cooking than other Disney restaurants. Kids enjoyed the characters, and ate well. Not as chaotic as other meals, too, so its more relaxing.

At Epcot:

Le Cellier has a very good choice for kids. This is not a character meal, but a regular sit-down restaurant. The kids enjoy the food.

At MGM:

Sci Fi Drive in is fun for the kids. You actually sit in cars to eat. They play some movies,

The Legal Stuff

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too. My kids enjoyed the car itself more than the food. It's a fun place to eat.

50s Prime Time Café is fun, too. Tiny kids might not understand the fun of it all, but there is plenty to look at and the servers are a lot of fun & will keep your kids smiling. Food is delicious and they have a great variety for the small ones.

Pizza Planet is fun, too. Just a pizza place, but if your children have seen Toy Story they will get excited to be there. Prices were very reasonable.

At Animal Kingdom:

Restaurantasaurus has a breakfast character meal that is fun. The food is pretty good. My kids sat and watched all that was going on, liked looking at all the artifacts around.

Rainforest Café is fun. Tons to look at here. They have huge animatronic animals and a rain storm (does not really rain on you) lightning, a canopy on the ceiling. Its very realistic. The noise did bother my youngest but not too much. Its expensive and the food isn't great, but the place itself is fun. I did find out that they will make things for the kids that are not even on the menu. A pea-

nut butter sandwich, was happily made for my son. They told us that they could make just about anything that didn't require any strange ingredients. Keep that in mind if you have a picky eater.

Around the resorts:

Chef Mickeys at the Contemporary is a blast. The kids were so overwhelmed by it all that they didn't even eat. They had a great time, however. Loved making dessert with goofy & the whole napkin dance thing. Its chaotic, loud, and the characters rush through, but the little ones love it. Make sure you have reservations, or you'll be waiting a very long time for a table.

Whispering Canyon at the Wilderness Lodge is another loud, chaotic place that my kids loved. They did eat here, and seemed to enjoy their food. As an adult, the food was very good. I felt like our service was outstanding, too. We had a very young man serving us and he was spectacular!

Those are all the places where we ate, and enjoyed our meal. I was taught that if you cant say something nice, then don't say nothing at all. So if your favorite wasn't mentioned, its just because we didn't like it.

- Anna, Matteo, Ty & Riley

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 World vacation the best ever!

Disney Vacation Club Information

In recent months, my husband and I have been thinking about buying a DVC timeshare. I have searched the internet far and wide and have come up with some good background information that might be of use to someone thinking about buying a DVC timeshare.

First of all I need to say that it is not a typical timeshare, its more of a point system. This, at first, seems like it's a downfall but after much research its actually a great thing. It allows great flexibility.

You buy as many points as you can afford, 150-220 is the average. Then you use your points to buy nights. A studio during the week is much fewer points than a 2 bedroom on a weekend.

So your points can be used wisely for an extended vacation. There are also high and low point periods, holidays being high. You can stay at the resort where your points were purchased, or you can stay at one of the other DVC resorts.

At your home resort your reservation can be made

up to 11 months in advance, while at your non-home resort you have 7 months. It is most likely easier to get into your home resort, but not guaranteed. In fact, at major holiday time they say they may do a lottery to select



who gets the room.

Another bonus of the point system is

that you can bank your points and use them the following year, or you can borrow points from the next year to use this year. This can give you a longer vacation one year, while skipping the next, or having a few shorter vacations instead of 2 longer ones.

You can also trade your points through timeshare trade organizations and go anywhere in the world. Some people even rent out their DVC points.

People love the flexibility. One friend I spoke to said this: One year we get a studio, in off season, stay for 10 days. The next year we bring extended family, get a 2 bedroom and stay 5 days. Then the next year we can split up our points and take 2 or 3 short trips. Its wonderful to have the choice.

With a typical timeshare you get a week, and only a week! Not only do we get to choose when we go, but which resort, and what size room, too!

We have a DVC tour planned for our next trip. I have heard from many people that they are low pressure and very infomative. We do plan on buying at Saratoga Springs, so we are very interested in what they have to offer.

There are resales as well as new sales, and I think if you are interested you should look into both.

Current pricing is about \$14,500, I assume for the minimum 150 points. It may seem like a lot but its several years of vacations at the most magical place on earth!

Current DVC Resorts:
Saratoga Springs
Villas at Wilderness Lodge
Beach Club Villas
Boardwalk Villas
Old Key West Resort
Vero Beach Resort
Hilton Head Island Resort

For more information, photos and to order a DVC DVD, go to the Disney Website:
<http://dvc.disney.go.com>

Not So Happy about the '04 Very Merry Christmas Party

I have always been a huge Disney fan and when I met my husband, I turned him into one as well. We've been to Disney World over 20 times (once on our honeymoon) and we even moved to central Florida to be near this magical place. I would always be the person who would defend Disney and everything Disney related but I have to admit that some of the magic has disappeared for both me and my husband.

December has always been a magical time of year to visit Walt Disney World because of the festive holiday decorations and music everywhere. The weather is also ideal to walk around the parks without breaking a sweat. Most of all, I always look forward to attending the Very Merry Christmas Party that takes place every year at the Magic Kingdom Park. My husband and I try to come to this party at least once a year and it has always been a fabulous event until this year.

For those of you who have never been to this party, prior to this year, what used to happen is that the Magic Kingdom Park used to close a little earlier on the days that the party was to take place. The park completely empties of all of its guests and the people with the special Very Merry Christmas Party tickets are then allowed entry into the

party.

This year, Disney decided to do things a little differently. The Magic Kingdom Park never actually closed or emptied the park of its guests prior to the Christmas Party ticket holders arrival, therefore, people who were in the park during the day for regular park hopping fun were allowed to stay at the park and enjoy the festivities that we were forced to pay for. Upon arrival at the party, we were given bracelets but as I walked around the crowded park, I noticed that half of the people were not even wearing bracelets and the castmembers weren't even stopping them to ask where their bracelets were. I had several discussions with castmembers that we saw standing around the park and mentioned to them that people were in the park that did not have bracelets on. They did not make a big deal about it and that made me even more upset. Finally, I went to Town Hall and complained to a manager because this party has never been run like this before. The reason I look forward to this party every year is because it is a wonderful opportunity to hop on rides with little or no wait because they limit the sale of tickets for these parties to only 10,000 people which is nothing in comparison to how many people this park

can actually hold. The lines for the rides on the evening of this party were totally outrageous. They were even longer than they were during the day.

Anyway, I was mad because I had also purchased tickets for this party for the very next evening and I was not looking forward to dealing with this kind of insanity for another night. I explained my situation to the manager and after about a half hour of complaining, he finally decided to reimburse my money for the tickets for both days of the party. We left immediately after that.

This story is a warning for anyone who does not like to be taken advantage of because Disney World is a wonderful place, don't get me wrong, but I refused to pay for something that other people were enjoying for free. Before you purchase tickets for any special events, I'd ask first how they are going to handle emptying the park prior to your arrival so that you don't have to go through what I went through.

Faith Phillips

Franklin Park, New Jersey (former central Florida resident)

my email address is: faithphillips777@msn.com

if anyone has any questions about Disney related stuff. I've been there a lot and may be of some assistance to anyone with questions about anything Disney World.

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?

There are so many things you can write about - please consider contributing to this newsletter. It's the DZ visitors who submit articles that

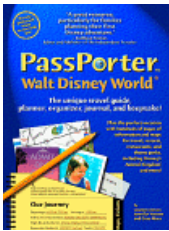
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Have you visited the **DZ Message Boards** lately? It's a great spot to meet other Disney World enthusiasts! There are many topics to discuss, lots of very nice people to meet & a wealth of information for those planning Disney World vacations! Visit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

When you go on vacation you gotta be prepared. You need to bring your own stuff if you are a kid. Bring your game boy and bring all of your games and a bunch of batteries because the airplane ride is very long. Bring gum too. Make your mom bring snacks in her backpack too because you can die of being hungry from waiting so long in line sometimes. Sneak in candy if you can.

~written by my 10 year old son. Andrew, for a writing assignment in school about being prepared. It had me laughing out loud and had to share it!

Melissa, in Ohio

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

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Happy Birthday...



Casey, Allie, Darby-9; Meredith, Kellie's husband;

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