



DZ News

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Discovery Cove Side Trip

There is so much to do at Disney World that its hard to even think about leaving, but we found something worthwhile that I suggest anyone who enjoys dolphins to try!

It's called Discovery Cove, and its not too far from Disney. It's a whole lush, tropical park dedicated to fish and birds of all kinds. There are no crowds, they limit ticket sales to 1000 people per day.

You get quite a bit of attention from the staff and there are wide choices of things to see and do. I will try to describe some of the highlights.

The highlight for us all was the dolphin swim. Its incredible to actually be in the water with them, swimming along side the beautiful animals. You got to know them, it was just incredible.

The Ray Lagoon is really fun, too. You actually go into the water with the fish! They are so interesting to touch. They swim right up to you, which is a little odd at first, but really a great experience.

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Snorkeling in the Coral Reef was another great experience. We spent most of our time there. A wide variety of fish, the snorkeling there was incredible. You felt like you were really in the ocean.

There was a gorgeous tropical river that we never went into. My kids really wanted to spend every minute with the fish. But it looked like people were really enjoying it.

There was also a sparkling tropical pool, which we only spent about 10 minutes relaxing in. My kids just wanted to get every moment possible with the fish! The pool was spectacular, it looked like a natural small lake. Rock formations and waterfalls, wonderful photo ops there!

Aviary was fun, too. They had a wide variety of tropical birds. Flying around freely. You could actually pet & fed some of them. My son found a sloth and fell in love with it!

There are a couple different options, we chose the All Inclusive Package. It was \$259 per person during the high season. This included a reserved swim session

with the dolphins. If you don't want to swim with the dolphins the price is about \$100 less. With our package we had our session with the dolphins (which was the best thing on earth!), unlimited access to the Coral Reef, unlimited access to the Ray lagoon, free-flight aviary, resort swimming pool & river. It included a meal, all the equipment you needed, included towels, sunscreen all the snorkeling items. It also included parking, tickets to Sea World or Busch Gardens and a photo of our family (taken as you enter). Our photo came out so funny as we were all trying to watch something going on to the side of us, but smiling towards the camera. Its obvious we were not looking at the camera.

There is also a package for those who want to work with the animals as a trainer. It was quite a bit more expensive but looked like a lot of fun!

The hours are short, only from 9:30-5, but by the time 5:00 came along we were tired and felt like we completely got our money's worth. No lines for anything, its almost like it is your own private oasis!

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Grand Floridian Afternoon Tea

Restaurant Review
February 25, 2005
TheRustyScupper

It has become more of a tradition and has transformed into habit. Attending the Afternoon Tea at the Grand Floridian during EVERY vacation to Walt Disney World. The attendees have ranged from just Mrs. Rusty and myself, to us with daughters and granddaughters. I have enjoyed Afternoon Tea ever since experiencing it in London. The Grand Floridian conducts almost an equal experience.

The Afternoon Tea is a gracious and relaxing way to wile away a couple of house in pleasant surroundings. It accomplishes the very premise of a Tea – quiet time, pleasing atmosphere, tasty food, and pleasurable conversation. It is a way to veg-out during the hectic rush-rush that typically goes hand-in-hand with a Disney World vacation.

The Tea runs from 2:00pm until 4:30 daily, in the Garden View Lounge in the rear of the lobby of the Grand Floridian Resort. The servers are dressed in Victorian dresses, and the atmosphere is one of se-

date elegance. Myself, Mrs. Rusty, DD#1, and DGD#1 arrived at 1:55pm for a 2:10pm ressie. We were promptly seated near the windows, so we overlooked the walking courtyard of the GF. Our server quickly greeted us, and allowed us time to look at the menu.

The menu has both packaged "Teas" (complete service) and ala-carte items. We selected a packaged Tea for each of us. Me and Mrs. Rusty had the Buckingham Palace Tea (tea, scones, sandwiches, tarts, baked pastries and berries with cream \$17/each). DD#1 and DGD#1 each had the Mrs. Potts Tea (child's tea with sandwiches, tuna, ham and cheese, pbj, and either tea or chocolate milk \$9/each). We also ordered the English cheese plate prior to delivery of the Tea.

The tea was prepared as it should be. The pot was pre-heated wit hot water, the loose tea was placed in the pot and covered with hot water. The sever poured the tea into a strainer placed over the teacup (in a fancy tea, one NEVER pours their own tea. The server should always do it). After a brief period to enjoy tea, the different

courses of food was delivered.

A proper Tea has from 3-7 courses of food. That is why each course is made of finger sandwiches or small tarts. This is not a meal, but a longer series of snacks.



During and between the courses we were able to have some really good conversation. It is such a relaxed atmosphere, that things you normally don't discuss can easily come up. After all, grand parents, parents and grandchildren seldom actually get a chance to sit and just "gab". After almost two hours, we were ready to leave and join SIL and DGD#2 at MK. We had no idea where the time had gone. Next year, we plan to bring DGD#2 to the Tea, along with DD#1 and DD#2.

I highly recommend the Afternoon Tea, as it is a great break in an otherwise hurried trip. It forces a relaxing period, plus gives us a chance to talk and bond.

All Star Reviews

Our family recently stayed at the All Star Music Resort. We have a family of four, two adults and two kids. Son 9 and daughter, 7. This was our second trip to Disney World. Last time was on business, and it was just the kids and I for most of the trip. Since this was our first full family trip I wanted to make it spe-



cial, but with a limited budget we had to cut some corners. By staying at the All Star Music resort instead of a moderate resort we could stay 2 extra days.

This hotel was fun, all the décor was bigger than life. The kids enjoyed it a lot. They met many kids to play with at the pool, and even met the extremely noisy family that was staying in the room next to us.

I think the All Stars are fun, and the cost is great, but I was a little disappointed because it was very crowded and noisy and we

had a long walk to everything.

Last trip we stayed at the Polynesian Resort (husbands business was paying the bill). We could not afford the high price there so we opted for the All Star Music. I wish we would have maybe chosen a moderate resort instead of a value, but we still enjoyed it.

Pros: cost was great. The décor was fun. The pool was fun. We enjoyed the food court food. The staff was very helpful. Rooms were clean and in good shape. Pool area was kept clean, and had a lot of chairs.

Negatives: everything was crowded. Lots of unsupervised children/teens running around, even late at night! Long walks to the buses, pool, food court, lobby. Long waits for buses. Check in took a very long time.

I hate to be negative but if anyone is thinking about staying at the All Stars, and maybe they could squeeze out a little more to go for a moderate, they should.

Kendall Family, Ohio

Another All Star Review:

We stayed at the All Star Sports March 3-8 and loved it. This was the first time we splurged and stayed onsite and it was wonderful.

We loved the fact that we were in Disney the whole trip and never had to leave. Every single thing we needed or wanted we could get somewhere around Disney.

The hotel was a lot nicer than I thought it would be. I had toured many of the other resorts but had never seen the All Stars. I was pleasantly surprised at the resort. It was clean, well-kept and every-



one everywhere we went was happy.

We are not the types to spend much time in our rooms, and this time was no different, but our room was comfortable and clean. We slept well.

We were lucky to get a location sort of close to the food court, and we did grab breakfast most mornings. Food was good and decent prices.

Ed, Terri & Kayla from 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 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

make this newsletter so popular. Submit articles, or send questions to: kimmi@disneyzone.net

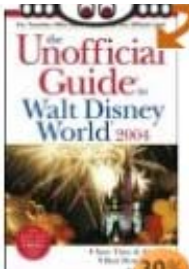
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The **NEW LOOK**. The newsletter has changed a little, this layout should make it easier to read. Also, all the links to email & websites now work. Which means you can click on them and they will actually take you to a website, or bring up your email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

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

Dear Mickey Mouse,

Please come to my birthday party. It is next week and I will save you some cake if you come late.



Benny, age 6.

We need more articles from kids. Ask your child if they would like to contribute something to this newsletter and send whatever they come up with to us at:

Info@disneyzone.net

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Tonya, Codey-10, Trevor,
Jonathan-15, Casey,
Adam, Patrick-11, Doug,
Michelle, Aaron-16, Tyler,
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Shaylynn, Becca, April -14,
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