

DZ News

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Magical Vacation despite some setbacks

“What else can go wrong?” was the theme of our recent vacation. I can't believe all the things that happened. I hope that this article makes it into the newsletter because I think it will help others. We are a family of 4. Two adults, and our children, Cameron 8 and Erica, 5.

We arrived on a late Sunday afternoon for our long awaited Disney vacation. We drove up to the Caribbean Beach Resort and were very impressed by this resort. Stood in line for about 30 minutes to check in. They had no record of our reservation. None at all. Oh boy, what a start. Turns out ‘someone’ called and cancelled. Not us! I was so upset you wouldn't believe it. They had rooms available, and the sweet manager even arranged it so we got our slightly discounted rate! We were ok. It was just the beginning of things to come.

Our room was wonderful, had a nice view of a grassy area. The kids couldn't wait to go swim. I told them we had to unpack first. Guess what I forgot to pack—swimsuits! Arghhh. We had not planned on visiting any parks that

first day, swimming was the plan. Be flexible, my husband kept repeating!

A trip to Downtown Disney is what we decided to do instead. My son loves Legos so we went there first. He bought a nice set, and then we moved on to the biggest Disney store on earth! I actually don't know for sure if it is, but wow! Bought us all some swimsuits (at very elevated prices), and a cute Snow White costume for Erica.

Now its dinnertime. We went to Rainforest Café—2 hour wait. Bongos—1.5 hour wait, Wolfgang Pucks—1 hour wait. Ok, so McDonalds here we come! Not ideal, but the kids were happy. Bed early tonight because we have reservations for breakfast at the Castle. This was the most wonderful thing, we all felt like royalty. I was so happy that I made everyone I know get up at ungodly hours to call to get us these reservations! My daughter was in complete heaven! Cameron even enjoyed it.

Uneventful day—everything went just as planned and expected.

Next day, our next day full of minor problems. My husband lost his glasses first thing. We think he might have dropped them on the bus, but no one turned them in, bus driver can't find them, etc. He can see a little without them, but it turned out to be very difficult for him. Next, we lose our camera. I actually remember setting it down in the restroom. Went back 2-3 minutes later and it was gone. Once again, no one seemed to have seen it. Take an afternoon break to swim. My son bangs his chin on the side of the pool. Off to urgent care for stitches! He actually thought it was cool, but no more swimming for him!

The only other problem we had the entire rest of the trip was that the ‘replacement’ glasses we ordered were made incorrectly at Lens Crafters. It took quite a bit of time out of our days to go back and forth (it was close to the airport).

We had a magical trip, even though we had so many problems to overcome. The weather was warm, and the crowds were thick, but we were prepared for that. We are just so thankful that we were not there during the hurricanes. My kids have many memories of this trip, and we can't wait to go again!

-Sullivan Family, OH

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Topic Borrowed from Message Boards

A fun thread just started on the DZ Message Boards. A visitor, Tweedledee posted an article about Michael Eisner stepping down from the helm of Disney in 2006.

A discussion about applying for Eisner's job followed. The RustyScupper came up with a new topic, "If I were head of Disney, I would ..."

Here are the replies so far:

Pumba: If I were the head of Disney I'd... Find a buyer for ABC/ESPN and focus on the original business of Theme parks and movies.

SnowWhite12: I'd lower the ticket prices so more people could go. That way, I'd still end up making more money. (LOL)

Debbieduck: 1)I'd go back to the basics of great storytelling without sacrificing a grating for the sake of trying to be "cool".

2)I'd remember it's all about family which is defined in many different ways and to embrace what is best about humanity.

3)A free mickey ice cream bar for everyone when you walk in the gates!!!!

Brandi: Keep the standards and wishes of the creator, Walt.

Sameas: I would give frequent visitor points per visit to cash in - like green stamps - towards one night's accommodations.

I would remember it started with a mouse - and re-energize the "family" programming.

I would add a hotel complex around Epcot - with the theme of Mexico, France, England, Morocco, Germany, Italy, Canada, Japan, China, & Norway.

I would add a gondola ride in Italy.

Ruth: I don't know if Disney Training has been cut back(it seems as though it has) I would go back to the way it was because too many cast members don't have the "Disney Feeling" The cast members have a great deal to do with making WDW the wonderful place that it is. I would, however, want to reward the "real" disney cast-members. Yes, the people that run ABC based on a lot of the junk they have on, are also not part of the Disney family.

Pluto: I would continue to invest in the parks and resorts in the USA and abroad; I would hold the world premieres of their films on site, so WDW guests can attend! I would also continue to develop animated films and renegotiate the deal with Pixar (cut them more than that

stingy 50%).

I would do more philanthropy (allow children from poverty backgrounds to occasionally come in for free).

(and I would probably be fired by the shareholders for un-sound business practices!)

What would you do? Think about it because its going to be the question for the next Disneyzone contest!

Contests on DZ are always free, and usually you just have to reply to a question like this. The contest page is located at:
[Http://www.disneyzone.net/contest.htm](http://www.disneyzone.net/contest.htm)



Did you know that you could buy Disney postage stamps? They are the cutest things! I am personally stockpiling them. If your local post office is sold out, you can purchase them online at <http://shop.usps.com>

Disneyland's Grand Californian Resort Review

My stay here was very short but I plan on going back as soon as I can. Here is a synopsis of my stay and experiences:

Parking: There is self parking available but it is across the street from the hotel and could be a hassle if you have a lot of baggage or are traveling with children. Valet parking is what we chose to do and it was \$12 a night plus tips.

Check-in: We arrived late (11pm) and I was surprised that we had to wait to get checked in. The desk was very slow and there was a short line. All in all it was maybe a 20-minute wait, which may sound short, but at 11am on a weekday when you are tired, it was long.

Room: The room was small but very well appointed. We had two queen beds, an entertainment center and a desk area. All of the furniture and décor was true to the Arts & Crafts theme of the hotel. There was a small honor bar inside the enter-

tainment center and a coffee maker in the sink area. The bathroom had two sinks and then behind a pocket door was the toilet, tub/shower area. In the closet there was an iron, a crib and a pair of bathrobes. We had a small balcony overlooking the garden with a table and two chairs. The room was very quiet and comfortable. I did not hear any sound from the neighbors at all and I know this hotel has a lot of families staying there.

Hotel Amenities: We took some time this morning to roam the grounds a bit. The lobby is huge and nice comfy place to just go read the paper in the morning. The gift shop is chock full of Craftsman style goodies as well as things you may have forgot to pack. The pools were heated to around 82 but since there were no lifeguard on duty the slides were closed. Pool however was open for business. The wedding garden was disappointing. I would not plan a event there just because they were very plain.

Staff: As with most places run by Disney the staff is almost overly friendly. Everyone with a smile on their face and no one has a bad day. There was staff everywhere very willing to help you with anything you may want.

Dining: We ate breakfast at the Storytellers Café this morning. It was a very loud place and you cannot carry on a conversation even at a small table for two. The music was the main problem. The food was good by amusement park standards but not something I would go back there for. They offer a breakfast buffet for \$20 a person but it did not look worth it.

Checkout: This was a breeze and can be done on the phone or in person at the front desk. We had them hold our bags and our car till we were done at Disneyland Park.

- Michelle

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?

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

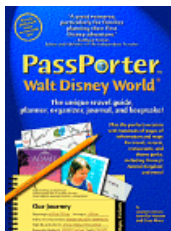
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Have you visited the **DZ Message Boards** lately? It's a great spot to meet other Disney World enthusiasts! There are many topics to discuss, lots of very nice people to meet & a wealth of information for those planning Disney World vacations! Visit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

Dere Mikky Mouse,
I want to com an see you
but I haf to be good in
skul fist. I dunt do my
werk varey good. I am a
nise gerl and I am a good
frend to.

I am guna trie rilly hard to
be good in skul and I will
be nise to my brudder to.

I luv you varey varey

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and see you at desny-
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- Caitlin, 7 years old
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14, Pina - 42, Liam - 5,
Susan, Alex, Derrek - 14,
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