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Introduction: Destination Disney – The Best Way to Plan your Vacation to see Mickey Mouse

Destination Disney, full speed ahead, Mickey awaits. Whether you are planning a trip to the original Disneyland in California or the Walt Disney World of Orlando, Florida, you are in for a very special treat at the house of the mouse.

Walt Disney and his brother Roy Disney founded Disney studios in 1923. Walt began to realize when traveling with his own children that there was a need for a fun family oriented park with the positive aspects of carnivals but minus the negative. People who visited his studio wrote letters expressing their enjoyment, and he became committed to creating the park, eventually buying 160 acres of land in Orange County, California. Needing outside financing Walt created a TV show called Disneyland for the ABC television network, a show which lasted many years and is still in reruns today under the various names it held: Walt Disney's Wonderful World of Color, Walt Disney's Wonderful World, and World of Disney. The show always opened with a scene from Disneyland and the fairy, Tinkerbell, spreading fairy dust.

Opening day in 1955 included Walt's guests; Ronald Reagan, Bob Cummings and Art Linkletter, and a massive crowd. Disneyland was quickly becoming the most popular theme park in the world. Disneyworld in Florida opened in 1971. It includes the Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Disney-MGM Studios and Disney's Animal Kingdom, as well as two water parks, six golf courses, a sports complex, an auto race track, more than 20 hotels and many other sources of entertaining, shopping and dining suited for the entire family. Disneyworld in Florida is the world's largest theme park.

Disney originally envisioned his Florida property to be just a larger Disneyland that could expand without the land limits of the California Park. He also wanted to include EPCOT, the Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow. A true man of vision, Disney created the place to be a land of fun for the family, but Disney died in 1966 and wasn't able to see it completed. His brother Roy renamed it Walt Disney World in his honor.

When planning a mouse vacation in Florida, try to stay in one of the onsite properties to save time. They cost about the same as other hotels farther away, but can save a tremendous amount of time for the family and are available for all budgets. These include several themed hotels, rental condominiums, cottages and even family friendly camping grounds. An advantage to being on Disney property is the availability of free transportation to and from each of the theme parks within the complex. The Walt Disney World resort features four theme parks; Magic Kingdom, EPCOT, Disney-MGM Studios, and Disney's Animal Kingdom. Each park has definite must see attractions.

At the Magic Kingdom a visitor immediately sees a bronze statue of the partners, Walt Disney and Mickey Mouse. When entering Main Street a visitor will see a barbershop offering free haircuts, an Emporium with a variety of souvenirs, and Cinderella Castle. This is followed by Adventureland which includes the Swiss family Treehouse, the Enchanted Tiki Room, a musical show which includes characters from Aladdin and The Lion King, the Jungle Cruise, the Magic Carpets of Aladdin, and the Pirates of the Caribbean boat ride. Then there is Frontierland which features Splash Mountain log flume, Big Thunder Mountain Railroad roller coaster, Tom Sawyer Island, and the Country Bear Jamboree animatronic show with singing bears.

Always popular Fantasyland features "it's a small world," Peter Pan's Flight, Mickey's PhilharMagic, Cinderella's golden Carousel, and a Dumbo the Flying Elephant ride. Fantasyland is capped off with tributes to Winnie the Pooh, Snow White and the Mad Tea Party from Alice in Wonderland. This is followed by Mickey's Toontown Fair, a tribute to the mouse and his friends, and then Tomorrowland. Tomorrowland includes a simulated racetrack, Space Mountain roller coaster, the Astro Orbiter, the Carousel of Progress which debuted at the 1964 New York World's Fair, Buzz Lightyear's Space Ranger Spin ride, The Timekeeper, and Stitch's Great Escape.

When planning a Disney vacation, whether in California or Florida, the whole family will have a great time. And while there, be sure to get some Mickey Mouse ears as the best souvenir of all, from the mouse's house to your house.

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- Tips for Planning a Disneyland Vacation

For many people, planning a Disneyland Vacation is part of the fun of the vacation itself! For others, however, it can be a headache. Before you start planning your vacation, determine whether or not you are really up to planning the trip yourself or not.

If you don't want to plan your own trip, you have several options. Of course, you can have a travel agent make all of the arrangements for you, but for the best Disneyland experience, you might be better off using the Disney Vacation Planning Services. Either way, you can have every single aspect of your trip planned for you. Once you get there, all you will need to do is follow your Itinerary.

If you prefer the fun involved in planning your Disneyland vacation yourself, there are some things that you absolutely must not leave out of the planning stage. Before you can decide what you will be doing at Disneyland, you must determine which dates you will be there. The parks offer different things at different times of the year, with many different themes and entertainment to choose from.

Once you know when you will be at Disneyland, the next step is to figure out what you will be doing each day that you are there. Once you've set up your travel arrangements and your hotel reservations, there are a few more things you must consider.

Food is one thing you might want to arrange in advance. Disneyland is a very popular place, and having reservations at some of the more popular restaurants is recommended. These reservations can be made well in advance – before you ever leave home.

When planning which attractions at Disneyland you want to visit, use a map of Disneyland as a guide. This will make it easier to schedule time for attractions that are near each other. You want to see and do as much as possible, so as much walking or travel time as you can.

Keep your budget in mind. Often, by making arrangements through travel agents or through the Disneyland Vacation Planning Services, you will be able to get better deals – which can save you money. Look for these deals, and save as much money as you can on your hotel and food. If you have small children with you, keep their priorities in mind – they have less interest in where they will sleep and the food that they will eat, and more interest in what they will see and do!

- Kid-Friendly Travel -

10 Tips to Make Flying Easier with Kids

As fuel prices skyrocket, more and more families are finding traveling by plane to their vacation destinations a viable option. While taking to the skies will end up saving your family time in the long run, even a few hours with bored, hungry or uncomfortable children can feel like an eternity. Save your family the hassle of flying unprepared and learn some simple tips for making your next airplane ride a dream instead of a nightmare.

First, plan ahead. Book your flight as early as you can. The best deals can only be found months in advance. Six months, to be exact, should leave you plenty of time to shop around either online or with the assistance of a travel agent.

While finding flights online is fairly simple these days, a travel agent may know which airlines and airports are kid friendly. Some airlines, for example, provide activity packs and special meals for children. Also, some foreign airports lack certain amenities, such as dining choices, which may make travel with children more difficult.

Finally, before you decide on a long flight, which is the worst for jet lag, carefully consider arrival and departure times and layovers. When preparing for a flight from the east to west, a late evening departure may encourage your children to sleep, allowing you to rest as well. When traveling from west to east, try to arrive at your destination in late evening. The darkness may encourage sleep and lessen jet lag. A stopover in a foreign city may provide not only a chance to rest but also a chance to explore another location before you reach your final destination.

Once you decide to book a flight, make sure that your seats are located next to each other. Nothing's worse than having to beg, bargain and plead with fellow passengers to give up their seat when they're trying to get their families or themselves settled. If the airline you are traveling with doesn't assign seats until you check in, then be sure to arrive as early as possible. Also, book a child seat for small children, which act like a combination between a booster seat and a car seat and are more secure than the typical lap belt.

Finally, some airlines allow customers to print their boarding passes online a day in advance. If that's not an option, some airports have kiosks that will allow you to print them yourself when you arrive. Take advantage of these opportunities to save time and avoid painfully long lines.

Once the tricky and time-consuming logistics of airplane travel have been taken care of, it's time to focus on packing. Nothing can be worse than traveling ill-prepared or with too much baggage. Pack as light as you can, and make sure your baggage complies with airline requirements of not being too large or too heavy. If possible, combine your children's luggage with your luggage in order to decrease the risk of losing a bag.

As for carry-on luggage, which should contain essential items like medications and passports, backpacks are usually best for both children and adults because they are both spacious and hands-free. Smaller children find it easier to handle smaller backpacks, so make sure their carry-on is size-appropriate.

Let your children participate in packing. Allow them to pick out their favorite clothing and a few favorite quiet games, toys and books for the flight. A coloring book with crayons or a portable DVD player can keep them entertained in the air. Don't forget to pack extra batteries for electronic devices.

Finally, don't forget to add some essential items to your own carry-on. Children often tire of the toys they pack, so bring new reading books, coloring books or crayons in your own bag as a surprise. Also, unlike most adults, many children like to eat little snacks all day long, so pack some nutritious snacks like string cheese or apple slices in your bag. Extra drinks with straws can help prevent dehydration (without the possibility of spillage). Avoid sugary snacks and drinks as they can cause agitation or increase dehydration. Hand wipes or simple-baby wipes are also important for clean up of sticky faces, hands, or seat trays.

Traveling with children can be both a challenge and a joy. Simple research, early preparation, and light packing can make your family's next airplane trip an enjoyable experience.

- Traveling with your Baby -

10 Tips to make it an Enjoyable Experience for the Family

Getting ready for a family vacation with a baby? Many things can make the trip a more enjoyable experience, depending on the age of the child. Of course, if the baby is still in diapers then having a good supply of diapers and baby wipes are a necessity. Bottled water for drinking and for rinsing out cups is a plus. A variety of sugar free healthy snacks are also a necessity, and pillows and blankets to make the child comfortable during the long ride.

If your baby is old enough to pay attention, then travel games, coloring books, and toys that are quiet enough to avoid driving you crazy can be helpful. Also a travel DVD player that plugs into the car's cigarette lighter for power will allow the child to watch a favorite video, keeping him or her occupied and more comfortable. Read along books for children are handy as well. These books have recordings the children listen to while looking at the pictures and the words underneath, teaching reading skills at a very young age. Possibly the most important tip would be making a schedule and setting realistic driving times each day. Adults can handle longer spans of time in the car than children can, and especially babies. Try not to spend more than eight hours a day driving, and have rest stops every couple of hours to stretch legs, and get outside in the fresh air.

Jill is a mother of two who has fond memories of traveling with her children as babies and toddlers. She tells many stories of trips to the lake, the park, the beach and even to Disneyland, bringing her small children along and says that the experience wouldn't have been nearly as enjoyable for her or her husband if the children had stayed home. She does however, recommend thoughtful planning. "Story books were great. I read to the kids while my husband drove, and that kept them occupied. It also often makes them sleepy and led them to frequent nap times." Jill also recommends coloring books so that the kids can amuse themselves. Ditto for the sugar free snacks. You won't want to get the children running in overdrive on a sugar rush. But children do get hungry frequently, so keeping a good supply of crackers, fruit snacks and other things the kids enjoy will make the trip more enjoyable.

It helps travelers that so many rest stops these days, have baby changing stations in both men's and women's rest rooms. This allows both parents to handle the child changing chores, and eases traveling tensions.

Jill's friend and neighbor Sally also remembers traveling with very small children, and offers this advice: "Baby wipes. Have lots and lots of baby wipes. You never know when you'll need them. And be sure that you make rest stops every hour or two. The kids will get a bit cranky and stopping for fifteen minutes can make a world of difference. Also, be sure to bring animal crackers, graham crackers or some other sort of snack, and bottles of water or fruit juice to wash it down with. Keeping a child fed with keep a child happy."

Traveling with a very young child can be a challenge. If you have friends with older children, ask them what they did to ease the stress of the trip with traveling with the children in earlier years. It always helps to learn from someone else's experiences. Also, ask your own parents what they did when you were a baby, and how they handled traveling situations. It also doesn't hurt to check out the local public library for parenting magazines and books. Being a parent is a very responsible job and learning from others is only wise. However, traveling with your baby or other young child will provide you with a great deal of enjoyment. If you take a camera or video camcorder, you will be able to record the trip for future memories, and have stories to tell for years to come. So enjoy traveling with your baby, but be sure to plan ahead.

- Booking Your Trip to Disneyland

Disneyland's park at Anaheim, CA in the USA is in fact one of the best theme parks in the world and booking a trip to Disneyland can itself get you into a vibrant mood. However, like any vacation, you need to make sure that you plan your Disneyland trip well. Good planning will not only add to your enjoyment but will also help you in making the trip economical.

Here are some tips that will help you plan your Disneyland trip:

- **Before you book:** You must ensure that Disneyland is open on all the days that you plan to visit Disneyland on. Though Disneyland is generally open on all days throughout the year, there might be times when it is closed e.g. Disneyland was closed for one day in 2005 in preparation for their 50th anniversary celebrations.
- **Timing is important:** If you plan a trip to Disneyland during off-peak days, you can not only get cheap deal on travel and accommodation but also on the entry tickets for parks. Moreover, the rush in Disneyland is much lesser in off-peak days so you might be able to reduce the wait time for the attractions. However, some attractions and events might be closed during off-peak times. Also, the opening hours might be limited during off peak period of the year. So, check the calendar at Disneyland website and decide on the dates you want to visit Disneyland on.
- **Book in advance:** The general rule of booking travel / vacation applies to Disneyland too. Booking your hotel and flight in advance is especially important if you are planning to travel to Disneyland from a far off location. It can really save you a lot of money.
- **Booking a complete package in one go:** The website of Disneyland offers the facility of booking vacation packages in one go. You can book 'hotel + Air + tickets' or just 'hotel + tickets' or just the hotel through www.disneyland.disney.go.com. This can save a considerable amount of time and hassle. However, if you want, you can book your trip through travel agents too.

- When is the Best Time to be at Disneyland?

When you are planning your Disneyland vacation, you should note that some days are better than others at the park. The days that you choose to be there will depend greatly on whether you are more interested in attractions or entertainment – or both.

For instance, Tuesday's, Wednesday's, and Thursday's are the days when you will have shorter lines for the attractions, because there will be fewer people there. On the other hand, the entertainment on those nights cannot compare to the entertainment that is offered on the weekends. If entertainment is important, plan your visit to Disneyland for the weekend.

If you will be at Disneyland for several days, however, you should plan to ride the attractions on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and then enjoy the entertainment, as well as the other things the park has to offer on the other days. If you are visiting during the off-season, you should note that entertainment usually isn't offered on weekdays. Also remember that the park really fills up as the day wears on, so try to ride the attractions in the morning if possible!

- Saving Money (and time) on Tickets for Disneyland

Disneyland is visited by thousands of people everyday. Most people generally have some idea of how much the entry ticket to theme park will cost. What people don't know about is the hassle that is associated with buying a ticket at Disneyland front gate. So, if you reach Disneyland without a pre-bought ticket (i.e. if you plan to buy a ticket at the ticket counter at the Disneyland front gate), you might end up losing a lot of time (sometimes more than an hour). Moreover, it's really frustrating to stand in long queues to buy a ticket. Besides wasting your time and causing exhaustion, it takes away the fun (or a part of it) from your Disneyland trip. Here are two simple tips that will help you save time and money on your trip to Disneyland:

- **Buy online:** A lot of people don't know that buying the tickets through internet is much cheaper compared to buying tickets at the Disneyland ticket counter. Generally, this discount on online tickets is available only for multi-day (more than 2 day) hopper tickets and annual passes. However, you can also buy one day ticket (hopper only) or two day hopper tickets online. The shipping is free for standard delivery.
- **Off-peak deals:** Look for deals and special offers on tickets. Disney keeps coming up with various deals on tickets every now and then. If you plan your trip during the off-peak season, you can not only save on the price of tickets but also on waiting time on the attractions in Disneyland (since there are shorter lines for rides during off-peak season)
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So, saving money on Disneyland tickets is really easy. Moreover, these money saving methods are also accompanied with a lot of ease and time savings.

- Tips and Facts on Services Available at Disneyland

Here are some tips and facts on the facilities and services available at Disneyland:

- **Foreign currency exchange:** Since people from other countries visit Disneyland too, there is a foreign currency exchange facility available at Disneyland. This service can be accessed at City hall in Disneyland Park or at the front desks of the hotels in the Disneyland Resort.
- **Pet facility:** You also have a day kennel facility available at Disneyland. There is no need for reserving the kennel, just come and use it. However, this is a day kennel and you cannot leave your pets there for the night. Another important fact to note is that Disneyland Resort hotels don't allow pets. So, if you plan to stay overnight in a Disneyland Resort hotel, do not bring along your pets with you.
- **Special diets:** Disneyland resort restaurants serve vegetarian food and also cater to special diet needs for Disneyland resort guests. However, it's recommended that you check this out directly with the Disneyland resort before you travel. In case they express their inability to arrange for the diet you are after, you might need to carry food with you.
- **Shopping at Disneyland:** There are a number of shops all over the Disneyland. A lot of people would find it quite inconvenient to shop while they still have attractions to visit. However, there is a wonderful service that you can avail of at Disneyland. This service is called "Package check service". With this service you can buy stuff and get it delivered directly at your hotel (if your hotel is in Disneyland resort) or collect it from the Newsstand at Disneyland Park before you leave Disneyland.
- **Parking:** There is ample day parking available at the theme parks and the hotels of Disneyland resort. You can find more information about parking through the Disneyland website.

· **Closed attractions:** The attractions might be closed due to a number of reasons e.g. refurbishment, maintenance etc. Sometimes a number of attractions might be closed at the same time. Hence, it's prudent to check this out (through calendar on the Disneyland website) before you book your Disneyland trip. The calendar will also indicate special events planned for various days.

- Pack Your Suitcase

When packing for your vacation, you need to keep in mind that there are some things that you can take with you and some things that you need to leave at home. Due to terrorism, airport security has gotten much tighter and there are a few things that you need to consider before packing for your trip.

Most people do not think anything of taking bottled water with them on the airplane, but you may want to reconsider this. Any substance in an open bottle raises the suspicions of airport officials. They will most likely delay you at the security checkpoint and you may not be allowed to take it on the plane until you drink it in front of the guards. Sometimes they still will not allow you to take it on the plane.

Food is not something that security officials are usually concerned with. If you have blood sugar problems or need to eat small meals frequently, then you can take some high-protein snacks in little bags to keep you feeling good.

Wet wipes are great for many different purposes when traveling, from wiping dirty hands to wiping a sweaty face. They are also handy to carry in your purse or bag and you can find them in individual packets, larger boxes, and in tubs. They are not just for baby bottoms anymore!

Find a secure way to carry your money, credit card(s), passport, and other things you need. Many people wear money belts under their shirt or money-necklaces, but the money-necklaces may make you look like you have a large growth on your chest. Fanny packs are a great option, but they are bulkier than the money belt.

If you are going to be gone for longer than a week, then you will want to purchase some postcard stamps before you go. This way you can send family and friends notes much cheaper than using a regular stamp.

Plastic grocery bags are some great tools to use as a dirty laundry bag or to keep dirty or wet shoes quarantined from your clean clothes. These bags are easy to pack and do not take up much room!

Delays should be expected if you are flying to your destination. Take a few DVD's with you to pass the time. Many airports have DVD players that you can rent and you can catch up on the top movies while you wait!

A small first aid kit is a great thing to pack in your purse or carry-on bag, but if you want to take a sewing kit, then you need to put it in your checked baggage. Anything that is sharp can be confiscated by airport security and this includes a seemingly innocuous sewing needle.

If you want to check your makeup or hair, then a compact is a great thing to put in your purse or carry-on. You can also use it if you get something in your eye and you will not have to search for a restroom.

Following these tips can make your trip much more enjoyable and less stressful. Living in a post-9/11 world has caused us to have to make several sacrifices, but if you plan ahead, you will be prepared for anything! Have a good trip!

- Ready to Get Into Disneyland

So, you have procured your Disneyland tickets through the online route and have made travel and accommodation arrangements as per your need. You might be visiting Disneyland for one or more days. Well, no amount of time is really enough for enjoying Disneyland. That is one reason why people go for annual passes too.

It's quite important to plan the trip to your final abode – The Disneyland. Here are a few tips on the final bit of planning for Disneyland visits:

- **Ensure that you are not overly tired from travel:** There is quite a bit of walking to be done in Disneyland. Moreover, you will have to stand in queues for various rides (and the wait times can be quite a lot during busy times). Whether you are in Disneyland for one day or more, you surely wouldn't want to get there in a tired and exhausted state otherwise you will not be able to enjoy. You are in Disneyland to enjoy; and enjoy you should.
- **Make the most of your time by reaching early:** This is especially important if you are in the Disneyland for just a day or two. You should enquire about the opening and closing times for the day(s) you plan to visit Disneyland for. Also, you should reach there half an hour before the opening time because "Main Street, U.S.A.", which is a part of Disneyland, generally opens about half an hour before the other parts of the Disneyland Park. So, fun can begin earlier than you would have thought.
- **Sun protection:** Since Disneyland is located in Southern California, you can expect the company of Sun quite often. So, take along your sunscreen lotion and hats etc for protection against Sun.
- **Driving directions:** Take along a map for driving directions to the Disneyland (especially if you are traveling from far). You can also get the driving directions through Disneyland website.

- Celebrate Birthdays at Disneyland

If you want to celebrate your birthday, or the birthday of a child at Disneyland, you can easily do this – and it doesn't even have to be done on the exact date of birth! Start celebrating by going to City Hall, which is located in Town Square, upon your arrival to Disneyland. Here, you will receive a Birthday Sticker or button. This sticker tells everyone on at Disneyland that you are to receive special treatment.

On your birthday celebration day, make sure that you eat in one of the full service restaurants, and that you order the Birthday Bucket. It will be full of Disney treats, and it includes a cake. This costs around twenty dollars. Eat breakfast at Goofy's Kitchen and you can get a Birthday Bag for five dollars.

There are many ways to enjoy your birthday at Disneyland. You will receive special treatment from all of the Disney Characters in the park. This can be a memorable birthday celebration for you or your child – so make sure you take lots of pictures, and don't be shy about telling people who work at the park that it is your birthday – if they don't notice your sticker!

- Disneyland Weddings

Your wedding day is the happiest day of your life. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have the happiest day of your life at the happiest place on earth? Of course it would – and Disneyland has made that possible with Disneyland Weddings.

Women start dreaming of their weddings from the time that they are little girls. Now, you can really have a fairy tale wedding that are truly unique, romantic, and enchanting – and you can have your very own 'happily ever after' wedding day at Disneyland. Disneyland weddings include a magical ceremony and a creative reception that you can't find any place else on earth.

You won't have to stress over the details. Like Cinderella, you can have your very own God Mother to take care of the details – although in this case, it will actually be a fairy God Planner.

Disneyland weddings are not last minute events. The planning stage starts one year before the date of the wedding with a meeting with the Disney wedding planner, a site tour, and a selection of the possible locations for the wedding. Eleven months before the big day, the letter of agreement must be signed and returned with a deposit. At ten months, announcements are mailed out to the guests who are to be invited.

Eight months before the big day, the planning steps up. Planning sessions are held by phone or in person with the wedding planner, and ceremony and reception event orders are prepared. Everything starts falling into place, and the planning continues until one month before the big day. Final payments are due thirty days before the wedding date, and the final guest count is due four days before the wedding is to take place.

Everything is planned with your input, and all of the details are handled without any stress being placed on the happy couple. Flowers, invitations, and catering are all included. After a ceremony that will live in your memory forever, you and your new spouse will enjoy the reception of your dreams.

The reception will be handled by a white gloved staff, complete with elegant resort table settings, a head table, floor length linens, and place cards. Your wedding cake will be like nothing you could imagine in your wildest dreams, selected by you from a variety of choices.

There are also honeymoon packages available at all of the Disneyland Resorts. From start to finish, your Disneyland wedding will have all of your dreams coming true, so you and your spouse can start your road to happily ever after.

- Family Reunions at Disneyland

Everyone looks forward to family reunions – and who doesn't love Disneyland? How about bringing the two together by having your family reunion at the happiest place on earth. It is much easier than you might think to have this arranged!

Start off by calling the Disneyland Vacation Planning Services Department. Let them help you book rooms at the Resort hotels, and admission tickets to the park. If you purchase your tickets in bulk, you should be able to get a discount.

The specific service that you need to accommodate all of your family members is the 'Happiest Place on Earth Picnic.' This service includes admission to the park for your entire party and this service is offered year round. You will also get a choice of fully catered meals for the event. For 100 – 300 people, your event can be held at "Big Thunder Ranch". For 300 – 1000 people, the event will be held at the "Festival Arena".

If there are less than 100 people in your party, you may not be eligible for the catering services. This is at the sole discretion of Disneyland, and you will need to discuss this with Guest Services or the Planning Services Departments. If catering is not available, reservations in the many restaurants can be made instead.

You may be able to get a discount on your family member's rooms at the Resorts as well, if you book well in advance, hold your event during the off-season, and book a block of rooms. Airline tickets for those who will need to fly to Disneyland should also be purchased well in advance, and in bulk for additional discounts.

Again, allow Disneyland Vacation Planning Services to help you with the arrangements, and use a travel agent to handle any arrangements that planning services doesn't cover. For best results, choose one family member to work with the planning services and the travel agent, and relay information back and forth between the services and the family members. Having one person collecting and sharing information will cut down on a great deal of confusion and misinformation when you are trying to make travel arrangements for a large number of people.

It may take work and planning, but in the end, this will be one family reunion that will never be forgotten. Talk with the Vacation Planning Services Department to find out what other services are available to make this an even more special experience for you and your family members. The Surprise services would be a nice touch!

- Disneyland Surprises for Yourself and Loved Ones

If you would like to surprise someone who will be traveling with you to Disneyland, you can easily do this by using the Disneyland Vacation Planning Service. This service has many different services that can be performed for you, but one of the best ones is the Surprise service.

Simply contact the Vacation Planning department, and tell them who the surprises will be for, which Resort hotel you will be staying at and what your budget is for the surprises. You will also need to tell them when you would like the surprise deliveries to be made, and what type of gifts you are interested in.

They will also want to know who the favorite Disney character is of the person that you want to surprise.

After providing all of this information, your credit card information will be required. You can be sure that the amount charged to your credit card will not exceed your surprise budget that you have set. This is a great way to add more value to your Disney experience, and to constantly experience great anticipation of the next surprise to come!

- Disneyland Magic Music Days

Disneyland has always contributed to the education of young people in one way or another. This tradition is continued with the Disneyland Magic Music Days program, which is an educational program for students of music, vocal arts, or dance.

Your group has the opportunity to showcase your talent and to improve even more in a setting that promotes learning – and you can have fun doing it! The program is available all year, and is open to schools, studios, and other organizations worldwide. Auditions for the program are required.

There are many workshops held to help improve the specific talents of each member of your group. These workshops are taught by professional actors, choreographers, comedians, dancers, composers, singers, arrangers, musicians, and conductors. Where else will your group have access to professionals in these fields – all in one place? To sweeten the pot, many of these professionals are famous in their fields, performing in both Hollywood and New York, among other famous places in the world.

Instrumental groups can audition to perform on one of the Disneyland stages. Marching bands can audition for the famous Disneyland parades. Along with performing in the happiest place on earth, which is an experience you will remember and talk about your entire life, you will also receive the benefits of world-class workshops, conducted by world-class professionals. Vocal groups and dancers audition to perform on one of the Disneyland stages, and are also offered the world-class workshops designed for vocalists and vocalist groups or dancers.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for your group. The performance alone will be unforgettable, but the information that these young performers will learn in the workshops is invaluable. Instrumental groups and marching bands will benefit from the soundtrack/instrumental workshop, the soundtrack jazz workshop, the tune in seminar, and the percussion workshop.

Vocalists are offered the industry show choir workshop, academy show choir workshop, the academy vocal workshop, the industry vocal workshop, and the express yourself workshop. Dancers can take advantage of the industry dance workshop, academy dance workshop, and the express yourself workshop. There is something for all performers as Disneyland Magic Music Days!

Each member of each group will receive an 8 x 10 glossy picture of their entire group, dressed in performance attire, in front of the Sleeping Beauty Castle. Although you won't need any help remembering your time at Disneyland Magic MusicDays, you can share this photo with your friends and loved ones when you return home from the most unforgettable performance you will ever have.

- Entertainment at Disneyland

There is always something to see or do at Disneyland, but Disneyland adds to this with nightly entertainment during the peak season, and weekend entertainment during the off-season. There is also special entertainment during special occasions, such as the Fourth of July and Christmas.

Fantasmic is held twice each night during the peak season, and on weekends during the off-season. The show takes place on Tom Sawyer's Island, and features many characters, music, and fireworks. For the best seating possible, purchase tickets for Fantasmic in advance, but note that free seating is also available, and is included in your Disneyland park admission price.

The Parade of Dreams features large colorful floats accompanied by many Characters. This parade takes place twice each day. During the parade, the entire parade will stop three times to do a choreographed show, and most of the Disney Characters are portrayed in the Parade of Dreams.

In the Fantasyland Theater, you can see a musical of Snow White. This show is held several times throughout the day. This show should not be missed – especially if you love Snow White. Since the show is held several times each day, reservations are not necessary.

These are just a few of the shows that are available at Disneyland. Again, entertainment is an ongoing thing at the park, with each day bringing something new. One thing that you can definitely count on, of course, is the fireworks! The fireworks show is held late each night – before the park closes for the day.

Even if you can't stay for the fireworks, you can probably see them out of your hotel window! Try to get a view of the Fireworks from in front of Sleeping Beauty's Castle for the greatest effect. The fireworks on the Fourth of July are out of this world.

To find out if there are any special shows or events during the time that you will be at Disneyland, visit the website, call the park, or ask your travel agent to find this information out for you. You may also want to inquire about special events during specific months, so that you can plan your stay at Disneyland for those days.

Most entertainment is provided free of charge, and is part of your admission price. However, special seating, or priority seating usually requires a fee, as well as a reservation. Some events require an admission price that is separate from your park admission. Again, check the website, call the park, or discuss events and fees with your travel agent when planning your Disneyland vacation.

- Christmas at Disneyland

Christmas is one of the happiest times of the year for a child. Spending the happiest time of the year, at the happiest place on earth, could be a dream that comes true for many children and adults. Christmas at Disneyland is an experience that will never be forgotten, and can never be matched.

Disneyland works to make Christmas very special. Santa's Reindeer Roundup is especially fun, allowing children to decorate Christmas cookies with Mrs. Clause, play Reindeer Games, and make holiday souvenirs. Between seeing all of the characters dressed up in their holiday costumes and enjoying the 'snow' after the Fireworks, Christmas at Disneyland cannot be topped!

Make sure that you visit the Christmas Shoppe and buy a special holiday ornament. Also, take part in all of the special holiday rides. Visiting Disneyland at Christmas time is unlike any other Disneyland vacation you will ever take. Make sure you get a picture of the Christmas tree!

Even though Christmas is considered to be 'off-season' you should be prepared for crowds. Christmas is a very popular time to visit Disneyland. Make reservations well in advance.

- Pamper Yourself at Disneyland

You may think that Disneyland is only about fun, excitement, and activity – but you would be wrong. Disneyland is also about relaxation and pampering. The pampering you receive at Disneyland may not be the same that you would receive at a world class spa, but it is relaxing and makes you feel special just the same.

The easiest way to get pampered on your Disneyland vacation is to book your room at one of the Disneyland resorts, and upgrading your room to one that includes Concierge services. The difference in the price may startle you a bit, with rooms costing up to \$300 per night, but the service you receive will be out of this world.

First, your room will be much nicer if you have the Concierge service. You will have free bottles of water, soft drinks, coffee, and tea at all times. You will be able to check in and out faster at the Concierge check in counter, and a nightly turndown service is included.

Access to the Concierge lounge is where the pampering really starts! You will enjoy a continental breakfast in the lounge each morning. You can also opt to take your breakfast back to your room. In the afternoon, while the kids watch Disney Videos, you will enjoy a wine tasting in the lounge as well.

There are many more perks available with the Concierge service, differing at each resort. To determine whether the Concierge service will benefit you and your family, call the resort that you are considering, and simply ask what perks are included with this service. Ask to be connected with the concierge desk to ensure that you are getting accurate information.

Again, the cost of this upgrade is a bit high, but when you close your eyes and dream of all of the pampering and special treatment that you and your family will enjoy, and you tally up the cost of the free breakfast and drinks, you may find that the cost is well worth it. In fact, depending on the size of your family, you may even discover that the value of the free breakfast and the free drinks even makes the entire Disneyland trip a little less expensive for you!

Once you've experienced the Concierge Service on a trip to Disneyland, you may not be satisfied with anything less on future Disneyland trips. The service is out of this world, and can only serve to make your trip more relaxing and enjoyable.

- The Disneyland Hotel

For the ultimate Disneyland vacation, you should definitely stay at the Disneyland Resort Hotel. With 990 rooms in three high rise towers, this is the original Disney Hotel, located in Downtown Disney. If you want to truly experience all that Disneyland has to offer, you must stay at the Disneyland Resort Hotel.

The guest rooms in the Disneyland Hotel are absolutely astounding. Offering standard rooms and suites, each room has either a king size bed or two queen size beds, room service, phones with voicemail, irons, ironing boards, refrigerators, hair dryers, make up mirrors, and safes. Cribs and roll away beds are available, as well as smoking and nonsmoking rooms. The rooms are even sprinkled with Pixie Dust! For families, the suites are highly recommended. Suites contain one, two, or three bedrooms, and have all of the amenities of a standard room as well.

The Concierge service at the Disneyland Hotel cannot be topped. Concierge service entitles you to priority check-in, admission to an exclusive lounge, a continental breakfast, an evening wine and cheese reception. Nightly turn-down service is included, as well as DVD players and complimentary movies. You will also have an unlimited supply of bottled water and soft drinks. The Concierge serves to make your vacation as enjoyable and trouble-free as possible.

Disney touches are everywhere, and this is the closest you can actually come to living in Never Land. The swimming pool even has a Never Land theme, and there are several cove pools and a sandy beach. The hotel also features a child's playground, a volleyball court, and Koi fish ponds. The recreational area encompasses a 5,000 square foot area inspired by Peter Pan. There are many scenic waterfalls, tropical foliage, and mysterious caves on the property. There is even a Team Mickey work out room full of state-of-the-art gym equipment.

At the Disneyland Hotel, you will feel like your Disney experience has truly already started as soon as you walk in the door. This is where the famous Goofy's Kitchen is located, as well as The Captain's Galley, The Coffee House, Crocs Bits 'n' Bites, Granville's Steak House, Hook's Pointe, The Wine Cellar, and The Lost Bar.

When you stay at the Disneyland Hotel, your vacation continues even after a day of sight seeing and attractions in the park. In fact, your Disneyland vacation begins each and every morning when you wake up in the Magic Kingdom that the Disneyland Hotel represents.

- Disneyland and Disabilities

Even if you are confined to a wheelchair or on crutches, you can still enjoy Disneyland. If you are on crutches, you should consider renting a Disneyland Scooter to get around the park. The rental fee is \$35 per day, with a \$20 deposit. A valid driver's license is required, and you must be eighteen years old or older.

You can also choose to rent a wheelchair, which is not electronic. The rental fee for a wheelchair is \$8 per day, with a \$20 deposit. You do not have to rent your wheelchair or Scooter from Disneyland. You can choose to rent the apparatus from a private company, and have the wheelchair or scooter delivered to your hotel room. You may find that it is cheaper to rent from a private company, as opposed to renting from Disneyland.

All of the restaurants and shops are wheelchair accessible, as are the entertainment areas. When it comes to wheelchairs, your problem will be accessing some of the rides. Some rides are not appropriate for people who are in wheelchairs, while others are perfectly suitable. For instance, you will not be able to enjoy Donald's Boat, Sailing Ship, or Tarzan's Tree house.

However, there are many attractions that you can enjoy, such as The Disney Gallery, Disneyland Monorail, the Disneyland Railroad, the Tiki Room, The Golden Horseshoe, It's a Small World, Mark Twain Riverboat, and Tom Sawyer Island. Some attractions will require you to be transferred from your wheelchair, such as Alice in Wonderland, Indiana Jones, and the King Arthur Carrousel.

Cast members and service personnel will be happy to help with Guest wheelchair transfers, and if you should lose a wheelchair or scooter that you've rented from Disneyland, simply show the ticket for the wheelchair or scooter, and Disneyland will happily supply you with another one. However, if you lose a wheelchair or scooter that was rented from an outside company, Disneyland will not be able to help you replace it, and you may have to pay the rental company the full value of the chair. This is something to consider when you are trying to decide whether to rent from Disneyland or a private company.

Whether you can enjoy a ride in your wheelchair, or you must be transferred from your wheelchair to the ride, you can actually enjoy most of the rides at Disneyland. Do not allow the fact that you can't walk around the park keep you from planning a Disneyland Vacation. Again, Disneyland was designed with everyone in mind!

- Going to Disneyland with Toddlers

Disneyland is the place for kids of all ages and this includes the toddlers too. There are a large number of rides in Disneyland that are marked as suitable for families with toddlers. However, you will need to accompany your little ones on these rides. Besides that, you need to do a bit of planning before you start for Disneyland with your little one(s). Here are a few tips for people who are going to Disneyland with little ones:

1. **Take along some food:** If you are traveling with toddlers, do not forget to pack their favorite food with you. Even though kids meals are available in the restaurants, taking along something that you know your kid likes will ensure that they have proper meals while in Disneyland.
2. **Extra clothes:** In Disneyland, there are a number of opportunities for playing with water. And if that is what your little ones likes, make sure that you take along extra set of clothes for them.
3. **Baby stroller:** you can either bring your own baby stroller or get one from the stroller rental that is located at the front gate of the Disneyland.
4. **Baby care centers:** While in the Disneyland park, make use of baby care centers that are quite well equipped with various facilities that you can use e.g. training potty, high chairs, baby sundries (need to be purchased) etc. Besides the baby care center, baby-changing stations are present in all bathrooms.
5. **High chairs:** All sit-down restaurants have high chairs that you can use for your kids.
6. **Characters:** Enquire (through guest relation hosts/hostesses) about character photo sessions and meals. This is something that your little ones will enjoy a lot.
7. **Pack hats for your little ones:** Hats will help protect your little ones from sun (remember, Sun is not a rarity in southern California)

8. **Other accessories:** Just pack in the other accessories as you would when going to any place for a day (or multi-day) long outing with your little ones.

There are many things that you can enjoy with your toddler – so many things in fact, that unless you will be staying for several days, you won't have time to do them all.

Start with Toon Town. Here is where you will find your toddler's favorite Disney Characters, including Mickey and Minnie Mouse. All of the Characters have homes in Toon Town, full of things that will amaze your toddler, and make them laugh.

Your toddler will definitely enjoy the Disneyland Railroad. This is a great way to get around the park, because there are stations in New Orleans Square, Toon Town, Tomorrowland, and on Main Street. This will amuse your toddler, and give you a chance to see some sights and rest a bit.

It's a Small World is very appropriate for toddlers. Music and colors will keep your child mesmerized while you enjoy a relaxing ride across the water. The Storybook Land Canal Boats is another good choice, as it will take you through the miniature villages that your child will be quite familiar with from their story books.

Rides that you and your toddler must not miss include all of the rides in Fantasyland, King Arthur's Carousel, Dumbo the Flying Elephant, the Circus Train, and the Mad Tea Party. Rides that are appropriate for youngsters, but that may cause a little fear are the rides that are dark. These include Peter Pan's Flight, Pinocchio's Daring Journey, Alice in Wonderland, and Snow White's Scary Adventure. Buzz Lightyear is a popular ride for all toddlers.

There are other areas of the park that have attractions and rides that are appropriate for toddlers. Remember that Disneyland is a place for kids of all ages. Pay attention to the height and age requirements for each attraction, and avoid taking your toddler to rides that they will not be able to enjoy. This will only cause your child disappointment.

Stick to the areas where the toddler appropriate attractions are located as much as possible. As an adult, you realize that some rides are simply not safe for small people – but your small person will not comprehend this! Your Disneyland vacation should be enjoyable for everyone, and Disneyland has made sure that there is something for everyone at the park. It is up to you to keep your child happy, and to keep them interested in the rides and attractions that they are meant to enjoy.

- Disneyland Baby Centers

Disneyland is a place for everyone, and at Disneyland, they have thought of everything – including the babies. The Disneyland Baby Center is located on Main Street, behind the Plaza Inn. This is not a babysitting service. Instead, it is a place where you can attend to your babies' needs.

There are several characters present in this area, and their purpose there is not only to amuse your baby, but also to help you attend to your baby's needs. This area has rockers, where you can rock and breast feed your baby. No men are allowed in this room, but they are allowed in other rooms within the Baby Center. You can warm a bottle or a jar of food, and clean bottles as necessary. Baby changing tables are available, and the entire center is very clean and comfortable. There are even smaller toilets for children who are being potty trained.

You can also purchase emergency baby supplies at the Baby Center. Diapers cost about a dollar each, and several different types of formula and baby food are kept in supply, although the selections are limited. This is Disneyland's way of making sure that the needs of every guest – no matter how small they may be – are attended to.

- Getting Around Disneyland with Your Toddler or Baby

As a parent, you already know that you don't want to have to carry your child around in your arms all day. You couldn't possibly make it through the day! You also can't expect your child to walk all day long. The obvious choice is to have a way to transport your child – without wearing you or the child completely out.

Strollers are not only welcome at Disneyland, they are highly recommended. In fact, Disneyland rents strollers for a reasonable fee. Strollers can be rented for less than \$10 for the day, and you can get a huge discount on a second stroller if it is needed. The strollers are clean and well-maintained, there is one disadvantage, they do all look alike. Tie something on the stroller, such as a brightly colored ribbon, to help identify it from all of the other strollers in the park.

Never leave your child unattended in the stroller, and never leave any material items of any value in the stroller either. Even if you bring your own stroller, you should have some easy way to identify it – there will be other strollers that look just like it at Disneyland.

- Disneyland Purchases – Package Express

One of the nice guest service features at Disneyland is the Package Express service. This will allow you to make purchases, and not have to carry them around with you all day! Can you imagine trying to hold all of your packages, your kids, and ride the rides?

Instead, have your purchases sent to the Newsstand, which is located near the exit. This Package Express purchase allows you to pick your packages up as you are leaving the park. If you stay till closing, note that the pickup line will be very long. You should plan to leave at least an hour earlier than you had originally planned if you have packages to pick up.

You can also have your purchases sent directly to your hotel if you are staying at one of the Resort Hotels. This offers even more convenience, because you won't have to leave the park earlier, or stand in the package pickup line. Another option is to rent a locker, and put all of your purchases in it until you are ready to leave. However, this means that you will have to walk back to the locker after each of your Disneyland purchases.

- Disney Dollars and Disneyland Merchandise Cards

When it comes to children and money, we all know what happens. The money gets spent either the wrong way, or it gets lost. With Disney Dollars and Disneyland Merchandise cards, you may be able to cut down on some of this.

Disney Dollars work just like cash at Disneyland. They can be used anywhere in the park, and at certain hotels. They can even be used at local Disney stores in your area. The Disneyland Merchandise Card works more like a credit card. The amount of money you load on the card is how much is available. All of this fits quite nicely into the FreePass holder, so there will be less chance of losing the dollars or the card.

You can also purchase a Disneyland Resort Gift Card. This card can only be used at the Disney Resorts, as well as stores that accept credit cards at Disneyland. These cards also make great gift items for anyone who loves Disneyland, or for anyone who is planning a trip to Disneyland. This is a great way to budget money for souvenirs as well as snack items while at Disneyland.

- Disneyland Ticket Security

You must have your Disneyland ticket in order to enter the park. You must also have the ticket to get FastPass tickets. Because this ticket is so important, it needs to be kept in a safe place. Along with the Disneyland ticket, you also need a safe place to keep money or the Disneyland Merchandise Card.

A wallet or purse is not very practical at Disneyland. Instead, you should purchase a FastPass holder – even if you don't get any FastPasses. This is a small plastic pouch that hangs from a cord, which is worn around the neck. These can be purchased at Disneyland, and they are very inexpensive.

If you think you might not want to spend a little bit of money on the FastPass holder, you should consider what a new Disneyland ticket will cost. If you lose your Disneyland ticket, you will not be allowed to enter the park the next day without purchasing a new ticket. When you look at the small cost of the Disneyland FastPass holder, you will see that it is well worth it.

- Get More Out of Your Disneyland Vacation With FastPass

You don't want to spend your entire Disneyland Vacation standing in long lines. This can be avoided by using Disneyland FastPass. FastPass can be obtained from machines located near the rides that accept FastPass. This doesn't mean that you get to immediately move to the front of the line. It is more like scheduling an appointment for the ride later in the day – at which time you actually will move to the front of the line. In the meantime, you are free to go enjoy other sites and rides around the park.

When you obtain a FastPass ticket, you will be given a one hour time in which to enjoy the ride. For instance, your FastPass ticket may say 11am to 12pm. This means that you can show up and move to the front of the line between the hours of 11am and 12pm. You must have your Disneyland ticket in order to obtain a FastPass ticket.

At Disneyland, FastPasses are available for Indiana Jones, Splash Mountain, Big Thunder Mountain Railroad, Roger Rabbits Cartoon Spin, Autopia, Space Mountain, and Buzz Lightyear.

- How to Reduce the Waiting Time on Various Attractions

Disneyland, as you know, is a very busy place. With several thousand people visiting Disneyland everyday, you would surely expect long queues at various rides. The situation can become worse during peak seasons (holidays etc). Christmas and New Year seem to be the busiest times at Disneyland besides the June-Sept period. During these periods the park opens for longer time and there are more events and attractions that you can enjoy as compared to the off-peak times. Also, weekends are busier than weekdays. Moreover, the lines are the longest on the best attractions which (by the virtue of being the best) attract almost everyone. So, the waiting times can really be quite long and you might end with getting just 4-5 attractions in the whole day. This is really a waste of both time and money. However, there are simple ways of getting around this problem:

- **Get to the park early.** The lines are shorter in the morning when the park first opens. Instead of jumping in line for the first ride you see, head for the rides that you really want to ride the most – the most popular rides. Another option is to purchase FastPass tickets for the rides that offer them. Again, do this early to ensure that you get to ride those rides earlier in the day.
- **Ride many of the popular rides later in the evening,** while the majority of people are enjoying the entertainment. Disneyland has nightly entertainment, and this is a good time to find shorter lines. Of course, it will mean that you probably miss the entertainment, so if you can use one of the other options for shorter lines at Disneyland, you should probably do so.
- **Upfront knowledge:** If you have sufficient knowledge upfront about the various attractions in Disneyland, you can pre-plan what all rides you want to go for and hence save on the time that would otherwise be spent in learning about the attractions. Thus you would be able to get in line quicker and hence save a lot of time.

- **FastPass:** FastPass is one service that was implemented by Disney around 1999. The main purpose of this service was to reduce the waiting time for people. Here is how this service works: You show your park admission ticket at the attraction and get a FastPass ticket. The FastPass ticket will have a return time on it (one hour window). You will need to return to the attraction at the time specified on the FastPass ticket and you will be directly put through to the attraction (within 5-10 minutes.). Generally, the FastPass line is much shorter than the normal line. So, instead of waiting in the normal line you can go for another attraction that has a shorter line. However, note that the FastPass option is available only on some selected attractions (not all).

So, these are a few simple ways of circumventing the long lines at Disneyland.

- Personal Comfort at Disneyland

There is no better way to ruin your Disneyland vacation than trying to walk around with blisters on your feet! It is vitally important that you wear comfortable shoes that are already broken in. You will be doing more walking than you normally would when you visit Disneyland.

It is also important that you bring a change of clothing. You can rent a locker at Disneyland to store your extra clothes. You can rub your thighs raw if you ride water rides in denim shorts, then try to walk around while you dry out! Enjoy the water rides – but then go change into dry clothing! Bring extra shoes as well. Walking around in wet shoes is not only uncomfortable; it can also contribute to blisters.

More than blisters can cause discomfort. Some people simply are not used to being on their feet all day. If your feet are tired and sore at the end of the day, soak them in cool water with Epsom salt. This will offer more relief than soaking them in hot or warm water. After a good twenty minute soak, your feet will feel refreshed and ready for more walking!

- A Typical Day at Disneyland Resort

Most people know that one day is quite insufficient for enjoying the complete Disneyland. In fact, the website of Disneyland suggests two days for Disneyland Park (and additional two days if you plan to visit Disney's California Adventure park too).

Many people find even two days insufficient for enjoying Disneyland fully. However, the key thing here is not how many attractions you have visited but how much fun you are having. Trying to do too much in a short time can only lead to exhaustion and spoil the fun. So, plan out your day in a way that it doesn't tire you and maximizes your enjoyment.

Here is how you could plan a typical day at Disneyland:

Make a list of attractions that you want to do on that day and prepare a sequenced plan for them. Use your Disneyland map guide to plan the sequence of attractions in such a way so as to reduce the amount of walking (which will also save you some time). In fact, making such a plan could actually be a lot of fun. Divide your day into three sessions i.e. pre-lunch, post lunch and evening. Your pre-lunch session will begin with your breakfast followed by five to seven attractions (depending on how busy it is at Disneyland). Consider the use of FastPass for attractions that have long queues. Another five to seven attractions can be done in the post-lunch session.

You also need to plan for shows and parades. The best thing to do is to plan the attractions before and after the shows/ parades. Shows and parades offer the opportunity for resting your body (since they don't involve walking or standing) while continuing with the enjoyment non-stop. Besides shows and parades, you can also use the Disneyland transport (e.g. horse driven carriages, railroad etc) as means of enjoying while relaxing.

Evenings are the time to relax and enjoy the lights at Disneyland. Besides that you can also enjoy movies or dine at one of the several restaurants at Disney district.

- Once Your Are in the Disneyland Park

As soon as you enter Disneyland, you will immediately feel the fun-filled vibrant atmosphere around you. If you have planned out the things really well, then you should have reached Disneyland half an hour before the park opening time. "Main Street, USA" opens half an hour before rest of the park and you can use this time to pose for pictures with various characters. Alternatively, you can utilize this additional time for shopping, getting your breakfast, taking a few pictures of the entrance to Disneyland, planning that day at Disneyland and building the tempo for enjoying Disneyland. Stroller rentals are available at the entrance of Disneyland (just in case you need one for your toddler).

Spending 5-10 minutes with the Guest relations host/ hostess can really pave the path for a fun-filled Disneyland visit. The Guest relations host/ hostess can provide you with all the information you need in order to ensure that you get 100% value for your money (the price you pay for the Disneyland entry ticket). They will answer all your questions and will provide you valuable tips about show timings, approximate wait time for the major attractions and if any shows or rides are not in operation for that day. They will also tell you about special events for the day, if any.

Pick up a Disneyland guide map. This is generally available at the entry to the park and also with the Guest relations host/ hostess. Study the map for 10-15 minutes in order to chart out how you will proceed with your Disneyland tour. Your plan will also be dependent on the length of your Disneyland visit.

Also pick up a copy of the Entertainment times guide. It will contain the schedule of various shows and parades and it will also tell you about locations where you can meet your favorite Disney characters.

These small things are the gateway to making your trip to Disneyland a huge success.

- Take a Disneyland Tour

No Disneyland Vacation would be complete without a Disneyland tour – especially if it is your first trip to Disneyland. There are currently four different tours to choose from, and Disneyland park admission is required for all tours. It is strongly advised that you make a reservation for the tours that you wish to go on.

Disneyland's Discover the Magic Tour may be the most popular of the four. This tour will have you and your family working with Disneyland characters to find clues and hunt for treasure. You can literally live out a Disneyland fantasy with your family and loveable characters, outsmarting the Disney bad guys! This tour includes lunch and an exclusive gift that can only be obtained on this tour.

The Discover the Magic Tour lasts for about three hours. There is a two-ticket minimum, and the cost is \$49 each of the first two tickets, with additional tickets costing \$39. The tour is appropriate for the 5 – 9-year-old age group, and adults. The tour is not really suitable for children under the age of five, or for children who need strollers.

The VIP Tour lasts for about four hours, and costs \$75 per hour for a party of up to ten people. You must book this tour well in advance, or there will be an additional twenty dollar fee. The tour is not recommended for children, but is designed more for people who have a true love and interest in Disney and Disneyland history.

The Welcome to Disneyland Tour is absolutely perfect for first timers. There are many benefits to this tour, including priority seating at one of the stage shows, tips and suggestions for getting the most out of your Disneyland vacation, a brief history of the park, priority seating at one of the many restaurants, instruction in using FastPass, two bonus FastPass tickets, and much more. This tour lasts about two and a half hours, and costs \$25 per person.

A Walk in Walt's Footsteps focuses on the vision of Walt Whitman, and is not really suitable for small children. Filled with history and trivia about the park, this tour lasts for more than three hours, and costs \$49 per person. The main feature of this tour is your peek at the exclusive Club 33.

Again, you should definitely consider making one of these tours part of your Disneyland experience – especially if this will be your first trip to Disneyland. You may see things and learn things that you would not see or learn without the benefit of the tour!

- A Quick Tour of Disneyland with Disneyland RailRoad

Disneyland Railroad is one of the best ways of getting a quick tour of Disneyland. Disneyland Railroad is actually a short train that uses slow moving steam engines to take you around Disneyland Park. A round tour takes just about 20 minutes and provides an opportunity to absorb the scenic beauty on the way. Though it is also touted as one of the means for going from one place to another within Disneyland, it is seldom used by people in that sense. The train stops at New Orleans Square, Mickey's Toontown, Tomorrowland and Main Street, U.S.A. You can get on or get off at any of these stops.

Some people use the Disneyland Railroad as the starting point for their Disneyland visit. There are others who use Railroad as a place to rest and enjoy at the same time (especially when they are tired of walking around and waiting in lines for attractions). For people who carry a camcorder, Disneyland Railroad provides a good opportunity to quickly capture the scenic views of the beautiful Disneyland.

However, you must note that wheelchairs and baby strollers will need to be folded and placed on board the train. Also, there is a facility for keeping a limited number of ECVs (Electric convenience vehicles) on the last car of the train via a ramp.

Whatever be the case, this attraction is surely a good one for everybody including families with toddlers.

- Start Your Day at Disneyland in Fantasyland

Any guidebook you read will tell you that you should begin your day at Disneyland enjoying the attractions found in Fantasyland. There are several important reasons as to why this advice is given, and it is advice that you should strongly consider following.

Fantasyland is one of the most popular areas at Disneyland because there are no age or size requirements. The only height restriction is a 35-inch requirement for the Matterhorn. As the day progresses, Fantasyland will fill up. Getting there first things in the morning will help you avoid the long lines that others will encounter later in the afternoon.

None of the attractions in Fantasyland have FastPass. This is another reason as to why you should go there first. FastPass will allow you to more or less 'set an appointment' to ride certain rides – but none of the attractions in Fantasyland have this option. Cover Fantasyland first, then go get FastPasses for the other attractions that you want to ride.

The crowds and the lines will start growing within a few hours of Disneyland opening each day. Make sure that you arrive before the park opens so that you can be one of the first ones through the gate – and head straight to Fantasyland before going anywhere else.

Since all of the guidebooks suggest this, many other early risers will also be headed for Fantasyland. Even so, the lines won't get really long for two or three hours, and by then, you will have already ridden all of the rides there.

From Fantasyland, you should start collecting FastPass tickets for the other attractions that have FastPass throughout the park. It is best to collect these early in the day – the longer you wait, the longer it will be before your appointed time comes around, depending on how many FastPasses have been issued for each ride.

While you are waiting for the appointed time for your first FastPass, you should enjoy other attractions, visit the shops, or get a snack. Times between FastPass appointments are great for visiting the restrooms or sitting down to rest with a cool beverage.

Just remember that in order to enjoy the most attractions at Disneyland you should start with Fantasyland, followed by gathering FastPass tickets. Enjoy other attractions between FastPass attractions, but make sure that you don't put yourself on such a tight schedule or such a rigid itinerary that you forget to have fun! Some people simply like to spend some time wandering around the park.

- Where Are the Disneyland Characters?

A Disneyland vacation would not be complete without the Characters that we all know and love so well. Often, however, people leave Disneyland disappointed – simply because they never found their favorite character. The key to finding the characters you love is in knowing where to look for them in the first place.

Start with the Character Breakfast. Here, you will probably see Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella, Snow White, Mary Poppins, Jasmine, Ariel, Minnie and Mickey Mouse, and many others. If you miss your favorites at the breakfast, don't despair – simply go find them! Many characters will be on hand, right inside the gates, to greet you as you arrive in the morning as well.

Start in Toon Town, where all of the Disney Characters live. Visit their homes to see if you can get a glimpse of them. Go early, while they may still be at home! Be sure to visit Goofy's Kitchen as well, since many characters pop in and out throughout the day. If you've been through Toon Town, and you still haven't seen your favorite character, your next stop should be Fantasyland. Different characters can be located telling stories throughout Fantasyland.

- How to Dine With Disneyland Characters

If you really want to delight your child – or yourself – you should arrange to have a Disneyland Character meal. This will allow you and your whole family to have quality time with one or more of the Disneyland characters. In fact, this is the best way to really get to interact with them for any length of time.

Start by making a reservation. This can be done through the Disneyland Vacation Planning Services Department. Reservations can be made up to sixty days in advance, so don't leave this to the last minute. Make these reservations while your Disneyland vacation is being planned.

Character breakfasts take place each morning at the park. You do not need a reservation for these meals. These breakfasts take place in many of the park's restaurants, but Goofy's Kitchen is a great place to start. It is located in the Disneyland Hotel, and there are dishes to please everyone. Children less than three years of age get to eat free, which should be considered when you are planning the budget for your trip. Goofy is always there, with Pluto, but other characters come and go all throughout the day. You should definitely make reservations for Goofy's kitchen, as it is quite popular, and the wait can be very long.

If dining with Princesses is important, then Ariel's Grotto is the place to be. Serving three course meals, this is elegant dining that both kids and adults can enjoy. Each princess will come spend a little time at your table during your meal – one at a time. Reservations for Ariel's Grotto are also recommended. This is one place in the park where both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks are served.

The Storyteller's Café is another place that is highly recommended for Character Meals. Characters are only here during breakfast, however. While time is not spent at each individual table, the Characters do interact with the children as a group. Both buffet and menu dining is available, and again, reservations are recommended. Lilo and Stitch also have a Character Breakfast, as does Minnie Mouse. Breakfast with Minnie and Friends is extremely popular, so make reservations.

You should definitely include a Character Meal or two in your Disneyland Vacation plans. This is something that your child will remember forever and interacting with the famous Disney characters that we all know and love is part of what Disneyland is all about! Be sure to make reservations as far in advance as possible.

- The Eight Lands of Disneyland

Besides the “Main Street, USA”, there are eight fun-filled ‘lands’ in Disneyland. Each ‘land’ is based on a particular distinct theme. Here is the list of eight lands and a short synopsis of the themes on which they are based:

Adventureland:

The theme of this land is “An exotic tropical place that is far away from civilization e.g. in the remote jungles of Asia and Africa”. Enchanted Tiki Room, Indiana Jones Adventure, and Jungle Cruise, are the popular attractions at the Adventureland,

Frontierland:

This land brings you to the pioneering days of America. Frontierland hosts a number of shows and attractions. The main attractions at Frontierland include 'Big Thunder Mountain Mark Twain Riverboat', 'Fantasmic', and 'Sailing Ship Columbia'.

Fantasyland

This land is especially oriented towards children. This land aims to turn the fantasies of childhood classic stories into reality through attractions like Peter Pan’s flight and Alice’s wonderland. Though it’s a matter of personal choice, besides ‘Peter Pan’s Flight’ and ‘Alice in Wonderland’, the following attractions seem to be the quite popular at Fantasyland – ‘It’s a small world’, ‘Dumbo the Flying Elephant’ and ‘Mad Tea Party’

Tomorrowland

As the name suggests, this land is themed on the future i.e. space age etc. ‘Space Mountains’ and ‘Star Tour’ are among the more popular rides in Tomorrowland.

New Orleans Square

This land was not a part of Disneyland when Disneyland first opened in 1955. It was one of those lands that were added later. This land depicts the New Orleans’s Bourbon Street (especially in terms of its architecture). ‘Pirates of the Caribbean’ and ‘Haunted Mansion’ are the main attractions in this land.

Critter Country

Yet another land that was not part of the Disneyland originally. 'Splash Mountain' and 'The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh' are the main attractions here.

Mickey's Toontown

Yet again, this land became a part of the Disneyland much after its opening. This land depicts the 'Toontown' (as in one of the releases of Disney/ Touchstone pictures), a place that is the abode of various Disney characters. In Mickey's Toontown, among other attractions, you can enjoy 'Gadget's Go Coaster' and 'Roger Rabbit's Car Toon Spin'. Mickey's house and Minnie's house are also located at Mickey's Toontown and are quite popular attractions.

- Categorization of Attractions at Disneyland Park – Part 1

The Main Categories

It seems that the attractions at Disneyland Park are categorized mainly on the basis of the type of enjoyment they provide to you. There are 7 categories in all. And though we cannot say that one category is more important than the other, a large number of attractions fall under the following 4 categories:

Amusements:

This category is for the attractions that are amusing i.e. provide a sense of amusement to you. There are a number of attractions that fall into this category. Some of the notable attractions in the amusements category are 'Autopia', 'Mad Tea Party', 'Davy Crockett's Explorer Canoes', 'Roger Rabbit's Car Toon Spin', 'Starcade', 'Tarzan's Treehouse' and 'Tom Sawyer Island'.

Big Thrills:

Big Thrills is the next category. As the name indicates, the attractions in this category provide a thrilling experience (and its big thrill). Most of the 'Big Thrills' attractions are not meant for people who are not in good state of health (in general). These attractions include things like high speed rides or scary rides. 'Big Thunder Mountain Railroad', 'Indiana Jones Adventure', 'Space Mountain' and a few other attractions form the 'Big Thrills' category.

Family Adventures:

There is a big list of attractions that comprise the 'Family Adventures' category. All these attractions can be enjoyed together with the Family. Some of the attractions that are part of the 'Family Adventures' are: 'Buzz Lightyear Astro Blasters', 'Gadget's Go Coaster', 'Haunted Mansion' and 'Pirates of the Caribbean'.

Fun For Little Ones:

Disneyland is really one of the best fun places for kids or little ones. The list of attractions that fall in this category is probably the longest. Some of the main attractions in this category are 'Dumbo the Flying Elephant', 'Enchanted Tiki Room', 'It's a small world' and 'Peter Pan's Flight'.

The other 3 categories are: Character Greetings, Discovery and Getting Around

However, it's important to note that new attractions keep getting introduced in Disneyland (and some others get done away with) all the time. Check the Disneyland guide or their website in order to get the latest set of attractions and their categorization.

- Categorization of Attractions at Disneyland Park – Part 2

Other Categories

Though most of the attractions are part of the other 4 categories ('Fun For Little Ones', 'Big Thrills', 'Fun For Little Ones' and 'Amusements'), there are some other attractions that fall under the following 3 categories (there are 7 categories in total):

Character Greetings:

You get various opportunities for meeting Disney characters or visiting attractions that are specific to the life of Disney Characters. All such attractions fall into the category of "Character Greetings". So, you have 'Mickey's House and Meet Mickey', 'Aladdin and Jasmine at Aladdin's Oasis', 'Ariel: The Little Mermaid', 'Goofy, Pluto and Pals', 'Winnie the Pooh & Friends' and a few other attractions in the Character Greetings category.

Discovery:

This category is based on the theme of discovery and innovations i.e. near-future technologies etc that are under implementation. 'The Disney Gallery', 'Innoventions' and 'Main Street Cinema', all fall under this category.

Getting Around:

This category encompasses attractions and rides that are related to moving around in Disneyland using various types of transport. It includes trains, boats, horse carriages, ships etc. The main attractions are: 'Disneyland Monorail', 'Disneyland Railroad', 'Mark Twain Riverboat' and 'Sailing Ship Columbia'.

Besides these 3 categories (and the 4 other categories), you also have a number of stage shows and parades which are not formally categorized but can be put into an eighth category called 'Entertainment'.

Again, you should remember that new rides keep might be introduced in Disneyland at any point of time (and some might be taken off). The best way to find what categories and attractions are available at a particular point in time is to go to the website of Disneyland (www.Disneyland.disney.go.com). You can also check the latest categorization by looking into the Disneyland map guide that you can get from either the park's entry gate or from the guest relations host/ hostess.

- Suitability of Attractions

There are numerous attractions in Disneyland. However, not every attraction is suitable (enjoyable for everyone). Since there are people of various ages coming to Disneyland and since people come in different kind of groups (as families or school groups etc), Disneyland indicates the suitability of each attraction for various people by grouping each attraction under one of the three heads (discussed below). This is something that is really helpful in pre-planning what all attractions to go for (without physically seeing them).

Though the attractions are grouped into four experiences (including the '1955 Experience' which actually shows how Disneyland looked in 1955), there are just three groupings that are used for indicating the suitability of a particular attraction for various people. It's important to note here that one attraction can fall into one or many groups. Also, this classification is primarily based on 'Who would enjoy what' (however, that doesn't guarantee that you will or will not enjoy a particular attraction). Further to this classification, you also have the minimum eligibility for certain attractions e.g. height requirement etc. Some attractions also have warnings about unsuitability for people having certain medical/ health-related conditions.

The three groups are as follows:

Families with Toddlers

This indicates the attractions that can be fun for families that have toddlers with them. However, you will need to park baby strollers before you embark on a ride and there is sufficient parking space located near each attraction. The focus of these attractions is on fun and fantasy for the little ones. Age-appropriateness is indicated for each ride. A large number of attractions and entertainment fall in this category.

Kid-Friendly Vacations

The attractions that are recommended for kids and marked as 'Kid-Friendly Vacations' are those that are a perfect blend of fun and thrill for their age. Some thrilling rides and shows are especially suited for these kids.

Teen-Friendly Vacations

When it comes to teens, Disneyland is probably the best place to be in. There are many thrill-filled, fun-filled, scary and high-speed attractions that are meant just for teens. "Teen-Friendly Vacations" are indicated for attractions that are a lot of fun for the people in their teens. Many such high speed or scary attractions are not meant for little ones.

- All About the '1955 Experience'

A number of people wonder 'What 1955 Experience' means. Like other things, if you go to Disneyland with pre-acquired knowledge of what such terms mean, you will be appreciate and enjoy Disneyland even more.

The '1955 experience' is especially for those people who would like to get a nostalgic experience of Disneyland. So, '1955 experience' is for those who want to know what Disneyland looked like in 1955 when it was first started. In that sense it's a step, 50 years back into time.

You can have a look at the attractions, entertainment shows, shops etc that form the '1955 experience' and compare it with the Disneyland as it is today. Thus you can appreciate the imagination and effort that has gone into making Disneyland look as it does today. Here is the list of attractions that form the '1955 experience':

- Autopia
- Casey Jr. Circus Train
- Disneyland Railroad - Main Street, U.S.A.
- Dumbo the Flying Elephant
- Fire Engine
- Jungle Cruise
- King Arthur Carrousel
- Mad Tea Party
- Main Street Cinema
- Mark Twain Riverboat
- Mr. Toad's Wild Ride
- Peter Pan's Flight
- Snow White's Scary Adventures
- Storybook Land Canal Boats
- Billy Hill & The Hillbillies (Entertainment)

Besides these attractions and entertainment there are some shops and dining options too that form part of the '1955 Experience'.

One good way of getting the '1955 experience' is to plan a day wherein you just go for the attractions, entertainment etc that form the '1955 experience'. Just make yourself drift 50 years back in past and ignore the presence of all other attractions on that day. You could even get dressed in some kind of 1955's fashion and make that day (and the '1955 experience') even more memorable for you and your family.

- Enjoy Yourself at New Orleans Square

New Orleans square was one of those lands that were not part of the original Disneyland when it was first launched in 1955. This land was added later. 'Haunted Mansion' and "Pirates of the Caribbean" are the start attractions of New Orleans Square.

Haunted Mansion

This attraction is a bit scary and some children might get frightened. So, you might as well consider not taking the kids along on this attraction. This attraction is basically about silly dances, ghosts, mysteries and some bit of humor. One good feature is the "Doom buggy". Since this attraction is quite popular, you might consider going for the FastPass option for this attraction.

Pirates of the Caribbean

Since New Orleans Square itself was a late addition to the Disneyland, so was the 'Pirates of the Caribbean'. This attraction is categorized as Family adventure and involves an exciting boat ride that is full of special effects depicting pirates. Again, like 'Haunted Mansion' the attraction might scare young children. So, you will need to a decision on whether your children can go on the ride or not. Currently, the Disneyland website shows this attraction as closed till June 25, 2006. So, if you were planning to visit Disneyland before that, you would miss out on this attraction (but that shouldn't prevent you from visiting Disneyland; there are hordes of other fun-filled attractions to make your day). Classic Disney story telling is another attractive feature at this attraction.

Frankly, if you have young children who might get frightened by the special effects of these attractions; you might consider spending more time on other lands than at New Orleans Square.

- Three Things to do at Frontierland

The three things that you must do at Frontierland are: Getting on board the 'Sailing ship Columbia', trying out 'Mark Twain Riverboat' and 'Fantasmic'. While the first two are attractions, Fantasmic falls in the category of entertainment (as per the Disneyland lingo).

'Sailing Ship Columbia' is a big ship ('ten-gun, three-masted, 84 foot tall' is what the Disneyland website states) that has been made as a complete replica of the first American ship to sail around the world. The ship hosts a nautical museum and you can also check the lifestyle that existed around that period of time. This attraction is surely a lot of fun for kids and adults alike. However, this is a seasonal attraction and you must check if this attraction is available on the days you plan to visit Disneyland (you can do this either through the calendar on the Disneyland website before you travel or directly with the guest relations host/hostess on reaching Disneyland).

'Mark Twain Riverboat' is again a popular attraction that involves a paddle wheeled Mark Twain depicted as traveling along a mighty river. While on-board, you can get great views of Critter Country, New Orleans Square and Tom Sawyer Island. Just be observant and enjoy. Getting a seat is difficult unless you arrive early.

'Fantasmic' is one of the great entertaining shows at Disneyland. The show depicts Mickey fighting evil and coming up good. The show is done by a number of live performers and also shows a big dragon (must be more than 4 storeys high). The music and special effects (including those done on water mist) are something that will leave you in awe. This is surely a not-to-be-missed show. Special seats at the show are available for an extra charge (can also be purchased up to 30 days in advance). However, this is a seasonal show and you should enquire if it's 'ON' during the time you are in Disneyland.

- In the Critter Country

Critter Country is one of the eight lands in Disneyland. While in Critter Country, you should not miss the following two attractions.

- The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh
- Space Mountain

‘The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh’

This attraction is in the ‘Fun for little ones’ category. It’s actually good fun for the whole family. However, this is one of the more popular attractions in Disneyland and there could be some wait time for this attraction. This attraction is mainly about ‘Winnie the pooh and his pals’ who are searching the hundred acre wood for honey. You can bounce together with Tigger as you find the storybooks come to life. This attraction is really a lot of fun. Wheelchair users can contact the Cast members for instructions.

‘Splash Mountain’

‘Splash Mountain’ is another Critter Country attraction. In fact, this is one the best water attractions in Disneyland. However, unlike the other popular Critter country attraction (i.e. ‘The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh’), this is a ‘Big thrills’ attraction and has a minimum height requirement of 102 cm. Children under 8 years are not allowed unless they are accompanied by a responsible adult. Splash mountain involves riding a hollowed-out log from the top of a mountain to its base and it’s not a straight path (instead, it’s quite a winded one). Of course, there is a lot of water on your way down the mountain and there is you will have a lot of fun as you cover a height of 52 feet while riding your log down the path. This is one of those popular attractions that have a long queue; however, you can reduce your waiting time by using Disney’s FastPass service.

- Family Fun at Tomorrowland

Tomorrowland has a number of attractions that are quite popular among people. 'Astro Orbitor', 'Buzz Lightyear Astro Blasters', 'Innoventions', 'Space Mountain', 'Star Tours' and 'Autopia' are all found in Tomorrowland.

The following attractions at Tomorrowland are fun for the complete family:

Autopia is one of the popular attractions in Tomorrowland. It involves cruising through the roads of Autopia in various kinds of cars (not real cars, of course). This attraction is about controlling the speed and steering these cars. There is a minimum height requirement of 132 cm for this attraction. Pregnant women and children under one year of age are not allowed. In order to make the most of your time, you should use the FastPass option for Autopia and move on to other attractions in the Tomorrowland in the meantime.

Innoventions is where you can play multi-media games and experience the near-future technologies. A fifteen minute show brings to you the latest innovations and technologies that are about to hit you in near future. You can also checkout the abilities of Asimo, a human type robot. This is again an attraction that whole family can enjoy together.

Buzz Lightyear Astro Blasters is another star attraction at Tomorrowland that is suitable for everyone. It is actually a game that has 'Space battle' as its theme. Here you have the control of your star cruiser which you use to blast enemy targets and save the galaxy. You can email your Astro blaster score to yourself and you can compare your score with the other high scorers. You can even play this game online from the comfort of your home. In such a case you team up with people playing live in Disneyland Park and help defeat the evil emperor Zurg.

Astro Orbitor is another interactive attraction wherein you control your rocket jet and go great heights using the levers provided at the front of the rocket. You can get a good view of Tomorrowland from the high points on this ride. Note that this attraction is taken out of operation when the weather is harsh. Overall, a good one for the whole family.

- The Thrills in Tomorrowland

Besides the mild rides/ attractions, Tomorrowland also hosts some very thrilling attractions. Space Mountain and Star tours are the two 'Big Thrills' in Tomorrowland that are worth going for.

Space Mountain

This attraction of Tomorrowland is not meant for everyone. There are two reasons for this – minimum height requirement and its category (Big Thrills). The minimum height requirement for Space Mountain is 102 cm and the attraction is meant mainly for people who are in their teens or more. One more thing worth noting about the Space Mountain is its lovely sound track and the wonderful special effects. The attraction itself is a very high speed adventure that has a number of twists and turns and is based on the theme of "A flight into future" and is related to space travel. This is really a very special attraction since it is also associated with Disneyland's 50th anniversary.

Star Tours

This attraction is about very high speeds and is based on the theme of intergalactic travel. Hence, this attraction is not suitable for under-teens. Also, this attraction has a minimum height requirement of 102 cm. FastPass option is available for this attraction and can be used to avoid long queues on busy days. This is really one of those rides that you cannot miss.

Both these attractions are in tune with the main theme of Tomorrowland (which we can also call as future land). However, if speed doesn't thrill you, you should stay away from these two attractions (after all, there is no dearth of attractions in Disneyland and you can always find many others that you will enjoy better).

- Enjoying Mickey's Toontown and the Characters at Main Street, U.S.A.

Mickey and Minnie are one of the most famous cartoon characters. Disneyland has two attractions that are completely dedicated to them.

Minnie's House

This attraction offers you an opportunity to see the furnishings of Minnie's house and it's really something that your whole family can enjoy. The lifestyles of Minnie (including her eating habits) are quite well presented here. The kids can even use some of the controls and participate at this attraction.

Mickey's House and Meet Mickey

This is another popular attraction in Mickey's Toontown. Here you can not only observe the lifestyle of Mickey (through a self-guided tour) but also meet Mickey, take his autograph and pose with him for a picture. This is some thing that you would really love.

'Gadget's Go Coaster' and 'Roger Rabbit's Car Toon Spin' are the other attractions worth going for at Mickey's Toontown

With characters at Main Street, U.S.A.

You will find Disney Characters scattered throughout the park and you will find that they are always thronged by kids who want their autographs and pictures. Getting autographs and meeting the Characters can be a lot of fun. You can either bring the autograph booklet from your home or you can buy one at Disneyland Park. You can pose with the Characters for photos which will add to your sweet memories from Disneyland. You can also have breakfast with the Characters through "Minnie & Friends - Breakfast in the Park" at Plaza Inn (Main Street, U.S.A.). Here, Minnie and her friends come to your table to say hello to you while you eat your breakfast. You can even book a priority seating at this breakfast buffet (upto 60 days in advance) but check the details for this on Disneyland website. Note that the Character breakfast is generally open until 11 am only.

- Entertainment Through Parades and Shows at Main Street, U.S.A.

Besides the various attractions, Disneyland hosts a number of shows and parades too which are equally entertaining (or maybe even more entertaining than the attractions). The two main events not-to-be-missed are the “Remember... Dreams Come True” show and “Walt Disney's Parade of Dreams”. Both are hosted on the Main Street, U.S.A.

Remember... Dreams Come True

This is a night time show and is in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Disneyland resort. This show is mainly about fireworks. You will find a colorful display of fireworks which is very pleasing. There is a lot of enjoyment at this show. But note that this show is one of those that operate seasonally. Also, you need to check the show timings with the Guest relations host/hostess on the day you arrive in Disneyland.

Walt Disney's Parade of Dreams

This is one of the best things at Disneyland and you cannot afford to miss it in any case. You will find that the Main Street, U.S.A starts getting really crowded just before the start of parade (everyone wants to be in the front row). So, secure your seat in the front row by coming about 20 minutes early (earlier on the busy days); it's worth it. This parade has various Disney characters as its participants. The music is great and so are the performances. The Characters are quite friendly and interact with you throughout the parade. Towards the end of the show, you can get hold of these Characters for autographs and pictures.

- Things to do at Adventureland

Adventureland is another fun filled land at Disneyland Park. Like other lands, Adventure land too offers a lot of fun to you. You will find a large number of attractions at Adventureland and it's difficult to cover all of them, especially if you are short of time. Here are some attractions that you should not miss:

Indiana Jones Adventure

This is one of the 'Big Thrills' attraction at Adventureland and it is quite scary indeed. The attraction has a minimum height requirement of 117 cm and is not suitable for pregnant women, young children and people who have other health problems (check the details with the staff at Disneyland). The enhanced sound systems on the ride and the special effects really make it worth to go for this attraction. You can use the FastPass service in order to save on the waiting time on this attraction.

Enchanted Tiki Room

This one is great fun for the little ones. The audio effects are wonderful and little kids really enjoy this attraction. This attraction is really a must-see, especially if you have toddlers or young children with you.

Jungle Cruise

This attraction is real fun. As the name suggests, this attraction is about a cruise through a section of forest and you can find (mechanical) animals, rivers and a lot of different things on your way. This attraction depicts rivers of four continents and is complete enjoyment for the whole family.

- What to do at Fantasyland

There are a lot of attractions at Fantasyland and most of the attractions are geared towards the taste of younger children. So, if you are with toddlers and young kids, you cannot afford to miss being on Fantasyland and enjoying the attractions there. Here are a few Fantasyland attractions that you should not miss for sure:

"It's a small world"

This is one of the most amazing attractions at Disneyland. This attraction symbolizes global unity by presenting a piece of various cultures from around the world. This is presented through costumes and dances that are exhibited by various doll exhibits that you encounter on your boat ride. This attraction is fit for everyone.

Dumbo the Flying Elephant

This is yet another attraction that will make your little ones really happy. If they are old enough, they can even control the height of the Dumbo (the elephant replica with large ears) using the lever in the front. The ride as such is slow and you circle around a central point (riding the Dumbo).

Mr. Toad's Wild Ride

This ride is about traveling on a buggy (a road trip) on which you enjoy the adventures as you ride or crash (don't worry, you wouldn't get harmed). This attraction involves characters from the Disney classic "The Wind in the Willows". This attraction also features strobe lighting effects. Overall, a good ride.

Mad Tea Party

This is a wonderful, gentle ride that you can enjoy with the whole family. The ride involves sitting in a cup-saucer shaped enclosure that moves round and round along with others. If you want, you can spin your cup with a steering wheel that is present in the cup. However, you might not go on this ride if you have just had your meals or if you have motion sickness.

If you have time for more attractions, Peter Pan's Flight is another good one (especially for small kids).

- Enjoy, No Matter How Little or Abundant Time You Have

People visit Disneyland for varying lengths of time. So, some people might plan a one day trip while others may decide to go for a five day stint at Disneyland. Some others would make Disneyland a part of their annual planning and visit Disneyland several times in a year. Disneyland recognizes the varying needs of people and hence the park entry tickets are also available for varying durations of time. You have one day to five day tickets/ passes and you also have annual passes.

There are eight lands in Disneyland and there is a lot to do on each land. It's nearly impossible to visit and fully-enjoy all the 'lands' in one day. This is the reason why many people plan a longer duration at Disneyland (some making several trips in a year). However, you can enjoy no matter how little or how abundant time you have on hand.

The suggested approach is to plan based on the time you have on hand e.g. if you have 3 days on hand, you might reserve half a day for the bigger lands and lesser time for the smaller ones. Remember, you might even want to go for an attraction more than one time (you can go for as many attractions as many times you want; it's all covered in your park entry ticket and has no extra cost).

If you have lesser time, you might decide spending more time in a selected few lands and just have a peek at the others. Another approach is to select 1-2 rides from each land and skip the rest. So, it really depends on how much time you have at your disposal.

Also, don't forget that there are several shows and parades that you should not miss out on. Allot some time for them too. Moreover, you will also need some time for shopping and maybe one or two rest breaks in the day.

So, plan well and go ahead and enjoy your stay at Disneyland. Don't worry if you are not able to go to each and every attraction in Disneyland. Your trip is a success if you are enjoying it. After all, 'fun' is the whole purpose in being there at Disneyland.

- Out and Around Disneyland

Disneyland Park is part of the Disneyland resort which also consists of Downtown Disney district and California Adventure Park (the other theme park). Some people visit both the theme parks whereas others visit just one of the two theme parks. So, California adventure park and Downtown Disney District are the two other entertainment avenues near Disneyland.

Whether you visit just one theme park or both the theme parks, Downtown Disney District is a must see. You can have a lot of fun in Downtown Disney District. Besides offering plenty of options for shopping and dining, Downtown Disney District has a number of avenues for night time enjoyment and caters to the needs of the whole family. Downtown Disney District is located very near to Disneyland and the hotels of Disneyland Resort. So, you can either walk down to the Downtown Disney district or take a monorail ride from Disneyland in order to reach there.

AMC theatres (which host new releases), House of blues (live music) and ESPN zone are some of the entertainment avenues that are quite popular in Downtown Disney District.

When it comes to dining options, you have several cuisines to choose from. A variety of smoothies and juices are also available to delight you. Just go around, have a look at your options and then choose the one that you think would be best for you. If you want you can try out some new cuisines too.

Shopping avenues are abundant too and there are some really good ones that you can really enjoy shopping at e.g. World of Disney.

Even if you didn't have any shopping to do or movies to watch, you would still enjoy the vibrant atmosphere at Downtown Disney District. But don't tire yourself too much by roaming around for too long.

Start Planning Your Disneyland Vacation Today!



