

PART ONE

PLANNING *before* YOU LEAVE HOME

GATHERING INFORMATION

IN ADDITION TO THIS GUIDE, we recommend that you obtain copies of the following publications:

1. WALT DISNEY TRAVEL SALES CENTER CALIFORNIA BROCHURE This full-color booklet describes Disneyland in its entirety and lists rates for the Disneyland Hotel. Also described are Disneyland package vacations with lodging options at more than 25 nearby hotels. The brochure is available from most full-service travel agents, or it can be obtained by calling the Walt Disney Travel Sales Center at ☎ 714-520-7070. If you are in a hurry, a two-page faxed brochure is also available.

2. DISNEYLAND GUIDEBOOK FOR GUESTS WITH DISABILITIES If members of your party are sight- or hearing-impaired or partially or wholly non-ambulatory, you will find this small guide very helpful. Disney does not mail them, but copies are readily available at the park.

3. THE DISNEY CRUISE LINE BROCHURE AND DVD As part of the Disneyland anniversary celebration, the Disney Cruise Line operates seven-day cruises to the Mexican Riviera on the Disney Magic out of the port of Los Angeles. The brochure provides details on the cruises and on vacation packages that combine a cruise on the Disney Cruise Line with a stay at Disneyland Resort. Disney Cruise Line also offers a free planning DVD that tells all you'd need to know about Disney cruises and then some. To obtain a copy call ☎ 888-DCL-2500 or order online at www.disneycruise.com.

4. CALIFORNIA TRAVELER DISCOUNT GUIDE Another good source of lodging, restaurant, and attraction discounts throughout the state of California, the California Traveler Discount Guide, can be obtained by calling ☎ 352-371-3948, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST. Published by Exit Information Guide, the Discount Guide is free, but you will be charged \$3 for postage and handling. Similar guides

to other states are available at the same number. You can also order online at **www.travelersdiscountguide.com** or by mail at 4205 NW Sixth Street, Gainesville, FL 32609.

Disneyland Main Information Address and Phone

The following address and phone numbers provide general information. Inquiries may be expedited by using addresses and phone numbers specific to the nature of the inquiry (other addresses and phone numbers are listed elsewhere in this chapter, under their relevant topics).

Disneyland Guest Relations

P.O. Box 3232

1313 South Harbor Boulevard

Anaheim, CA 92803-3232

☎ 714-781-4565 for recorded information

☎ 714-781-7290 for live information

The Phone from Hell

Sometimes it is virtually impossible to get through on the Disneyland information numbers listed above. When you get through, you will get a recording that offers various information options. If none of the recorded options answer your question, you will have to hold for a live person. Eat before you call—you may have a long wait. If, after repeated attempts, you get tired of a busy signal in your ear or, worse, 20 minutes' worth of mice singing "Cinderellie" in an alto falsetto while you wait on hold, call the Disneyland Hotel at ☎ 714-956-6425.

Cyber-Disney

There are a number of good independent Disneyland information sources on the Web. The following are brief profiles of our favorites:

ANAHEIMOC.ORG is the official Web site of the Anaheim–Orange County Visitors and Convention Authority. You'll find everything from hotels and restaurants to weather and driving instructions on this site.

INTERCOTWEST.COM The Internet Community of Tomorrow—West is an active and friendly Web site filled with detailed information on every corner of the Disneyland Resort. Featured are frequent news updates and descriptions, reviews, and ratings of every attraction, restaurant, and shop at the resort. The site is also host to the largest Disney-related multimedia gallery on the Web, with thousands of photos chronicling the parks' recent history. Intercot West taps into the Internet's spirit of community via its interactive moderated discussion boards, a place where Disney fans convene to gain insightful trip-planning tips and make new friends. Intercot West is a part of Intercot (**www.intercot.com**), which features vacation-planning information for Walt Disney World.

MOUSEPLANET.COM Mouse Planet is a comprehensive resource for Disneyland data, offering features and reviews by guest writers, information

on the Disney theme parks, discussion groups, and news. The site includes an interactive Disney restaurant and hotel review page where users can voice opinions on their Disney dining and lodging experiences. Also available are trip reports by site contributors and users.

LAUGHINGPLACE.COM This site features daily updated headlines and columns on all things Disney, including theme parks, films, TV, stage, merchandise, collectibles, and more. The free site specializes in current news on the Disney theme parks and resorts, with information such as hours, show times, events, and highlights of specific attractions. LaughingPlace offers interactive, user-rated attraction guides, lively discussion boards, and a customizable home page with a unique trip countdown feature and park info. The Web site, which distributes an informative daily newsletter via e-mail, is also the home of LaughingPlace Radio and The LaughingPlace Store.

YESTERLAND.COM You can visit the Disneyland of the past at Yesterland, where retired Disneyland attractions are brought back to life through vivid descriptions and historic photographs. Yesterland attraction descriptions relate what it was once like to experience the Flying Saucers, the Mine Train through Nature's Wonderland, the Tahitian Terrace, and dozens of other rides, shows, parades, and restaurants.

MOUSESAVERS.COM This site specializes in finding you the deepest discounts on hotels, park admissions, and rental cars. Mousesavers does not actually sell travel, but rather unearths and publishes special discount codes that you can use to obtain the discounts. It's the first place we look for deals when we travel to Disneyland Resort.

In addition to the foregoing information, Disneyland operates an official Web site, **www.disneyland.com**. Universal Studios Hollywood can be found online at **www.universalstudios.com**.

ADMISSION OPTIONS

SINCE THE OPENING OF DISNEY'S CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE (DCA) park, Disneyland Resort has revamped its admission options. Although additional changes are expected, you can currently purchase a One-day, One-park Ticket, a Two-day Park Hopper Passport, a Three-day Park Hopper Passport, a Four-day Park Hopper Passport, a Five-day Park Hopper Bonus Passport, or an Annual Passport. These admissions can be purchased at the park entrance, at the Disneyland Resort hotels, from the Walt Disney Travel Sales Center, from Disneyland Ticket Mail Order, on the Disneyland Internet site, and at most Disney stores in the western United States. Some passes are available at a discounted rate for children between 3 and 9 years of age; 1- and 2-year-olds are exempt from admission fees. More information on ordering tickets follows.

unofficial TIP

The money you can save makes researching Disney's dizzying array of ticket options worthwhile.

Admission prices, not unexpectedly, increase from time to time. For planning your budget, however, the following provides a fair estimate:

	ADULT (age 10 and up)	CHILD (ages 3–9)
One-day, One-park Ticket with Tax	\$59	\$49
One-day Park Hopper	\$79	\$69
Two-day Park Hopper	\$116	\$96
Three-day Park Hopper	\$169	\$139
Four-day Park Hopper	\$199	\$169
Five-day Park Hopper	\$219	\$189
Deluxe Annual Pass (some blackout dates)	\$229	\$229
Premium Annual Pass (no blackout dates)	\$349	\$349

One-day, One-park Ticket

This pass is good for one day's admission at your choice of Disneyland Park or Disney's California Adventure. As the name implies, you cannot "hop" from park to park.

Park Hopper Passports

Park Hopper Passes are good for one, two, three, four, or five days, respectively, and allow you to visit both parks on the same day. These multiday passes do not have to be used on consecutive days, but expire 13 days after their first use.

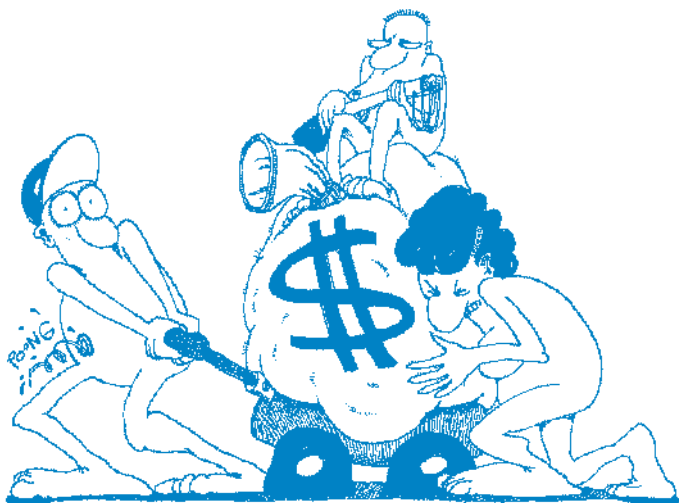
The 13-day expiration is in marked contrast to similar passes sold at Walt Disney World for which you can purchase a No Expiration option. If you mistakenly bought multiday passes because you were not aware of the 13-day expiration, call ☎ 714-781-7290 and ask to be connected to Guest Communications. Guest Communications has the authority to issue you a voucher for the unused days on your pass. It is required, however, that you return your expired passes.

Anytime before a pass expires, you can apply the value of unused days toward the cost of a higher-priced pass. If you buy a Four-Day Park Hopper Pass, for example, and then decide you'd rather have an Annual Pass, you can apply the value of unused days on the Park Hopper toward the purchase of the Annual Pass.

If you've been to Walt Disney World in Florida and brought home some partially used Park Hopper Passes, you can use them at Disneyland. It's a one-way street though: Disneyland Park Hopper Passes are not accepted at Walt Disney World.

Annual Passports

The Disneyland Resorts offer several Annual Passes. The Premium Annual Passport is good for an entire year with no blackout dates.



The pass costs \$349 and is good for admission to both parks (excluding arcades). Southern California Annual Passports, priced at \$149, provide admission to both parks for a year excluding 138 preselected blackout dates. These are available to residents in zip codes 90000 to 93599 and to Baja California residents in Mexico postal codes 21000 to 22999. Prices for children are the same as those for adults on all Annual Passes. Annual passes are a good idea if you plan to visit Disneyland parks five or more days in a year. If you purchase your Annual Pass in July of this year and schedule your visit next year for June, you'll cover two years' vacations with a single Annual Pass.

Admission passes can be ordered through the mail by writing:

Disneyland Ticket Mail Order

P.O. Box 61061

Anaheim, CA 92803-6161

Disneyland Ticket Mail Order accepts personal checks and money orders. Mail orders take three to four weeks to process. To order tickets by telephone, call ☎ 714-781-4400.

In addition to Disneyland Ticket Mail Order, Disneyland admissions can be purchased in advance from Disneyland Resort hotels; the Disneyland Web site, **www.disneyland.com**; Disney Stores in the Western United States; and the Walt Disney Travel Sales Center, ☎ 800-854-3104. Discounts of about \$10 per ticket for Three-, Four-, and Five-day Park Hoppers are often available on the Disneyland Web site.

unofficial TIP
If you visit Disneyland three or more days each summer, an Annual Pass is a potential money saver.

Admission and Disneyland Hotel Discounts

For specials and time-limited discounts on Disneyland Resort admissions, visit www.mousesavers.com.

Rides and Shows Closed for Repairs or Maintenance

Rides and shows at Disneyland parks are sometimes closed for maintenance or repairs. If there is a certain attraction that is important to you, call ☎ 714-781-7290 before your visit to make sure it will be operating. A mother from Dover, Massachusetts, wrote us, lamenting:

We were disappointed to find Space Mountain, Swiss Family Treehouse, and the Riverboat closed for repairs. We felt that a large chunk of the [park] was not working, yet the tickets were still full price and expensive!

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO GO TO DISNEYLAND FOR A DAY?

LET'S SAY WE HAVE A FAMILY OF FOUR—Mom and Dad, Tim (age 12) and Tami (age 8)—driving their own car. Since they plan to be in the area for a few days, they intend to buy the Three-Day Park Hopper Passes. A typical day would cost \$403.32, excluding souvenirs, lodging, and transportation. See the following chart for a breakdown of expenses.

How Much Does a Day Cost?

Breakfast for four at Denny's with tax and tip	\$28.00
Disneyland parking fee	10.00
One day's admission on a Three-Day Park Hopper Passport	
Dad: Adult, Three-day with tax = \$169 divided by 3 (days)	56.33
Mom: Adult, Three-day with tax = \$169 divided by 3 (days)	56.33
Tim: Adult, Three-day with tax = \$169 divided by 3 (days)	56.33
Tami: Child, Three-day with tax = \$139 divided by 3 (days)	46.33
Morning break (soda or coffee)	14.00
Fast-food lunch (burger, fries, soda), no tip	36.00
Afternoon break (soda and popcorn)	20.50
Dinner in park at counter-service restaurant with tax	41.50
Souvenirs (Mickey T-shirts for Tim and Tami) with tax*	38.00
One-day total (not including lodging and travel)	\$403.32

*Cheer up, you won't have to buy souvenirs every day.

TIMING YOUR VISIT

SELECTING THE TIME OF YEAR FOR YOUR VISIT

CROWDS ARE LARGEST AT DISNEYLAND during the summer (Memorial Day through Labor Day) and during specific holiday periods during

the rest of the year. The busiest time of all is Christmas Day through New Year's Day. Thanksgiving weekend, the week of Washington's Birthday, spring break for schools and colleges, and the two weeks around Easter are also extremely busy. To give you some idea of what *busy* means at Disneyland, more than 77,000 people have toured Disneyland Park on a single day! While this level of attendance is far from typical, the possibility of its occurrence should prevent all but the ignorant and the foolish from challenging this mega-attraction at its busiest periods. For the record, attendance at Disney's California Adventure Park runs about one-third that of Disneyland Park.

The least-busy time of all is from after Thanksgiving weekend until the week before Christmas. The next slowest times are September through the weekend preceding Thanksgiving, January 4 through the first week of March, and the week following Easter up to Memorial Day weekend. At the risk of being blasphemous, our research team was so impressed with the relative ease of touring in the fall and other "off" periods that we would rather take our children out of school for a few days than do battle with the summer crowds. Though we strongly recommend going to Disneyland in the fall or in the spring, it should be noted that there are certain trade-offs. The parks often close earlier on fall and spring days, sometimes early enough to eliminate evening parades and other live entertainment offerings. Also, because these are slow times of the year at Disneyland, you can anticipate that some rides and attractions may be closed for maintenance or renovation. Finally, if the parks open late and close early, it's tough to see everything, even if the crowds are light.

Most readers who have tried Disney theme parks at varying times during the year agree. A gentleman from Ottawa, Ontario, who toured in early December, wrote:

It was the most enjoyable trip I have ever had, and I can't imagine going [back to Disneyland] when it is crowded. Even without the crowds we were still very tired by afternoon. Fighting crowds certainly would have made a bellish trip. We will never go again at any other time.

Not to overstate the case: we want to emphasize that you can have a great time at the Disneyland parks regardless of the time of year or crowd level. In fact, a primary objective of this guide is to make the parks fun and manageable for those readers who visit during the busier times of year.

unofficial TIP
You can't pick a less crowded time to visit Disneyland than the period following Thanksgiving weekend and leading up to Christmas.

unofficial TIP
In our opinion, the risk of encountering colder weather and closed attractions during an off-season visit to Disneyland is worth it.

SELECTING THE DAY OF THE WEEK FOR YOUR VISIT

THE CROWDS AT WALT DISNEY WORLD in Florida are comprised mostly of out-of-state visitors. Not necessarily so at Disneyland,

TOP TEN AMERICAN THEME PARKS

Theme Park	Annual Attendance	Average Daily Attendance
Magic Kingdom	16.2 million	44,384
Disneyland Park	14.6 million	40,000
Epcot	9.9 million	27,123
Disney-MGM Studios	8.7 million	23,836
Animal Kingdom	8.2 million	22,466
Universal Studios Orlando	6.1 million	16,172
Islands of Adventure	5.8 million	15,890
Disney's California Adventure	5.8 million	15,890
SeaWorld	5.6 million	15,310
Universal Studios Hollywood	4.7 million	12,877

Source: *Amusement Business* magazine

which, along with Six Flags Magic Mountain, serves as an often-frequented recreational resource for the greater Los Angeles and San Diego communities. To many Southern Californians, Disneyland Park and Disney's California Adventure are their private theme parks. Yearly passes are available at less cost than a year's membership to the YMCA, and the Disney management has intensified its efforts to appeal to the local market.

What all this means is that weekends are usually packed. Saturday is the busiest day of the week. Sunday, particularly Sunday morning, is the best bet if you have to go on a weekend, but it is also extremely busy.

During the summer, Monday and Friday are very busy; Tuesday and Wednesday are usually less so; and Thursday is normally the slowest day of all. During the "off season" (September through May, holiday periods excepted) Thursday is usually the least crowded day, followed by Tuesday.

At Walt Disney World in Florida, there are four theme parks with a substantial daily variance in attendance from park to park. At Disneyland Resort, Disneyland Park usually hosts crowds three times larger than those at Disney's California Adventure, but because DCA is smaller, crowd conditions are comparable. Expressed differently, the most crowded and least crowded days are essentially the same for both Disneyland parks.

Early Entry Is Back! (Sort of)

Anyone who buys a Three-day Park Hopper admission is allowed to enter Disneyland Park on one day an hour before the park is opened to the general public. You can exercise your early-entry privilege on

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Only attractions in Fantasyland operate during early entry. If you buy a package vacation from the Walt Disney Travel Company, you can participate in Mickey's Toontown Morning Madness. In this program, package purchasers can enjoy the attractions in Mickey's Toontown one hour before the general public on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. For more information call ☎ 714-520-7070.

OPERATING HOURS

IT CANNOT BE SAID THAT THE DISNEY folks are not flexible when it comes to hours of operation for the parks. They run a dozen or more different operating schedules during the year, making it advisable to call ☎ 714-781-4565 the day before you arrive for the exact hours of operation.

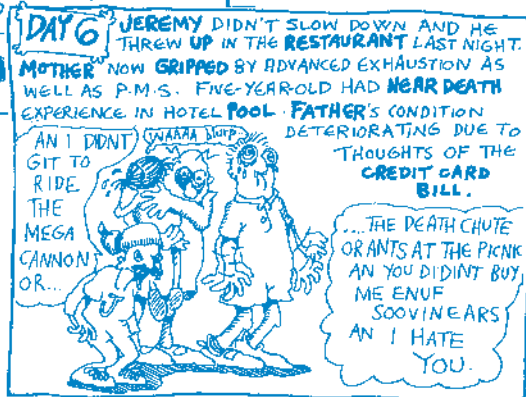
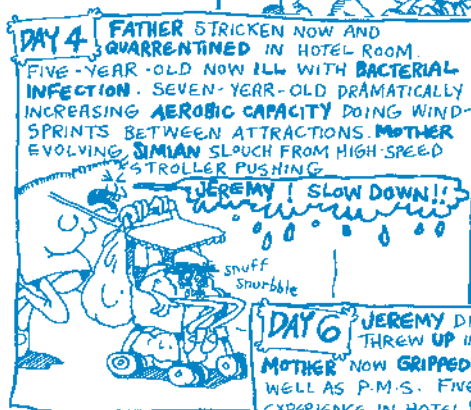
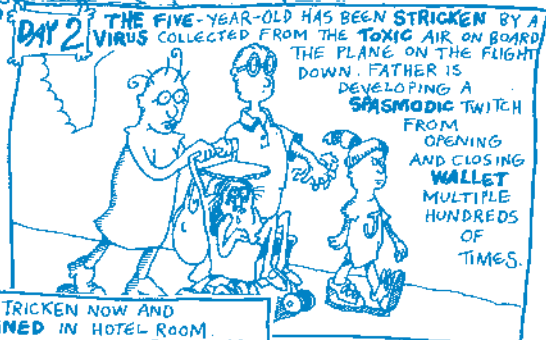
PACKED-PARK COMPENSATION PLAN

THE THOUGHT OF TEEMING, jostling throngs jockeying for position in endless lines under the baking Fourth of July sun is enough to wilt the will and ears of the most ardent Mouseketeer. Why would anyone go to Disneyland on a summer Saturday or during a major holiday period? Indeed, if you have never been to Disneyland, and you thought you would just drop in for a few rides and a little look-see on such a day, you might be better off shooting yourself in the foot. The Disney folks, however, being Disney folks, feel kind of bad about those interminably long lines and the basically impossible touring conditions on packed days and compensate their patrons with a no-less-than-incredible array of first-rate live entertainment and happenings.

Throughout the day, the party goes on with shows, parades, concerts, and pageantry. In the evening, there is so much going on that you have to make some tough choices. Big-name music groups perform on the River Stage in Frontierland and at the Fantasyland Theatre. Other concerts are produced concurrently at the Hyperion Theater in Disney's California Adventure. There are always parades, fireworks, and the Disney characters make frequent appearances. No question about it, you can go to the Disneyland parks on the Fourth of July (or any other extended-hours, crowded day), never get on a ride, and still get your money's worth. Admittedly, it's not the ideal situation for a first-timer who really wants to see the parks, but for anyone else it's one heck of a good party.

If you decide to go on one of the parks' "big" days, we suggest that you arrive an hour and 20 minutes before the stated opening time. Use the touring plan of your choice until about 1 p.m., and then take the monorail to Downtown Disney for lunch and relaxation.

 **unofficial TIP**
If it's not your first trip to Disneyland and you must go during a crowded holiday weekend, you may have just as much fun enjoying Disney's fantastic array of shows, parades, and fireworks as you would riding the rides.



Southern Californian visitors often chip in and rent a room for the group (make reservations well in advance) at the Disneyland or Grand Californian hotels, thus affording a place to meet, relax, have a drink, or change clothes before enjoying the pools at the hotel. A comparable arrangement can be made at other nearby hotels as long as they furnish a shuttle service to and from the park. After an early dinner, return to the park for the evening's festivities, which really get cranked up at about 8 p.m.

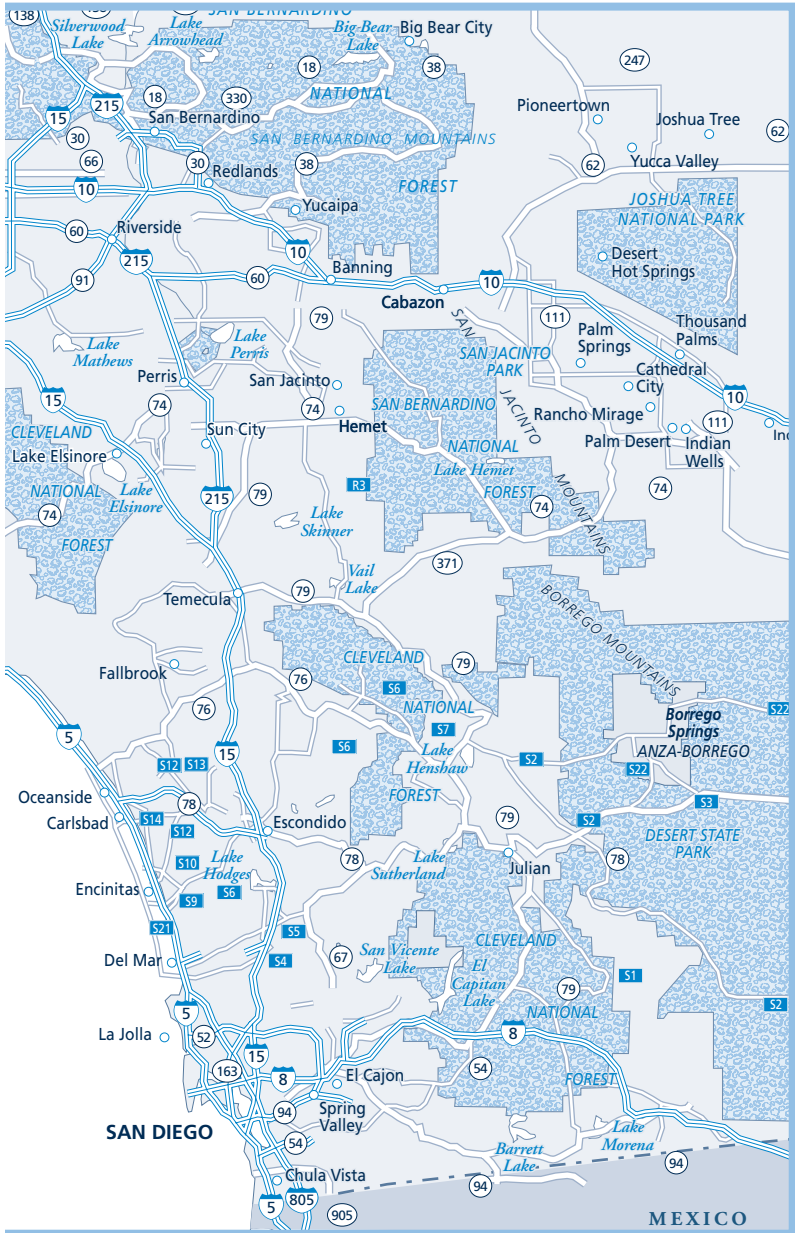
GETTING THERE

INTERSTATE 5 (I-5) HAS BEEN WIDENED, and improved interchanges allow Disney patrons to drive directly into and out of parking facilities without becoming enmeshed in surface street traffic.

To avoid traffic problems, we make the following recommendations:

1. Stay as close to Disneyland as possible. If you are within walking distance, leave your car at the hotel and walk to the park. If your hotel provides efficient shuttle service (that is, will get you to the parks at least a half hour before opening), use the shuttle.
2. If your hotel is more than five miles from Disneyland and you intend to drive your car, leave for the park extra-early, say an hour or more. If you get lucky and don't encounter too many problems, you can relax over breakfast at a restaurant near Disneyland while you wait for the parks to open.
3. If you must use the Santa Ana Freeway (I-5), give yourself lots of extra time.
4. Any time you leave the park just before, at, or just after closing time, you can expect considerable congestion in the parking lots and in the loading area for hotel shuttles. The easiest way to return to your hotel (if you do not have a car in Disneyland Resort parking lot) is to take the monorail to the Disneyland Hotel, or walk to the Grand Californian Hotel, then take a cab to your own hotel. While cabs in Anaheim are a little pricey, they are usually available in ample numbers at the Disneyland hotels and at the pedestrian entrance on Harbor Boulevard. When you consider the alternatives of fighting your way onto a hotel shuttle or trudging back to your hotel on worn-out feet, spending a couple of bucks for a cab often sounds pretty reasonable.
5. If you walk or use a hotel shuttle to get to the parks and are then caught in a monsoon, the best way to return to your hotel without getting soaked is to take the monorail to the Disneyland Hotel and catch a taxi from there.
6. Finally, the Orange County Transit District provides very efficient bus service to Disneyland with three different long-distance lines. Running approximately every 30 minutes during the day and evening, service

southern california at a glance



begins at 5 a.m. and concludes between 6:30 and 10:55 p.m., depending on the season and your location. Buses drop off and pick up passengers at the Disneyland Hotel. From there, guests can take a Disney tram to the park entrance. Trams run approximately every six minutes. Bus fare is about \$1.25, and the tram is free. For additional information, call ☎ 714-636-7433 or look up www.octa.net. For public transportation in the immediate area surrounding Disneyland, see our discussion of the Anaheim Resort Transit (ART) system on pages 29–30.

TAKING A TRAM OR SHUTTLE BUS FROM YOUR HOTEL

TRAMS AND SHUTTLE BUSES ARE PROVIDED by many hotels and motels in the vicinity of Disneyland. Usually without charge, they represent a fairly carefree means of getting to and from the theme parks, letting you off near the entrances and saving you the cost of parking. The rub is that they might not get you there as early as you desire (a critical point if you take our touring advice) or be available at the time you wish to return to your lodging. Also, some shuttles are direct to Disneyland, while others make stops at other motels and hotels in the vicinity. Each shuttle service is a little bit different, so check out the particulars before you book your hotel. If the shuttle provided by your hotel runs regularly throughout the day to and from Disneyland and if you have the flexibility to tour the parks over two or three days, the shuttle provides a wonderful opportunity to tour in the morning and return to your lodging for lunch, a swim, or perhaps a nap; then you can head back to Disneyland refreshed in the early evening for a little more fun.

Be forewarned that most hotel shuttle services do not add more vehicles at the parks' opening or closing times. In the mornings, your biggest problem is that you might not get a seat on the first shuttle. This occurs most frequently if your hotel is the last stop for a shuttle that serves several hotels. Because hotels that share a shuttle service are usually located close together, you can improve your chances of getting a seat by simply walking to the hotel preceding yours on the pick-up route. At closing time, and sometimes following a hard rain, you can expect a mass exodus from the parks. The worst-case scenario in this event is that more people will be waiting for the shuttle to your hotel than the bus will hold, and that some will be left. While most (but not all) hotel shuttles return for stranded guests, you may suffer a wait of

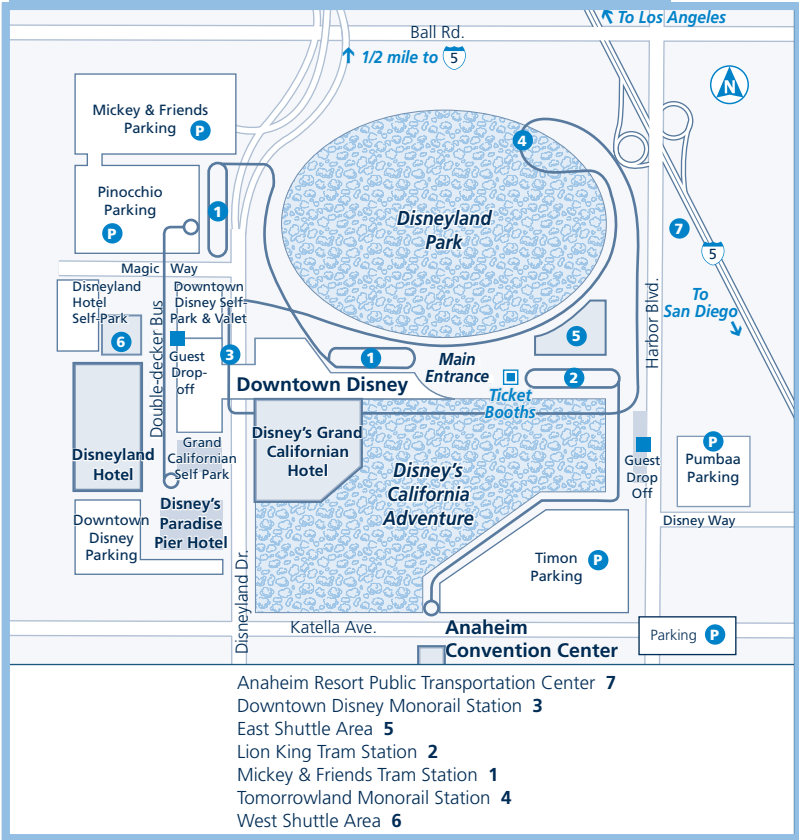
15 minutes to an hour. Our suggestion, if you are depending on hotel shuttles, is to exit the park at least 45 minutes before closing. If you stay in a park until closing and lack the energy to deal with the shuttle or hike back to your hotel, go to the Disneyland Hotel and catch a cab from there. There is also a cab stand adjacent to the



unofficial TIP

Warning: Most shuttles don't add vehicles at park-opening or-closing times. In the mornings, you may not get a seat.

getting around the disneyland resort



Harbor Boulevard pedestrian entrance and another at the Grand Californian Hotel.

The shuttle loading area is located on the Harbor Boulevard side of the Disneyland Park's main entrances. The loading area connects to a pedestrian corridor that leads to the park entrances. Each hotel's shuttle bus is color-coded yellow, blue, red, silver, or white. Signs of like color designate where the shuttles load and unload.

Anaheim Resort Transit

Anaheim has undergone a renaissance, establishing the 1,100-acre area that surrounds Disneyland and the Anaheim Convention Center as a world-class destination known as The Anaheim Resort. Streets have been widened and attractively landscaped with towering palms as well

as ornamental trees and plants. A score of new hotels and restaurants have opened and many of the older hotels have expanded or remodeled.

To complete the Anaheim Resort package, a transit service was added to provide shuttle service to the Disneyland Parks, Downtown Disney, and the convention center. Called Anaheim Resort Transit (ART), the service operates 12 routes designated A through H plus J, K, L, and M. There are just two to six well-marked stops on each route, so a complete circuit on any given route only takes about 20 minutes. All of the routes terminate at Disneyland. To continue on to the convention center, you must transfer at Disneyland to Route C, E, or M.

The shuttle vehicles themselves are little red trolleys similar to the trolleys in San Francisco (except on wheels) and are wheelchair accessible. They run every ten minutes on peak days during morning and evening periods, every 20 minutes during the less busy middle part of the day, and every 20 minutes all day long on nonpeak days. Service begins one hour before park opening and ends one half hour after park closing. If you commute to Disneyland on ART and then head to Downtown Disney after the parks close, you'll have to find your own way home if you stay at Downtown Disney more than half an hour. All shuttle vehicles and the respective stops are clearly marked with the route designation (A through H and J, K, L, and M).

Hotels served by ART sell one-day, two-day, and five-day passes for \$3, \$6, and \$12, respectively. Children age 9 years and under ride free with a paying adult. Passes cannot be purchased from the driver. For more information, call ☎ 888-364-ARTS or check www.rideart.org. Passes are also available in advance or at ART's Web site.

WALKING TO DISNEYLAND FROM NEARBY HOTELS

WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT MOST DISNEYLAND area hotels provide shuttle service, or are on the ART routes, it is equally true that an ever-increasing number of guests walk to the parks from their hotels. Shuttles are not always available when needed, and parking in the Disneyland lot has become pretty expensive. There is a pedestrian walkway from Harbor Boulevard that provides safe access to Disneyland for guests on foot. This pedestrian corridor extends from Harbor Boulevard all the way to the Disneyland Hotel, connecting Disneyland Park, Disney's California Adventure, and all of the Disney entertainment and shopping venues.

A WORD *about* LODGING

WHILE THIS GUIDE IS NOT ABOUT LODGING, we have found lodging to be a primary concern of people visiting Disneyland. Traffic around Disneyland, and in the Anaheim–Los Angeles area in general, is so terrible that we advocate staying in accommodations within two

or three miles of the park. Included in this radius are many expensive hotels as well as a considerable number of moderately priced establishments and a small number of bargain motels.

DISNEYLAND RESORT HOTELS

DISNEY OFFERS THREE ON-SITE HOTELS: the **Grand Californian**, the **Disneyland Hotel**, and the **Paradise Pier Hotel**. The Grand Californian, built in the rustic stone-and-timber style of the grand national-park lodges, is the flagship property. Newer, more elaborately themed, and closest to the theme parks and Downtown Disney, the Grand Californian is without a doubt the best place to stay . . . if you can afford it. Rooms at the Grand Californian start at about \$280 and range up to \$500 per night.

Next most convenient is the sprawling Disneyland Hotel, the oldest of the three. The Disneyland Hotel, consisting of three guest-room towers, has no theme but is lushly landscaped and offers large, luxurious guest rooms. Walking from the hotel to the park entrances takes about 7 to 12 minutes. Walking time to the monorail station, with transportation to Disneyland Park, is about three to six minutes. Rates at the Disneyland Hotel run from \$210 to \$360 per night depending on the season.

The east side of the third Disney hotel overlooks the Paradise Pier section of Disney's California Adventure theme park, hence the name Paradise Pier Hotel. Although there is a South Seas-island flavor, both in the guest rooms and in the public areas, the hotel is not themed. The guest rooms here are large. Walking to the theme-park entrances takes about 10 to 16 minutes, and to the monorail station and Downtown Disney about 5 to 10 minutes. Depending on season, room rates range from \$165 to \$330 per night.

All three of the Disney hotels offer on-site dining and are within easy walking distance of the restaurants at Downtown Disney. The nicest swimming area can be found at the Grand Californian, where a High Sierras theme is realized in a mountain stream, boulders, and evergreens. The Disneyland Hotel also offers an elaborate, though themeless, pool complex.

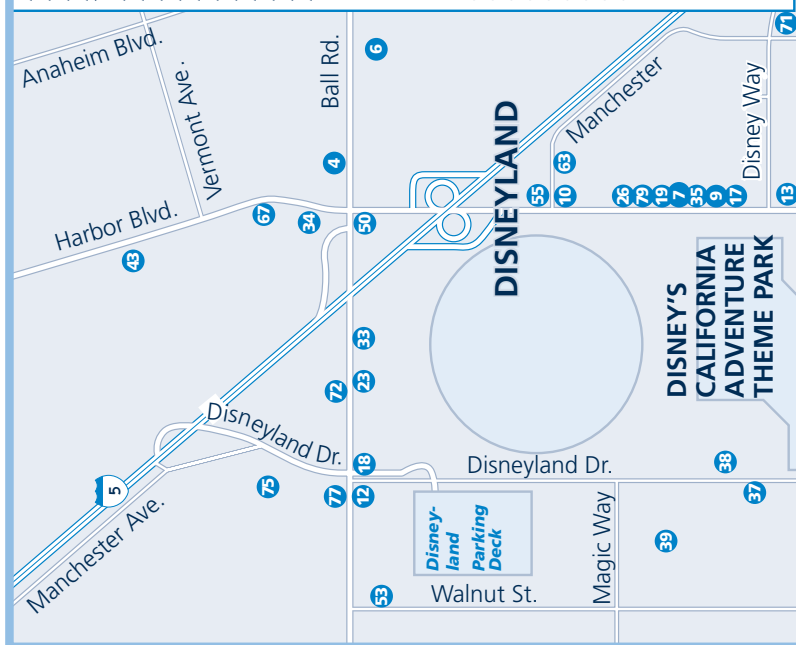
HOW TO GET DISCOUNTS ON LODGING AT DISNEYLAND RESORT HOTELS

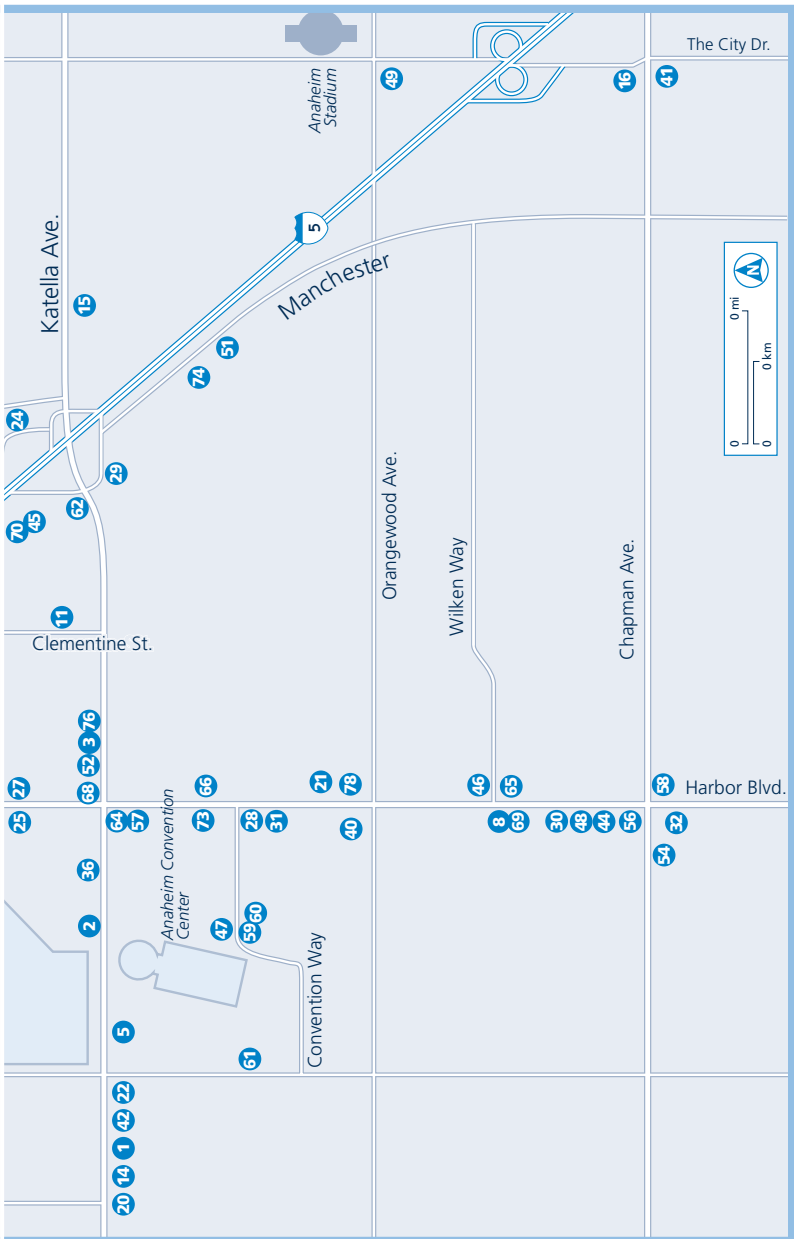
THERE ARE SO MANY GUEST ROOMS in and around Disneyland Resort that competition is brisk, and everyone, including Disney, wheels and deals to keep them filled. This has led to a more flexible discount policy for Disneyland Resort hotels. Here are tips for getting price breaks:

1. SEASONAL SAVINGS You can save from \$15 to \$60 per night on a Disneyland Resort hotel room by scheduling your visit during the

disneyland hotels

Alamo Inn 1	DoubleTree Hotel Anaheim 41
Alpine Inn 2	Econo Lodge 42
America Best Value 3	Econo Lodge Maingate 43
The Anabella 5	Embassy Suites Anaheim South 44
Anaheim Astoria Inn and Suites 6	Extended Stay America 45
Anaheim Camelot Inn and Suites 7	Hilton Anaheim 47
Anaheim Carriage Inn 8	Hilton Garden Inn 48
Anaheim Del Sol 9	Hilton Suites Anaheim Orange 49
Anaheim Fairfield Inn 10	Holiday Inn Anaheim at the Park 50
Anaheim La Quinta Inn and Suites 11	Holiday Inn Anaheim Resort 51
Anaheim Maingate Rodeway Inn 12	Holiday Inn Express-Anaheim Maingate Hotel 52
Anaheim Plaza Hotel and Suites 13	Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites Anaheim 53
Anaheim Travelodge at the Park 14	Homewood Suites by Hilton 54
Ayres Hotel 15	Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel 55
Ayres Inn 16	Hyatt Regency Orange County 56
Best Western Anaheim Inn 17	Jolly Roger Inn 57
Best Western Courtyard Inn 18	Marriott Anaheim Suites 58
Best Western Park Place Inn and Mini Suites 19	Marriott Hotel Main Tower 59
Best Western Pavilions 20	Marriott Hotel North Tower 60
Best Western Raffles Inn 21	Parkside Inn and Suites 61
Best Western Stovall's Inn 22	Peacock Suites Resort 62
Budget Inn 23	Penny Sleeper Inn 63
Candlewood Suites 24	Portofino Inn and Suites 64
Candy Cane Inn 25	Quality Inn Maingate 65
Carousel Inn and Suites 26	Radisson Maingate 66
Castle Inn and Suites 27	Ramada Limited 67
Clarion Anaheim Hotel Resort 28	Ramada Plaza Hotel Anaheim Resort 68
Comfort Inn and Suites 29	Ramada Suites 69
Comfort Inn Maingate 30	Red Roof Inn Anaheim Maingate 70
Cortona Inn and Suites 31	Residence Inn Anaheim/Disneyland 71
Crowne Plaza Anaheim Resort 32	Sheraton Anaheim Hotel 72
Days Inn Anaheim 33	Sheraton Park Hotel 73
Days Inn and Suites 34	Staybridge Suites Anaheim Resort Area 74
Desert Inn and Suites 35	Super 8 Motel Disneyland Drive 75
Desert Palm Inn and Suites 36	Super 8 Motel Near Disneyland 76
Disney Paradise Pier Hotel 37	Travelodge Anaheim Hotel 77
Disney's Grand Californian Hotel 38	Travelodge International Inn and Suites 78
Disneyland Hotel 39	Tropicana Inn and Suites 79
DoubleTree Guest Suites 40	





slower times of the year. Disney uses so many adjectives (regular, holiday, peak, value, etc.) to describe its seasonal calendar, however, that it's hard to keep up without a scorecard. To confuse matters more, the dates for each season vary from hotel to hotel. Our advice: if you're set on staying at a Disney hotel, obtain a copy of the Walt Disney Travel Sales Center California Brochure, which is described on page 15.

If you have a hard time getting a copy of the brochure, forget trying to find the various seasonal dates on the Disneyland Resort Web site. Easier by far is to check them out on the independent-of-Disney **www.mouse savers.com** site described in tip 3 below.

Understand that Disney seasonal dates are not sequential like spring, summer, fall, and winter. That would be way too simple. For any specific resort, there are sometimes several seasonal changes in a month. This is important because your room rate per night will be determined by the season prevailing when you check in. Let's say that you checked into the Disneyland Hotel on April 19 for a five-night stay. April 19 is in the more expensive peak season that ends on April 20, followed by the less pricey regular season beginning on April 23. Because you arrived during peak season, the peak season rate will be applied during your entire stay, even though more than half of your stay will be in regular season. Your strategy, therefore, is to shift your dates (if possible) to arrive during a less expensive season.

2. ASK ABOUT SPECIALS When you talk to Disney reservationists, inquire specifically about special deals. Ask, for example, "What special rates or discounts are available at Disney hotels during the time of our visit?" Being specific and assertive paid off for an Illinois reader:


I called Disney's reservations number and asked for availability and rates. . . . [Because] of the Unofficial Guide warning about Disney reservationists answering only the questions posed, I specifically asked, "Are there any special rates or discounts for that room during the month of October?" She replied, "Yes, we have that room available at a special price. . . ." [For] the price of one phone call, I saved \$440.

Along similar lines, a Warren, New Jersey, dad chimed in with this:

Your tip about asking Disney employees about discounts was invaluable. They will not volunteer this information, but by asking we saved almost \$500 on our hotel room using a AAA discount. Also, by asking, we got to ride in the front of the monorail, which thrilled our 10-year-old son (and his dad).

3. LEARN ABOUT DEALS OFFERED TO SPECIFIC MARKETS The folks at **www.mousesavers.com** keep an updated list of discounts and reservation codes for use at Disney resorts. The codes are separated into categories such as "for anyone," "for residents of certain states," "for Annual Passport holders," and so on. For example, the site listed a deal

targeted to residents of the San Diego area published in an ad in a San Diego newspaper. Dozens of discounts are usually listed on the site, covering almost all Disneyland Resort hotels. Usually anyone calling the Disneyland Central Reservations Office (call ☎ 714-956-6425 and press 3 on the menu) can cite the referenced ad and get the discounted rate.

 **unofficial TIP**
To enhance your chances of receiving a pin-code offer, you need to get your name and street or e-mail address into the Disney system.

You should be aware that Disney is tending away from room discount codes that anyone can use. Instead, Disney is targeting people with pin codes in e-mails and direct mailings. Pin-code discounts are offered to specific individuals and are correlated with that person's name and address. Pin-code offers are nontransferable. When you try to make a reservation using the code, Disney will verify that the street or e-mail address to which the pin code was sent is yours.

To enhance your chances of receiving a pin-code offer, you need to get your name and street or e-mail address into the Disney system. One way is to call the Walt Disney Travel Company–Disneyland Reservation Center at ☎ 714-520-7070 and request that written info be sent to you. If you've been to Disneyland previously, your name and address will already be on record, but you won't be as likely to receive a pin-code offer as you would by calling and requesting to be sent information. The latter is regarded as new business. Or expressed differently, if Disney smells blood they're more likely to come after you. On the Web, go to www.disneyland.com and sign up to be sent offers and news automatically at your e-mail address.

Mousesavers.com also features a great links page with short descriptions and URLs of the best Disney-related Web sites, and a current-year seasonal rates calendar.

4. EXPEDIA.COM Online travel seller Expedia has established an active market in discounting Disney hotels. Most discounts are in the 4 to 15% range but can go as deep as 25%.

5. DISNEYLAND RESORT WEB SITE Disney has become more aggressive about offering deals on its Web site. Go to www.disneyland.com and check the page for "Special Offers." When booking rooms on Disney's or any other site, be sure to click on "Terms and Conditions" and read the fine print *before* making reservations.

6. ANNUAL PASS–HOLDER DISCOUNTS Annual Pass holders are eligible for a broad range of discounts on dining, shopping, and lodging. If you visit Disneyland Resort once a year or more, or if you plan on a visit of five or more days, you might save money overall by purchasing Annual Passes. During 2006, we saw resort discounts as deep as 35% offered to Annual Pass holders. It doesn't take long to recoup the extra bucks you spent on an Annual Pass when you're saving that kind of money on lodging. Discounts in the 10 to 15% range are more the norm.

7. TRAVEL AGENTS Travel agents are active players in the market and particularly good sources of information on time-limited special programs and discounts. In our opinion, a good travel agent is the best friend a traveler can have. And though we at the *Unofficial Guide* know a thing or two about the travel industry, we always give our agent a chance to beat any deal we find. If our agent can't beat the deal, we let her book it if it's commissionable. In other words, we create a relationship that gives her plenty of incentive to really roll up her sleeves and work on our behalf.

As you might expect, there are travel agents and agencies that specialize, sometimes exclusively, in selling Disneyland and Walt Disney World. These agents have spent an incredible amount of time at both resorts and have completed extensive Disney education programs. They are usually the most Disney-knowledgeable agents in the travel industry. Most of these specialists and their agencies display the "Earmarked" logo stating that they are an authorized Disney vacation planner.

8. ORGANIZATIONS AND AUTO CLUBS Eager to sell rooms, Disney has developed time-limited programs with some auto clubs and other organizations. Recently, for example, AAA members were offered 10 to 20% savings on Disney hotels and discounts on Disney package vacations. Such deals come and go, but the market suggests there will be more in the future. If you're a member of AARP, AAA, or any travel or auto club, ask whether the group has a program before shopping elsewhere.

9. ROOM UPGRADES Sometimes a room upgrade is as good as a discount. If you're visiting Disneyland Resort during a slower time, book the least expensive room your discounts will allow. Checking in, ask very politely about being upgraded to a "theme park" or "pool view" room. A fair percentage of the time, you will get one at no additional charge.

Non-Disney Hotels

When Walt Disney built Disneyland, he did not have the funding to include hotels or to purchase the property surrounding his theme park. Even the Disneyland Hotel was owned by outside interests until a few years ago. Consequently, the area around the park developed in an essentially uncontrolled manner. Many of the hotels and motels near Disneyland were built in the early 1960s, and they are small and sometimes unattractive by today's standards. Quite a few motels adopted adventure or fantasy themes in emulation of Disneyland. As you might imagine, these themes from three decades ago seem hokey and irrelevant today. There is a disquieting (though rapidly diminishing) number of seedy hotels near Disneyland, and even some of the chain properties fail to live up to their national standards.

If you consider a non-Disney-owned hotel in Anaheim, check its quality as reported by a reliable independent rating system such as

those offered by the *Unofficial Guides*, AAA Directories, Mobil Guides, or *Frommer's* guides. Also, before you book, ask how old the hotel is and when the guest rooms were last refurbished. Be aware that almost any hotel can be made to look good on a Web site, so don't depend on Web sites alone. Locate the hotel on our street map (pages 32–33) to verify its proximity to Disneyland. If you will not have a car, make sure the hotel has a shuttle service that will satisfy your needs.

GETTING A GOOD DEAL AT NON-DISNEY HOTELS

BELOW ARE SOME TIPS AND STRATEGIES for getting a good deal on a hotel room near Disneyland. Though the following list may seem a bit intimidating and may refer to players in the travel market that are unfamiliar to you, acquainting yourself with the concepts and strategies will serve you well in the long run. Simply put, the tips we provide for getting a good deal near Disneyland will work equally well at just about any other place where you need a hotel. Once you have invested a little time and have experimented with these strategies, you will be able to routinely obtain rooms at the best hotels and at the lowest possible rates.

 **unofficial TIP**
For the best rates and least crowded conditions, try to avoid visiting Disneyland Resort when a major convention or trade show is in progress.

Be forewarned that Disneyland Resort is right across the street from the Anaheim–Orange County Convention Center, one of the largest and busiest convention centers in the country. Room availability, as well as rates, are affected significantly by trade shows and other events at the convention center. To determine whether such an event will be ongoing during your projected dates, visit www.anaheimcc.org/calendar.

1. MOUSESAVERS.COM is a site dedicated to finding great deals on hotels, admissions, and more at Disneyland Resort and Walt Disney World. The site covers discounts on both Disney and non-Disney hotels and is especially effective at keeping track of time-limited deals and discounts offered in a select market, San Diego for example.

2. TRAVELAXE.COM offers free software you can download on your PC (sorry, no Macs) that will scan the better hotel-discount sites and find the cheapest rate on the Internet for each of more than 80 Disneyland area hotels. The site offers various filters such as price, quality rating, and proximity to a specific location (Disneyland, Convention Center, airport, etc.) that allow you to tailor your search.

3. EXPEDIA.COM AND TRAVELOCITY.COM These two Web sites sometimes offer good discounts on area hotels. We find that Expedia offers the best deals if you're booking within two weeks of your visit. In fact, some of Expedia's last-minute deals are amazing, really rock-bottom rates. Travelocity frequently beats Expedia, however, if you reserve two weeks to three months out. Neither site offers anything to get excited about if you book more than three months from the time of your visit.

If you use either site, be sure to take into consideration the demand for rooms during the season of your visit, and check to see if any big conventions or trade shows are scheduled for the convention center.

4. PRICELINE.COM At Priceline you can tender a bid for a room. You can't bid on a specific hotel but you can specify location ("Disneyland Vicinity") and the quality rating expressed in stars. If your bid is accepted, you will be assigned to a hotel consistent with your location and quality requirements, and your credit card will be charged in a non-refundable transaction for your entire stay. Notification of acceptance usually takes less than an hour. We recommend bidding \$25 to \$45 per night for a three-star hotel and \$45 to \$70 per night for a four-star property. To gauge your chances of success, check to see if any major conventions or trade shows are scheduled for the convention center during your preferred dates.

5. ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS These are area-specific books with discount coupons for hotels, restaurants, entertainment, shopping, and even car washes. The Anaheim version sells for about \$45 at the beginning of the year, but is discounted if you buy with only part of the year remaining. Sometimes the books sell out before summer. Unless you live in Orange County, you won't be able to use a lot of the coupons, but sometimes the savings on your hotel and dining will more than justify the purchase. To buy, or for additional information, visit **www.entertainment.com** online.

6. EXIT INFORMATION GUIDE A company called EIG (Exit Information Guide) publishes a book of discount coupons for bargain rates at hotels throughout California. These books are available free of charge at many restaurants and motels along the main interstate highways in and leading to California. However, since most folks make reservations before leaving home, picking up the coupon book en route does not help much. But, for \$3 (\$5 Canadian) EIG will mail you a copy, allowing you to examine the discounts offered before you make your reservations. You can use a credit card or send a money order or check. The guide is free; the charge is for the postage. Write or call, or order online at **www.travelersdiscountguide.com**:

Exit Information Guide

4205 NW Sixth Street

Gainesville, FL 32609

☎ 352-371-3948

7. SPECIAL WEEKEND RATES If you are not averse to about an hour's drive to Disneyland, you can get a great weekend rate on rooms in downtown Los Angeles. Most hotels that cater to business, government, and convention travelers offer special weekend discounts that range from 15 to 40% below normal weekday rates. You can find out about weekend specials by calling the hotel or by consulting your travel agent.

8. WHOLESALERS, CONSOLIDATORS, AND RESERVATION SERVICES

Wholesalers and consolidators buy rooms, or options on rooms (room blocks), from hotels at a low negotiated rate. They then resell the rooms at a profit through travel agents, through tour packagers, or directly to the public. Most wholesalers and consolidators have a provision for returning unsold rooms to participating hotels, but they are disinclined to do so. The wholesaler's or consolidator's relationship with any hotel is predicated on volume. If they return rooms unsold, the hotel might not make as many rooms available to them the next time around. Thus, wholesalers and consolidators often offer rooms at bargain rates, anywhere from 15 to 50% off rack, occasionally sacrificing their profit margin in the process, to avoid returning the rooms to the hotel unsold.

When wholesalers and consolidators deal directly with the public, they frequently represent themselves as "reservation services." When you call, you can ask for a rate quote for a particular hotel or, alternatively, ask for their best available deal in the area where you prefer to stay. If there is a maximum amount you are willing to pay, say so. Chances are the service will find something that will work for you, even if they have to shave a dollar or two off their own profit. Sometimes you will have to prepay for your room with your credit card when you make your reservation. Most often, you will pay when you check out. Listed below are two services that frequently offer substantial discounts in the Anaheim area.

ANAHEIM AREA WHOLESALERS AND CONSOLIDATORS

California Reservations ☎ 800-576-0003 www.hotellocators.com

Hotel Reservations Network ☎ 800-715-7666 www.hoteldiscounts.com

10. CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS If you belong to AAA, AARP, or a number of other organizations or clubs, you can obtain discounts on lodging. Usually the discounts are modest, in the 5 to 15% range, but occasionally higher.

11. IF YOU MAKE YOUR OWN RESERVATION As you poke around trying to find a good deal, there are several things you should know. First, always call the hotel in question as opposed to the hotel chain's national toll-free number. Quite often, the reservationists at the national numbers are unaware of local specials. Always ask about specials before you inquire about corporate rates. Do not be reluctant to bargain. If you are buying a hotel's weekend package, for example, and want to extend your stay into the following week, you can often obtain at least the corporate rate for the extra days. Do your bargaining before you check in, however, preferably when you make your reservations. Work far enough in advance to receive a faxed or mailed confirmation.

HOW TO GET THE ROOM YOU WANT

MOST HOTELS, INCLUDING DISNEY'S, won't guarantee a specific room when you book, but will post your request on your reservations record and try to accommodate you. Our experience indicates that if you give them your first, second, and third choices, you'll probably get one of the three.

When speaking to the reservationist or your travel agent, it's important to be specific. If you want a room overlooking the pool, say so. Similarly, be sure to clearly state such preferences as a particular floor, a corner room, a room close to restaurants, a room away from elevators and ice machines, a nonsmoking room, a room with a certain type of balcony, or any other preference. If you have a laundry list of preferences, type it up in order of importance, and e-mail, fax, or mail it to the hotel or to your travel agent. Be sure to include your own contact information and, if you've already booked, your reservation confirmation number. If it makes you feel better, call back in a couple of days to make sure your preferences were posted to your reservations record.

About Hotel Renovations

We have inspected almost 100 hotels in the Disneyland Resort area to compile the list of lodging choices presented in this *Unofficial Guide*. Each year we phone each hotel to verify contact information and to inquire about renovations or refurbishments. If a hotel has been renovated or has refurbished its guest rooms, we reinspect that hotel along with any new hotels for the next edition of this book. Hotels that report no improvements are checked out every two years.

Our hotel ratings are provided shortly in the section "Hotels and Motels: Rated and Ranked" (pages 48–51).

TRAVEL PACKAGES

PACKAGE TOURS ARE ROUTINELY AVAILABLE that include lodging, park admission, and other features. Some of these are very good deals if you make use of the features you are paying for.

Finally, a helpful source of regional travel information is

Anaheim–Orange County Visitor and Convention Bureau

Department C

P.O. Box 4270

Anaheim, CA 92803

☎ 714-765-8888

www.anaheimoc.org

How to Evaluate a Disneyland Travel Package

Hundreds of Disneyland package vacations are offered to the public each year. Some are created by the Walt Disney Travel Sales Center, others by airline touring companies, and some by independent travel

ONE MORE THING

If your travel plans include a stay in the area of more than two or three days, lodge near Disneyland Resort only just before and on the days you visit the park. The same traffic you avoid by staying close to the park will eat you alive when you begin branching out to other Los Angeles-area attractions. Also, the area immediately around Disneyland is uninspiring, and there is a marked scarcity of decent restaurants.

agents and wholesalers. Almost all Disneyland packages include lodging at or near Disneyland and theme-park admission. Packages offered by the airlines include air transportation.

Package prices vary seasonally, with mid-June to mid-August and holiday periods being most expensive. Off season, forget packages; there are plenty of empty rooms and you can negotiate great discounts (at non-Disney properties) yourself. Similarly, airfares and rental cars are cheaper at off-peak times.

Almost all package ads feature a headline stating “Disneyland for Three Days from \$298” or some such wording. The key word in the ads is “from.” The rock-bottom package price connotes the least desirable hotel accommodations. If you want better or more conveniently located digs, you’ll have to pay more, often much more.

At Disneyland, packages offer a wide selection of hotels. Some, like the Disney-owned hotels, are very good. Others, unfortunately, run the quality gamut. Packages with lodging in non-Disney hotels are much less expensive.

Packages should be a win-win proposition for both the buyer and the seller. The buyer has to make only one phone call and deal with a single salesperson to set up the whole vacation: transportation, rental car, admissions, lodging, meals, and even golf and tennis. The seller, likewise, has to deal with the buyer only one time, eliminating the need for separate sales, confirmations, and billing. In addition to streamlining selling, processing, and administration, some packagers also buy airfares in bulk on contract, like a broker playing the commodities market. Buying a large number of airfares in advance allows the packager to buy them at a significant savings from posted fares. The same practice is applied also to hotel rooms. Because selling vacation packages is an efficient way of doing business, and because the packager can often buy individual package components (airfare, lodging, etc.) in bulk at a discount, savings in operating expenses realized by the seller are sometimes passed on to the buyer so that, in addition to convenience, the package is also an exceptional value. In any event, that is the way it is supposed to work.

All too often, in practice, the seller realizes all of the economies and passes on nothing in the way of savings to the buyer. In some instances, packages are loaded with extras that cost the packager

next to nothing, but run the retail price of the package sky-high. As you might expect, the savings to be passed along to customers are still somewhere in Fantasyland.

When considering a package, choose one that includes features you are sure to use. Whether you use all the features or not, you will most certainly pay for them. Second, if cost is of greater concern than convenience, make a few phone calls and see what the package would cost if you booked its individual components (airfare, rental car, lodging, etc.) on your own. If the package price is less than the à la carte cost, the package is a good deal. If the costs are about the same, the package is probably worth it for the convenience.

If you buy a package from Disney, do not expect Disney reservationists to offer suggestions or help you sort out your options. As a rule they will not volunteer information, but will only respond to specific questions you pose, adroitly ducking any query that calls for an opinion. A reader from North Riverside, Illinois, wrote to the *Unofficial Guide*, complaining:

I have received various pieces of literature from [Disney] and it is very confusing to try and figure everything out. My wife made two telephone calls and the [Disney] representatives were very courteous. However, they only answered the questions posed and were not very eager to give advice on what might be most cost-effective. The [Disney] reps would not say if we would be better off doing one thing over the other. I feel a person could spend eight hours on the telephone with [Disney] reps and not have any more input than you get from reading the literature.

If you cannot get the information you need from the Disney people, try a good travel agent. Chances are the agent will be more forthcoming in helping you sort out your options.

Information Needed for Evaluation

For quick reference and to save on phone expenses, write or call Walt Disney Travel Sales Center at ☎ 714-520-7070 and ask that they mail you a current Walt Disney Travel Sales Center California Brochure containing descriptions and room rates for all Disneyland lodging properties. Summarized information sheets on lodging are also available by fax. In addition, ask for a rate sheet listing admission options and prices for the theme parks. With this in hand, you are ready to evaluate any package that appeals to you. Remember that all packages are quoted on a per-person basis, two to a room (double occupancy). Good luck.



HOTELS *and* MOTELS: RATED *and* RANKED

WHAT'S IN A ROOM?

EXCEPT FOR CLEANLINESS, STATE OF REPAIR, and décor, most travelers do not pay much attention to hotel rooms. There is, of course, a discernible standard of quality and luxury that differentiates Motel 6 from Holiday Inn, Holiday Inn from Marriott, and so on. In general, however, hotel guests fail to appreciate that some rooms are better engineered than others.

Contrary to what you might suppose, designing a hotel room is (or should be) a lot more complex than picking a bedspread to match the carpet and drapes. Making the room usable to its occupants is an art, a planning discipline that combines both form and function.

Décor and taste are important, certainly. No one wants to spend several days in a room where the décor is dated, garish, or even ugly. But beyond the décor, there are variables that determine how “livable” a hotel room is. In Anaheim, for example, we have seen some beautifully appointed rooms that are simply not well designed for human habitation. The next time you stay in a hotel, pay attention to the details and design elements of your room. Even more than décor, these are the things that will make you feel comfortable and at home.

 **unofficial TIP**
Request a renovated room at your hotel—these can be much nicer than the older rooms.

It takes the *Unofficial Guide* researchers up to 40 minutes to inspect a hotel room. Here are a few of the things we check that you may want to start paying attention to, before they bother you:

ROOM SIZE While some smaller rooms are cozy and well designed, a large and uncluttered room is generally preferable, especially for a stay of more than three days.

TEMPERATURE CONTROL, VENTILATION, AND ODOR The guest should be able to control the temperature of the room. The best system, because it's so quiet, is central heating and air-conditioning, controlled by the room's own thermostat. The next best system is a room-module heater and air-conditioner, preferably controlled by an automatic thermostat, but more often by manually operated button controls. The worst system is central heating and air without any sort of room thermostat or guest control.

The vast majority of hotel rooms have windows or balcony doors that have been permanently secured shut. Though there are some legitimate safety and liability issues involved, we prefer windows and balcony doors that can be opened to admit fresh air. Hotel rooms should be odor free and smoke free and should not feel stuffy or damp.

ROOM SECURITY Better rooms have locks that require a plastic card instead of the traditional lock and key. Card-and-slot systems essentially allow the hotel to change the combination or entry code of the lock with each new guest who uses the room. A burglar who has somehow acquired a room key to a conventional lock can afford to wait until the situation is right before using the key to gain access. Not so with a card-and-slot system. Though larger hotels and hotel chains with lock-and-key systems usually rotate their locks once each year, they remain vulnerable to hotel thieves much of the time. Many smaller or independent properties rarely rotate their locks.

In addition to the entry-lock system, the door should have a dead-bolt, and preferably a chain that can be locked from the inside. A chain by itself is not sufficient. Doors should also have a peephole. Windows and balcony doors, if present, should have secure locks.

SAFETY Every room should have a fire or smoke alarm, clear fire instructions, and preferably a sprinkler system. Bathtubs should have a nonskid surface, and shower stalls should have doors that either open outward or slide side to side. Bathroom electrical outlets should be high on the wall and not too close to the sink. Balconies should have sturdy, high rails.

NOISE Many travelers have been kept awake by the television, partying, amorous activities of people in the next room, or traffic on the street outside. Better hotels are designed with noise control in mind. Wall and ceiling construction are substantial, effectively screening out routine noise. Carpets and drapes, in addition to being decorative, also absorb and muffle sounds. Mattresses mounted on stable platforms or sturdy bed frames do not squeak even when challenged by the most passionate and acrobatic lovers. Televisions enclosed in cabinets, and with volume governors, rarely disturb guests in adjacent rooms.

In better hotels, the air-conditioning and heating system is well maintained and operates without noise or vibration. Likewise, plumbing is quiet and positioned away from the sleeping area. Doors to the hall and to adjoining rooms are thick and well fitted to better keep out noise.

DARKNESS CONTROL Have you ever been in a hotel room where the curtains would not quite come together in the middle? Thick, lined curtains that close completely in the center and extend beyond the dimensions of the window or door frame are required. In a well-planned room, the curtains, shades, or blinds should almost totally block light at any time of day.

LIGHTING Poor lighting is an extremely common problem in American hotel rooms. The lighting is usually adequate for dressing, relaxing, or watching television, but not for reading or working. Lighting needs to be bright over tables and desks and alongside couches or easy chairs. Because so many people read in bed, there should be a separate light for each person. A room with two queen beds should have individual

lights for four people. Better bedside reading lights illuminate a small area, so if you want to sleep and someone else prefers to stay up and read, you will not be bothered by the light. The worst situation by far is a single lamp on a table between beds. In each bed, only the person next to the lamp will have sufficient light to read. This deficiency is often compounded by light bulbs of insufficient wattage.

In addition, closet areas should be well lit, and there should be a switch near the door that turns on lights in the room when you enter. A seldom seen but desirable feature is a bedside console that allows a guest to control all or most lights in the room from bed.

FURNISHINGS At bare minimum, the bed(s) must be firm. Pillows should be made with nonallergenic fillers and, in addition to the sheets and spread, a blanket should be provided. Bedclothes should be laundered with a fabric softener and changed daily. Better hotels usually provide extra blankets and pillows in the room or on request, and sometimes use a second sheet between the blanket and the spread.

There should be a dresser large enough to hold clothes for two people during a five-day stay. A small table with two chairs or a desk with one chair should be provided. The room should be equipped with a luggage rack and a three-quarter- to full-length mirror.

The television should be cable-connected and color; ideally it should have a volume governor and remote control. It should be mounted on a swivel base and preferably enclosed in a cabinet. Local channels should be posted on the set, and a local TV program guide should be supplied.

The telephone should be touch-tone and conveniently situated for bedside use. It should have on or near it easily understood dialing instructions and a rate card. Local White and Yellow Pages should be provided. Better hotels have phones in the bathroom and equip phones with long cords.

Well-designed hotel rooms usually have a plush armchair or a sleeper sofa for lounging and reading. Better headboards are padded for comfortable reading in bed, and there should be a nightstand or table on each side of the bed(s). Nice extras in any hotel room include a small refrigerator, a digital alarm clock, and a coffemaker.

BATHROOM Two sinks are better than one, and you cannot have too much counter space. A sink outside the bath is a great convenience when one person bathes as another dresses. Sinks should have drains with stoppers.

Better bathrooms have both a tub and shower with nonslip bottoms. Faucet controls should be easy to operate. Adjustable showerheads are preferred. The bath needs to be well lit and should have an exhaust fan and a guest-controlled heater. Bath towels should be large, soft, fluffy, and provided in generous quantities, as should hand towels and washcloths. There should be an electrical outlet per sink, conveniently and safely placed.

Complimentary shampoo, conditioner, soap, and lotion are a plus, as are robes and bath mats. Better hotels supply their bathrooms with tissues and extra toilet paper. Luxurious baths feature a phone, a hair dryer, and sometimes a small television or even a Jacuzzi.

VENDING There should be complimentary ice and a drink machine on each floor. Welcome additions include a snack machine and a sundries (combs, toothpaste) machine. The latter are seldom found in large hotels that have 24-hour restaurants and shops.

ROOM RATINGS

TO SEPARATE PROPERTIES ACCORDING to the relative quality, tastefulness, state of repair, cleanliness, and size of their standard rooms, we have grouped the hotels and motels into classifications denoted by stars. Star ratings in this guide apply to Anaheim properties only, and do not necessarily correspond to ratings awarded by Mobil, AAA, or other travel critics. Because stars have little relevance when awarded in the absence of commonly recognized standards of comparison, we have tied our ratings to expected levels of quality established by specific American hotel corporations.

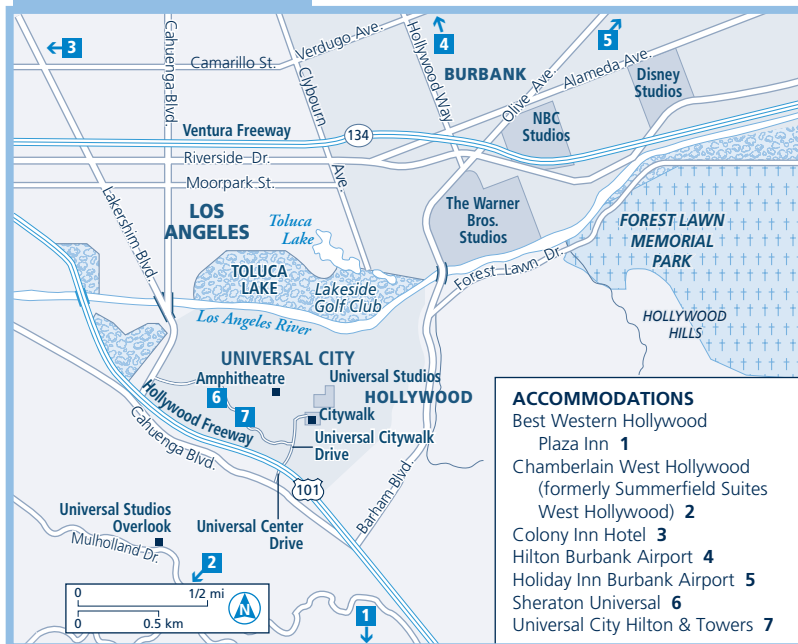
OVERALL STAR RATINGS

★★★★★	Superior Rooms	Tasteful and luxurious by any standard
★★★★	Extremely Nice Rooms	What you would expect at a Hyatt Regency or Marriott
★★★	Nice Rooms	Holiday Inn or comparable quality
★★	Adequate Rooms	Clean, comfortable, and functional without frills—like a Motel 6
★	Budget Rooms	Spartan, not aesthetically pleasing

Star ratings apply to *room quality only*, and describe the property’s standard accommodations. For most hotels and motels a “standard accommodation” is a hotel room with either one king bed or two queen beds. In an all-suite property, the standard accommodation is either a studio or one-bedroom suite. In addition to standard accommodations, many hotels offer luxury rooms and special suites that are not rated in this guide. Star ratings for rooms are assigned without regard to whether a property has a restaurant, recreational facilities, entertainment, or other extras.

In addition to stars (which delineate broad categories), we also employ a numerical rating system. Our rating scale is 0 to 100, with 100 as the best possible rating. Numerical ratings are presented to show the difference we perceive between one property and another. Rooms at the Homewood Suites, Peacock Suites, and Howard Johnson Hotel are all rated as three and one-half stars (★★★½). In the supplemental numerical ratings, the Homewood Suites is rated an 82,

universal hotels



the Peacock is rated an 81, and the Howard Johnson a 75. This means that within the three-and-a-half-star category, the Homewood Suites and Peacock Suites are comparable, and both have slightly nicer rooms than the Howard Johnson Hotel.

HOW THE HOTELS COMPARE

COST ESTIMATES ARE BASED ON THE HOTEL'S published rack rates for standard rooms. Each "\$" represents \$50. Thus, a cost symbol of "\$\$\$" means a room (or suite) at that hotel will be about \$150 a night (it may be less for weekdays or more on weekends).

Following is a hit parade of the nicest rooms in town. We've focused strictly on room quality and have excluded any consideration of location, services, recreation, or amenities. In some instances, a one- or two-room suite can be had for the same price or less than that of a hotel room.

If you used an earlier edition of this guide, you will notice that many of the ratings and rankings have changed. In addition to the inclusion of new properties, these changes are occasioned by such positive developments as guest-room renovation or improved maintenance and housekeeping. A failure to properly maintain guest rooms

How the Hotels Compare

HOTEL	OVERALL QUALITY RATING	ROOM QUALITY RATING	COST (\$=\$50)	PHONE
DISNEYLAND AREA				
Disney's Grand Californian Hotel	★★★★	90	\$\$\$\$\$\$+\$	☎ 714-635-2300
Disneyland Hotel	★★★★	89	\$\$\$\$\$+	☎ 714-778-6600
Crowne Plaza Anaheim Resort	★★★★	86	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-867-5555
Disney Paradise Pier Hotel	★★★★	86	\$\$\$\$\$	☎ 714-999-0990
DoubleTree Guest Suites	★★★★	86	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-750-3000
Hilton Suites Anaheim Orange	★★★★	86	\$\$\$	☎ 714-938-1111
Ayres Hotel	★★★★	85	\$\$+	☎ 714-634-2106
Hyatt Regency Orange County	★★★★	85	\$\$\$	☎ 714-750-1234
Marriott Hotel Main Tower	★★★★	85	\$\$\$+	☎ 714-750-8000
Sheraton Park Hotel	★★★★	85	\$\$\$\$-	☎ 714-750-1811
Staybridge Suites Anaheim Resort Area	★★★★	85	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-748-7700
DoubleTree Hotel Anaheim	★★★★	84	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-634-4500
The Anabella	★★★★	83	\$\$+	☎ 714-905-1050
Marriott Anaheim Suites	★★★★	83	\$\$\$\$-	☎ 714-750-1000
Sheraton Anaheim Hotel	★★★★	83	\$\$\$	☎ 714-778-1700
Candlewood Suites	★★★½	82	\$\$\$	☎ 714-808-9000
Homewood Suites by Hilton	★★★½	82	\$\$\$\$-	☎ 714-740-1800
Marriott Hotel North Tower	★★★½	82	\$\$\$+	☎ 714-750-8000
Portofino Inn and Suites	★★★½	82	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-782-7600
Embassy Suites Anaheim South	★★★½	81	\$\$\$	☎ 714-539-3300
Hilton Anaheim	★★★½	81	\$\$\$	☎ 714-750-4321
Peacock Suites Resort	★★★½	81	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-535-8255
Ramada Plaza Hotel Anaheim Resort	★★★½	81	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-991-6868
Residence Inn Anaheim/Disneyland	★★★½	81	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-533-3555
Holiday Inn Anaheim Resort	★★★½	80	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-748-7777
Anaheim Camelot Inn and Suites	★★★½	79	\$\$\$	☎ 714-635-7275
Desert Inn and Suites	★★★½	79	\$\$+	☎ 714-772-5050
Hilton Garden Inn	★★★½	79	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-703-9100
Anaheim La Quinta Inn and Suites	★★★½	76	\$\$+	☎ 714-635-5000
Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel	★★★½	75	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-776-6120
Candy Cane Inn	★★★	74	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-774-5284
Carousel Inn and Suites	★★★	72	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-758-0444
Cortona Inn and Suites	★★★	72	\$\$	☎ 714-971-5000

HOTEL	OVERALL QUALITY RATING	ROOM QUALITY RATING	COST (\$=\$50)	PHONE
DISNEYLAND AREA (CONTINUED)				
Jolly Roger Inn	★★★	72	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-782-7500
Ramada Suites	★★★	72	\$\$+	☎ 714-971-3553
Clarion Anaheim Hotel Resort	★★★	70	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-750-3131
Holiday Inn Express-Anaheim Maingate Hotel	★★★	70	\$\$	☎ 714-772-7755
Radisson Maingate	★★★	70	\$\$+	☎ 714-750-2801
Anaheim Fairfield Inn	★★★	69	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-772-6777
Comfort Inn and Suites	★★★	69	\$\$-	☎ 714-772-8713
Extended Stay America	★★★	69	\$\$	☎ 714-502-9988
Best Western Raffles Inn	★★★	67	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-750-6100
Ayres Inn	★★★	66	\$\$+	☎ 714-978-9168
Best Western Stovall's Inn	★★★	66	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-778-1880
Best Western Park Place Inn and Mini Suites	★★★	65	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-776-4800
Travelodge Anaheim Hotel	★★★	65	\$\$-	☎ 714-774-7600
Comfort Inn Maingate	★★½	64	\$\$	☎ 714-703-1220
Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites Anaheim	★★½	64	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-535-0300
Alpine Inn	★★½	63	\$\$-	☎ 714-535-2186
Anaheim Plaza Hotel and Suites	★★½	63	\$\$-	☎ 714-772-5900
Best Western Pavilions	★★½	63	\$\$	☎ 714-776-0140
Holiday Inn Anaheim at the Park	★★½	63	\$\$+	☎ 714-758-0900
Castle Inn and Suites	★★½	62	\$\$-	☎ 714-774-8111
Anaheim Astoria Inn and Suites	★★½	61	\$\$-	☎ 714-774-3882
Best Western Anaheim Inn	★★½	61	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-774-1050
Days Inn Anaheim	★★½	61	\$\$	☎ 714-520-0101
Desert Palm Inn and Suites	★★½	61	\$\$\$+	☎ 714-535-1133
Ramada Limited	★★½	61	\$\$-	☎ 714-999-0684
Red Roof Inn Anaheim Maingate	★★½	61	\$\$-	☎ 714-520-9696
Anaheim Carriage Inn	★★½	60	\$\$+	☎ 714-740-1440
Anaheim Del Sol	★★½	60	\$\$	☎ 714-234-3411
Best Western Courtesy Inn	★★½	60	\$\$	☎ 714-772-2470
America's Best Inn	★★½	58	\$\$-	☎ 714-533-2570
Quality Inn Maingate	★★½	58	\$\$+	☎ 714-750-5211
Tropicana Inn and Suites	★★½	58	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-635-4082

How the Hotels Compare (continued)

HOTEL	OVERALL QUALITY RATING	ROOM QUALITY RATING	COST (\$=\$50)	PHONE
DISNEYLAND AREA (CONTINUED)				
Anaheim Maingate Rodeway Inn	★★½	57	\$+	☎ 714-533-2500
Econo Lodge Maingate	★★½	57	\$-\$	☎ 714-535-7878
Penny Sleeper Inn	★★½	57	\$-\$	☎ 714-991-8100
Anaheim Travelodge at the Park	★★½	56	\$-\$	☎ 714-774-7817
Days Inn and Suites	★★½	56	\$	☎ 714-533-8830
Travelodge International Inn and Suites	★★½	56	\$	☎ 714-971-9393
Super 8 Motel Disneyland Drive	★★	55	\$	☎ 714-778-0350
Alamo Inn	★★	52	\$-\$	☎ 714-635-8070
Super 8 Motel Near Disneyland	★★	51	\$-\$	☎ 714-778-6900
Budget Inn	★★	50	\$+	☎ 714-535-5524
Hacienda Motel	★½	46	\$	☎ 714-750-2101

or a lapse in housekeeping standards can negatively affect the ratings.

Finally, before you begin to shop for a hotel, take a hard look at this letter we received from a couple in Hot Springs, Arkansas:

We cancelled our room reservations to follow the advice in your book [and reserved a hotel highly ranked by the Unofficial Guide]. We wanted inexpensive, but clean and cheerful. We got inexpensive, but dirty, grim, and depressing. I really felt disappointed in your advice and the room. It was the pits. That was the one real piece of information I needed from your book! The room spoiled the holiday for me aside from our touring.

Needless to say, this letter was as unsettling to us as the bad room was to our reader. Our integrity as travel journalists, after all, is based on the quality of the information we provide to our readers. Even with the best of intentions and the most conscientious research, however, we cannot inspect every room in every hotel. What we do, in statistical terms, is take a sample: we check out several rooms selected at random in each hotel and base our ratings and rankings on those rooms. The inspections are conducted anonymously and without the knowledge of the property's management. Although it would be unusual, it is certainly possible that the rooms we randomly inspect are not representative of the majority of rooms at a particular hotel. Another possibility is that the rooms we inspect in a given hotel are representative but that by bad luck a reader is assigned to

HOTEL	OVERALL QUALITY RATING	ROOM QUALITY RATING	COST (\$=\$50)	PHONE
DISNEYLAND AREA (CONTINUED)				
America Best Value	★½	41	\$\$–	☎ 714-776-2815
Parkside Inn and Suites	★	37	\$+	☎ 714-971-5511
Econo Lodge	★	34	\$\$–	☎ 714-533-4505
UNIVERSAL AREA				
Universal City Hilton and Towers	★★★★	87	\$\$\$\$+	☎ 818-506-2500
Sheraton Universal	★★★★	85	\$\$\$\$	☎ 818-980-1212
Chamberlain West Hollywood	★★★½	83	\$\$\$\$–	☎ 310-657-7400
Hilton Burbank Airport	★★★½	80	\$\$\$\$	☎ 818-843-6000
Holiday Inn Burbank Airport	★★★	68	\$\$\$–	☎ 818-841-4770
Best Western Hollywood Plaza Inn	★★½	62	\$\$	☎ 323-851-1800
Colony Inn Hotel	★★½	60	\$\$\$–	☎ 818-763-2787

an inferior room. When we rechecked the hotel our reader disliked so intensely, we discovered that our rating was correctly representative but that he and his wife had unfortunately been assigned to one of a small number of threadbare rooms scheduled for renovation.

The key to avoiding disappointment is to do some advance snooping around. We recommend that you ask to get a photo of a hotel's standard guest room before you book, or at least a copy of the hotel's promotional brochure. Be forewarned, however, that some hotel chains use the same guest-room photo in their promotional literature for all hotels in the chain, and that the guest room in a specific property may not resemble the photo in the brochure. When you or your travel agent call, ask how old the property is and when the guest room you are being assigned was last renovated. If you arrive and are assigned a room inferior to that which you had been led to expect, demand to be moved to another room.

THE TOP 30 BEST DEALS

HAVING LISTED THE BETTER ROOMS IN TOWN, let's take a look at the best combinations of quality and value in a room. As before, the rankings are made without consideration of location or the availability of restaurants, recreational facilities, entertainment, or amenities.

The Disneyland Hotel, you may notice, is not one of the best deals. This is because you can get more for your money at other properties. The Disneyland and Grand Californian Hotels, however, are

The Top 30 Best Deals

HOTEL	OVERALL QUALITY RATING	ROOM QUALITY RATING	COST (\$=\$50)	PHONE
1. Ayres Hotel	★★★★	85	\$\$+	☎ 714-634-2106
2. The Anabella	★★★★	83	\$\$+	☎ 714-905-1050
3. Staybridge Suites Anaheim Resort Area	★★★★	85	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-748-7700
4. DoubleTree Hotel Anaheim	★★★★	84	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-634-4500
5. Comfort Inn and Suites	★★★	69	\$\$-	☎ 714-772-8713
6. Crowne Plaza Anaheim Resort	★★★★	86	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-867-5555
7. Desert Inn and Suites	★★★½	79	\$\$+	☎ 714-772-5050
8. Travelodge Anaheim Hotel	★★★	65	\$\$-	☎ 714-774-7600
9. Sheraton Anaheim Hotel	★★★★	83	\$\$\$	☎ 714-778-1700
10. Anaheim La Quinta Inn and Suites	★★★½	76	\$\$+	☎ 714-635-5000
11. Ramada Plaza Hotel Anaheim Resort	★★★½	81	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-991-6868
12. Portofino Inn and Suites	★★★½	82	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-782-7600
13. Anaheim Maingate Rodeway Inn	★★½	57	\$+	☎ 714-533-2500
14. Extended Stay America	★★★	69	\$\$	☎ 714-502-9988
15. Hilton Suites Anaheim Orange	★★★★	86	\$\$\$	☎ 714-938-1111

two of the most popular hotels in the area, and many guests are willing to pay a higher rate for their convenience, service, and amenities.

We recently had a reader complain to us that he had booked one of our top-ranked rooms for value and had been very disappointed in the room. On checking we noticed that the room the reader occupied had a quality rating of ★★★½. We would remind you that the value ratings are intended to give you some sense of value received for your

HOTEL	OVERALL QUALITY RATING	ROOM QUALITY RATING	COST (\$=\$50)	PHONE
16. Hyatt Regency Orange County	★★★★	85	\$\$\$	☎ 714-750-1234
17. Residence Inn Anaheim/Disneyland	★★★½	81	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-533-3555
18. Holiday Inn Anaheim Resort	★★★½	80	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-748-7777
19. Anaheim Carriage Inn	★★½	60	\$+	☎ 714-740-1440
20. Marriott Hotel Main Tower	★★★★	85	\$\$\$+	☎ 714-750-8000
21. Peacock Suites Resort	★★★½	81	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-535-8255
22. Hilton Garden Inn	★★★½	79	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-703-9100
23. Alpine Inn	★★½	63	\$\$-	☎ 714-535-2186
24. Anaheim Plaza Hotel and Suites	★★½	63	\$\$-	☎ 714-772-5900
25. Candlewood Suites	★★★½	82	\$\$\$	☎ 714-808-9000
26. Cortona Inn and Suites	★★★	72	\$\$	☎ 714-971-5000
27. Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel	★★★½	75	\$\$\$-	☎ 714-776-6120
28. Holiday Inn Express—Anaheim Maingate Hotel	★★★	70	\$\$	☎ 714-772-7755
29. Anaheim Astoria Inn and Suites	★★½	61	\$\$-	☎ 714-774-3882
30. Embassy Suites Anaheim South	★★★½	81	\$\$\$	☎ 714-539-3300

lodging dollar spent. A ★★★½ room at \$35 may have the same value rating as a ★★★★ room at \$85, but that does not mean the rooms will be of comparable quality. Regardless of whether it's a good deal or not, a ★★★½ room is still a ★★★½ room.

Listed above are the top 30 room buys for the money, regardless of location or star classification, based on rack rates. Note that sometimes a suite can cost less than a hotel room.

Hotel Information Chart

Alamo Inn ★★

1140 West Katella Avenue
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-635-8070
FAX 714-778-3307
www.alamoinnandsuites.com

ROOM RATING 52
COST \$\$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Alpine Inn ★★½

715 West Katella Avenue
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-535-2186
FAX 714-535-3714
www.alpineinnanaheim.com

ROOM RATING 63
COST \$\$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

America Best Value ★½

425 West Katella Avenue
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-776-2815
FAX 714-533-4037
www.anaheimfantasyinn.com

ROOM RATING 41
COST \$\$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Anaheim Camelot Inn and Suites ★★★½

1520 South Harbor Boulevard
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-635-7275
FAX 714-635-7276
www.parkinn-anaheim.com

ROOM RATING 79
COST \$\$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Anaheim Carriage Inn

★½
2125 South Harbor Boulevard
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-740-1440
FAX 714-971-5330
www.anaheimcarriageinn.com

ROOM RATING 60
COST \$+
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Anaheim Del Sol ★★½

1604 South Harbor Boulevard
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-234-3411
FAX 714-234-3422
www.delsolinn.com

ROOM RATING 60
COST \$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

Anaheim Plaza Hotel and Suites ★★½

1700 South Harbor Boulevard
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-772-5900
FAX 714-772-8386
www.anaheimplazahotel.com

ROOM RATING 63
COST \$\$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

Anaheim Travelodge at the Park ★★½

1166 West Katella Avenue
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-774-7817
FAX 714-774-7329
www.anaheimatthepark.com

ROOM RATING 56
COST \$\$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Ayres Hotel ★★★★★

2550 East Katella Avenue
Anaheim 92806
☎ 714-634-2106
FAX 714-634-2108
www.ayreshotels.com

ROOM RATING 85
COST \$+
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Best Western Hollywood Plaza Inn ★★½

2011 North Highland Avenue
Hollywood 90068
☎ 323-851-1800
FAX 323-851-1836
www.bestwestern.com

ROOM RATING 62
COST \$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Best Western Park Place Inn and Mini Suites ★★★★★

1544 South Harbor Boulevard
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-776-4800
FAX 714-758-1396
www.bestwestern.com

ROOM RATING 65
COST \$\$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Best Western Pavilions ★★½

1176 West Katella Avenue
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-776-0140
FAX 714-776-5801
www.bestwestern.com

ROOM RATING 63
COST \$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Candlewood Suites ★★½

1733 South Anaheim Boulevard
Anaheim 92805
☎ 714-808-9000
FAX 714-808-9989
www.candlewoodsuites.com

ROOM RATING 82
COST \$\$\$
POOL —
ON-SITE DINING —

Candy Cane Inn ★★★★★

1747 South Harbor Boulevard
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-774-5284
FAX 714-772-5462
www.candycaneinn.net

ROOM RATING 74
COST \$\$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Carousel Inn and Suites ★★★★★

1530 South Harbor Boulevard
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-758-0444
FAX 714-772-9960
www.carouselinnandsuites.com

ROOM RATING 72
COST \$\$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

America's Best Inn ★★½

414 West Ball Road
Anaheim 92805
☎ 714-533-2570
FAX 714-635-3322
www.bestinnanaheim.com

ROOM RATING 58
COST \$\$-
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

The Anabella ★★★★★

1030 West Katella Avenue
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-905-1050
FAX 714-905-1055
www.anabellahotel.com

ROOM RATING 83
COST \$\$\$+
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

Anaheim Astoria Inn and Suites ★★½

426 West Ball Road
Anaheim 92805
☎ 714-774-3882
FAX 714-234-2164
www.anaheimastoriainn.com

ROOM RATING 61
COST \$\$\$-
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Anaheim Fairfield Inn

★★★
1460 South Harbor Boulevard
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-772-6777
FAX 714-999-1727
www.marriott.com

ROOM RATING 69
COST \$\$\$-
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

Anaheim La Quinta Inn and Suites ★★★★★½

1752 South Clementine Street
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-635-5000
FAX 714-776-9073
www.laquinta.com

ROOM RATING 76
COST \$\$\$+
POOL —
ON-SITE DINING —

Anaheim Maingate Rodeway Inn ★★½

1211 West Place
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-533-2500
FAX 714-398-8026
www.rodewayinn.com

ROOM RATING 57
COST \$+
POOL —
ON-SITE DINING —

Ayres Inn ★★★

3737 West Chapman Avenue
Anaheim 92868
☎ 714-978-9168
FAX 714-978-9028
www.ayreshotels.com

ROOM RATING 66
COST \$\$\$+
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Best Western Anaheim Inn

★★½
1630 South Harbor Boulevard
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-774-1050
FAX 714-776-6305
www.bestwestern.com

ROOM RATING 61
COST \$\$\$-
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Best Western Courtyard Inn ★★½

1070 West Ball Road
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-772-2470
FAX 714-774-3425
www.bestwestern.com

ROOM RATING 60
COST \$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Best Western Raffles Inn ★★

2040 South Harbor Boulevard
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-750-6100
FAX 714-740-0639
www.bestwestern.com

ROOM RATING 67
COST \$\$\$-
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Best Western Stovall's Inn ★★★

1110 West Katella Avenue
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-778-1880
FAX 714-778-3805
www.bestwestern.com

ROOM RATING 66
COST \$\$\$-
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

Budget Inn ★★

1042 Ball Road
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-535-5524
FAX 714-999-5900
www.anaheimbudgetinn.com

ROOM RATING 50
COST \$+
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Castle Inn and Suites ★★½

1734 South Harbor Boulevard
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-774-8111
FAX 714-956-4736
www.castleinn.com

ROOM RATING 62
COST \$\$\$-
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Chamberlain West Hollywood ★★★★★½

1000 Westmount Drive
West Hollywood 90069
☎ 310-657-7400; FAX 310-657-1535
www.chamberlainwesthollywood.com

ROOM RATING 83
COST \$\$\$\$-
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

Clarion Anaheim Hotel Resort ★★★★★

616 Convention Way
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-750-3131
FAX 714-750-9027
www.chidirect.com

ROOM RATING 70
COST \$\$\$-
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

Hotel Information Chart

Colony Inn Hotel ★★½

4917 Vineland Avenue
North Hollywood 91601
☎ 818-763-2787
FAX 818-763-0909
www.colonyinn.com

ROOM RATING 60
COST \$\$\$—
POOL —
ON-SITE DINING —

Comfort Inn and Suites

★★★
300 East Katella Way
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-772-8713; FAX 714-778-1235
www.comfortinnsuites
anaheim.com

ROOM RATING 69
COST \$\$—
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Comfort Inn Maingate ★★½

2171 South Harbor Boulevard
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-703-1220
FAX 714-703-1401
www.choicehotels.com

ROOM RATING 64
COST \$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Days Inn and Suites ★★½

1111 South Harbor Boulevard
Anaheim 92805
☎ 714-533-8830
FAX 714-758-0573
www.daysinn.com

ROOM RATING 56
COST \$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Desert Inn and Suites ★★½

1600 South Harbor Boulevard
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-772-5050
FAX 714-778-2754
www.anaheimdesertinn.com

ROOM RATING 79
COST \$\$\$+
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Desert Palm Inn and Suites ★★½

631 West Katella Avenue
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-533-1133
FAX 714-491-7409
www.desertpalmshotel.com

ROOM RATING 61
COST \$\$\$+
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

DoubleTree Guest Suites ★★★★★

2985 South Harbor Boulevard
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-750-3000; FAX 714-750-3002
www.anaheimconvention
centersuites.doubletree.com

ROOM RATING 86
COST \$\$\$—
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

DoubleTree Hotel Anaheim ★★★★★

100 The City Drive
Orange 92868
☎ 714-634-4500
FAX 714-978-2370
www.doubletree.com

ROOM RATING 84
COST \$\$\$—
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

Econo Lodge ★

1126 West Katella Avenue
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-533-4505
FAX 714-533-4545
www.choicehotels.com

ROOM RATING 34
COST \$—
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Hacienda Motel ★½

2176 South Harbor Boulevard
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-750-2101
FAX 714-971-1235

ROOM RATING 46
COST \$
POOL —
ON-SITE DINING —

Hilton Anaheim ★★½

777 Convention Way
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-750-4321
FAX 714-740-4460
www.hilton.com

ROOM RATING 81
COST \$\$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

Hilton Burbank Airport ★★★★½

2500 Hollywood Way
Burbank 91505
☎ 818-843-6000
FAX 818-842-9720
www.hiltonburbank.com

ROOM RATING 80
COST \$\$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

Holiday Inn Anaheim Resort ★★★★½

1915 South Manchester Avenue
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-748-7777
FAX 714-748-7400
www.holiday-inn.com

ROOM RATING 80
COST \$\$\$—
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

Holiday Inn Burbank Airport ★★★★★

150 East Angeleno
Burbank 91502
☎ 818-841-4770
FAX 818-566-7886
www.ihotelsgroup.com

ROOM RATING 68
COST \$\$\$—
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

Holiday Inn Express— Anaheim Maingate Hotel ★★★★

435 West Katella Avenue
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-772-7755; FAX 714-772-2727
www.holiday-anaheim.com

ROOM RATING 70
COST \$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Cortona Inn and Suites ★★

2029 South Harbor Boulevard
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-971-5000
FAX 714-971-5001
www.cortonainnandsuites.com

ROOM RATING 72
COST \$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Crowne Plaza Anaheim Resort ★★★★★

12021 Harbor Boulevard
Garden Grove 92840
☎ 714-867-5555
FAX 714-867-5123
www.anaheim.crowneplaza.com

ROOM RATING 86
COST \$\$\$—
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

Days Inn Anaheim ★★½

1030 West Ball Road
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-520-0101
FAX 714-758-9406
www.daysinn.com

ROOM RATING 61
COST \$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Disney Paradise Pier Hotel ★★★★★

1717 South Disneyland Drive
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-999-0990
FAX 714-776-5763
www.disneyland.com

ROOM RATING 86
COST \$\$\$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

Disney's Grand Californian Hotel ★★★★★

1600 South Disneyland Drive
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-635-2300
FAX 714-300-7300
www.disneyland.com

ROOM RATING 90
COST \$\$\$\$\$\$+
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

Disneyland Hotel ★★★★★

1150 West Magic Way
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-778-6600
FAX 714-520-6079
www.disneyland.com

ROOM RATING 89
COST \$\$\$\$\$+
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

Econo Lodge Maingate ★★½

871 South Harbor Boulevard
Anaheim 92805
☎ 714-535-7878
FAX 714-535-8186
www.choicehotels.com

ROOM RATING 57
COST \$\$\$—
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Embassy Suites Anaheim South ★★½

11767 Harbor Boulevard
Garden Grove 92840
☎ 714-539-3300; FAX 714-539-4600
www.anaheimsouth.embassy
suites.com

ROOM RATING 81
COST \$\$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

Extended Stay America ★★

1742 South Clementine Street
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-502-9988
FAX 714-502-9977
www.extendedstayamerica.com

ROOM RATING 69
COST \$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Hilton Garden Inn ★★½

11777 Harbor Boulevard
Garden Grove 92840
☎ 714-703-9100
FAX 714-703-9200
www.hilton.com

ROOM RATING 79
COST \$\$\$—
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

Hilton Suites Anaheim Orange ★★★★★

400 North State College Boulevard
Orange 92868
☎ 714-938-1111
FAX 714-938-0930
www.hilton.com

ROOM RATING 86
COST \$\$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

Holiday Inn Anaheim at the Park ★★½

1221 South Harbor Boulevard
Anaheim 92805
☎ 714-758-0900
FAX 714-533-1804
www.holiday-inn.com

ROOM RATING 63
COST \$\$\$+
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites Anaheim ★★½

1240 South Walnut Avenue
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-535-0300
FAX 714-491-8953
www.holiday-inn.com

ROOM RATING 64
COST \$\$\$—
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

Homewood Suites by Hilton ★★½

12005 Harbor Boulevard
Garden Grove 92840
☎ 714-740-1800
FAX 714-740-1867
homewoodsuites.hilton.com

ROOM RATING 82
COST \$\$\$—
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel ★★½

1380 South Harbor Boulevard
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-776-6120
FAX 714-533-3578
www.hojanaheim.com

ROOM RATING 75
COST \$\$\$—
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

Hotel Information Chart

Hyatt Regency Orange County ★★★★★

11999 Harbor Boulevard
Garden Grove 92840
☎ 714-750-1234
FAX 714-740-0465
www.hyatt.com

ROOM RATING 85
COST \$\$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

Jolly Roger Inn ★★★★★

640 West Katella Avenue
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-782-7500
FAX 714-772-2308
www.jollyrogerhotel.com

ROOM RATING 72
COST \$\$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

Marriott Anaheim Suites ★★★★★

12015 Harbor Boulevard
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-750-1000
FAX 714-750-9000
www.marriott.com

ROOM RATING 83
COST \$\$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

Peacock Suites Resort ★★★★★

1745 South Anaheim Boulevard
Anaheim 92805
☎ 714-535-8255
FAX 714-535-8914
www.peackocksuitesresort.com

ROOM RATING 81
COST \$\$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Penny Sleeper Inn ★★★★★

1441 South Manchester Avenue
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-991-8100
FAX 714-533-6430
www.anaheimpennysleeperinn.com

ROOM RATING 57
COST \$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Portofino Inn and Suites ★★★★★

1831 South Harbor Boulevard
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-782-7600
FAX 714-782-7619
www.portofinoinnanaheim.com

ROOM RATING 82
COST \$\$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Ramada Plaza Hotel Anaheim Resort ★★★★★

515 West Katella Avenue
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-991-6868
FAX 714-991-6565
www.ramadaplazadisney.com

ROOM RATING 81
COST \$\$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

Ramada Suites ★★★★★

2141 South Harbor Boulevard
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-971-3553
FAX 714-971-4609
www.ramada.com

ROOM RATING 72
COST \$\$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Red Roof Inn Anaheim Maingate ★★★★★

100 West Disney Way
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-520-9696
FAX 714-533-7539
www.redroof.com

ROOM RATING 61
COST \$\$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Sheraton Universal ★★★★★

333 Universal Hollywood Drive
Universal City 91608
☎ 818-980-1212
FAX 818-985-4980
www.starwoodhotels.com

ROOM RATING 85
COST \$\$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

Staybridge Suites Anaheim Resort Area ★★★★★

1855 South Manchester Avenue
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-748-7700
FAX 714-748-4700
www.staybridge.com

ROOM RATING 85
COST \$\$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Super 8 Motel Disneyland Drive ★★★★★

915 South Disneyland Drive
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-778-0350
FAX 714-778-3878
www.super8.com

ROOM RATING 55
COST \$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Tropicana Inn and Suites ★★★★★

1540 South Harbor Boulevard
Anaheim 92802
☎ 714-635-4082
FAX 714-635-1535
www.tropicainn-anaheim.com

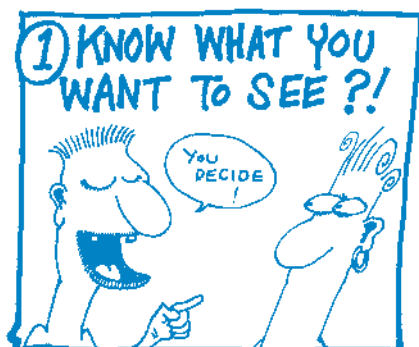
ROOM RATING 58
COST \$\$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING —

Universal City Hilton and Towers ★★★★★

555 Universal Hollywood Drive
Universal City 91608
☎ 818-506-2500
FAX 818-509-2058
www.hilton.com

ROOM RATING 87
COST \$\$\$
POOL •
ON-SITE DINING •

Marriott Hotel Main Tower ★★★★★ 700 West Convention Way Anaheim 92802 ☎ 714-750-8000 FAX 714-750-9100 www.marriott.com	Marriott Hotel North Tower ★★★★★½ 700 West Convention Way Anaheim 92802 ☎ 714-750-8000 FAX 714-750-9100 www.marriott.com	Parkside Inn and Suites ★ 1830 South West Street Anaheim 92802 ☎ 714-971-5511 FAX 714-971-5520
ROOM RATING 85 COST \$\$\$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING •	ROOM RATING 82 COST \$\$\$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING •	ROOM RATING 37 COST \$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING •
Quality Inn Maingate ★★★★★½ 2200 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92802 ☎ 714-750-5211 FAX 714-750-2803 www.qualityinn.com	Radisson Maingate ★★★ 1850 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92802 ☎ 714-750-2801 FAX 714-971-4754 www.radisson.com	Ramada Limited ★★★★★½ 921 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92802 ☎ 714-999-0684 FAX 714-956-8839 www.ramada.com
ROOM RATING 58 COST \$\$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING —	ROOM RATING 70 COST \$\$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING •	ROOM RATING 61 COST \$\$— POOL • ON-SITE DINING —
Residence Inn Anaheim/Disneyland ★★★★★½ 1700 South Clementine Street Anaheim 92802 ☎ 714-533-3555 FAX 714-535-7626 www.marriott.com	Sheraton Anaheim Hotel ★★★★★ 900 South Disneyland Drive Anaheim 92802 ☎ 714-778-1700 FAX 714-535-3889 www.sheraton.com	Sheraton Park Hotel ★★★★★ 1855 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92802 ☎ 714-750-1811 FAX 714-971-4809 www.sheratonparkanaheim.com
ROOM RATING 81 COST \$\$\$— POOL • ON-SITE DINING •	ROOM RATING 83 COST \$\$\$ POOL • ON-SITE DINING •	ROOM RATING 85 COST \$\$\$— POOL • ON-SITE DINING •
Super 8 Motel Near Disneyland ★★ 415 West Katella Avenue Anaheim 92802 ☎ 714-778-6900 FAX 714-535-5659 www.super8.com	Travelodge Anaheim Hotel ★★★ 1057 West Ball Road Anaheim 92802 ☎ 714-774-7600 FAX 714-535-6953 www.travelodge.com	Travelodge International Inn and Suites ★★★★★½ 2060 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92802 ☎ 714-971-9393 FAX 714-971-2706 www.anaheimresorttravelodge.com
ROOM RATING 51 COST \$\$— POOL • ON-SITE DINING —	ROOM RATING 65 COST \$\$— POOL • ON-SITE DINING —	ROOM RATING 56 COST \$\$ POOL • ON-SITE DINING —





MAKING *the* MOST *of* YOUR TIME

ALLOCATING TIME

THE DISNEY PEOPLE RECOMMEND SPENDING TWO to four full days at Disneyland Resort. While this may seem a little self-serving, it is not without basis. Disneyland Resort is *huge*, with something to see or do crammed into every conceivable space. In addition, there are now two parks, and touring requires a lot of walking, and often a lot of waiting in line. Moving in and among large crowds all day is exhausting, and often the unrelenting Southern California sun zaps even the most hardy, making tempers short.

During our many visits to Disneyland, we observed, particularly on hot summer days, a dramatic transition from happy, enthusiastic touring on arrival to almost zombie-like plodding along later in the day. Visitors who began their day enjoying the wonders of Disney imagination ultimately lapsed into an exhausted production mentality (“We’ve got two more rides in Fantasyland, then we can go back to the hotel”).

OPTIMUM TOURING SITUATION

WE DON’T BELIEVE THERE IS ONE IDEAL ITINERARY. Tastes, energy levels, and perspectives on what constitutes entertainment and relaxation vary. This understood, here are some considerations for developing your own ideal itinerary.

Optimum touring at Disneyland requires a good game plan, a minimum of three days on site (excluding travel time), and a fair amount of money. It also requires a fairly prodigious appetite for Disney entertainment. The essence of optimum touring is to see the attractions in a series of shorter, less-exhausting visits during the cooler, less-crowded times of day, with plenty of rest and relaxation between excursions.

Because optimum touring calls for leaving and returning to the theme parks, it makes sense to stay in one of the Disney hotels or in one of the non-Disney hotels within walking distance. If you visit Disneyland during busy times, you need to get up early to beat the crowds. Short lines and stress-free touring are incompatible with sleeping in. If you want to sleep in *and* enjoy your touring, visit Disneyland when attendance is lighter.

THE CARDINAL RULES FOR SUCCESSFUL TOURING

MANY VISITORS DON’T HAVE THREE DAYS to devote to Disneyland Resort. For these visitors, efficient touring is a must. Even the most time-effective plan, however, won’t allow you to cover both Disney theme parks in one day. Plan to allocate at least an entire day to each park. If your schedule permits only one day of touring, concentrate on one theme park and save the other for another visit.

One-day Touring

A comprehensive one-day tour of Disneyland Park or Disney's California Adventure is possible but requires knowledge of the park, good planning, and plenty of energy and endurance. One-day touring doesn't leave much time for full-service meals, prolonged shopping, or lengthy breaks. One-day touring can be fun and rewarding, but allocating two days per park, especially for Disneyland Park, is always preferable.

Successful touring of Disneyland Park or Disney's California Adventure hinges on three rules:

I. DETERMINE IN ADVANCE WHAT YOU REALLY WANT TO SEE. What rides and attractions most appeal to you? Which additional rides and attractions would you like to experience if you have any time left? What are you willing to forgo?

To help you establish your touring priorities, we have described every attraction in detail. In each description, we include the author's critical evaluation of the attraction as well as the opinions of Disneyland Resort guests expressed as star ratings. Five stars is the highest (best) rating possible.

Finally, because Disneyland Resort attractions range in scope from midway-type rides and horse-drawn trolleys to colossal, high-tech extravaganzas spanning the equivalent of whole city blocks, we have developed a hierarchy of categories for attractions to give you some sense of their order of magnitude:

SUPER HEADLINERS The best attractions the theme park has to offer. They are mind-boggling in size, scope, and imagination and represent the cutting edge of modern attraction technology and design.

HEADLINERS Full-blown, multimillion-dollar, full-scale, themed adventure experiences and theater presentations. They are modern in their technology and design and employ a full range of special effects.

MAJOR ATTRACTIONS Themed adventure experiences on a more modest scale, but incorporating state-of-the-art technologies. Or, larger scale attractions of older design.

MINOR ATTRACTIONS Midway-type rides, small-scale "dark rides" (spook house-type rides), minor theater presentations, transportation rides, and elaborate walk-through attractions.

DIVERSIONS Exhibits, both passive and interactive. Also includes playgrounds, video arcades, and street theater.

Though not every attraction fits neatly into the above categories, the categories provide a relative comparison of attraction size and scope. Remember, however, that bigger and more elaborate does not always mean better. Peter Pan's Flight, a minor attraction, continues to be one of the park's most beloved rides. Likewise, for many small children, there is no attraction, regardless of size, that can surpass Dumbo.

2. ARRIVE EARLY! ARRIVE EARLY! ARRIVE EARLY! This is the single most important key to touring efficiently and avoiding long lines. With your admission pass in hand, be at the gate ready to go at least 30 minutes before the theme park's stated opening time. There are no lines and relatively few people first thing in the morning. The same four rides you can experience in one hour in the early morning will take more than three hours to see after 11 a.m. Have breakfast before you arrive so you will not have to waste prime touring time sitting in a restaurant.

3. AVOID BOTTLENECKS. Helping you avoid bottlenecks is what this guide is all about. Bottlenecks occur as a result of crowd concentrations and/or less-than-optimal traffic engineering. Concentrations of hungry people create bottlenecks at restaurants during the lunch and dinner hours; concentrations of people moving toward the exit near closing time create bottlenecks in the gift shops en route to the gate; concentrations of visitors at new and unusually popular rides create bottlenecks and long waiting lines; rides slow to load and unload passengers create bottlenecks and long waiting lines. Avoiding bottlenecks involves being able to predict where, when, and why they occur. To this end, we provide field-tested touring plans to keep you ahead of the crowd or out of its way (see pages 177–191, 217–219, and 238–239). In addition, we provide critical data on all rides and shows that helps you estimate how long you may have to wait in line, compares rides in terms of their capacity to accommodate large crowds, and rates the rides according to our opinions and the opinions of other Disneyland visitors.

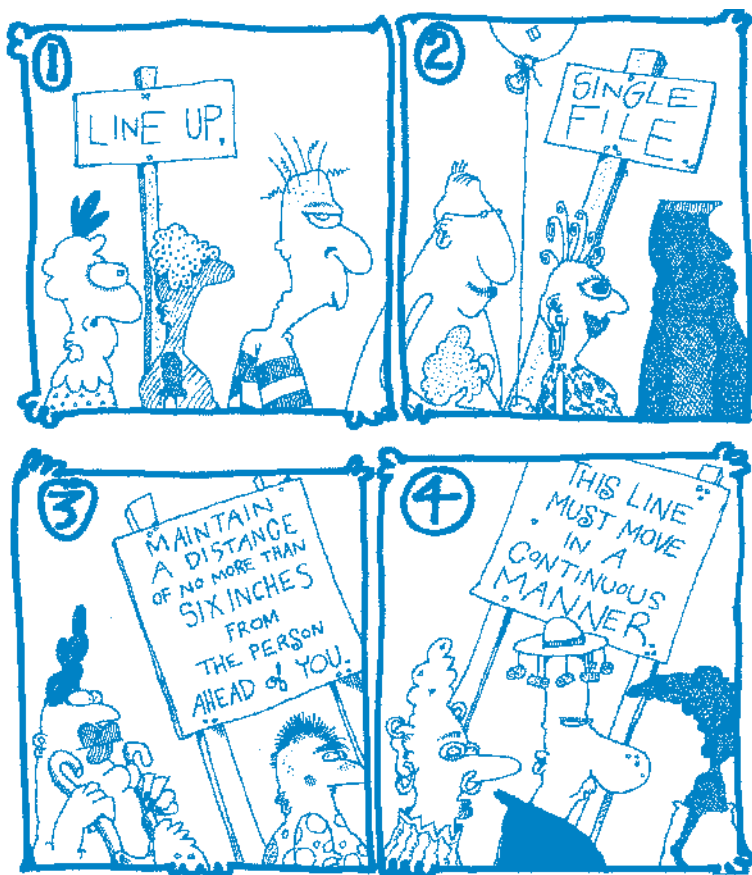
TOURING PLANS: WHAT THEY ARE AND HOW THEY WORK

We followed your plans to the letter—which at times was troublesome to the dad in our party . . . somewhat akin to testing the strength of your marriage by wallpapering together!

—Unofficial Guide reader and mother of two
from Milford, Connecticut

WHEN WE INTERVIEWED DISNEYLAND VISITORS who toured the theme park(s) on slow days, they invariably waxed eloquent about the sheer delight of their experience. When we questioned visitors who toured on moderate or busy days, however, they talked at length about the jostling crowds and how much time they stood in line. What a shame, they said, that so much time and energy are spent fighting crowds in a place as special as Disneyland.

Given this complaint, our researchers descended on Disneyland to determine whether a touring plan could be devised that would liberate visitors from the traffic flow and allow them to see any theme park in one day with minimal waiting in line. On some of the busiest



days of the year, our team monitored traffic into and through Disneyland Park, noting how it filled and how patrons were distributed among the attractions. We also observed which rides and attractions were most popular and where bottlenecks were most likely to occur.

After many days of collecting data, we devised preliminary touring plans, which we tested during one of the busiest weeks of the year. Each day, our researchers would tour the park using one of the preliminary plans, noting how long it took to walk from place to place and how long the wait in line was for each attraction. Combining the information gained on trial runs, we devised a master plan that we retested and fine-tuned. This plan, with very little variance from day to day, allowed us to experience all major rides and attractions and most lesser ones in one day, with an average wait in line of less than ten minutes at each.



From this master plan, we developed alternative plans that took into account the varying tastes and personal requirements of different Disneyland patrons. Each plan operated with the same logic as the master plan but addressed the special needs and preferences of its intended users.

Finally, after all of the plans were tested by our staff, we selected (using convenience sampling) Disneyland visitors to test the plans. The only requisite for being chosen to test the plans was that the guests must have been visiting a Disney park for the first time. A second group of patrons was chosen for a "control group." These were first-time visitors who would tour the park according to their own plans but who would make notes about what they did and how much time they spent in lines.

unofficial **TIP**

By using our touring plans you can save as much as 3½ hours in line per day.

When the two groups were compared, the results were amazing. On days when major theme-park attendance exceeded 42,000, visitors touring without our plans *averaged* 2.6 hours more waiting in line per day than the patrons touring with our plans, and they experienced 33% fewer attractions. In 2004, the application of a cutting-edge algorithm to our touring-plan software increased the waiting time saved to an average of three-and-a-half hours. We expect additional research to improve the performance of the touring plans again in next year's edition.

General Overview of the Touring Plans

Our touring plans are step-by-step guides for seeing as much as possible with a minimum of standing in line. They're designed to help you avoid crowds and bottlenecks on days of moderate-to-heavy attendance. On days of lighter attendance (see "Selecting the Time of Year for Your Visit," page 20), the plans still save time but aren't as critical to successful touring.

What You Can Realistically Expect from the Touring Plans

Though we present one-day touring plans for both of the theme parks, you should understand that Disneyland Park has more attractions than you can see in one day, even if you never wait in line. If you must cram your visit to Disneyland Park into a single day, the one-day touring plans will allow you to see as much as is humanly possible. Under certain circumstances you may not complete the plan, and you definitely won't be able to see everything. For Disneyland Park, the most comprehensive, efficient, and relaxing touring plans are the two-day plans. Although Disney's California Adventure will undoubtedly grow over the next few years, you should have no problem for the moment seeing everything in one day.

Variables That Will Affect the Success of the Touring Plans

How quickly you move from one ride to another; when and how many refreshment and restroom breaks you take; when, where, and how you eat meals; and your ability (or lack thereof) to find your way around will all have an impact on the success of the plans. Smaller groups almost always move faster than larger groups, and parties of adults generally can cover more ground than families with young children. Switching off (see page 108), among other things, prohibits families with little ones from moving expeditiously among attractions. Plus, some children simply cannot conform to the "early-to-rise" conditions of the touring plans.

A mom from Nutley, New Jersey, writes:

[Although] the touring plans all advise getting to parks at opening, we just couldn't burn the candle at both ends. Our kids (10, 7, and 4) would not go to sleep early and couldn't be up at dawn and still

stay relatively sane. It worked well for us to let them sleep a little later, go out and bring breakfast back to the room while they slept, and still get a relatively early start by not spending time on eating breakfast out. We managed to avoid long lines with an occasional early morning, and hitting popular attractions during parades, meal-times, and late evenings.

And a family from Centerville, Ohio, says:

The toughest thing about your tour plans was getting the rest of the family to stay with them, at least to some degree. Getting them to pass by attractions in order to hit something across the park was no easy task (sometimes impossible).

Finally, if you have young children in your party, be prepared for character encounters. The appearance of a Disney character is usually sufficient to stop a touring plan dead in its tracks. What's more, while some characters continue to stroll the parks, it is becoming more the rule to assemble characters in some specific venue (like at Mickey's Toontown) where families must queue up for photos of and autographs from Mickey. Meeting characters, posing for photos, and collecting autographs can burn hours of touring time. If your kids are into character-autograph collecting, you will need to anticipate these interruptions to the touring plan and negotiate some understanding with your children about when you will follow the plan and when you will collect autographs. Our advice is to either go with the flow or alternatively set aside a certain morning or afternoon for photos and autographs. Be aware, however, that queues for autographs, especially in Mickey's Toontown at Disneyland Park, are every bit as long as the queues for major attractions. The only time-efficient way to collect autographs is to line up at the character-greeting areas first thing in the morning. Because this is also the best time to experience the more popular attractions, you may have some tough decisions to make.

While we realize that following the touring plans is not always easy, we nevertheless recommend continuous, expeditious touring until around noon. After that hour, breaks and diversions won't affect the plans significantly.

Some variables that can profoundly affect the touring plans are beyond your control. Chief among these is the manner and timing of bringing a particular ride to capacity. For example, Big Thunder Mountain Railroad, a roller coaster in Disneyland Park, has five trains. On a given morning it may begin operation with two of the five, then add the other three if and when they are needed. If the waiting line builds rapidly before operators decide to go to full capacity, you could have a long wait, even in early morning.

Another variable relates to the time you arrive for a theater performance. Usually your wait will be the length of time from your arrival

WHAT TO DO IF YOU LOSE THE THREAD

Anything from a blister to a broken attraction can throw off a touring plan. If unforeseen events interrupt a touring plan, skip one step on the plan for every 20 minutes you're delayed. If you lose your billfold, for example, and spend an hour finding it, skip three steps and pick up from there.

to the end of the presentation in progress. Thus, if the *Enchanted Tiki Room* show is 15 minutes long and you arrive 1 minute after a show has begun, your wait for the next show will be 14 minutes. Conversely, if you arrive as the show is wrapping up, your wait will be only a minute or two.

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT THE PARKS

BECAUSE EACH TOURING PLAN IS BASED on being present when the theme park opens, you need to know a little about opening procedures. Disney transportation to the parks, and the respective theme-park parking lots, open an hour to two hours before official opening time.

Each park has an entrance plaza just outside the turnstiles. Usually you will be held outside the turnstiles until 30 minutes before official opening time. If you are admitted prior to the official opening time, what happens next depends on the season of the year and the anticipated crowds for that day.

1. MOST DAYS You will usually be held at the turnstiles or confined in a small section of the park until the official opening time. At Disneyland Park you might be admitted to Main Street, U.S.A.; at Disney's California Adventure to the Sunshine Plaza. If you proceed farther into a park, you will encounter a rope barrier manned by Disney cast members who will keep you from entering the remainder of the park. You will remain here until the "rope drop," when the rope barrier is removed and the park and all (or most) of its attractions are opened at the official opening time.

2. HIGH SEASON AND HOLIDAYS Sometimes, when large crowds are expected, you will be admitted through the turnstiles 30 minutes prior to the official opening time. This time, however, the entire park will be up and running and you will not encounter any rope barriers.

3. VARIATIONS Sometimes Disney will run a variation of the two opening procedures described above. In this situation, you will be permitted through the turnstiles and will find that one or several specific attractions are open early for your enjoyment.

A Word about the Rope Drop

Until recently, Disney cast members would dive for cover when the rope was dropped as thousands of adrenaline-charged guests stampeded to

the most popular attractions. This practice occasioned the legendary Space Mountain Morning Mini-Marathon and the Splash Mountain Rapid Rampage at Disneyland Park.

Well, this scenario no longer exists—at least not in the crazed versions of years past. Recently, Disney has beefed up the number of cast members supervising the rope drop in order to suppress the mayhem. In some cases, the rope is not even “dropped.” Instead, it’s walked back. In other words, Disney cast members lead you with the rope at a fast walk toward the attraction you’re straining to reach, forcing you (and everyone else) to maintain their pace. Not until they come within close proximity of the attraction do the cast members step aside.

So, here’s the scoop. If Disney persists in walking the rope back, the only way you can gain an advantage over the rest of the crowd is to arrive early enough to be one of those up front close to the rope. Be alert, though; sometimes the Disney folks will step out of the way after about 50 yards or so. If this happens, you can fire up the afterburners and speed the remaining distance to your destination.

Clip-out Pocket Outlines of Touring Plans

For your convenience, we have prepared outlines of all the touring plans in this guide. These pocket versions present the same itineraries as the detailed plans, but with vastly abbreviated directions. Select the plan appropriate for your party, then familiarize yourself with the detailed version. Once you understand how the plan works, clip the pocket version from the back of this guide and carry it with you as a quick reference at the theme park.

Will the Plans Continue to Work Once the Secret Is Out?

Yes! First, all of the plans require that a patron be there when the theme parks open. Many Disneyland patrons simply refuse to get up early while on vacation. Second, less than one percent of any day’s attendance has been exposed to the plans, too little to affect results. Last, most groups tailor the plans, skipping rides or shows according to personal taste.

How Frequently Are the Touring Plans Revised?

Because Disney is always adding new attractions and changing operations, we revise the touring plans every year. Most complaints we receive about them come from readers who are using out-of-date editions of the *Unofficial Guide*. Be prepared, however, for surprises. Opening procedures and show times, for example, may change, and you never know when an attraction might break down.

FASTPASS

IN 1999 DISNEY INITIATED A SYSTEM for moderating the waiting time for popular attractions. Called FASTPASS, it was originally tried

at Walt Disney World and then subsequently expanded to cover attractions at all the American Disney parks. Here's how it works.

Your handout park map, as well as signage at respective attractions, will tell you which attractions are included. Attractions that use FASTPASS will have a regular line and a FASTPASS line. A sign at the entrance will tell you how long the wait is in the regular line. If the wait is acceptable, hop in line. If the wait seems too long, you can insert your park admission pass into a special FASTPASS turnstile and receive an appointment time (for sometime later in the day) to come back and ride. When you return at the appointed time, you will enter the FASTPASS line and proceed directly to the attraction's preshow or boarding area with no further wait. There is no extra charge to use FASTPASS, but you can get an appointment for only one attraction at a time. Interestingly, this procedure was pioneered by Universal Studios Hollywood many years ago and has been pretty much ignored by major theme parks until recently.

There have been two basic changes made to the original FASTPASS program at the two Disneyland parks. First, instead of having to return during the appointed time window printed on your FASTPASS, you can now return to ride anytime after the beginning of that window. If your return window is 10 to 11 a.m., for example, your FASTPASS is now good from 10 a.m. until the park closes. Thus the window on the FASTPASS represents only a recommended time to return.

The second change relates to multiday admissions purchased as part of a AAA package that includes lodging at a Disney Resort hotel. These passes allow you to obtain FASTPASSES for as many FASTPASS attractions as you wish and hold them all at the same time. This means you can run around to all the FASTPASS attractions as soon as you enter the park and obtain a FASTPASS for each one. You can only hold one FASTPASS at a time for a particular attraction and the FASTPASSES must be obtained at the individual attraction's FASTPASS kiosk (in other words, you can't obtain a Splash Mountain FASTPASS at the Haunted Mansion kiosk). This multiple FASTPASS privilege was previously available to guests who purchased Disneyland Resort packages from the Walt Disney Travel Sales Center. Interestingly, Disney bequeathed the very powerful perk to AAA, leaving the Walt Disney Travel Sales Center with no purchase incentive that can compete.

FASTPASS works remarkably well, primarily because FASTPASS holders get amazingly preferential treatment.

The effort to accommodate FASTPASS holders makes anyone in the regular line feel like an illegal immigrant. As a telling indication of their status, Disney (borrowing a term from the airlines) refers to those in the regular line as "standby guests." Indeed, we watched guests in the regular line stand by and stand by, shifting despondently from foot to foot while dozens and sometimes hundreds of FASTPASS

holders were ushered into the boarding area ahead of them. Clearly Disney is sending a message here, to wit: FASTPASS is heaven, anything else is limbo at best and probably purgatory. In either event, you'll think you've been in purgatory if you get stuck in the regular line during the hot, crowded part of the day.

FASTPASS, however, doesn't eliminate the need to arrive at the theme park early. Because each park offers at most ten FASTPASS attractions, you still need to get an early start if you want to see as much as possible in a single day. Plus, as we'll discuss later, there's only a limited supply of FASTPASSes available for each attraction on a given day. So, if you don't show up until the middle of the afternoon, you might discover that all the FASTPASSes have been distributed to other guests. FASTPASS does, happily, make it possible to see more with less waiting than ever before, and it's a great benefit to those who like to sleep late or who enjoy an afternoon or evening at the theme parks on their arrival day. It also enables you to postpone wet rides like the Grizzly River Run at Disney's California Adventure or Splash Mountain at Disneyland Park until the warmer part of the day.

FASTPASS ATTRACTIONS

DISNEYLAND PARK	DISNEY'S CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE
Autopia	California Screamin'
Big Thunder Mountain	Grizzly River Run
Buzz Lightyear Astro Blasters	Mulholland Madness*
Finding Nemo Submarine Voyage (opens 2007)	Soarin' over California*
Indiana Jones	Twilight Zone Tower of Terror
Roger Rabbit's Car Toon Spin*	
Space Mountain*	
Splash Mountain*	

* Denotes rides that routinely issue FASTPASSes for redemption three to seven hours later.

Understanding the FASTPASS System

The basic purpose of the FASTPASS system is to reduce the waiting time for designated attractions by more equally distributing the arrival of guests at those attractions over the course of the day. This is accomplished by providing an incentive, a shorter wait in line, for guests who are willing to postpone experiencing the attraction until sometime later in the day. The system also, in effect, imposes a penalty—that is, being relegated to standby status—to those who opt not to use it (although as we shall see, spreading guest arrivals more equally decreases waiting time for standby guests as well).

When you insert your admission pass into a FASTPASS time clock, the machine spits out a small slip of paper about two-thirds the size of a credit card, small enough to fit in your wallet (but also small enough to lose easily). Printed on the paper will be the name of the attraction and a specific one-hour time window—for example, 1:15 to 2:15 p.m. You can return to enjoy the ride anytime from 1:15 until park closing.

Each person in your party must have his or her own FASTPASS.

When you report back to the attraction during your one-hour window, you'll enter a line marked "FASTPASS Return" that will route you more or less directly to the boarding area or preshow area. Each person in your party must have his or her own FASTPASS and be ready to show it to the Disney cast member at the entrance of the FASTPASS return line. Before you enter the boarding area (or theater) another cast member will collect your FASTPASS.

You may show up at any time after the period printed on your FASTPASS begins, and from our observation, no specific time is better or worse. This holds true because cast members are instructed to minimize waits for FASTPASS holders. Thus, if the FASTPASS return line is suddenly inundated (something that occurs more or less by chance), cast members rapidly intervene to reduce the FASTPASS line. This is done by admitting as many as 25 FASTPASS holders for each standby guest until the FASTPASS line is drawn down to an acceptable length. Though FASTPASS will lop off as much as 80% of the wait you'd experience in the regular line, you can still expect a short wait, but usually less than 20 minutes.

You can obtain a FASTPASS anytime after a park opens, though the FASTPASS return lines do not begin operating until about 35 to 50 minutes after opening. Thus, if the attractions at Disneyland Park open at 9 a.m., the FASTPASS time-clock machines will also be available at 9 a.m. and the FASTPASS line will begin operating at about 9:35 a.m.

Whatever time you obtain a FASTPASS, you can be assured of a period of time between when you receive your FASTPASS and the beginning of your return window. The interval can be as short as 30 minutes or as long as seven hours depending on park attendance, the popularity of the attraction, and the attraction's hourly capacity. As a rule of thumb, the earlier in the day you secure a FASTPASS, the shorter the interval between time of issue and the beginning of your return window. If on a day that the park opens at 9 a.m., you pick up a FASTPASS for Splash Mountain at say, 9:25 a.m., your recommended window for returning to ride would be something like 10 to 11 a.m., or perhaps 10:10 to 11:10 a.m. The exact time will be determined by how many other guests have obtained FASTPASSes before you.

To more effectively distribute guests over the course of a day, the FASTPASS machines bump the one-hour return period back five minutes for a specific set number of passes issued (usually the number is equal to about 6% of the attraction's hourly capacity). When Splash

Mountain opens at 9 a.m., for example, the first 125 people to obtain a FASTPASS will get a 10 to 11 a.m. recommended return window. The next 125 guests are issued FASTPASSES that can be used between 10:05 and 11:05 a.m., with the next 125 assigned a 10:10 to 11:10 a.m. time slot. And so it goes, with the time window dropping back five minutes for every 125 guests. The fewer guests who obtain FASTPASSES for an attraction, the shorter the interval between the receipt of your pass and the return window. Conversely, the more guests issued FASTPASSES, the longer the interval. If an attraction is exceptionally popular, and/or its hourly capacity is relatively small, the return window might be pushed back all the way to park closing time. When this happens the FASTPASS machines stop pumping out passes. It would not be unusual, for example, for Maliboomer at Disney's California Adventure to distribute an entire day's allocation of FASTPASSES by 2 p.m. When this happens, the machines simply shut down and a sign is posted saying that FASTPASSES are all gone for the day.

Whereas rides routinely exhaust their daily FASTPASS supply, shows almost never do. FASTPASS machines at theaters try to balance attendance at each show so that the audience of any given performance is divided evenly between standby and FASTPASS guests. At shows, consequently, standby guests are not discriminated against to the degree experienced by standby guests at rides. In practice, FASTPASS diminishes the wait for standby guests. Generally, with very few exceptions, using the standby line at theater attractions requires a smaller investment of time than using FASTPASS.

FASTPASS GUIDELINES

- Don't mess with FASTPASS unless it can save you 30 minutes or more.
- If you arrive after a park opens, obtain a FASTPASS for your preferred FASTPASS attraction first thing.
- Do not obtain a FASTPASS for a theater attraction until you have experienced all of the FASTPASS rides on your itinerary (using FASTPASS at theater attractions usually requires a greater investment of time than using the standby line).
- Always check the FASTPASS return period before obtaining your FASTPASS.
- Obtain FASTPASSES for Space Mountain and Splash Mountain at Disneyland Park, and Soarin' over California and Mulholland Madness at DCA as early in the day as practicable.
- Try to obtain FASTPASSES for rides not mentioned above by 1 p.m.
- Don't depend on FASTPASSES being available for ride attractions after 2 p.m. during busier times of the year.
- Make sure everyone in your party has his or her own FASTPASS.
- Be mindful that you can obtain a second FASTPASS as soon as you enter the return period for your first FASTPASS or after two hours from issuance, whichever comes first.

- Be mindful of your FASTPASS return time and plan intervening activities accordingly.

FASTPASS Rule Changes

Disney stipulates that “you must use your current FASTPASS ticket or wait two hours before getting another FASTPASS ticket for a different attraction.” This stipulation represents a change from the program as it was introduced. Previously, you could possess only one FASTPASS at a time and could not obtain another until the first was used. Disney undoubtedly received hundreds of letters similar to one we got from a San Diego reader:

I got a FASTPASS for Soarin' over California at about two o'clock without paying attention to the return time posted on the sign. When I looked at my FASTPASS ticket, my time to come back and ride was 8:30 that night!

Because situations like this one were legion, Disney amended the rules so that now you can obtain a second FASTPASS two hours from the time your first one was issued, or anytime after the beginning of your return window, whichever is first. Rules aside, the real lesson here is to check out the posted return time before obtaining a FASTPASS, as a father of two from Cranston, Rhode Island, advises:

You should always check on the sign above the FASTPASS machines to see the ride time that you will receive. We made the mistake of not looking at the time before we got our FASTPASSES for Space Mountain. The time we received was not for two hours and was at a time when we couldn't ride because of lunch reservations. So we couldn't take advantage of FASTPASS at Space Mountain and couldn't get any other FASTPASSES until after lunch.


Disconnected FASTPASS Attractions

Some attractions' FASTPASS kiosks function independently and are not hooked up to the parkwide FASTPASS distribution system. Because a “disconnected” attraction has no way of knowing if you have a FASTPASS for another attraction, it will issue you a FASTPASS at any time. In Disneyland Park, Roger Rabbit is sometimes disconnected. At DCA, Grizzly River Run is often disconnected. Disney can connect and disconnect FASTPASS attractions at will so it's possible that the disconnected lineup will vary somewhat during your visit. Finally, the use of disconnected FASTPASS attractions is incorporated in our touring plans.

When to Use FASTPASS

Except as discussed below, there's no reason to use FASTPASS during the first 30 to 40 minutes a park is open. Lines for most attractions are quite manageable during this period. In addition, this is the only time

of the day when the FASTPASS attractions exclusively serve those in the regular line. Regardless of time of day, however, if the wait in the regular line at a FASTPASS attraction is 25 to 30 minutes or less, we recommend joining the regular line.

 **unofficial TIP**
Use FASTPASS if the wait in the regular line is more than 30 minutes.

Think about it. Using FASTPASS requires two trips to the same attraction: one to obtain the pass and one to use it. This means that you must invest time to secure the pass (by the way, sometimes there are lines at the FASTPASS machines!) and then later interrupt your touring and backtrack in order to use your FASTPASS. The additional time, effort, and touring modification required, therefore, are justified only if you can save more than 30 minutes. And don't forget: even in the FASTPASS line you must endure some waiting.

Tricks of the Trade

Although Disney stipulates that you can hold a FASTPASS to only one attraction at a time, it's possible to acquire a second FASTPASS before using the first. Let's say you obtain a FASTPASS to Buzz Lightyear at Disneyland Park with a return time slot of 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Any time after your FASTPASS window begins, that is, anytime after 10:15 a.m., you will be able to obtain another FASTPASS, for Splash Mountain, for example. This is possible because the FASTPASS computer system monitors only the distribution of passes, ignoring whether or when a FASTPASS is used.

When obtaining FASTPASSes, it's faster and more considerate of other guests if one person obtains passes for your entire party. This means entrusting one individual with both your valuable park admission passes and your FASTPASSes, so choose wisely.

Tour Groups from Hell

We have discovered that tour groups of up to 200 people sometimes use our plans. Unless your party is as large as that tour group, this development shouldn't alarm you. Because tour groups are big, they move slowly and have to stop periodically to collect stragglers. The tour guide also has to accommodate the unpredictability of five dozen or so bladders. In short, you should have no problem passing a group after the initial encounter.

"Bouncing Around"

Many readers object to crisscrossing a theme park as our touring plans sometimes require. A lady from Decatur, Georgia, said she "got dizzy from all the bouncing around" and that the "running back and forth reminded [her] of a scavenger hunt." We empathize, but here's the rub, park by park.

In Disneyland Park, the most popular attractions are positioned across the park from one another. This is no accident. It's good planning, a method of more equally distributing guests throughout the

park. If you want to experience the most popular attractions in one day without long waits, you can arrive before the park fills and see those attractions first thing (which requires crisscrossing the park), or you can enjoy the main attractions on one side of the park first thing in the morning then use FASTPASS for the popular attractions on the other side. All other approaches will subject you to awesome waits at some attractions if you tour during busy times of year.

The best way to minimize “bouncing around” at Disneyland Park is to use one of our Two-Day Touring Plans, which spread the more popular attractions over two mornings and work beautifully even when the park closes at 8 p.m. or earlier. Using FASTPASS will absolutely decrease your waiting time but will increase bouncing around because you must first go to the attraction to obtain your FASTPASS and then backtrack later to the same attraction to use your pass.

Disney’s California Adventure is configured in a way that precludes an orderly approach to touring, or to a clockwise or counterclockwise rotation. Orderly touring is further frustrated by the limited guest capacity of the midway rides in the Paradise Pier district of the park. At DCA, therefore, you’re stuck with “bouncing around,” whether you use the touring plan or not, if you want to avoid horrendous waits.

We suggest you follow the touring plans religiously, especially in the mornings, if you’re visiting Disneyland during busy, more crowded times. The consequence of touring spontaneity in peak season is hours of otherwise avoidable standing in line. During quieter times of year, there’s no need to be compulsive about following the plans.

Touring-plan Rejection

We have discovered you can’t implant a touring plan in certain personalities without rapid and often vehement rejection. Some folks just do not respond well to the regimentation. If you bump into this problem with someone in your party, it’s best to roll with the punches as did one couple from Maryland:

The rest of the group was not receptive to the use of the touring plans. They all thought I was being a little too regimented about planning this vacation. Rather than argue, I left the touring plans behind as we ventured off for the parks. You can guess the outcome. We took our camcorder with us and when we returned home, watched the movies. About every five minutes there is a shot of us all gathered around a park map trying to decide what to do next.

Finally, as a Connecticut woman alleges, the touring plans are incompatible with some readers’ bladders as well as their personalities:

I want to know if next year when you write those “day” schedules if you could schedule bathroom breaks in there too. You expect us to be at a certain ride at a certain time and with no stops in between. In one of the letters in your book a guy writes, “You expect everyone to be theme-park commandos.” When I read that I thought,

there is a man who really knows what a problem the schedules are if you are a laid-back, slow-moving, careful detail-noticer. What were you thinking when you made these schedules?

A Clamor for Customized Touring Plans

We're inundated by letters urging us to create additional touring plans. These include a plan for ninth- and tenth-graders, a plan for rainy days, a seniors' plan, a plan for folks who sleep late, a plan omitting rides that "bump, jerk, and clonk," a plan for gardening enthusiasts, and a plan for single women.

The touring plans in this book are intended to be flexible. Adapt them to your preferences. If you don't like rides that bump and jerk, skip them when they come up in a touring plan. If you want to sleep in and go to the park at noon, use the afternoon part of a plan. If you're a ninth-grader and want to ride Space Mountain three times in a row, do it. Will it decrease the touring plan's effectiveness? Sure, but the plan was created only to help you have fun. It's your day. Don't let the tail wag the dog.

Saving Time in Line by Understanding the Rides

There are many different types of rides in Disneyland. Some rides, like It's a Small World, are engineered to carry several thousand people every hour. At the other extreme, rides such as Dumbo, The Flying Elephant, can accommodate only around 500 people in an hour. Most rides fall somewhere in between. Lots of factors figure into how long you will have to wait to experience a particular ride: the popularity of the ride, how it loads and unloads, how many people can ride at one time, how many units (cars, rockets, boats, flying elephants, or whatever) of those available are in service at a given time, and how many staff personnel are available to operate the ride. Let's take them one by one:

1. HOW POPULAR IS THE RIDE? Newer rides like *Monsters, Inc.* attract a lot of people, as do longtime favorites such as the Jungle Cruise. If you know a ride is popular, you need to learn a little more about how it operates to determine when might be the best time to ride. But a ride need not be especially popular to form long lines. The lines can be the result of less-than-desirable traffic engineering; that is, it takes so long to load and unload that a line builds up. This is the situation at the Mad Tea Party and Dumbo, The Flying Elephant. Only a small percentage of the visitors to Disneyland Park (mostly children) ride Dumbo, for instance, but because it takes so long to load and unload, this ride can form long waiting lines.

2. HOW DOES THE RIDE LOAD AND UNLOAD? Some rides never stop. They are like a circular conveyor belt that goes around and around. We call these "continuous loaders." The Haunted Mansion is a continuous loader. The more cars or ships or whatever on the conveyor, the more people can be moved through in an hour. The Haunted

Mansion has lots of cars on the conveyor belt and consequently can move more than 2,400 people an hour.

Other rides are “interval loaders.” This means that cars are unloaded, loaded, and dispatched at certain set intervals (sometimes controlled manually and sometimes by a computer). Matterhorn Bobsleds is an interval loader. It has two separate tracks (in other words, the ride has been duplicated in the same facility). Each track can run up to ten sleds, released at 23-second or greater intervals (the bigger the crowd, the shorter the interval). In another kind of interval loader, like the Jungle Cruise, empty boats return to the starting point, where they line up waiting to be reloaded. In a third type of interval loader, one group of riders enters the vehicle while the last group of riders departs. We call these “in-and-out” interval loaders. Indiana Jones is a good example of an “in-and-out” interval loader. As a troop transport pulls up to the loading station, those who have just completed their ride exit to the left. At almost the same time, those waiting to ride enter the troop transport from the right. The troop transport is released to the dispatch point a few yards down the line where it is launched according to whatever second interval is being used. Interval loaders of both types can be very efficient at moving people if (1) the release (launch) interval is relatively short, and (2) the ride can accommodate a large number of vehicles in the system at one time. Since many boats can be floating through Pirates of the Caribbean at a given time and the release interval is short, almost 2,300 people an hour can see this attraction.

A third group of rides are “cycle rides.” Another name for these same rides is “stop-and-go” rides; those waiting to ride exchange places with those who have just ridden. The main difference between “in-and-out” interval rides and cycle rides is that with a cycle ride the whole system shuts down when loading and unloading is in progress. While one boat is loading and unloading in *It’s a Small World*, many other boats are proceeding through the ride. But when *Dumbo, The Flying Elephant* touches down, the whole ride is at a standstill until the next flight is launched. Likewise, with the *Orange Stinger*, all riders dismount and the swings stand stationary until the next group is loaded and ready to ride.

In discussing a cycle ride, the amount of time the ride is in motion is called “ride time.” The amount of time that the ride is idle while loading and unloading is called “load time.” Load time plus ride time equals “cycle time,” or the time expended from the start of one run of the ride until the start of the succeeding run. Cycle rides are the least efficient of all the Disneyland rides in terms of traffic engineering. Disneyland Park has six cycle rides, while Disney’s California Adventure has nine, an astonishing number for a new park.

3. HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN RIDE AT ONE TIME? This figure is defined in terms of “per-ride capacity” or “system capacity.” Either way, the

Cycle Rides

DISNEYLAND PARK

Fantasyland

Casey Jr. Circus Train

Dumbo, The Flying Elephant

King Arthur Carousel

Mad Tea Party

Mickey's Toontown

Gadget's Go Coaster

Goofy's Playhouse

Tomorrowland

Astro Orbiter

DISNEY'S CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE

A Bug's Land

Flick's Flyers

Francis Ladybug Boogie

Tuck and Roll's Drive

'Em Buggies

Sun Wheel

King Triton's Carousel

Paradise Pier

Golden Zephyr

Jumpin' Jellyfish

Maliboomer

Orange Stinger

figures refer to the number of people who can ride at the same time. Our discussion above illustrates that the greater a ride's carrying capacity (all other things being equal), the more visitors it can accommodate in an hour.

4. HOW MANY "UNITS" ARE IN SERVICE AT A GIVEN TIME? A "unit" is simply a term for the vehicle you sit in during your ride. At the Mad Tea Party the unit is a teacup, and at Alice in Wonderland it's a caterpillar. On some rides (mostly cycle rides), the number of units in operation at a given time is fixed. Thus there are always 16 flying elephant units operating on the Dumbo ride, 72 horses on King Arthur Carousel, and so on. What this fixed number of units means to you is that there is no way to increase the carrying capacity of the ride by adding more units. On a busy day, therefore, the only way to carry more people each hour on a fixed-unit cycle ride is to shorten the loading time (which, as we will see in number 5 below, is sometimes impossible) or by decreasing the riding time, the actual time the ride is in motion. The bottom line on a busy day for a cycle ride is that you will wait longer and be rewarded for your wait with a shorter ride. This is why we try to steer you clear of the cycle rides unless you are willing to ride them early in the morning or late at night.

Other rides at Disneyland can increase their carrying capacity by adding units to the system as the crowds build. The Big Thunder Mountain Railroad is a good example. If attendance is very light, Big Thunder can start the day by running one of five available mine trains. When lines start to build, more mine trains can be placed into

operation. At full capacity, a total of five trains can carry about 2,400 people an hour. Likewise, Pirates of the Caribbean can increase its capacity by adding more boats, and Orange Stinger can do the same by adding more swings. Sometimes a long line will disappear almost instantly when new units are brought online. When an interval-loading ride places more units into operation, it usually shortens the dispatch interval, so more units are being dispatched more often.

5. HOW MANY CAST MEMBERS ARE AVAILABLE TO OPERATE THE RIDE?

Allocation of additional staff to a given ride can allow extra units to be placed in operation, or additional loading areas or holding areas to be opened. Pirates of the Caribbean and It's a Small World can run two separate waiting lines and loading zones. Haunted Mansion has a short "preshow," which is staged in a "stretch room." On busy days a second stretch room can be activated, thus permitting a more continuous flow of visitors to the actual loading area. Additional staff make a world of difference on some cycle rides. Often, if not usually, one attendant will operate the Golden Zephyr. This single person must clear the visitors from the ride just completed, admit and seat visitors for the upcoming ride, check that all zephyrs are properly secured (which entails an inspection of each zephyr), return to the control panel, issue instructions to the riders, and finally, activate the ride (whew!). A second attendant allows for the division of these responsibilities and has the effect of cutting loading time by 25 to 50%.

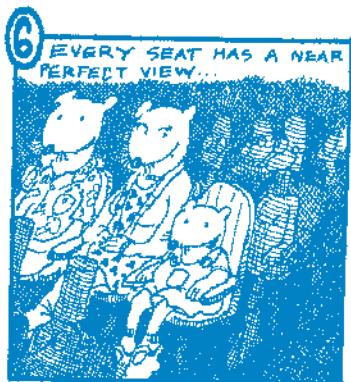
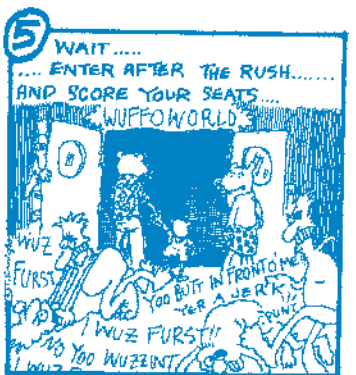
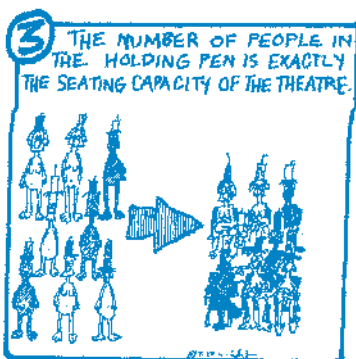
SAVING TIME IN LINE BY UNDERSTANDING THE SHOWS

MANY OF THE FEATURED ATTRACTIONS at Disneyland are theater presentations. While not as complex from a traffic-engineering viewpoint as rides, a little enlightenment concerning their operation may save some touring time.

Most of Disneyland theater attractions operate in three distinct phases:

1. First, there are the visitors who are in the theater viewing the presentation.
2. Next, there are the visitors who have passed through the turnstile into a holding area or waiting lobby. These people will be admitted to the theater as soon as the current presentation is concluded. Several attractions offer a preshow in their waiting lobby to entertain the crowd until they are admitted to the main show.
3. Finally, there is the outside line. Visitors waiting here will enter the waiting lobby when there is room and then move into the theater when the audience turns over (is exchanged) between shows.

The theater capacity and popularity of the presentation, along with the level of attendance in the park, determine how long the lines will be at a given theater attraction. Except for holidays and other days of especially heavy attendance, the longest wait for a show usually does not exceed the length of one complete performance.



Since almost all Disneyland theater attractions run continuously, only stopping long enough for the previous audience to leave and the waiting audience to enter, a performance will be in progress when you arrive. If the *Enchanted Tiki Room* show lasts 15 minutes, the wait under normal circumstances should be 15 minutes if you were to arrive just after the show began.

All Disneyland theaters (except the Main Street Cinema and some amphitheater productions) are very strict when it comes to controlling access. Unlike a regular movie theater, you cannot just walk in during the middle of a performance; you will always have at least a short wait.

HOW TO DEAL WITH OBNOXIOUS PEOPLE

AT EVERY THEATER PRESENTATION AT DISNEYLAND, visitors in the preshow area elbow, nudge, and crowd one another in order to make sure they are admitted to the performance. Not necessary—if you are admitted through the turnstile into the preshow area, a seat has automatically been allocated for you in the theater. When it is time to proceed into the theater don't rush; just relax and let other people jam the doorways. When the congestion has been relieved, simply stroll in and take a seat.

Attendants at many theaters will instruct you to enter a row of seats and move completely to the far side, filling every seat so that each row can be completely filled. And invariably, some inconsiderate, pea-brained dunderhead will plop down right in the middle of the row, stopping traffic or forcing other visitors to climb over him. Take our word for it—there is no such thing as a bad seat. All of the Disney theaters have been designed to provide a nearly perfect view from every seat in the house. Our recommendation is to follow instructions and move to the far end of the row.

The Disney people also ask that visitors not use flash photography in the theaters (the theaters are too dark for the pictures to turn out, plus the flash is disruptive to other viewers). Needless to say, this admonition is routinely ignored. Flashers are more difficult to deal with than row-blockers. You can threaten to turn the offenders over to Disney Security, or better yet, simply hold your hand over the lens (you have to be quick) when they raise their cameras.

GUIDED TOURS AT DISNEYLAND PARK AND DCA

THREE GUIDED TOURS ARE OFFERED. All require a valid park admission in addition to the price of the tour. All three tours can be booked up to 30 days in advance by calling ☎ 714-781-4400.

DISCOVER THE MAGIC Kids interact with Disney characters in a sort of treasure hunt to find clues to the treasure and avoid villainous characters. Designed for ages 5 to 9 years, the frenetic, fast-paced family program lasts approximately three hours and includes lunch. Prices are \$49 for the first two tickets, \$39 for the third and subsequent tickets.

WELCOME TO DISNEYLAND TOUR This two-and-a-half-hour tour provides a warp-speed look at pretty much the entire Disneyland Resort. Guides provide background and history of the parks, attractions, and sights as you tour both theme parks, Downtown Disney, and the Disney-owned hotels. Suffice it to say you'll do a lot of walking. The tour includes special reserved seats for a performance at a stage show

or parade (selected locations), two FASTPASSES per person for use after the tour, and priority seating at a dining location (selected locations) for each ticketed guest. The tour is reasonably priced at \$25.

A WALK IN WALT'S FOOTSTEPS This tour offers a historic perspective on both Disneyland Park and the man who created it. At three and a half hours, A Walk In Walt's Footsteps provides a lot of detail as it covers Disney's vision and the challenges in bringing the groundbreaking theme park to life. The tour includes a private lunch on the patio of the Disney Gallery. Highlights of the tour are an inside look at the Disneyland Railroad, a visit to the park's first animatronic attraction, and a glimpse of the lobby of Club 33, where Disney entertained his friends and dignitaries. Cost is \$59 for all ages. The tour is not considered appropriate for younger children.