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. DISNEY RESORT 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 Disney Resort Travel Sales Center at **2** 714-520-7070 or get the e-brochure at **www.kingdommagictravel.com/disneyland**. 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 nonambulatory, you will find this small guide very helpful. Disney does not mail them, but copies are readily available at the park. Daily wheelchair rentals are available for \$10.

3. CALIFORNIA TRAVELER DISCOUNT GUIDE Another good source of lodging, restaurant, and attraction discounts throughout the state of California, the California/Nevada Traveler Discount Guide can be obtained by calling **2** 352-371-3948, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST. Published by Trader Publishing Company, 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 singing mice warbling "Cinderellie" in alto falsettos while you wait on hold, call the Disneyland Hotel at **2** 714-956-6425.

RECOMMENDED WEB SITES

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

BEST OFFICIAL THEME PARK SITES The official Disneyland Web site, **disneyland.disney.go.com**, is so loaded with video, photos, special effects,

IMPORTANT DISNEYLAND RESORT PHONE NUMB	ERS
Anaheim Travel Information	2 714-765-8888
Disney Cruise Line	2 888-dcl-2500
Disney Guided Tours	2 714-781-4400
Disneyland Hotel	2 714-778-6600
Disneyland Resort Room Reservations	2 714-956-6425
Disneyland Vacation Packages	2 714-520-7070
Foreign Language Assistance	2 714-781-7290
Grand Californian Hotel	2 714-635-2300
Fantasmic! Balcony Reservations	2 714-781-4400
Information: Live	2 714-781-7290
Information: Recorded	2 714-781-4565
Lost & Found	2 714-781-4765
Paradise Pier Hotel	2 714-999-0990
Priority Seating for Restaurants 27	714-781-3463, Option 4

and gimmicks that it's slow to load and cumbersome to search unless you have a very late-model computer and high-speed Internet access. For those who do, there's a ton of information to be had, but even so it usually takes a lot of clicks to find what you're looking for. As an example, we tried finding the phone number for restaurant reservations and searched for "dining" and "restaurants" and "restaurant reservations." Each search yielded 0 results. The Universal Studios official Web site is at **www.universalstudioshollywood.com**. Like the Disneyland site, it's complex with a lot of bells and whistles. As far as your computer's concerned, be new, be fast, or be gone.

BEST OFFICIAL AREA WEB SITE www.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.

BEST GENERAL UNOFFICIAL WEB SITES 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 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 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, showtimes, 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 Laughing Place Radio and The LaughingPlace Store.

BEST DISNEYLAND HISTORY WEB SITE At **www.yesterland.com** you can visit the Disneyland of the past, where retired Disneyland attractions are brought back to life through vivid descriptions and historic

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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.

BEST WEB SITE FOR RUMORS AND THE INSIDE SCOOP www.jimhill media.com is perfectly attuned to what's going on behind the scenes— Jim Hill always has good gossip. He works with the *Unofficial Guides* as our resident historian and contributes sidebars and anecdotes to our Disney titles.

BEST MONEY-SAVING SITE MouseSavers.com 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.

BEST DISNEY DISCUSSION BOARDS The best online discussion of all things Disney can be found at **mousepad.mouseplanet.com** and **www**.**disboards.com**. With tens of thousands of members and millions of posts, they are the most active and popular discussion boards on the Web. For boards that feel more familiar than your neighborhood bar, try **disneyecho.emuck.com**.

BEST DISNEY PODCASTS Host Jeff (from Houston) Falvo, who bills his show as "Consciousness from the Happiest Place on Earth," has a lot to say about what's happening at the parks, both in California and Florida. Access the Podcast and the Podcast Network Forum at **www.meanderingmouse.com**.

ADMISSION OPTIONS

THEME PARK ADMISSION OPTIONS ARE pretty straightforward at Disneyland Resort. You have only two things to decide:

- 1. How many days admission you'll need.
- 2. Whether you want to go to both Disneyland Park and Disney's California Adventure on the same day. This is known as "park hopping."

Park Hopper tickets expire 14 days after the first use, so you don't want to buy more days than you'll need. Needless to say, the Park Hopper tickets expire after you've used the number of days purchased even if the 14 days haven't passed yet.

unofficial **TIP** The money you can save makes researching Disney's dizzying array of ticket options worthwhile. All 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. One- and two-year-olds are exempt from admission fees.

Admission Costs and Available Discounts

It's possible to obtain discounts on all multiday tickets, but only in the 1%-to-7% range. One place to purchase admissions at a discount is **www.disneyland.com**, where Disney sells "Bonus" tickets. These tickets, in addition to the dollar discount, allow you to enter the theme park an hour earlier than the general public one time during your visit. The bonus feature is offered only on Three-, Four-, and Five-day Park Hopper tickets.

If you purchase tickets on the Disneyland Web site you can choose between "hard" tickets, which will be shipped to you, or e-tickets, which can be downloaded as PDF files and printed at home. An eticket printed from your home computer will show two barcodes. A cast member will scan these at the turnstiles. Once the barcodes are read, the cast member can issue your actual ticket.

The deepest discounts we've found are available from **ARES Travel** (**www.arestravel.com**). ARES usually beats the Disney advance purchase price by \$4 to \$6 per ticket and also includes the early-entry bonus feature. ARES will send you the tickets by FedEx for a flat fee of \$10 per order, plus a \$1-per-ticket convenience fee. You can order online or call and speak with a warm body at **2** 800-680-0977.

Military discounts are available for all Disney theme parks, usually in the 7%-to-25% range. Check with your base MWR for info. Military ID may be required at the gate. Many readers, however, report buying military tickets for friends and relatives who used them without problems.

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

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 Tickets

These are good for one, two, three, four, or five days, respectively, and allow you to visit both parks on the same day. These multiday tickets do not have to be used on consecutive days, but they do expire 14 days after their first use.

The 14-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 tickets because you were not aware of the 14-day expiration, call 2 714-781-7290 or 2 714-781-4565 and ask to be connected to Guest Communications, which has the authority to issue you a voucher for the unused days on your ticket.

Anytime before a pass expires, you can apply the value of unused days toward the cost of a higher priced ticket. If you buy a Four-day

ADMISSION OPTIONS			
	AT THE GATE *ADULT *CHILD	ADVANCE PURCHASE ADULT CHILD	
One-day, One-park Ticket wit	h Tax \$66 \$56	\$66 \$56	
One-day Park Hopper	\$91 \$81	\$91 \$81	
Two-day Park Hopper	\$132 \$112	\$132 \$112	
Three-day Park Hopper	\$189 \$169	\$169 \$139	
Four-day Park Hopper	\$214 \$184	\$184 \$154	
Five-day Park Hopper	\$234 \$204	\$194 \$164	
Deluxe Annual Passport (some blackout dates) \$259 \$259			
Premium Annual Passport (no blackout dates) \$379 \$379			
*Adult (age 10 and up) *Child (ages 3-9)			

Park Hopper Ticket, for example, and then decide you'd rather have an Annual Passport, you can apply the value of unused days on the former toward the purchase of the latter.

Annual Passports

The Disneyland Resort offers several Annual Passports. The Premium Annual Passport is good for an entire year with no blackout dates. The pass costs \$379 and is good for admission to both parks (excluding arcades). Southern California Annual Passports, priced at \$154, provide admission to both parks for a year, excluding 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

unofficial TIP If you visit Disneyland three or more days each summer, an Annual Passport is a potential money saver. children are the same as those for adults on all Annual Passports. All of these passes are a good idea if you plan to visit Disneyland parks five or more days in a year. If you purchase your Annual Passport in July of this year and schedule your visit next year for June, you'll cover two years' vacations with a single 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 **2** 714-781-4400.

In addition to Disneyland Ticket Mail Order and the Disneyland Web sites, Disneyland admissions can be purchased in advance from Disneyland Resort hotels; Disney Stores in the Western United States; and the Walt Disney Travel Sales Center, 🕿 800-854-3104.

Admission and Disneyland Hotel Discounts

For specials and time-limited discounts on Disneyland Resort admissions, visit **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 **2** 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 Tickets. A typical day would cost \$431, excluding souvenirs, lodging, and transportation. See the chart below 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	\$11.00	
One day's admission on a Three-Day Park Hopper Passport		
Dad: Adult, Three-day = \$189 divided by 3 (days)	\$63.00	
Mom: Adult, Three-day = \$189 divided by 3 (days)	\$63.00	
Tim: Adult, Three-day = \$189 divided by 3 (days)	\$63.00	
Tami: Child, Three-day = \$159 divided by 3 (days)	\$53.00	
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)		
*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

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

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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 in one day! While this level of attendance is far from typical, the possi-

bility 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

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

winter, and spring days, sometimes early enough to eliminate evening parades, fireworks, and other live-entertainment offerings such as *Fan-tasmic!* 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 hellish 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.

THE SPOILER

SO YOU CHOOSE YOUR OFF-SEASON DATES and then find it almost impossible to find a hotel room. What gives? In all probability you've been foiled by a mammoth convention or trade show at the Anaheim-Orange County Convention Center. One of the largest and busiest convention venues in the country, the convention center hosts meetings with as many as 75,000 attendees. The sheer numbers alone guarantee that hotel rooms will be hard to find. Compounding the problem is the fact that most business travelers don't have roommates. Thus a trade show with 8,000 people registered might suck up 13,000 rooms! The final straw as you might expect is that room rates climb into the stratosphere based on the high demand and scarcity of supply. In regard to increased crowds at the theme parks, it's estimated that less than 10% of attendees will find time to enjoy the parks. It's also true, however, that business travelers are more likely to bring their spouse and even kids to a convention held in Anaheim. The bottom line is that you don't want to schedule your vacation while a major event is ongoing at the convention center. To help you avoid major trade shows and conventions, we've created a calendar of meetings scheduled through December 31, 2009, showing the number of expected attendees of each (see pages 24 and 25).

SELECTING THE DAY OF THE WEEK FOR YOUR VISIT

THE CROWDS AT WALT DISNEY WORLD in Florida comprise mostly out-of-state visitors. Not necessarily so at Disneyland, which, along with

TOP TEN AMERICAN THEME PARKS			
THEME PARK	ANNUAL	AVERAGE DAILY	
THEMEPARK	ATTENDANCE	ATTENDANCE	
Magic Kingdom	17.1 million	46,849	
Disneyland Park	14.9 million	40,822	
Epcot	10.9 million	29,863	
Disney's Hollywood Studios	9.5 million	26,027	
Disney's Animal Kingdom	9.49 million	26,000	
Universal Studios Orlando	6.2 million	16,986	
SeaWorld Orlando	5.8 million	15,890	
Disney's California Adventure	5.7 million	15,616	
Universal's Islands of Adventure	5.4 million	14,795	
Universal Studios Hollywood	4.7 million	12,877	
Source: Amusement Business magazine			

Anaheim Convention and Special-event Calendar

	CONVENTION/	NUMBER OF
DATES	EVENT	ATTENDEES
2008		
Oct. 22–25	American Academy of Optometry	4,000
Nov. 2–4	The Irrigation Assn.	5,000
Nov. 6–8	Airlift Tanker Assn.	4,000
Nov. 15–22	Core Knowledge Foundation	2,300
Nov. 23–26	Assn. of Christian Schools Intl.	10,000
Dec. 9–17	American Assn. of Respiratory Care	6,000
Dec. 9–11	Green Technology	3,500
2009		
Jan. 15-18	NAMM–International Music Products Assn.	75,000
Jan. 25–29	Craft & Hobby Assn.	22,000
Feb. 10-12	Canon Communications/Medical Design ଫ Manufacturing	50,000
Feb. 16-26	Helicopter Assn. Intl.	15,000
Feb. 26–Mar. 1	Religious Education Congress	40,000
Feb. 27–Mar. 1	United Spirit Assn.	15,500
Mar. 4–10	Natural Products Expo West	50,000
Mar. 9–14	Big West Conference	16,000
Mar. 12–18	National Assn. of College Stores	8,000
Mar. 19–22	The Spirit Team (American Championships)	20,000
Mar. 22–25	Higher Education Users Group	4,000
Mar. 26–29	United Spirit Assn.	33,000

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.

DATES	CONVENTION/	NUMBER OF
DATES	EVENT	ATTENDEES
2009 (CONTINUED)	
Mar. 27–28	Cal Events – PrintFest	3,000
Mar. 29–30	United Spirit Assn.	3,000
Apr. 2-5	Key Club Intl.–CA, NV, HI District	3,000
Apr. 10–18	Natl. Catholic Educational Assn.	12,000
Apr. 28–May 2	Distributive Education Clubs of America	12,000
May 1–7	Direct Marketing Assn.	5,500
May 7–9	Pri-Med	14,000
May 15–17	California Dental Assn.	30,000
June 6-10	Institute of Food Technologists	22,000
June 24-July 20	Episcopal Church–Triennial Natl. General Convention	15,000
June 28–July 5	Barbershop Harmony Society	10,000
July 22-30	Am. Assn. of Physicists in Medicine	3,200
Sept. 4–6	SCRC	12,000
Sept. 17–28	National Safety Council	20,000
Sept. 21–24	ASIS International	16,000
Sept. 27–Oct. 8	Produce Marketing Assn.	15,000
Nov. 5–11	Rockwell Automation	10,000
Nov. 22–25	Assn. of Christian Schools International	10,000
Dec. 6–13	Milton H. Erickson Foundation, Inc.	8,000

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

ANYONE WHO BUYS a three-or-more-day Park Hopper admission in advance (that is, not at the theme park) may 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, Saturday, and Sunday. Only selected attractions in Fantasyland and Tomorrowland operate during early entry. Guests at the Paradise Pier, Grand Californian, and Disneyland Hotels are eligible to enter the park on all of the days listed above by showing their hotel ID card. 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, Note that Mickey's Toontown opens one hour later than the rest of Disneyland Park. Thus, if the park opens at 8 a.m. and Mickey's Toontown opens at 9 a.m., you'll be eligible to enjoy Morning Madness from 8 to 9. Though you can enter Toontown early, you actually enter the park with the general public at official opening time. In practice, unless you're among the first to enter the park, it will take you so long to clear the turnstiles and walk back to Mickey's Toontown that you'll be fortunate if you arrive in time to enjoy more that 20 minutes or so of the event. For more information call **🕿** 714-520-7070.

OPERATING HOURS

IT CANNOT BE SAID THAT THE DISNEY folks are inflexible 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 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.

unofficial TIP

If it's not your first trip to Disneyland and you must join the holiday-weekend crowds, you may have just as much fun enjoying Disney's fantastic array of shows, parades, and fireworks as you would riding the rides. Why would anyone go to Disneyland Park or DCA on a summer Saturday or during a major holiday period? Indeed, if you have never been to the parks, 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 patrons with a no-less-thanincredible array of first-rate live entertainment and happenings throughout the park.

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 musical groups perform on the River Stage in Frontierland and at the Fantasyland Theatre. Other concerts are produced concurrently at the Hyperion Theater at Disney's California Adventure. There are always parades and 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 crowded extended-hours day), never get on a ride, and still get your money's worth.

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. 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 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 present the following list of 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.
- 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 the 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

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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 begins at 10 a.m. and concludes at midnight, 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 children ages 6 and under ride free, and the tram is free for everyone. A day pass is available for \$3 and 10 day passes are available for \$27. For additional information, call ↑ 714-636-7433 or 888-364-2787 or log on to www.octa.net. For public transportation in the immediate area surrounding Disneyland, see our discussion of the Anaheim Resort Transit (ART) system starting on the next page.

DISNEYLAND PARKING

DISNEYLAND HAS THREE PARKING AREAS. The main parking facility, the Mickey & Friends parking garage, can be accessed directly from I-5, Disneyland Drive, or Ball Road. One of the largest parking structures in the world, the garage is connected to Downtown Disney and the theme parks by Disney tram. If you have a noncollapsible stroller that's not permitted on the tram, the walking distance is just less than a mile.

A secondary parking lot is the Timon lot off Harbor Boulevard on the east side of Disneyland Resort. Timon can be reached by taking Harbor Boulevard south from I-5. Much more convenient than the main garage, Timon is the preferred lot of locals, though Annual Passport holders are not allowed to park there. After Timon is full, all vehicles are directed to the Mickey & Friends garage. Trams likewise serve the Timon lot. If you want to walk, the distance to the parks is about a half mile. The third parking lot, Pumbaa, is primarily a remote overflow parking area. Parking fees for all lots are \$11 for cars, \$13 for RVs, and \$18 for buses and oversized vehicles.

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

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

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.

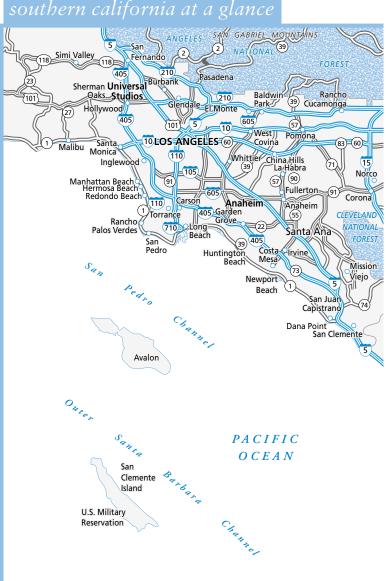
Be forewarned that most hotel shuttle services do not add more vehicles at the parks' opening or closing times. In the mornings, your biggest problem is that you might not get a seat on the first shuttle. This occurs most frequently if your hotel is the last stop for a shuttle that serves several hotels. 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 pickup 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 Harbor Boulevard pedestrian entrance and another at the Grand Californian Hotel.

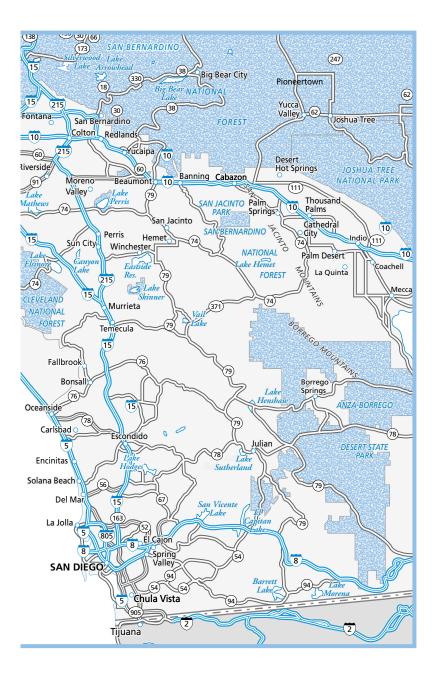
The shuttle-loading area is located on the Harbor Boulevard side of the Disneyland Park's main entrances. The loading area connects to a pedestrian corridor that leads to the park entrances. Each hotel's shuttle bus is color-coded yellow, blue, red, silver, or white. Signs of like color designate where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

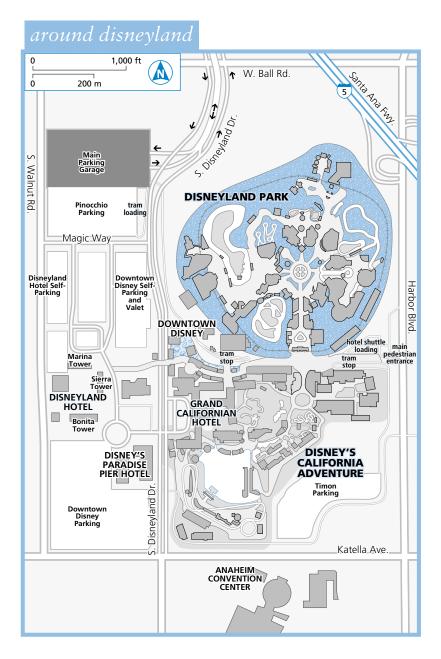
Anaheim Resort Transit

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 Disneyland Park, Downtown Disney, and the convention center. Called Anaheim Resort Transit (ART),







the service operates 14 routes designated 1 through 16 (excluding 8 and 13). There are just three to nine well-marked stops on each route, so a complete circuit on any given route usually takes about 20 minutes, but some take up to an hour. All of the routes originate and terminate at Disneyland. To continue on to the convention center, you must transfer at Disneyland to Route 1-5, 9, 12, 14, or 16.

The shuttle vehicles themselves are colorful little trolleys similar to the trolleys in San Francisco (except on wheels) and are wheelchair accessible. They ideally run every ten minutes on peak days during morning and evening periods but can take up to 30 minutes when it's really busy, 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 respective stops are clearly marked with the route designation.

Hotels served by ART vending kiosks, along with Denny's and Mimi's sell one-day, two-day, and three-day passes for \$3, \$6, and \$8, respectively. A weekend-service unlimited-use pass is offered for \$5. Children age 2 years and under ride free with a paying adult. Day passes for children can be purchased for \$1, a three-day pass for \$2, and a five-day pass for \$4. Children must be taken out of strollers in order to ride. Passes cannot be purchased from the driver. For more information, call **2** 888-364-ARTS or check **www.rideart.org.** Passes are also available in advance or at ART's Web site.

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.

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 west to the Disneyland Hotel, connecting Disneyland Park, Disney's California Adventure, and all of the Disney entertainment and shopping venues at Downtown Disney.

Close proximity to the theme parks figures prominently in the choice of a hotel. Harbor Boulevard borders Disneyland Resort on the east, and Katella Avenue runs along the resort's southern boundary. The closest non-Disney hotels, and the only ones really within walking distance, are on Harbor Boulevard from just south of I-5 to the north to just south of the intersection of Katella Avenue, and along Katella Avenue near Harbor. Farther south on Harbor are some of the best hotels in the area, but they are a little far removed for commuting to the parks on foot. Additionally, these hotels are close to the Anaheim–Orange County Convention Center and tend to cater, though certainly not exclusively, to business travelers.

For families, a second important consideration is the quality of the hotel swimming pool. We mention this because, unfortunately, many of the non-Disney hotels closest to the theme parks have really crummy pools, sometimes just a tiny rectangle on a stark slab of concrete surrounded on four sides by a parking lot. To bring pool quality and proximity to the theme parks together, we've developed a chart (see right) that lists the hotels, both Disney and non-Disney, within walking distance of the theme parks.

The chart shows the walking time from each hotel to the theme-park entrances. The times provided are averages—a couple of fit adults might cover the distance in less time, and a family with small children will likely take longer. Also on the chart we rate the swimming areas of the hotels listed on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being best. As a rule of thumb, any pool with a rating less than 5 is not a place where most folks would want to spend much time. Any hotel not listed is, in our opinion, too far away for walking. Note that several non-Disney hotels are closer than the Disneyland Resort hotels, except for the Grand Californian.

The chart and the above discussion might lead you to wonder whether there's any real advantage to staying in a Disney-owned hotel. The Disney hotels, of course, are very expensive, but if you can handle the tariff, here are the primary benefits of staying in one:

- 1. You are eligible for early entry at Disneyland Park four days each week.
- 2. You have dozens of full- and counter-service restaurants within easy walking distance.
- **3.** The Disney hotels offer the nicest rooms of any of the hotels within walking distance.
- **4.** The Disney hotels offer the nicest swimming pools of any of the hotels within walking distance.
- 5. There are numerous entertainment and shopping options in Downtown Disney.

Walking Times to the Theme-park Entrances; Swimming-pool Ratings

01	0		
HOTEL	LOCATION	WALKING TIME	POOL RATING
Alpine Inn	Katella Avenue	13:00	2
America's Best Value Inn	Katella Avenue	15:15	2
The Anabella	Katella Avenue	14:30	6
Anaheim Camelot Inn & Suites	Harbor Boulevard	7:15	2
Anaheim Del Sol Inn	Harbor Boulevard	7:00	3
Anaheim Desert Inn & Suites	Harbor Boulevard	6:40	1
Anaheim Fairfield Inn	Harbor Boulevard	9:30	4
Anaheim Maingate Hotel	Harbor Boulevard	22:30	7
Anaheim Plaza Hotel & Suites	Harbor Boulevard	11:00	6
Best Western Anaheim Inn	Harbor Boulevard	7:15	2
Best Western Park Place Inn	Harbor Boulevard	5:45	2
Candy Cane Inn	Harbor Boulevard	10:30	4
Carousel Inn & Suites	Harbor Boulevard	6:45	2
Castle Inn & Suites	Harbor Boulevard	12:30	1
Desert Palm Inn & Suites	Katella Avenue	13:00	2
Disney Paradise Pier Hotel	Disneyland Resort	14:00	7
Disneyland Hotel, Bonita Tower	Disneyland Resort	12:00	10
Disneyland Hotel, Marina Tower	Disneyland Resort	10:00	10
Disneyland Hotel, Sierra Tower	Disneyland Resort	11:00	10
Disney's Grand Californian Hotel	Disneyland Resort	4:00*	10
Holiday Inn Express	Katella Avenue	15:00	2
Howard Johnson Hotel	Harbor Boulevard	10:15	6
Jolly Roger Hotel Anaheim	Katella Avenue	16:30	4
Portofino Inn & Suites	Harbor Boulevard	16:30	7
Ramada Plaza Hotel	Katella Avenue	14:30	2
Sheraton Park Hotel	Harbor Boulevard	17:00	7
Super 8 Motel	Katella Avenue	15:30	2
Tropicana Inn & Suites	Harbor Boulevard	6:15	3

*To Disneyland Park. The Grand Californian has an on-site entrance to DCA.

6. It's easy to retreat to your hotel for a meal, a nap, or a swim.

7. You don't need a car.

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 closer to the theme parks and Downtown Disney than the other two on-property hotels, 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 \$340 and go up to \$500 per night.

Next most convenient is the sprawling Disneyland Hotel, the oldest of the three. Comprising three guest-room towers, the hotel has no theme but is lushly landscaped and offers large, luxurious guest rooms. Walking from the hotel to the park entrances takes about 10 to 12 minutes. Walking time to the monorail station, with transportation to Disneyland Park, is about 3 to 6 minutes. Rates at the Disneyland Hotel run from \$245 to \$285 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 \$225 to \$255 per night.

Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa

The Grand Californian Hotel is the flagship of Disneyland Resort's three hotels. With its shingle siding, rock foundations, cavernous hewnbeam lobby, polished hardwood floors, and cozy hearths, the hotel is a stately combination of elements from western national-park lodges. Designed by architect Peter Dominick (who also designed the Wilderness Lodge at Walt Disney World), the Grand Californian is rendered in the Arts and Crafts style of the early 20th century, with such classic features such as "flying" roofs, projecting beams, massive buttresses, and an earth- and wood-tone color palette. Most reminiscent of the Ahwahnee Hotel at Yosemite National Park, the Grand Californian combines rugged craftsmanship and grand scale with functional design and intimate spaces. Pull up a vintage rocker in front of a blazing fire, and the bustling lobby instantly becomes a snug cabin.

The hotel's main entrance off Downtown Drive is primarily for vehicular traffic. Two pedestrian-only entrances open into Downtown Disney and DCA; this last makes it a cinch to return to the hotel from DCA for a nap or a swim or for lunch. Walking time to Disneyland Park is about four minutes. The 745 guest rooms are livable; however, they struggle to reconcile modern luxury with the hotel's signature rustic look. Pastel bedspreads and drapes seem much too feminine and delicate to live easily with the masculine polished-wood furniture. Room features we like include excellent light for reading in bed, more-than-adequate storage space, a two-sink vanity outside the toilet and bath, and, in some rooms, a private balcony. Views from the guest rooms overlook the swimming-pool area, Downtown Disney, or Disney's California Adventure theme park.

Ranging from about \$280 to \$550 per night, guest rooms are the most expensive at Disneyland Resort. And as if these rates aren't high enough, the Grand Californian charges an \$11.50 daily resort fee to cover guest parking, use of the fitness center, local phone calls, Internet access, and a daily paper (weekdays only). Valet service is available for \$17, **2** 714-635-2300.

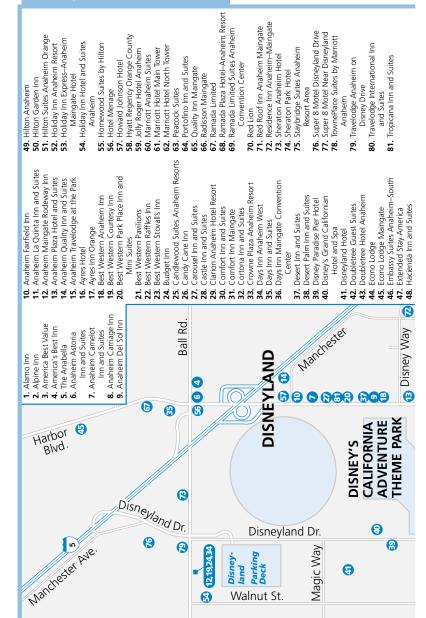
Inspired by Napa Valley cuisine, the Napa Rose Restaurant is the Disneyland Resort's flagship fine-dining venue. Situated in a stunning room overlooking DCA, Napa Rose is very expensive but still a very good value (see a full profile on page 183). Just a notch down in price and formality, but likewise located in an exceptionally lovely (albeit more rustic) room, is the Storytellers Cafe, which serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner (see a full profile on page 190). The restaurant's name is drawn from period murals depicting tall tales set in early California. The fare consists of house-specialty wood-fired pizza and hearty home-style comfort food.

The resort's pool complex, beautifully landscaped with rocks and conifers in a High Sierra theme, includes a lap pool, a Mickey-shaped pool, and a kids' pool with a 100-foot-long twisting slide. The on-site Mandara Spa is one of Disney's best, offering a wide selection of treatments and a state-of-the-art fitness facility. Rounding out the Grand Californian's amenity mix are two clubby lounges and a childcare center for children ages 5 to 12.

The Disneyland Hotel

Walt Disney barely managed to finance the construction of the Disneyland theme park. He certainly didn't have the funds to purchase adjacent property or build hotels, though on-site hotels were central to his overall concept. So he cut a deal with petroleum engineer and TV producer Jack Wrather to build and operate the Disneyland Hotel. The deal not only gave Wrather the rights to the Disneyland Hotel but also allowed him to build other Disneyland Hotels within the state of California until 2054. It always irked Walt that he didn't own the hotel that bore his name, but Wrather steadfastly refused to renegotiate the rights. After Jack Wrather died in 1984, the Walt Disney Company bought the entire Wrather Corporation, which among other things held the rights to the *Lone Ranger* and *Lassie* TV series and, improbably, the RMS *Queen Mary*, docked at Long Beach. By acquiring the

disneyland-area hotels





whole corporation, the Walt Disney Company brought the Disneyland Hotel under Disney ownership in 1988.

The Disneyland Hotel consists of three hotel towers facing each other across a verdant landscaped plaza containing decorative pools, a swimming complex, restaurants, shops, and gardens. The hotel was originally connected to Disneyland Park by monorail, but the hotel station was demolished during the construction of DCA and relocated to Downtown Disney. Guest registration for all three towers is situated in the Marina Tower, which is connected to the Disneyland Convention Center and the Disneyland Hotel's self-parking garage. Though all three towers share restaurants, shopping, and recreational amenities, the Marina Tower is most conveniently located. It and the Sierra Tower are closest to Downtown Disney and the theme parks.

From the outside, the towers reflect a dated 1950s look, but the guest rooms inside have been renovated and updated many times over the years. Rack rates for the Disneyland Hotel range from around \$210 for a "city view" in the off-season to more than \$350 for a view of the inner pool and garden complex during holiday periods.

All rooms feature heavy blond furniture with inlays of Sleeping Beauty Castle and a map of Disneyland as it appeared in 1955. Earthtone soft goods likewise reflect a retro look. Unusual for hotels today, eight-foot sliding glass doors open onto a small balcony in most rooms. The best views can be had from the east/west-facing Sierra Tower, which overlooks the hotel's inner plaza and pool area on the west and Downtown Disney and the theme parks to the east. The most lackluster views are the north-facing vistas of the Marina Tower. Highspeed Internet access is available in all guest rooms, and refrigerators are supplied in most.

The baths are small for an upscale hotel, but there is a double sink and vanity outside the bathrooms. As in most family hotels built in the 1950s and 1960s, there is a connecting door, situated by the clothes closet and the aforementioned double sink, to an adjoining room. Soundproofing around the connecting doors is nonexistent, so be prepared to revel in the intimate sounds of your neighbors brushing their teeth, coping with indigestion, and arguing over what to wear. Fortunately, these sounds do not (except for especially enthusiastic gargling) carry into the sleeping area.

The swimming complex includes the Peter Pan-themed Never Land Pool, with its 100-foot waterslide. Adults, however, usually gravitate to the nearby and quieter Cove Pools and beach. Fronting the Bonita Tower are tropical gardens, complete with walking paths, waterfalls, and koi ponds. Also in the inner plaza are the Lost Barwith vaulted ceilings, tin roof, and wooden beams, and the intimate, rathskeller-like Wine Cellar pouring fine California wines by the glass. One of the hotel's better restaurants, Hook's Pointe, is located nearby. Other Disneyland Hotel restaurants include Steakhouse 55 (formerly Granville's) and Goofy's Kitchen, the hotel's character meal headquarters. (All Disneyland Hotel restaurants are profiled in full in Part Four.)

As concerns practical matters, parking is a royal pain at the Disneyland Hotel. The self-parking garage is convenient only to the Marina Tower, and even there you'll probably have a long walk. To reach the other two towers you must pass through the Marina Tower and navigate across the hotel's inner plaza and pool area. The Bonita Tower on the southern end of the property has a small parking lot to the rear accessible via Downtown Drive and Paradise Way. Unfortunately, many of the already limited spaces are reserved for the adjacent Disney Vacation Club time-share sales office. Even so, if you're staying at the Bonita Tower, it's your best bet. If there's no room in the Bonita lot, you're better off parking in the Paradise Pier Hotel's lot than in the Disneyland Hotel parking garage. The only valet parking is at the Marina Tower, so even if you valet park you'll still have to hoof to the other towers.

Like the Grand Californian, the Disneyland Hotel charges an \$11.50-per-day resort fee that covers, among other things, the privilege of self-parking.

Paradise Pier Hotel

Disney acquired the independent Pan Pacific Hotel just south of the Disneyland Hotel in 1997 and changed its name to the Disneyland Pacific Hotel. Just before Disney's California Adventure opened in 2001, the hotel was rechristened as the Paradise Pier Hotel in recognition of the Paradise Pier district of DCA that the hotel overlooks.

The 489-room property has always had a South Seas theme and decor that extend to both public spaces and guest rooms. Guest rooms are furnished with blond faux-rattan furniture and the usual Disney-pastel soft goods, including bedspreads with a palm-tree pattern. Somewhat more whimsical than rooms at the Disneyland Hotel or the Grand Californian, Paradise Pier rooms include accents such as Mickey Mouse table lamps and confetti-patterned carpets. Guest-room picture windows on the hotel's east side offer the best vistas of any of the Disneyland Resort hotels with a perfect view of the lights and attractions of Paradise Pier inside DCA. From rooms on the other side of the hotel you can see, well, parking lots. Rates range from \$225 to \$255, depending on season and view.

Dining options include the informal PCH Grill, serving three meals daily including a character breakfast, and Yamabuki, a Japanese restaurant that has been trying to redefine itself as pan-Asian. Amenities include a fitness center and an often breezy rooftop pool complete with a waterslide (the view from the top of the slide is killer). Self-parking in Paradise Pier's on-site garage is fast and convenient. Somewhat isolated on the Disneyland Resort property, the hotel is a 14-minute hike to the theme park entrances, farther away than most non-Disney hotels lining Harbor Boulevard on the east side of the resort.

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 slower times of the year. Disney uses so many adjectives (*regular, holiday, peak, value, and such*) 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 **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.

3. LEARN ABOUT DEALS OFFERED TO SPECIFIC MARKETS The folks at **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 Disnevland Resort hotels.

Usually anyone calling the Disneyland Resort Reservations Office (call **2** 714-956-6425 and press 3 on the menu) can cite the referenced ad and get the discounted rate.

You should be aware that Disney is trending 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 disunofficial 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.

counts 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 2714-520-7070 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**, click on My Disneyland and sign up to have offers and news sent automatically to 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.

44 PART 1 PLANNING BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

6. ANNUAL PASSPORT-HOLDER DISCOUNTS Annual Passport 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. We've seen resort discounts as deep as 30% offered to Annual Passport holders. It doesn't take long to recoup the extra bucks you spent on an Annual Passport 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 are 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 in our behalf.

As you might expect, some travel agents and agencies 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 indicating that they are Authorized Disney Vacation Planners. These Disney specialists are so good we use them ourselves. The needs of our research team are many, and our schedules are complicated. Simply stated they save us time and money, sometimes lots of both. The best of the best include **Sue Pisaturo**, whom we've used many times and who is a contributor to this guide (**sue@wdwvacations.com**); **Tracy Desjardin (tracydsmallworld@gmail.com)**; and **Josephine Racciula** (sandnshore@optonline.net).

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. 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 five 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 138–39) 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.

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.

GETTING A GOOD DEAL AT NON-DISNEY HOTELS

FOLLOWING 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.

Remember 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, check out the convention calendar on pages 24 and 25.

I. 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. However, the site does not sell travel products.

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 Disneylandarea hotels. The site offers various filters, such as price, quality rating, and proximity to a specific location (such as Disneyland, the convention center, or airport), that allow you to tailor your search.

While a Travelaxe search is always useful, we've frequently been unable to obtain the best rate shown for a particular hotel. Finally, Expedia and Travelocity, two giants among Internet sellers, are not among the sites searched.

3. KAYAK.COM, like Travelaxe, is a travel search engine, but unlike Travelaxe, there's no application to download. Where Travelaxe searches the better hotel discounter sites, Kayak also searches chain and individual hotel Web sites. Web sites searched vary from destination to destination but do not include Expedia and Travelocity.

4. 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 rockbottom 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.

5. 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 ("Disney-land 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 nonrefundable transaction for your entire stay. Notification of acceptance usually takes less than an hour. We recommend bidding \$35 to \$55 per night for a three-star hotel and \$55 to \$80 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.

6. OTHER WEB TRAVEL SELLERS Ever wonder which sites offer the best deals, or whether you're missing some tiny boutique site offering amazing discounts? So do we. *Unofficial Guide* statistician Fred Hazleton has analyzed more than 380,000 rate quotes from dozens of Internet sellers for Disneyland Resort and Anaheim-area hotels. Fred

Travelworm.com (40%)

Hotels.com (32%)

discovered that the pricing competition for Disneyland area hotels is a lot greater than we see in the Walt Disney World area or at our other *Unofficial Guide* destinations. Fewer than 5% of the Disneyland searches produced a single quote while another 5% produced more than ten quotes! The quoted rates are more varied in Anaheim than we usually see at other destinations, with a broader range between the highest and lowest rates for a given hotel. For a number of hotels, as many as six or more different rates are quoted. Fred's research has also shown that about 66% of the time the hotel Web site or hotel front desk will match or beat the best Internet rate available. We've also observed that Expedia and Travelocity are often the best Web sites for last-minute bookings.

Following are the Web sites that most often produce the best rate quotes for Disneyland Resort area hotels. The percentage in parenthesis tells how often the site has the winning (read: best) quote. Having the lowest rate 42% of the time, as **ARestravel.com** does, may not sound like much, but consider that probably 50 other Internet travel sites are selling the same hotels.

ARestravel.com (42%) Hotelkingdom.com (34%) Lodging.com (23%)

7. ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS These area-specific guides contain 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.

8. 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:

Travel Discount Roomsaver Guide 4205 NW Sixth Street Gainesville, FL 32609 2 352-371-3948 **9. 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.

10. 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, 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.

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ANAHEIM AREA WHOLESALERS AND CONSOLIDATORS
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California Reservations 2 800-576-0003 www.hotellocators.com Hotels.com 2 800-346-8357 www.hotels.com

II. 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.

12. 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.

Most hotels more than five years old refurbish 10% to 20% of their guest rooms each year. This incremental approach minimizes disruption of business but makes your room assignment a crap shoot. You might luck into a newly renovated room or be assigned a threadbare room. Disney resorts will not guarantee a recently renovated room but will note your request and try to accommodate you. Non-Disney hotels will often guarantee an updated room when you book.

Our hotel ratings are provided shortly in the section "Hotels and Motels: Rated and Ranked," starting on page 52.

TRAVEL PACKAGES

PACKAGE TOURS THAT INCLUDE lodging, park admission, and other features are routinely available. Some packages are very good deals if you make use of the features you are paying for. Finally, here's a helpful source of regional travel information:

Anaheim-Orange County Visitor and Convention Bureau Department C P.O. Box 4270 Anaheim, CA 92803 2714-765-8888 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 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.

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 (such as airfare, rental car, and lodging) 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 answered only the questions posed and were not

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 parks. 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.

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 the Walt Disneyland Resort Travel Sales Center at 2714-520-7070 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.

VACATION HOMES

SOME OF THE BEST LODGING DEALS in the Disneyland Resort area are vacation homes. Prices range from about \$65 a night for twobedroom condos and townhomes to \$200 to \$450 a night for three- to five-bedroom vacation homes.

Forgetting about taxes to keep things simple, let's compare renting a vacation home with staying at a three-star hotel near Disneyland. A family of two parents, two teens, and two grandparents would need three hotel rooms at the Anaheim Fairfield Inn. At the lowest rate obtainable, they'd be spending \$125 per night per room, or \$375 total. Rooms are 340 square feet each, so they'd have a total of 1,020 square feet. Each room has a private bath and a television.

Renting at the same time of year, they can rent a 2,053-square-foot, three-bedroom, two-bath vacation home with a private pool within easy walking distance of Disneyland for \$350—a savings of \$25 per night over the Anaheim Fairfield Inn rate. But that's not all: the home comes

52 PART 1 PLANNING BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

with a washer and dryer; an outdoor hot tub; a large, grassy play area; a barbecue grill; lounge chairs; a game room with pool table; a family room with a 52-inch high-definition TV, DVD player, and surround sound; a stereo system; a dining room with seating for eight, plus a covered patio dining area; and off-street parking. The only trade-off for our hypothetical family would be having two bathrooms instead of three.

You can see the specific home described above at **www.vrbo**.com/175261. "VRBO" stands for Vacation Rental by Owner, a listing service for owners of vacation properties nationwide. One thing we like about the VRBO Web site is that it offers detailed information, including a goodly number of photos of each specific home. When you book, the home you've been looking at is the actual one you're reserving. On the other hand, some vacation-home rental companies, like rental-car agencies, don't assign you a specific home until the day you arrive—these companies provide photos of a "typical home" instead of making information available on each of the individual homes in their inventory. In this case, you have to take the company's word that the typical home pictured is representative and that the property you'll be assigned will be just as nice.

Location is everything, especially in Southern California with its legendary traffic. Before renting a home, contact the owner and ask for the address. Then, using **MapQuest.com**, obtain exact directions from the home to Disneyland. This will tell you how long and how complicated your commute will be. Avoid homes for which it's necessary to drive on a freeway for more than a couple miles. Don't worry if the home isn't in Anaheim per se; it's the distance to Disneyland that counts.

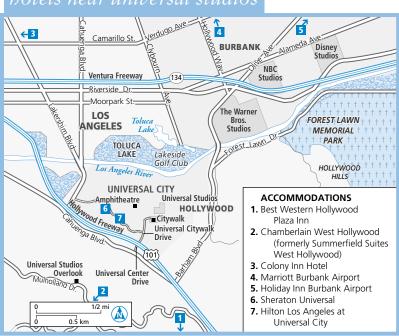
The only practical way to shop for a rental home is on the Web. Going online makes it relatively easy to compare different properties and rental companies. The best sites are easy to navigate, let you see what you're interested in without your having to log in or divulge any personal information, and list memberships in such organizations as the Better Business Bureau. Before you book, ask about minimum stays, damage deposits, cleaning charges, pets, and how any problems will be addressed once you're in the home.

HOTELS and MOTELS:

Rated and Ranked

WHAT'S IN A ROOM?

EXCEPT FOR CLEANLINESS, STATE OF REPAIR, and decor, 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.



hotels near universal studios

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.

Decor and taste are important, certainly. No one wants to spend several days in a room where the decor is dated, garish, or even ugly. But beyond the decor, there are variables that deterunofficial TIP Request a renovated room at your hotelthese can be much nicer than the older rooms.

mine 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 decor, these are the things that will make you feel comfortable and at home.

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

Disney Lodging for Less

Mary Waring, Webmaster at **MouseSavers.com** (see page 18), knows more about Disney hotel packages than anyone on the planet. Here are her money-saving suggestions.

BOOK "ROOM-ONLY." It's frequently a better deal to book a room-only reservation instead of buying a vacation package. Disney likes to sell vacation packages because they're easy and profitable. When you buy a package, you're typically paying a premium for convenience. You can often save money by putting together your own package—just book room-only at a resort and buy passes, meals, and extras separately.

Disney now prices its standard packages at the same rates as if you had purchased individual components separately at full price. However, what Disney doesn't tell you is that components can usually be purchased separately at a discount—and those discounts are not reflected in the brochure prices of Disney's packages. (Sometimes you can get special-offer packages that do include discounts; see below.)

Keep in mind that Disney's packages often include extras you are unlikely to use. Also, packages require a \$200 deposit and full payment 45 days in advance; plus, they have stringent change and cancellation policies. Generally, booking room-only requires a deposit of one night's room rate with the remainder due at check-in. Your reservation can be changed or canceled for any reason until five days before check-in.

Whether you decide to book a Disney vacation package or create your own, there are a number of ways to save:

 Use discount codes to reduce your room-only rate. Disney uses these codes to push unsold rooms at certain times of year. (In the past two years, however, these codes have become scarcer.) Check a Web site like MouseSavers.com to learn about codes that may be available for your vacation dates. Some codes are available to anyone, while others are just for Florida residents, Annual Passport holders, and so on.

Discount codes aren't always available for every hotel or every date, and they typically don't appear until two to six months in advance. The good news is that you can usually apply a code to an existing room-only reservation. Simply call the Disneyland Reservations

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.

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

Center at 2714-956-6425 (or contact a Disney-savvy travel agent) and ask whether any rooms are available at your preferred hotel for your preferred dates using the code.

• Use discount codes to reduce your vacation package rate. Disney occasionally offers packages that include resort discounts or value-added features such as a free dining plan. For those who like the convenience of packages, these offers are well worth seeking out.

You'll need to present a discount code to get the special package rates. Check a Web site like **MouseSavers.com** for more information.

As with room-discount codes, package-discount codes aren't available for every hotel or every date, and they typically don't appear until two to six months in advance. You can usually apply a code to an existing package reservation. Again, call the Disneyland Reservations Center at **2** 714-956-6425 (or contact a Disney-savvy travel agent) and ask whether any rooms are available at your preferred hotel for your preferred dates using the package code.

- Be flexible. Buying a room or package with a discount code is a little like shopping for clothes at a discount store: if you wear size XX-small or XXXX-large, or you like green when everyone else is wearing pink, you're a lot more likely to score a bargain. Likewise, resort discounts are available only when Disney has excess rooms. You're more likely to get a discount during less-popular times (such as value season) and at larger or less-popular resorts. Animal Kingdom Lodge and Old Key West seem to have discounted rooms available more often than the other resorts do.
- Be persistent. This is the most important tip. Disney allots a certain number of rooms to each discount; reportedly this averages 100 rooms per night per code. Once the discounted rooms are gone, you won't get that rate unless someone cancels. Fortunately, people change and cancel reservations all the time. If you can't get your preferred dates or hotel with one discount code, try another one (if available) or keep calling back first thing in the morning to check for cancellations—the system resets overnight, and any reservations with unpaid deposits are automatically released for resale.

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

OVERALL S	TAR 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

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 and Howard Johnson Hotel are both rated as three and a half stars ($\star \star \star \prime_2$). In the supplemental numerical ratings, the Homewood Suites is rated an 82 and the Howard Johnson a 75. This means that within the three-and-a-half-star category, the Homewood Suites has slightly nicer rooms than the Howard Johnson.

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 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

How the Hotels Compare

HOTEL	OVERALL QUALITY RATING	OVERALL ROOM RATING	COST (\$=\$50)	PHONE
DISNEYLAND AREA				
Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa	****½	90	\$\$\$\$\$\$	· 🕿 714-635-2300
Disneyland Hotel	****	89	\$\$\$\$\$+	2 714-778-6600
TownePlace Suites by Marriott Anaheim	****	88	\$\$\$-	2 714-939-9700
Crowne Plaza Anaheim Resort	****	86	\$\$\$-	2 714-867-5555
Disney Paradise Pier Hotel	****	86	\$\$\$\$\$-	2 714-999-0990
Doubletree Guest Suites	****	86	\$\$\$	2 714-750-3000
Hilton Suites Anaheim–Orange	****	86	\$\$\$+	2 714-938-1111
Ayres Hotel	****	85	\$\$\$-	2 714-634-2106
Hyatt Regency Orange County	****	85	\$\$\$\$\$	2 714-750-1234
Marriott Hotel Main Tower	****	85	\$\$\$\$+	2 714-750-8000
Sheraton Park Hotel	****	85	\$\$\$-	2 714-750-1811
Staybridge Suites Anaheim Resort Area	****	85	\$\$\$+	2 714-748-7700
Doubletree Hotel Anaheim– Orange County	****	84	\$\$\$	2 714-634-4500
Marriott Anaheim Suites	****	83	\$\$\$\$-	2 714-750-1000
Sheraton Anaheim Hotel	****	83	\$\$\$	2 714-778-1700
The Anabella	****	83	\$\$	2 714-905-1050
Candlewood Suites Anaheim Resorts	★★★½	82	\$\$+	2 714-808-9000
Homewood Suites by Hilton	★★★½	82	\$\$\$\$-	2 714-740-1800
Marriott Hotel North Tower	★★★½	82	\$\$\$\$+	2 714-750-8000
Portofino Inn & Suites	★★★½	82	\$\$\$-	2 714-782-7600
Embassy Suites Anaheim–South	★★★½	81	\$\$\$\$-	2 714-539-3300
Hilton Anaheim	★★★½	81	\$\$\$-	2 714-750-4321
Peacock Suites	***1/2	81	\$\$+	2 714-535-8255
Ramada Plaza Hotel– Anaheim Resort	★★★½	81	\$\$+	2 714-991-6868
Residence Inn Anaheim–Maingate	★★★½	81	\$\$\$\$-	2 714-533-3555

How the Hotels Compare (continued)

HOTEL	OVERALL QUALITY RATING	OVERALL ROOM RATING	COST (\$=\$50)	PHONE		
DISNEYLAND AREA (CONTINUED)						
Holiday Inn–Anaheim Resort	★★★½	80	\$\$-	2 714-748-7777		
Anaheim Camelot Inn & Suites	★★★½	79	\$\$\$+	2 714-635-7275		
Anaheim Desert Inn & Suites	★★★½	79	\$\$+	2 714-772-5050		
Hilton Garden Inn	★★★½	79	\$\$\$	2 714-703-9100		
Anaheim La Quinta Inn & Suites	★★★½	76	\$\$\$-	2 714-635-5000		
Howard Johnson Hotel	★★★½	75	\$\$\$-	2 714-776-6120		
Candy Cane Inn	***	74	\$\$\$-	2 714-774-5284		
Carousel Inn & Suites	***	72	\$\$\$+	2 714-758-0444		
Cortona Inn & Suites	***	72	\$\$+	2 714-971-5000		
Jolly Roger Hotel Anaheim	***	72	\$\$	2 714-782-7500		
Ramada Limited Suites Anaheim Convention Center	***	72	\$\$	2 714-971-3553		
Clarion Anaheim Hotel Resort	***	70	\$\$+	2 714-750-3131		
Holiday Inn Express–Anaheim Maingate Hotel	***	70	\$\$\$-	2 714-772-7755		
Red Lion	***	70	\$\$+	2 714-750-2801		
Anaheim Fairfield Inn	***	69	\$\$\$-	2 714-772-6777		
Comfort Inn & Suites	***	69	\$\$-	2 714-772-8713		
Extended Stay America	***	69	\$\$	2 714-502-9988		
Best Western Raffles Inn	***	67	\$\$\$+	2 714-750-6100		
Ayres Inn Orange	***	66	\$\$+	2 714-978-9168		
Best Western Stovall's Inn	***	66	\$\$	2 714-778-1880		
Best Western Park Place Inn හ Mini Suites	***	65	\$\$\$-	2 714-776-4800		
Travelodge Anaheim on Disney Drive	***	65	\$\$-	조 714-774-7600		
Comfort Inn Maingate	★★1/2	64	\$\$-	2 714-703-1220		
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Anaheim	★★1⁄2	64	\$\$+	2 714-535-0300		
Alpine Inn	★★1/2	63	\$+	2 714-535-2186		
Anaheim Plaza Hotel & Suites	★★1/2	63	\$\$-	2 714-772-5900		
Best Western Pavillions	★★1/2	63	\$\$-	2 714-776-0140		
Hotel Menage	★★1/2	63	\$\$+	2 714-758-0900		

HOTEL	OVERALL QUALITY RATING	OVERALL ROOM RATING	COST (\$=\$50)	PHONE
DISNEYLAND AREA (CONTIN	NUED)			
Castle Inn & Suites	★ ★ 1/2	62	\$\$-	2 714-774-8111
Anaheim Astoria Inn & Suites	★★1/2	61	\$\$-	2 714-774-3882
Best Western Anaheim Inn	★★1/2	61	\$\$+	🕿 714-774-1050
Days Inn Anaheim West	★★½	61	\$\$-	🕿 714-520-0101
Desert Palm Inn & Suites	★★1/2	61	\$\$+	2 714-535-1133
Ramada Limited	★★1/2	61	\$\$-	2 714-999-0684
Red Roof Inn Anaheim Maingate	★★1/2	61	\$+	2 714-520-9696
Anaheim Carriage Inn	★★1/2	60	\$+	2 714-740-1440
Anaheim del Sol Inn	★ ★ 1/2	60	\$\$-	2 714-234-3411
Best Western Courtesy Inn	★★1/2	60	\$\$-	2 714-772-2470
Days Inn Maingate Convention Center	★★1/2	60	\$+	2 714-971-9000
America's Best Inn	★★1/2	58	\$+	2 714-533-2570
Quality Inn Maingate	★ ★ 1/2	58	\$\$-	2 714-750-5211
Tropicana Inn & Suites	★★1/2	58	\$\$\$	2 714-635-4082
Anaheim Maingate Hotel	★★1/2	57	\$\$-	2 714-533-2500
Anaheim Quality Inn & Suites	★★1/2	57	\$\$-	2 714-991-8100
Econo Lodge Maingate	★ ★ 1/2	57	\$+	🕿 714-535-7878
Anaheim Travelodge at the Park	★★1/2	56	\$\$	2 714-774-7817
Days Inn & Suites	★★1/2	56	\$\$-	2 714-533-8830
Travelodge International Inn १७ Suites	★★1/2	56	\$\$-	2 714-971-9393
Super 8 Motel Disneyland Drive	**	55	\$+	2 714-778-0350
Alamo Inn & Suites Anaheim	**	52	\$+	2 714-635-8070
Super 8 Motel Near Disneyland	**	51	\$+	2 714-778-6900
Budget Inn	**	50	\$+	2 714-535-5524
Hacienda Inn & Suites	★1/2	46	\$+	2 714-750-2101
America Best Value Inn Fantasy Inn & Suites	★1/2	41	\$+	2 714-776-2815
Econo Lodge	*	34	\$+	2 714-533-4505

How the Hotels Compare (continued)

HOTEL	OVERALL QUALITY RATING	OVERALL ROOM RATING	COST (\$=\$50)	PHONE
UNIVERSAL AREA				
Hilton Los Angeles at Universal City	****	87	\$\$\$\$+	2 818-506-2500
Sheraton Universal	****	85	\$\$\$\$+	🕿 818-980-1212
Marriott Burbank Airport	***1/2	80	\$\$\$\$	2 818-843-6000
Chamberlain West Hollywood	★★★½	81	\$\$\$\$\$\$-	2 310-657-7400
Holiday Inn Burbank Airport	***	68	\$\$\$+	2 818-841-4770
Colony Inn	★★1/2	60	\$\$\$-	2 818-763-2787
Best Western Hollywood Plaza Inn	★★1/2	62	\$\$\$-	2 323-851-1800

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 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 snooping around in advance. 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

Top 30 Best Deals near Disneyland

	_	OVERALL QUALITY	ROOM QUALITY	COST	
нот		RATING	RATING	(\$=\$50)	PHONE
	The Anabella	****	83	\$\$	714-905-1050
2.	Holiday Inn–Anaheim Resort	★★★½	80	\$\$-	714-748-7777
3.	TownePlace Suites by Marriott Anaheim	****	88	\$\$\$-	2 714-939-9700
4.	Ayres Hotel	****	85	\$\$\$-	2 714-634-2106
5.	Candlewood Suites Anaheim Resorts	★★★½	82	\$\$+	2 714-808-9000
6.	Peacock Suites	★★★½	81	\$\$+	🕿 714-535-8255
7.	Anaheim Desert Inn & Suites	★★★½	79	\$\$+	2 714-772-5050
8.	Crowne Plaza Anaheim Resort	****	86	\$\$\$-	714-867-5555
9.	Red Roof Inn Anaheim Maingate	★ ★ 1/2	61	\$+	2 714-520-9696
10.	Sheraton Park Hotel	****	85	\$\$\$-	🕿 714-750-1811
11.	Comfort Inn & Suites	***	69	\$\$-	2 714-772-8713
12.	Ramada Plaza Hotel– Anaheim Resort	★★★1/2	81	\$\$+	2 714-991-6868
13.	Doubletree Guest Suites	****	86	\$\$\$	2 714-750-3000
14.	America's Best Inn	★★1/2	58	\$+	2 714-533-2570
15.	Doubletree Hotel Anaheim- Orange County	****	84	\$\$\$	2 714-634-4500
16.	Alpine Inn	★★1/2	63	\$+	🕿 714-535-2186
17.	Portofino Inn & Suites	★★★½	82	\$\$\$-	2 714-782-7600
18.	Travelodge Anaheim on Disney Drive	***	65	\$\$-	2 714-774-7600
19.	Ramada Limited Suites Anaheim Convention Center	***	72	\$\$	2 714-971-3553
20.	Extended Stay America	***	69	\$\$	2 714-502-9988
21.	Anaheim Carriage Inn	★★1/2	60	\$+	2 714-740-1440
22.	Hilton Suites Anaheim–Orange	****	86	\$\$\$+	2 714-938-1111
23.	Jolly Roger Hotel Anaheim	***	72	\$\$	2 714-782-7500
24.	Days Inn Maingate Convention Center	★ ★ 1/2	60	\$+	2 714-971-9000
25.	Sheraton Anaheim Hotel	****	83	\$\$\$	2 714-778-1700

TOP SU Dest De		mimu	ea)	
HOTEL	OVERALL QUALITY RATING	ROOM QUALITY RATING	COST (\$=\$50)	PHONE
26. Staybridge Suites Anaheim Resort Area	****	85	\$\$\$+	2 714-748-7700
27. Hilton Anaheim	★★★½	81	\$\$\$-	🕿 714-750-4321
28. Econo Lodge Maingate	★★1/2	57	\$+	2 714-535-7878
29. Anaheim Astoria Inn & Suites	★ ★ 1/2	61	\$\$-	2 714-774-3882
30. Cortona Inn & Suites	***	72	\$\$+	2 714-971-5000

Top 30 Best Deals (continued)

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 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

Hotel Information Chart

Alamo Inn & Suites Anaheim ** 1140 West Katella Avenue Anaheim 92802 2 714-635-8070 FAX 714-778-3307 www.alamoinnandsuites.com ROOM RATING 52 COST (5-550) \$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING -	Alpine Inn *** 715 West Katella Avenue Anaheim 92802 2 714-535-2186 FAX 714-535-3714 www.alpineinnanaheim.com ROOM RATING 63 COST (\$=\$50) \$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING -	America Best Value Inn Fantasy Inn & Suites ★½ 425 West Katella Avenue Anaheim 92802 ☎ 714-776-2815 FAX 714-533-4037 www.anaheimfantasyinn.com ROOMRATING 41 COST (\$=\$50) \$+ 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 (\$=\$50) \$+ POOL ON-SITE DINING -	The Anabella **** 1030 West Katella Avenue Anaheim 92802 3 714-905-1050 FAX 714-905-1055 www.anabellahotel.com ROOM RATING ROOM RATING ROOM SS POOL ON-SITE DINING	Anaheim Astoria Inn & Suites ★★% 426 West Ball Road Anaheim 92805 3 714-774-3882 FAX 714-234-2164 www.anaheimastoriainn.com ROOMRATING 61 COST (5=550) \$5- POOL • ON-SITE DINING -

Hotel Info	rmation Chart (continued)
Anaheim Camelot Inn & Suites **** 1520 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92802 \$714-635-7275 FAX 714-635-7276 www.parkinn-anaheim.com ROOM RATING COST (\$=\$50) \$5\$+ POOL ON-SITE DINUNG -	Anaheim Carriage Inn ** ^{1/2} 2125 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92802 T 714-740-1440 FAX 714-971-5330 www.anaheimcarriageinn.com ROOM RATING 60 COST (\$=\$50) \$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING -	Anaheim del Sol Inn **½ 1604 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92802 T 714-234-3411 FAX 714-234-3422 www.delsolinn.com ROOMRATING 60 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$- POOL • ON-SITE DINING •
Anaheim Fairfield Inn *** 1460 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92802 2714-772-6777 FAX 714-999-1727 www.marriott.com ROOM RATING 69 COST (5=550) \$\$\$- POOL • ON-SITE DINING •	Anaheim La Quinta Inn & Suites ****'2 1752 South Clementine Street Anaheim 92802 3714-635-5000 FAX 714-776-9073 www.laquinta.com ROOM RATING 76 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$\$- POOL - ON-SITE DINING -	Anaheim Maingate Rodeway Inn ★★% 1211 West Place Anaheim 92802 3 714-533-2500 FAX 714-398-8026 www.rodewayinn.com ROOM RATING 57 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$- POOL - ON-SITE DINING -
Anaheim Plaza Hotel & Suites ★★½ 1700 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92802 ☎ 714-772-5900 FAX 714-772-8386 www.anaheimplazahotel.com ROOM RATING 63 COST (S=550) \$\$- POOL • ON-SITE DINING •	Anaheim Quality Inn & Suites ★★½ 1441 South Manchester Avenue Anaheim 92802 ☎ 714-991-8100 FAX 714-533-6430 www.anaheimqualityinn.com ROOM RATING 57 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$- 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 (\$=\$50) \$\$ POOL • ON-SITE DINING -
Ayres Hotel **** 2550 East Katella Avenue Anaheim 92806 2714-634-2106 FAX 714-634-2108 www.ayreshotels.com ROOM RATING 85 COST (5=550) \$\$\$ POOL • ON-SITE DINING -	Ayres Inn Orange *** 3737 West Chapman Avenue Orange 92868 2714-978-9168 FAX 714-978-9028 www.ayreshotels.com ROOM RATING 66 COST (5=550) \$\$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING -	Best Western Anaheim Inn ** ^{1/2} 1630 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92802 © 714-774-1050 FAX 714-776-6305 www.bestwestern.com ROOM RATING 61 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING -
Best Western Courtesy Inn ★★½ 1070 West Ball Road Anaheim 92802 ☎ 714-772-2470 FAX 714-774-3425 www.bestwestern.com ROOM RATING 60 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$- 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 (\$=\$50) \$\$\$- POOL • ON-SITE DINING -	Best Western Park Place Inn & Mini Suites *** 1544 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92802 T 714-76-4800 Fax 714-758-1396 www.bestwestern.com ROOM RATING 65 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$\$- POOL • ON-SITE DINING -

Hotel Inform	nation Chart (con	ntinued)
Best Western Pavilions **1/2 1176 West Katella Avenue Anaheim 92802 3 714-776-0140 FAX 714-776-5801 www.bestwestern.com ROOM RATING 63 COST (5=550) \$5- 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 (5=550) \$\$\$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING -	Best Western Stovall's Inn *** 1110 West Katella Avenue Anaheim 92802 2 714-778-1880 FAX 714-778-3805 www.bestwestern.com ROOM RATING 66 COST (5=550) \$\$ POOL • ON-SITE DINING •
Budget Inn ** 1042 Ball Road Anaheim 92802 3 714-535-5524 FAX 714-999-5900 www.anaheimbudgetinn.com ROOM RATING 50 COST (5=550) 9OOL ON-SITE DINING	Candlewood Suites Anaheim Resorts ★★★½ 1733 South Anaheim Boulevard Anaheim 92805 ☎ 714-808-9000 FAX 714-808-8989 www.candlewoodsuites.com ROOM RATING 82 COST (S=550) \$\$+ POOL - ON-SITE DINING -	Candy Cane Inn *** 1747 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92802 T14-774-5284 FAX 714-772-5462 www.candycaneinn.net ROOM RATING 74 COST (5=550) \$\$5- POOL • ON-SITE DINING -
Carousel Inn & Suites *** 1530 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92802 T14-758-0444 FAX 714-772-9960 www.carouselinnandsuites.com ROOM RATING 72 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$\$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING -	Castle Inn & Suites ★★½ 1734 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92802 ☎ 714-774-8111 FAX 714-956-4736 www.castleinn.com ROOM RATING 62 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$- POOL • ON-SITE DINING -	Chamberlain West Hollywood ★★★½ 1000 Westmount Drive West Hollywood 90069 To 457-7400 FAX 310-657-1535 www.chamberlainwest hollywood.com ROOM RATING 81 COST (5-550) \$\$\$\$\$5- POOL • ON-SITE DINING •
Clarion Anaheim Hotel Resort *** 616 Convention Way Anaheim 92802 2 714-750-3131 FAX 714-750-9027 www.chidirect.com ROOM RATING 70 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING •	Colony Inn ★ ★ ½ 4917 Vineland Avenue North Hollywood 91601 ☎ 818-763-2787 FAX 818-763-0909 www.colonyinn.com ROOM RATING 60 cost (\$=\$50) POOL ON-SITE DINING	Comfort Inn & Suites *** 300 East Katella Way Anaheim 92802 7 714-772-8713 FAX 714-778-1235 www.comfortinnsuitesanaheim.com ROOM RATING 69 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$- POOL • ON-SITE DINING -
Comfort Inn Maingate ***/2 2171 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92802 2714-703-1220 FAX 714-703-1401 www.choicehotels.com ROOM RATING 64 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$- POOL • ON-SITE DINING -	Cortona Inn & Suites *** 2029 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92802 714-971-5000 FAX 714-971-5001 www.cartonainnandsuites.com ROOM RATING 72 COST (5=550) \$\$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING -	Crowne Plaza Anaheim Resort **** 12021 Harbor Boulevard Garden Grove 92840 T14-867-555 FAX 714-867-5123 www.anaheim.crowneplaza.com ROOM RATING 86 COST (5=550) \$\$\$- POL • ON-STEE DINING •

- ON-SITE DINING •
- ON-SITE

Days Inn & Suites ★★½ 1111 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92805 3 714-533-8830 FAX 714-758-0573 www.daysinn.com ROOM RATING 56 COST (\$=550) POOL ON-SITE DINING	Days Inn Anaheim West * * ½ 1030 West Ball Road Anaheim 92802 25 714-520-0101 FAX 714-758-9406 FAX 714-758-9406 www.daysinn.com ROOM RATING 61 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$= POOL • ON-SITE DINING -	Days Inn Maingate Convention Center **½ 620 West Orangewood Avenue Anaheim 92802 32 714-971-9000 FAX 714-740-2065 www.daysinnanaheim.com ROOM RATING 60 COST (\$=\$50) \$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING =
Desert Inn & Suites ★★★½ 1600 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92802 T14-772-5050 FAX 714-778-2754 www.anaheimdesertinn.com ROOM RATING 79 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING -	Desert Palm Inn	Disney Paradise Pier Hotel ★★★★ 1717 South Disneyland Drive Anaheim 92802 Sa 714-999-0990 FAX 714-776-5763 www.disneyland.com ROOM RATING 86 COST (5=550) \$\$\$\$\$5- POOL • ON-SITE DINING •
Disney's Grand Californian Hotel © Spa ★★★★½ 1600 South Disneyland Drive Anaheim 92802 @ 714-635-2300 FAX 714-630-7300 www.disneyland.com ROOM RATING 90 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$\$\$\$\$\$ POOL • ON-SITE DINING •	Disneyland Hotel **** 1150 West Magic Way Anaheim 92802 T14-778-6600 FAX 714-520-6079 www.disneyland.com ROOM RATING 89 COST (5=550) \$\$\$\$\$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING •	Doubletree Guest Suites ★★★★ 2985 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92802 \$\mathbf{s}\$ 14-750-3000 FAX 714-750-3002 www.anaheimconvention centersuites.doubletree.com ROOM RATING 86 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$\$ POOL • ON-SITE DINING •
Doubletree Hotel Anaheim- Orange County **** 100 The City Drive Orange 92868 T 714-634-4500 FAX 714-978-2370 www.doubletree.com ROOM RATING 84 COST (5=550) \$\$\$ POOL • ON-SITE DINING •	Econo Lodge * 1126 West Katella Avenue Anaheim 92802 T14-533-4505 FAX 714-533-4545 www.choicehotels.com ROOM RATING 34 COST (\$=\$50) \$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING -	Econo Lodge Maingate **/2 871 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92805 S 714-535-7878 FAX 714-535-8186 www.choicehotels.com ROOM RATING 57 COST (5=550) \$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING -
Embassy Suites Anaheim-South *** ^{1/2} 11767 Harbor Boulevard Garden Grove 92840 T14-539-3300 FAX 714-539-4600 www.anaheimsouth. embassysuites.com ROOMRATING 81 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$\$\$- POOL • ON-SITE DINING •	Extended Stay America *** 1742 South Clementine Street Anaheim 92802 T14-502-9988 FAX 714-502-9977 www.extendedstayamerica.com ROOM RATING 69 COST (5=550) \$\$ POOL • ON-SITE DINING -	Hacienda Inn & Suites ★½ 2176 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92802 3 714-750-2101 FAX 714-971-1235 ROOM RATING 46 COST (5=550) \$+ POOL ON-SITE DINING

Hotel Inform	ation Chart (con	ntinued)
Hilton Anaheim * * * ½ 777 Convention Way Anaheim 92802 2 714-750-4321 FAX 714-740-4460 FAX 714-740-4460 www.hilton.com ROOM RATING 81 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$5- POOL • ON-SITE DINING •	Hitton Garden Inn ★★★½ 11777 Harbor Boulevard Garden Grove 92840 Tri4-703-9100 Fax 714-703-9200 www.hitton.com ROOM RATING 79 COST (\$=550) \$\$\$ POOL • ON-SITE DINING •	Hilton Los Angeles at Universal City **** 555 Universal Hollywood Drive Universal City 91608 * 818-506-2500 FAX 818-509-2058 www.hilton.com ROOM RATING 87 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$\$\$+ POOL •
Hilton Suites Anaheim-Orange **** 400 North State College Blvd. Orange 92868 2714-938-1111 FAX 714-938-0930 www.hilton.com	Holiday Inn Burbank Airport ★★★ 150 East Angeleno Burbank 91502 ☎ 818-841-4770 FAX 818-566-7886 www.ichotelsgroup.com	ON-SITE DINING Holiday Inn Express-Anaheim Maingate Hotel *** 435 West Katella Avenue Anaheim 92802 27 714-772-7755 FAX 714-772-2727 www.holiday-anaheim.com
ROOM RATING 86 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$\$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING •	ROOM RATING 68 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$\$\$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING •	ROOM RATING 70 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$\$\$- POOL • ON-SITE DINING
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Anaheim ★★½ 1240 South Walnut Avenue Anaheim 92802 ☎ 714-535-0300 FAX 714-491-8953 www.holiday-inn.com ROOM RATING 64 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING •	Holiday Inn-Anaheim Resort *** ^{1/2} 1915 South Manchester Avenue Anaheim 92802 T14-748-7777 FAX 714-748-7400 www.holiday-inn.com ROOM RATING 80 COST (5=550) \$5- POOL • ON-SITE DINING •	Homewood Suites by Hilton **** 12005 Harbor Boulevard Garden Grove 92840 27 714-740-1800 FAX 714-740-1867 homewoodsuites.hilton.com ROOM RATING 82 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$\$\$- POOL • ON-SITE DINING -
Hotel Menage ★ * 1/2 1221 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92805 T14-758-0900 FAX 714-533-1804 www.hotelmenage.com ROOM RATING 63 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING •	Howard Johnson Hotel *** ^{1/2} 1380 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92802 3 714-776-6120 FAX 714-533-3578 www.hojoanaheim.com ROOM RATING 75 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$\$- POOL • ON-SITE DINING •	Hyatt Regency Orange County **** 11999 Harbor Boulevard Garden Grove 92840 3 714-750-1234 FAX 714-740-0465 www.hyatt.com ROOM RATING 85 COST (5=550) \$\$\$\$\$\$ POOL • ON-SITE DINING •
Joliy Roger Hotel Anaheim *** 640 West Katella Avenue Anaheim 92802 2714-782-7500 FAX 714-772-2308 www.jollyrogerhotel.com ROOM RATING 72 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$ 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 (\$=\$50) \$\$\$\$- POOL • ON-SITE DINING •	Marriott Burbank Airport *** ^{1/2} 2500 Hollywood Way Burbank 91505 © 818-843-6000 FAX 818-842-9720 www.marriottburbankairport.com ROOM RATING 80 COST (5=550) \$\$\$\$ POOL • ON-SITE DINING •

Marriott Hotel Main Tower **** 700 West Convention Way Anaheim 92802 2714-750-8000 FAX 714-750-9100 www.marriott.com ROOM RATING 85 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$\$\$+ POOL ON-SITE DINING •	Marriott Hotel North Tower ★★★½ 700 West Convention Way Anaheim 92802 3 714-750-8000 FAX 714-750-9100 www.marriott.com ROOM RATING 82 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$\$\$\$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING •	Peacock Suites *** ^{1/2} 1745 South Anaheim Boulevard Anaheim 92805 T4-535-8255 Fax 714-535-8914 www.shellhospitality.com ROOM RATING 81 COST (5=550) \$\$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING -
Portofino Inn & Suites **** 1831 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92802 T14-782-7600 FAX 714-782-7619 www.portofinoinnanaheim.com ROOMRATING 82 COST (5-530) \$\$\$- POOL • ON-SITE DINING -	Quality Inn Maingate ★★½ 2200 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92802 ☎ 714-750-5211 Fax 714-750-2803 www.qualityinn.com ROOM RATING 58 COST (5=550) \$5- POOL • ON-SITE DINING -	Ramada Limited ★★½ 921 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92802 ☎ 714-999-0684 Fax 714-956-8839 www.ramada.com ROOM RATING 61 COST (5=550) \$\$- POOL • ON-SITE DINING -
Ramada Limited Suites Anaheim Convention Center *** 2141 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92802 2 714-971-3553 FAX 714-971-4609 www.ramada.com ROOM RATING 72 COST (5=550) \$\$ POOL • ON-SITE DINING -	Ramada Plaza Hotel-Anaheim Resort **** 515 West Katella Avenue Anaheim 92802 T14-991-6868 FAX 714-991-6868 FAX 714-991-6565 www.ramadaplazadisney.com ROOM RATING 81 COST (5=550) \$\$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING •	Red Lion *** 1850 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92802 © 714-750-2801 FAX 714-971-4754 www.redlion.com ROOM RATING 70 COST (5=50) \$\$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING •
Red Roof Inn Anaheim Maingate ★★½ 100 West Disney Way Anaheim 92802 2714-520-9696 FAX 714-533-7539 www.redroof.com ROOM RATING 61 COST (=550) \$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING –	Residence Inn Anaheim- Maingate ★★★½ 1700 South Clementine Street Anaheim 92802 \$\overline{2}714-535-55 FAX 714-535-7626 www.marriott.com ROOM RATING 81 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$\$\$- POOL • ON-SITE DINING •	Sheraton Anaheim Hotel **** 900 South Disneyland Drive Anaheim 92802 3 714-778-1700 FAX 714-535-3889 www.sheraton.com ROOM RATING 83 COST (5=550) \$\$\$ POOL • ON-SITE DINING •
Sheraton Park Hotel **** 1855 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92802 2 714-750-1811 FAX 714-971-4809 www.sheratonparkanaheim.com ROOM RATING 85 COST (s=550) \$\$\$- POOL • ON-SITE DINING •	Sheraton Universal **** 333 Universal Hollywood Drive Universal City 91608 3818-980-1212 FAX 818-985-4980 www.starwoodhotels.com ROOM RATING 85 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$\$\$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING •	Staybridge Suites Anaheim Resort Area **** 1855 South Manchester Avenue Anaheim 92802 32 714-748-7700 Fax 714-748-4700 www.staybridge.com ROOM RATING 85 COST (5=550) \$\$\$+ POOL • ON-SITE DINING -

Hotel Inform	ation Chart (cor	ıtinued)
Super 8 Motel Disneyland Drive ** 915 South Disneyland Drive Anaheim 92802 2714-778-0350 FAX 714-778-3878 www.super8.com ROOM RATING 55 COST (5=550) \$+	Super 8 Motel Near Disneyland ★★ 415 West Katella Avenue Anaheim 92802 3 714-778-6900 FAX 714-535-5659 www.super8.com ROOM RATING 51 co5r (5=550) \$+	TownePlace Suites by Marriott Anaheim * * * * 1730 South State College Blvd. Anaheim 92806 T/14-939-9700 FAX 714-939-9987 www.marriott.com ROOM RATING 88 COST (5=550) \$\$\$5-
POOL • ON-SITE DINING —	POOL • ON-SITE DINING —	POOL • ON-SITE DINING •
Travelodge Anaheim on Disney Drive *** 1057 West Ball Road Anaheim 92802 37 714-774-7600 FAX 714-535-6953 www.travelodge.com ROOM FAITING 65	Travelodge International Inn © Suites ** ^{1/2} 2060 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92802 © 714-971-9393 FAX 714-971-2706 www.anaheimresorttravelodge.com ROOM RATING 56	Tropicana Inn & Suites ★★½ 1540 South Harbor Boulevard Anaheim 92802 3 714-635-4082 FAX 714-635-1535 www.tropicanainn-anaheim.com ROOM RATING 58 COST (\$=\$50) \$\$\$\$\$
COST (\$=\$50) \$\$- POOL • ON-SITE DINING -	COST (\$=\$50) \$\$- POOL • ON-SITE DINING -	POOL • ON-SITE DINING -

the room. On checking we noticed that the room the reader occupied had a quality rating of $\star\star$ ¹/₂. We would remind you that the value ratings are intended to give you some sense of value received for your lodging dollar spent. A $\star\star$ ¹/₂ room at \$35 may have the same value rating as a $\star\star\star\star$ 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 $\star\star$ ¹/₂ room is still a $\star\star$ ¹/₂ room.

Listed on pages 61 and 62 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.

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 zombielike 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 it 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, hightech 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 discussion following). 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

OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE: READ THIS!

IN ANALYZING READER SURVEYS we were astonished by the percentage of readers who do not use our touring plans. Scientifically tested and proven, these plans can save you four entire hours or more of waiting in line. Four hours! Four fewer hours of standing, four hours freed up to do something fun. Our groundbreaking research that created the touring plans has been the subject of front-page articles in the *Dallas Morning News* and the *New York Times* and has been cited in numerous scholarly journals. So the question is, Why would you not use them?

We get a ton of mail from both our Disneyland and Walt Disney World readers—98% of it positive—commenting on our touring plans. First, from a family of four from West Chester, Pennsylvania:

This book and your touring plans, without a doubt, made the trip. We followed the adult one-day plans almost to the letter. Probably the longest line we stood in was maybe 30 minutes max during one of the [busiest] times of the year. The key was getting to the parks 30 minutes or so before opening. The plans also saved arguing over what to do next. We simply followed the guide. We are believers!

A family from Stockton, California, descended on Disneyland Park over the Easter holiday:

We're not much for plans and regimentation so we winged it the first day. It was so awful that the next day we gave one of your itineraries a shot as sort of a last-ditch alternative. It worked so well that I was telling strangers about it that night like [I was] some kind of Bible thumper.

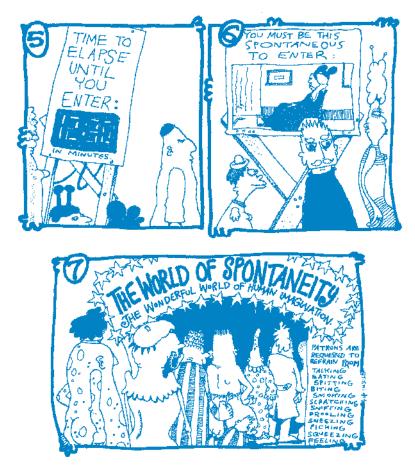
A family from Waynesville, Ohio, visited Walt Disney World at one of the most crowded times of year:



We picked spring break week (week before Easter) to go and knew we had to have a game plan or it would be a terrible experience. I ordered two guides and used only one! The touring plans were a lifesaver, with the crowd levels being at 10 for almost the whole week. We planned our days according to your park recommendations and followed the plans. We were successful in EVERY park [reader's emphasis].

From a family of five from, El Sobrante, California:

I loved how efficient the book was. My family was a bit shy but agreed with my directions as I read every move from the book. The book made no mistakes, and we couldn't have been better prepared. After my family saw the smoothness the first day offered, the next days were easy as we all agreed to follow the book's directions. Some



tourists seem insulted because of the lack of exploration, but if you follow what the book says, you get it right the first time and have many hours for exploration left.

A somewhat irritated Washington, West Virginia, wife weighed in with this:

I saw several people with the Unofficial Guide and had to ask if the plans really work. They all said that they do. Unfortunately, my husband had his "own plans" that didn't include following anyone else's plan.

From a New Albany, New York, reader:

[I had] only one full day in Disney, and I used the One-day Touring Plan for Adults. I was shocked by how well it worked. I even took

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about a three-hour break to go to Downtown Disney and I was still able to do everything on the plan. Incredible.

WHAT'S A QUEUE?

ALTHOUGH IT'S NOT COMMONLY used in the United States, *queue* (pronounced "cue") is the universal English word for a line, such as one in which you wait to cash a check at the bank or to board a ride at a theme park. There's a mathematical area of specialization within the field of operations research called queuing theory, which studies and models how lines work. Because the *Unofficial Guide* draws heavily on this discipline, we use some of its terminology. In addition to the noun, the verb "to queue" means to get in line, and a "queuing area" is a waiting area that accommodates a line. When guests decline to join a queue because they perceive the wait to be too long, they are said to "balk."

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 years 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.

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 four 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 22), 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 twoday 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.

unofficial TIP By using our touring plans, you can save as much as four hours in line per day.

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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 146), 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, mealtimes, 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 timeefficient 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 to the end of the presentation in progress. Thus, if the *Enchanted Tiki Room—Under New Management!* 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 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 plan:

1. Skip one step on the plan for every 20 minutes' delay. If, for example, you lose your billfold and spend an hour finding it, skip three steps and pick up from there,

or

2. Forget the plan and organize the remainder of your day using the recommended attraction visitation times included in each attraction profile.

Flexibility

The attractions included in the touring plans are the most popular attractions as determined by more than 9,000 reader surveys. Even so, your favorite attractions might be different. Fortunately, the touring plans are flexible. If the touring plan calls for an attraction you don't wish to experience, simply skip it and move on to the next attraction on the plan. Additionally, you can substitute similar attractions in the same area of the park. If the plan calls for riding Dumbo, for example, and you're not interested but would enjoy the Mad Tea Party (which is not on the plan), then substitute the Mad Tea Party for Dumbo. As long as the substitution is a similar attraction (it won't work to substitute a show for a ride) and located pretty close to the attraction called for in the plan, you won't compromise the overall effectiveness of the touring plan. A family of four from South Slocan, British Columbia, found they could easily tailor the touring plans to meet their needs:

We amended your touring plans by taking out the attractions we didn't want to do and just doing the remainder in order. It worked great, and by arriving before the parks opened, we got to see everything we wanted, with virtually no waits! The best advice by far was "get there early"!

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 showtimes, for example, may change, and you never know when an attraction might break down.

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 woman 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

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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 ninthgrader 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.

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 before 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 Disney-land 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 before 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.

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 has been a basic change made to the original FASTPASS program at the two Disneyland parks. 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 FAST-PASS represents only a recommended time to return.

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.

Understanding the FASTPASS System

The 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 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 spreading guest arrivals more equally decreases waiting time for standby guests too).

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

FASTPASS ATTRACTIONS				
DISNEYLAND PARK	DISNEY'S CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE			
Autopia	California Screamin'			
Big Thunder Mountain	Grizzly River Run			
Buzz Lightyear Astro Blasters	Mulholland Madness*			
Indiana Jones Adventure	Soarin' over California*			
Roger Rabbit's Car Toon Spin*	The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror			
Space Mountain*				
Splash Mountain*				
*Denotes rides that routinely issue FASTPASSes for redemption three to seven hours later.				

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 general rule, 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 FAST-PASSes 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 FAST-PASSes 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 Mulholland Madness 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 FAST-PASSes are all gone for the day.

FASTPASS GUIDELINES

- Don't mess with FASTPASS unless it can save you 30 minutes or more at a given attraction.
- If you arrive after a park opens, obtain a FASTPASS for your preferred FASTPASS attraction first thing.
- Always check the FASTPASS return period before obtaining your FASTPASS.
- Obtain FASTPASSes for Space Mountain and Splash Mountain at Disneyland Park and for 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.

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 FAST-PASS at any time. In Disneyland Park, Roger Rabbit's Car Toon Spin is sometimes disconnected, as is Grizzly River Run at DCA. 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.

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 FAST-PASS computer system monitors only the distribution of passes, ignoring whether or when a FASTPASS is used. Finally, don't forget that you can obtain a second FASTPASS two hours after the time of issuance of the first FASTPASS if that's sooner than the return time on your first FASTPASS.

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.

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 Ele-

unofficial TIP Use FASTPASS if the wait in the regular line is more than 30 minutes. phant, 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 *Finding Nemo* Submarine Voyage or *Toy Story* Mania! 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. Only a small percentage of the visitors to Disney-land Park (mostly kids) 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

Cycle Rides			
DISNEYLAND PARK			
Fantasyland	Mickey's Toontown	Tomorrowland	
Casey Jr. Circus Train	Gadget's Go Coaster	Astro Orbitor	
Dumbo the Flying Elephant	Goofy's Playhouse		
King Arthur Carrousel			
Mad Tea Party			
	_		
DISNEY'S CALIFORNIA ADVENTUR	E		
a bug's land	Paradise Pier		
Flik's Flyers	Golden Zephyr		
Francis Ladybug Boogie	Jumpin' Jellyfish		
Tuck and Roll's Drive 'Em Buggies	Maliboomer		
Sun Wheel	Orange Stinger		
King Triton's Carousel			

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 seven cycle rides, while Disney's California Adventure has nine, an astonishing number for a modern 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 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 Carrousel, 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, *Finding Nemo* can increase its capacity by adding more submarines, 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. The 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%.

BEWARE OF THE DARK, WET, ROUGH, AND SCARY



OOPS, ALMOST FORGOT: there's a member of our team you need to meet. Called a Wuffo, she's our very own character. She'll warn you when rides are too scary, too dark, or too wet. You'll bump into her throughout the book doing, well, what characters do. Pay attention to her—she knows what she's talking about.

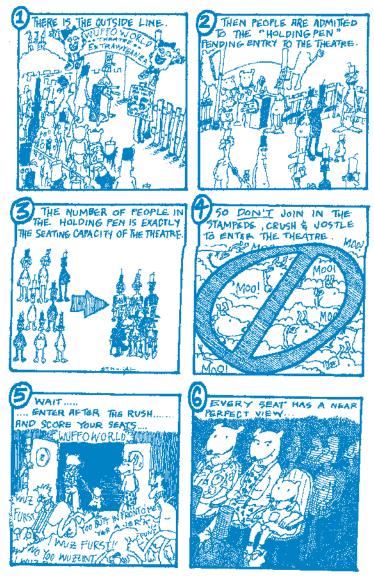
SAVING TIME IN LINE BY UNDERSTANDING THE SHOWS

MANY OF THE FEATURED ATTRACTIONS at Disneyland are theater presentations. While they're not as complex as rides from a trafficengineering viewpoint, 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



Caution: How Theater Attractions Work

days of especially heavy attendance, the longest wait for a show usually does not exceed the length of one complete performance.

Because 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 already be in progress when you arrive. If the *Enchanted Tiki Room—Under New Management!* 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 at a regular movie theater, you can't just walk in during the middle of a performance; you will always have at least a short wait.

GUIDED TOURS AT DISNEYLAND PARK AND DCA

FOUR GUIDED TOURS ARE OFFERED. All require a valid park admission in addition to the price of the tour. All four tours can be booked up to 30 days in advance by calling **2** 714-781-4400. All tours are subject to change without notice. Check weather and verify before the tour.

DISCOVER THE MAGIC TOUR Kids interact with Disney characters in a sort of treasure hunt to find clues to the treasure and avoid villainous characters. Designed for ages 3 to 9 years, the frenetic, fast-paced family program lasts approximately three hours and includes lunch. Prices are \$59 for the first two tickets, \$49 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 was to entertain his friends and dignitaries. Unfortunately, he died five months before the club was finished. Cost is \$59 for all ages. (The tour is considered inappropriate for younger children and those who can't walk on their own.)This is best for kids and seniors.

CRUZIN' DCA SEGWAY TOUR This tour begins with a continental breakfast followed by learning how to operate a Segway Personal

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Transportation Vehicle. After successfully proving your driving skills by running a Segway obstacle course, you roll through Disney's California Adventure on a one-hour guided tour. The three-hour experience is \$99 per person and includes all-day parking at Downtown Disney, the breakfast, a commemorative pin, and a group photo. Disneyland Resort Annual Passport holders receive a \$20 discount. The tour is limited to ten participants and begins at 7 a.m. Participants must be at least 18 years old or at least 16 years old and accompanied by an adult guardian, weigh between 100 and 250 pounds, and sign a liability waiver before riding the Segway. Park admission is not included. Because the tour begins before the ticket booths open at 7:30 a.m., it's necessary to purchase your theme park admission in advance.