



Planning Guide

DISNEYLAND RESORT

ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA



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Complimentary Disney vacation planning • Authorized Disney Vacation Planner agency

Hiya, friends!

Ready for some magic?

Welcome to the place where it all began. Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, California is home to two theme parks, three Disney hotels, and the shopping and dining of the Downtown Disney District, all within an easy walk of each other.

Inside this guide you will find an overview of both parks, your hotel options, ticket and Magic Key choices, dining, Lightning Lane, seasonal events, and the insider tips that help your family see more and wait less.

Your dreammaker is at your service to make your trip as seamless and enchanting as possible. Trust me to handle the planning, from hotels to dining to daily park strategy, so you can be fully present for the magic.



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\$0 planning fee, always. Every service and upgrade is complimentary when you book.

Please note: at this time I am legally unable to book and plan trips for Florida residents.

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WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

Disneyland Park ✨

Disneyland Park is the original park Walt Disney opened in 1955, and it is still the most charming, walkable park in the world. Eight lands surround Sleeping Beauty Castle, so you are never far from your next adventure.

● Main Street U.S.A. & Sleeping Beauty Castle

Your storybook entrance, with turn of the century shops, the Disneyland Railroad, the daytime parade route, and the castle walkthrough at the heart of the park.

● Fantasyland & Mickey's Toontown

Classic dark rides like Peter Pan's Flight, Mr. Toad's Wild Ride, Alice in Wonderland, Matterhorn Bobsleds, and it's a small world. Toontown adds Mickey and Minnie's Runaway Railway and play areas built for little ones.

● Adventureland, Frontierland & New Orleans Square

Indiana Jones Adventure, Jungle Cruise, Pirates of the Caribbean, Haunted Mansion, Big Thunder Mountain Railroad, and the Rivers of America.

● Tomorrowland & Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge

Space Mountain, Buzz Lightyear Astro Blasters, and the two headliners of Batuu: Millennium Falcon Smugglers Run and Star Wars Rise of the Resistance.



it's a small world in Fantasyland



Sleeping Beauty Castle

RIGHT ACROSS THE ESPLANADE

Disney California Adventure

Disney California Adventure Park sits directly across from Disneyland Park, about a one minute walk. It leans into thrills, Pixar stories, and some of the best food and festivals at the resort.

● Cars Land

A full scale Radiator Springs that glows at sunset. Radiator Springs Racers is the must do, with Mater's Junkyard Jamboree and Luigi's Rollickin' Roadsters for the whole family.

● Pixar Pier & Paradise Gardens Park

Incredicoaster, Toy Story Midway Mania, Pixar Pal-A-Round, and the Little Mermaid dark ride, all along the water where World of Color is performed.

● Avengers Campus

Web Slingers A Spider-Man Adventure, Guardians of the Galaxy Mission Breakout, plus hero encounters and some of the most creative food at the resort.

● Grizzly Peak & Buena Vista Street

Soarin' Around the World, Grizzly River Run, and a 1920s Los Angeles main street with Carthay Circle, the resort's signature restaurant.



Cars Land at golden hour



Pixar Pier and World of Color

NO TICKET REQUIRED

Downtown Disney District

● Shopping

The World of Disney store, LEGO, Disney Home, and a growing list of California brands sit between the parks and the hotels, so you can shop without using a park day.

● Dining

Everything from quick bites to sit down favorites: Ballast Point, Naples Ristorante e Bar, Black Tap, Din Tai Fung, Tortilla Jo's, Splitsville, and the beignets at Ralph Brennan's Jazz Kitchen.

● Entertainment & Location

Live music most evenings, plus an easy walk to both park entrances and all three Disney hotels. It is the perfect landing spot for a mid day break or a late dinner after fireworks.

A Downtown Disney day is a great low cost arrival day or departure day. You get the resort atmosphere without spending a park ticket.

CHOOSE YOUR ADVENTURE

Park Tickets & Magic Key

● 1 Day to 5 Day Tickets

Disneyland Resort tickets are sold in 1 through 5 day lengths, and the per day price drops sharply the longer you stay. Ticket prices are date based, so the calendar day you choose changes the cost.

● 1 Park Per Day Ticket

Visit one park each day of your ticket. A great fit for first timers who want a relaxed pace, and the most budget friendly option.

● Park Hopper Ticket

Hop between Disneyland Park and Disney California Adventure starting at 11:00 AM. Because the two entrances are steps apart, hopping is far easier here than at any other Disney destination, and most families find it well worth the upgrade.

● Theme Park Reservations

Most tickets require a park reservation for each day of your visit. I handle this for you, including watching for openings on sold out dates. Special event tickets, such as Oogie Boogie Bash, are sold separately from regular admission.

● Magic Key Annual Passes

Southern California locals and frequent visitors can choose from Magic Key tiers with varying blockout dates, parking, and merchandise and dining discounts. If you plan to visit more than about seven days a year, this is worth pricing out.



Separately ticketed events like Oogie Boogie Bash sell out early

WHERE YOU STAY MATTERS

Hotels ✨

● Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa

The resort's deluxe Craftsman style hotel, with its own private entrance into Disney California Adventure, a spa, three pools, and Storytellers Cafe character dining. The most convenient hotel at the resort.

● Disneyland Hotel

The original resort hotel, refreshed and expanded with the Villas at Disneyland Hotel. Home to Trader Sam's Enchanted Tiki Bar, Goofy's Kitchen character dining, and the monorail themed water slides.

● Pixar Place Hotel

A modern, art filled hotel celebrating Pixar shorts and films, with a rooftop pool and an easy walk to both parks. Often the best value of the three Disney hotels.

● Good Neighbor Hotels

Dozens of vetted hotels along Harbor Boulevard and Katella Avenue, many within a 10 to 15 minute walk of the esplanade, at a wide range of price points. A smart way to stretch your budget without giving up walkability.



Most hotels put you within walking distance of the castle

TASTE THE MAGIC

Dining

● Quick Service

Fast, casual meals with no reservation needed. Mobile order through the Disneyland app to skip the counter line: try Flo's V8 Cafe, Docking Bay 7, Galactic Grill, and the corn dogs at the Little Red Wagon.

● Table Service

Sit down favorites include Blue Bayou inside Pirates of the Caribbean, Cafe Orleans, Lamplight Lounge on Pixar Pier, and Wine Country Trattoria.

● Signature Dining

Carthay Circle Restaurant in Disney California Adventure and Napa Rose at the Grand Californian offer elevated menus, curated wine, and some of the best service on property.

● Character Dining

Meet Disney friends over a meal at Plaza Inn in Disneyland Park, Goofy's Kitchen at the Disneyland Hotel, and Storytellers Cafe at the Grand Californian.

Disneyland Resort does not offer a prepaid dining plan. Reservations open 60 days in advance and the popular tables go within minutes. Booking your dining is complimentary when you book your trip with me.



Cars Land dining sits along the Radiator Springs range

SPEND LESS TIME IN LINE

Lightning Lane ✨

Lightning Lane lets you use a shorter, separate entrance at select attractions instead of the standby queue. Everything is booked and redeemed in the Disneyland app, so have it downloaded and logged in before you arrive.

● Lightning Lane Multi Pass

Pre book three attractions per day at Disneyland Resort. Disney hotel guests can book up to seven days ahead, all other guests up to three days ahead. As you use each selection, you can add another throughout the day, subject to availability. Priced per person, per day, and it varies by date.

● Lightning Lane Single Pass

The highest demand attractions, such as Radiator Springs Racers and Star Wars Rise of the Resistance, are sold individually. Guests may purchase up to two per person, per day.

● Lightning Lane Premier Pass

One time entry to every Lightning Lane attraction in a park, with no need to make selections in advance. Availability is limited each day and pricing varies by park and date.



Lightning Lane entrances at classics like it's a small world

Building your Lightning Lane strategy and daily touring plan is complimentary when you book your trip with me.

EXTRA PIXIE DUST

Special Experiences

● Seasonal Events

Disneyland transforms with the calendar: Lunar New Year and the Food and Wine Festival at Disney California Adventure in late winter and spring, Pixar Fest and Halloween Time in the fall, and the holiday season from November into early January with Believe In Holiday Magic fireworks and it's a small world Holiday.

● Oogie Boogie Bash

A separately ticketed Halloween party at Disney California Adventure featuring the Frightfully Fun Parade, villain meet and greets, treat trails, and the Villains Grove. It sells out months ahead, so plan early.

● VIP Tours & Guided Experiences

A private Disney VIP Tour Guide builds a custom day, handles Lightning Lane access, and holds show and parade viewing for your group. Walk in Walt's Footsteps and other guided tours dig into the park's history.



The Frightfully Fun Parade at Oogie Boogie Bash

EVENINGS AND MEMORIES

Special Experiences

● World of Color

Disney California Adventure's water, light, fire, and projection show on Paradise Bay. Dining packages and free virtual queue viewing areas are both available, and the reserved viewing is worth it on busy nights.

● Fireworks & Fantasmic!

Disneyland Park closes the night with fireworks over Sleeping Beauty Castle and, on select nights, Fantasmic! along the Rivers of America. Show schedules change seasonally, so we build your park days around them.

● Disney PhotoPass

Park photographers, ride photos, and character shots are all collected in the app. Adding a PhotoPass package before your trip is the least expensive way to bring home every memory.



World of Color lighting up Paradise Bay

EASIER THAN YOU THINK

Getting Here & Around

● Airports

John Wayne Airport (SNA) in Santa Ana is the closest at about 15 miles. Los Angeles International (LAX) is roughly 35 miles and often cheaper, and Long Beach (LGB) and Ontario (ONT) are good alternates. Shuttles, ride shares, and rental cars all serve the resort.

● Parking

The Mickey and Friends and Pixar Pals parking structures connect to the parks by tram or a walking path, and the Toy Story lot runs a bus. Standard self parking is a daily fee, and Disney hotel guests park at their hotel.

● Walking & the ART Shuttle

Almost everything at Disneyland Resort is walkable, including both park entrances, Downtown Disney, and all three Disney hotels. The Anaheim Resort Transportation (ART) shuttle serves dozens of nearby Good Neighbor hotels for a small daily fare.



Both parks and all three hotels sit within an easy walk

Tips

● Best Times to Visit

Mid January through early March and mid April through mid May bring the lightest crowds and lowest ticket prices. Southern California weather is pleasant nearly year round, with warm dry summers and cool evenings, so pack layers. Avoid the weeks around Christmas, spring break, and mid summer if crowds matter more than events.

● Park Hopping Strategy

Because the two entrances are about a minute apart, hopping is genuinely easy here. Start in the park with your must do headliner at rope drop, take a mid day break at your hotel, then hop for dinner and the nighttime show in the other park.

● Rope Drop & Early Entry

Guests at the three Disney hotels and select Good Neighbor hotels get Early Entry 30 minutes before regular opening on select days. Even without it, being at the gate 30 to 45 minutes before opening can save you an hour of waiting later.



Plan your days around the moments that matter most

Tips

● The Disneyland App

Your all in one tool: wait times, park maps, mobile food ordering, Lightning Lane purchases and redemptions, dining reservations, PhotoPass, and your park tickets. Download it, log in, and link everyone in your party before you travel.

● Small Wins That Add Up

Mobile order lunch before 11:00 AM for the best pickup windows. Bring a refillable water bottle and ask for free ice water at any quick service window. Single rider lines at Radiator Springs Racers, Incredicoaster, and Matterhorn can cut waits dramatically. Save the shopping for Downtown Disney on your last night.

● Two Days Is the Sweet Spot

One day per park is the minimum to see the headliners without rushing. Three days lets you add a slow morning, a pool afternoon, and a repeat ride on the favorites, which is what families remember most.



Classic attractions your whole family can ride together



End the night with a nighttime spectacular

Next Steps

Thank you for taking the time to explore this Disneyland Resort planning guide! Planning a Disney vacation can feel overwhelming, but that is where I come in. My goal is to take the stress out of planning so you can simply enjoy the magic with your family.

Every one of my planning and booking services is 100 percent complimentary. From hotels and tickets to dining reservations, Lightning Lane strategy, and customized daily itineraries, there is never an additional charge when you book your trip with me.

Your dream vacation is one step away

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Follow along for travel tips, park updates, and special offers

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