



WALT DISNEY WORLD FIRST-TIMER'S CHEAT SHEET

A FREE
PRINTABLE
FROM
STARLIT MAGIC

THE DOZEN THINGS NOBODY TELLS YOU BEFORE YOUR FIRST TRIP.



BEFORE YOU GO



★ BOOK DINING AT 60 DAYS

The tables that make a trip (Space 220, Cinderella's Royal Table) vanish minutes after your 60-day window opens at 6 AM ET. Have a ranked list ready.



★ LIGHTNING LANE IS 7 DAYS OUT

Resort guests book paid ride passes 7 days before check-in (3 days off-site), 7 AM ET. Not the same window as dining.



★ DOWNLOAD THE MY DISNEY EXPERIENCE APP

Your tickets, reservations, mobile food orders, and wait times all live here. Set it up before you arrive.



★ STANDARD TICKETS NEED NO PARK RESERVATION

Date-based tickets guarantee entry — that step was retired in 2024. One less thing to track.



★ PARK HOPPER vs. ONE PARK

A base ticket is one park per day. Park Hopper (add-on) lets you bounce between parks after 2 PM — worth it for short trips, less so for first-timers with young kids.



IN THE PARK



★ ROPE DROP IS YOUR BEST HOUR

The first hour walks onto rides that hit 75-minute waits by noon. Resort guests get 30 minutes earlier still with Early Entry.



★ MOBILE ORDER YOUR QUICK MEALS

Order counter-service food in the app ahead of time and skip the line. Do it before you're hungry.



★ MEET CHARACTERS OVER A MEAL

Character dining is the efficient way to see favorites — one meal, several characters, no separate lines.



★ THERE'S FIRST AID & BABY CARE

Every park has a quiet First Aid station and a Baby Care Center with changing tables, nursing rooms, and supplies. Find them on the app map.



★ PACE YOURSELF — IT'S A MARATHON

Parks are bigger than they look and days are long. Build in a midday break; the evening is when they shine.



MONEY & EXTRAS



★ RIDER SWITCH KEEPS EVERYONE HAPPY

One adult waits with a non-rider, then swaps in via the Lightning Lane with no re-wait. Free, and it works for more than height.



★ SINGLE RIDER & STANDBY STILL EXIST

Not every ride needs a paid pass. Single Rider lines (Test Track, Everest) and early standby can beat the system.



★ REFILLABLE RESORT MUG

Buy one mug and refill it free at any resort all trip — even resorts you're just visiting. Doesn't work in the parks, but great for morning coffee and soda.



★ REFILL WATER FOR FREE

Any counter-service spot will give you free ice water. Bring a refillable bottle — Florida heat is no joke.



★ YOU CAN BRING YOUR OWN FOOD

Packed snacks and a water bottle are allowed through security. No glass, no loose ice.



GOOD TO KNOW



★ GETTING AROUND IS FREE

Buses, monorail, boats, and the Skyliner gondola are all complimentary — you never need a car between parks and resorts.



★ DELUXE GUESTS GET EXTENDED EVENING HOURS

On select nights, deluxe resort guests get extra hours after the park closes to everyone else — the emptiest the park ever gets.



★ PHOTOS ARE BEING TAKEN ALL DAY

PhotoPass photographers are stationed at big photo spots and scan your band — the shots land in your app for free to view. Downloads are the paid part.



★ AFTERNOON STORMS ARE NORMAL

Florida gets a quick daily downpour most summer afternoons. Pack a poncho, plan an indoor ride or a break, and it usually passes fast.

QUICK REFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



DINING

60 DAYS OUT
Opens at 6 AM ET.
Book the hard-to-get tables first.



LIGHTNING LANE

7 DAYS OUT
Opens at 7 AM ET
for resort guests
(3 days off-site).



EARLY ENTRY

Resort guests get
30 minutes before
official park open.



MOBILE ORDER

Skip the line.
Order ahead and
pick up when ready.



HYDRATE

Free water
everywhere.
Bring a bottle!



HAVE FUN!

Plan smart,
stay flexible, and
make memories.



STARLIT
MAGIC

First trip? Starlit Magic
is the friend who's been
a hundred times.

PAY ONCE.
YOURS FOREVER.
NO SUBSCRIPTION.

Download Starlit Magic
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