

Old Basic Relaxed

OVERVIEW

This Walt Disney World itinerary ([click to open](#); when open, [click again to enlarge](#)) and its associated To-Do List are for the basic December week, **but add one day at the end.**

This extra day gives you three additional periods to relax—an afternoon, morning, and evening—and makes the overall vacation much less complicated than the simple addition of a day may seem to imply.

CLICK TO ENLARGE; KEEP CLICKING TO ENLARGE MORE

BASIC ITINERARY RELAXED VERSION

(This itinerary also works for the weeks before and after)

	Saturday 12/5/09, 12/4/10, 12/3/11	Sunday 12/6/09, 12/5/10, 12/4/11	Monday 12/7/09, 12/6/10, 12/5/11	Tuesday 12/8/09, 12/7/10, 12/6/11	Wednesday 12/9/09, 12/8/10, 12/7/11
Meals:	Travel Travel 6:30 Akershus Banquet <i>Beaches and Cream</i>	Hotel Room* Backlot Express 6:15 50's Prime Time Café <i>Toluca Turkey Leg</i>	Hotel Counter Flame Tree Barbecue 7:15p Hoop-Dee-Do Revue**	Hotel Counter 1:15p Whispering Canyon 6p Liberty Tree Tavern	Hotel Room TBD: Cinderella's Royal Table 8p Rainforest Café DTD
Parks, etc.:					
Early Morning	Travel	Hollywood Studios by 8:15	Off	Off	Magic Kingdom by 8:30
Late Morning	Travel		Off	Off	Magic Kingdom
Early Afternoon	Check in	Off	Animal Kingdom	Off	Magic Kingdom
Late Afternoon	Epcot by 5:30	Off	Leave AK for Fort Wilderness by 6	Magic Kingdom by 2:45p	Depart MK by 4:30p for DTD****
Evening	Epcot depart by 9:30p	Hollywood by 5:30p Hollywood up to 11p	Hoop-Dee-Do Revue at FW	Magic Kingdom Magic Kingdom up to 12 MN	6p Cirque du Soleil DTD
Late Evening					
Events:					
Parade			3:45p Parade	10:30p Parade	
Fireworks		8p Fantasmic		9:30p Holiday Wishes	
Special Event	6p Xmas Tree Lighting	6p Osborne Xmas Lights		Mickey's Xmas Party***	Cirque du Soleil DTD
Special Event	View Yacht Club Xmas			10:15p "Celebrate the Season"	
Special Event	View Beach Club Xmas			11:15p "Night Before Xmas"	

	Thursday 12/10/09, 12/9/10, 12/8/11	Friday 12/11/09, 12/10/10, 12/9/11	Saturday 12/12/09, 12/11/10, 12/10/11	Sunday 12/13/09, 12/12/10, 12/11/11	Monday 12/14/09, 12/13/10, 12/12/11
Meals:	10:30a Chef Mickey's TBD Hotel Counter 8p 1900 Park Fare	Hotel Room Sunshine Season Food Fair 5:30p San Angel Inn*****	Hotel Counter ~2p Pecos Bill Café 8p Crystal Palace <i>Dole Whip at Aloha Isle</i>	10:30a House of Blues Gospel Brunch 5:45p Sci-Fi Diner	Hotel Room Andapur Local
Special Snack	<i>Dole Whip at Captain Cook's</i>	Boulangerie Patisserie			
Parks, etc.:					
Early Morning	Off	Epcot by 8:30	Off	Off	Animal Kingdom by 7:30
Late Morning	Off	Epcot	Off	Off	Animal Kingdom
Early Afternoon	Off	Epcot	Off	Hollywood Studios	Animal Kingdom
Late Afternoon	Off	Off	Magic Kingdom by 2p	Hollywood	Travel
Evening	Off	To Epcot by 5p	Magic Kingdom		Travel
Late Evening		Epcot stay up to 12 MN	Magic Kingdom up to 12Mn		Travel
Events:					
Parade	9:15p Water Pageant		3p Parade	3p Parade	
Fireworks		9:30p Illuminations			
Special Event	View Contemporary Xmas	8:15p Candlelight Processional		Gospel Brunch	
Special Event	View Polynesian Xmas	View Boardwalk Xmas			
Special Event	View Grand Floridian Xmas				

*Cereal, juice, fruit, etc. in room.
 **Two table service credits
 ***Officially, "Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party," abbreviated MVMCP
 ****Downtown Disney
 *****As Candlelight Processional Package; see "How to Eat"

FIRST SATURDAY AGENDA: 12/5/09, 12/4/10, 12/3/11

Check in, get settled if your room is ready, and be at [Epcot](#) as soon as you can—and no **later than 5:30p. Depart Epcot no later than 9:30p** to avoid the crowds leaving after the fireworks show "Illuminations," which you will see on Friday

FIRST THINGS

- Arrive at your hotel, following the instructions in your Disney Magical Express packet if you are using it to get from Orlando International to your Disney Resort. Check in
- Unless you are arriving late, your room will likely not be ready, but you can get your keys, meal credits, special show tickets, and park tickets. Change into clothes more appropriate for the weather—which your [To-Do List](#) reminded you to pack in your carry-ons. You will be able to check any carry-ons until you return later tonight, and to call later to find out your exact room
- If your room is ready, and if you have time, get food and supplies (bowls, napkins, scotch) for your breakfast in the morning, which you will be eating out of your room. Also get (from the counter service restaurant) a “Refillable Mug,” which you will be able to re-use at your resort for free drinks over your entire stay
- Leave your hotel no later than 4:30p (Pop Century) or 5:00p (Polynesian)
- Head to Epcot (bus if Pop Century, walk to the Epcot monorail and take it if at the Polynesian)

AT THE PARK

- Go through the turnstiles and pick up a park map and “Times Guide”—a schedule. Go straight heading towards the World Showcase portion. (You will see the attractions in Future World you are walking by on Friday)
- Check the time. If it is nearing 5:45, wait by the Christmas tree at the beginning of the World Showcase (ask a cast member if you can’t find it) for the 6pm lighting ceremony, and then from the ceremony turn left and walk along the lagoon to Norway, wandering through the shops and exhibits at Norway until it is time for your 6:30 reservation at Akershus in Norway (table credit)
- If it is earlier than 5:45, still go left, but see the pavilions starting with Mexico, skipping Norway until around dinner time at 6:30, and continue to head clockwise around the lagoon.
 - Each pavilion will have some or all of shopping, special exhibits, a ride, a movie, a special Christmas story that is part of Epcot’s “Christmas Around the World” program, and other special events—such as acrobats in China.
 - Check your map, time schedule, and the pavilion itself, to see what each pavilion has.
 - For scheduled events like the Christmas story, acrobats, etc, sequence what you do when among items that are not scheduled (shops, exhibits, and rides), and bounce back and forth between nearby pavilions, so that you don’t have to wait long for the scheduled items.
- **Keep your eye on your watch** until it is time to return for the 6p Christmas tree lighting ceremony at 5:45. Follow the other steps in the “Check the time” entry above
- Continue to visit the pavilions
- Keep an eye on your watch, and around 8:30 pm, head (still clockwise) for the International Gateway located between France and the United Kingdom. (You will see the pavilions you are walking by on Friday)

- Exit through the International Gateway, and as you exit ask a cast member for directions to Disney's Beach Club Resort. (Basically, walk straight, avoiding lefts when they offer themselves)
- At the Beach Club, find Beaches and Cream's "to go" window, get some ice cream, and while eating it look at the Christmas decorations in the Beach Club lobby
- If you have time (by 9:30 you need to be out of Epcot entirely—to have walked back to Epcot, entered, walked through it to the entrance where you came in, and exited) visit the lobby of Disney's Yacht Club Resort (right next door to the Beach Club) and view its Christmas decorations. (If you don't have time, see it Friday. You will also see the decorations at the Boardwalk—the other Disney deluxe hotel here—on Friday)
- Exit where you entered Epcot to begin your day here no later than 9:30 to avoid the crowds leaving after the special Christmas showing of the Fireworks show "Illuminations" at 9:30. (You will see this Friday, when as a Walt Disney World Resort guest you can stay after closing, and thus avoid these crowds.) Find either the bus stop (for Pop Century) or monorail (for the Polynesian)
- Polynesian guests should ask the cast member at the monorail station to ride in the front cab of the monorail. (Pop guests will do this Thursday)
- Note to Polynesian guests: to find the walkway from the "Ticket and Transportation Center" (TTC), which is where the Epcot monorail stops, to the Polynesian, stay as right as you can once you leave the monorail ramp and begin exiting the TTC. You will see eventually a small sign directing you to the Polynesian

Note: Bring [The Comprehensive Guide to Rides](#) and [Rides that Might be Skipped](#) in case your day gets to be too intense!

BACK AT THE HOTEL

Buy food, supplies (bowls, spoons, etc) and refillable mugs for breakfast in your room if your gift shop is still open and if you did not have time, or a room assignment, earlier

PREVIEW OF TOMORROW

You will begin seeing Disney's Hollywood Studios, with a break in the middle of the day, and getting up early enough to be finished with breakfast in your room and at your hotel bus stop by 7:35a.

Set your alarms, arrange a wake up call, and go to bed!

FIRST SUNDAY AGENDA: 12/6/09, 12/5/10, 12/4/11

You will spend the morning and evening at Disney's [Hollywood Studios](#), known until recently as Disney's MGM Studios, capped by Fantasmic at 8 pm. You have the afternoon off.

Because you are a Disney resort guest, you can stay as late as 11 pm—missing the crowds leaving after Fantasmic, and giving you more time earlier in the evening to see several special Christmas shows.

FIRST THINGS

- Get up early and eat breakfast in your room
- Be at the hotel bus stop by 7:35a, and take the bus labeled “Studios” or “Hollywood Studios”

AT THE PARK: MORNING

- Arrive at the park by 8:15 am
- Get in line and await the opening
- After the 9:00 opening, pick up a “Times Guide”—a schedule—and park map, walk to Toy Story Mania on Pixar Boulevard, fastpass it, and come back later
- Head for Sunset Boulevard, and while walking double check this itinerary against the actual show and Fantasmic schedule and revise your plans if needed.
- Ride Rock N’ Roller Coaster
- Ride Tower of Terror
- Based on today’s show schedule, return for your fastpasses, and see Indiana Jones Epic Stunt Spectacular, and the Backlot Tour. Work in lunch at the Backlot Express (counter credit) when you can
- Head back to your hotel the way you came, and nap or goof off at the pool

AT THE PARK: EVENING

- Be at your hotel bus stop by 4:50p, and return to the Studios
- Return to the streets of New York, explore, and see the 6pm lighting of the Osborne Family Spectacle of Dancing Lights
- Have dinner at 6:15pm at the 50s Prime Time Café, where your waiter will interact with you in a comic way (table credit)
- Get in line for Fantasmic by 30 minutes before it starts
- See Fantasmic
- Grab another dessert in the Sci-Fi Diner (cash), which is unlike any other restaurant you have seen
- Get your wrist bands allowing you to stay late if you don’t have them already
- See the Voyage of the Little Mermaid
- See the Great Movie Ride
- See Star Tours
- See the Muppet Movie
- Return to your hotel when you choose—you get to sleep in tomorrow!!

Note: Bring [The Comprehensive Guide to Rides](#) and [Rides that Might be Skipped](#) in case your day gets to be too intense!

PREVIEW OF TOMORROW

You get to sleep in tomorrow, but need to be at your hotel bus stop by 10:50 am

MONDAY AGENDA: 12/7/09, 12/6/10, 12/5/11

Sleep in, begin to see Disney's [Animal Kingdom](#), and go from there to Fort Wilderness for the [Hoop Dee Doo Revue](#) Dinner Show

FIRST THINGS

- Sleep in and have breakfast at your hotel counter service (counter credit)
- Pack dry clothes in a plastic bag (because on one of the rides, Kali River Rapids, you will get soaked!)
- Remember to bring your Hoop Dee Doo tickets!
- Be at the hotel Animal Kingdom bus stop by 10:50 am

AT THE PARK

- Arrive at the Animal Kingdom park by 11:30a
- Enter, pick up a Times Guide and park map, and go to Expedition Everest and fastpass it. Interrupt the itinerary that follows (except for the parade and Finding Nemo show) for your fastpass return. It's ok if you return after your pass says to. (If no fastpasses are available, you can see it next Monday)
- Return to Discovery Island and see It's A Bugs Life
- Have lunch at Flame Tree Barbecue (counter credit)
- Ride the Wildlife Express Train and explore the Conservation Station
- Return on the train so that you can be in line (between Dinoland and Asia) for the 3:15 pm Finding Nemo show by 2:30 pm
- See the 3:15 Finding Nemo show
- Go back to the bridge next to Flights of Wonder and watch the 3:45p parade from the Everest side of the path
- Stroll through the Maharajah Jungle Trek
- Ride Kali River Rapids if the day is warm enough: you will get soaked!!! Change into your dry clothes
- Exit the park in time to be at the Animal Kingdom's Fort Wilderness bus stop by 6p sharp; explore the exhibits in the Oasis as you leave

Note: Bring [The Comprehensive Guide to Rides](#) and [Rides that Might be Skipped](#) in case your day gets to be too intense!

YOUR EVENING

- Be at the Animal Kingdom's bus stop for the Fort Wilderness bus by 6p
- When you arrive at Fort Wilderness, you will be outside the resort. Get off the bus from Animal Kingdom and transfer to any INTERNAL Fort Wilderness bus—tell the driver as you board that you are going to the Hoop Dee Doo Revue
- Get off at the stop your driver directs you, check in for the Revue (two table credits), and enjoy
- Find the boat docks and take the boat to the Magic Kingdom

- Return to your hotel by monorail if you are staying at the Polynesian or bus (at the Magic Kingdom bus area to the right of where you exit the boat) if you are staying at Pop Century

PREVIEW OF TOMORROW

You get to sleep in tomorrow! You are off all morning, and your first scheduled item is a 1:15 pm lunch at the Whispering Canyon Café at Disney's Wilderness Lodge. From there it's off to the Magic Kingdom!

TUESDAY AGENDA: 12/8/09, 12/7/10, 12/6/11

Sleep in, have breakfast in your hotel, and go to the Wilderness Lodge for lunch.

From there head to the [Magic Kingdom](#) for an afternoon of fun and [Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party](#) (MVMCP) in the evening!

FIRST THINGS

- Sleep in, have breakfast in your hotel's counter service restaurant (counter credit), grab your MVMCP tickets, and depart by 12 (Pop Century bus) or 12:20 (the Resort Monorail stop at the Polynesian—the one reached from the second floor of the Great Ceremonial House) for the Magic Kingdom
- At the front of the Magic Kingdom—before you enter the park—find the boat to the Wilderness Lodge. Ask a cast member for help finding it if you need it
- Get off the boat at the Wilderness Lodge stop (not the Fort Wilderness stop) and follow the crowd into the main building. If you have time before your 1:15 lunch, view the Christmas decorations. Otherwise look at them after lunch
- At 1:15 be at the Whispering Canyon Café and have the Family Skillet Lunch (cash). Your wait staff will lead you in all kinds of fun!
- Be at the boat dock no later than 2:15 and take the boat to the Magic Kingdom

AT THE PARK

- Enter the park, asking as you enter how to get your Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party (MVMCP) armbands, get a guide map, and walk through Adventureland to Splash Mountain. Fastpass it
- Explore the area around Splash Mountain and Big Thunder Mountain until the 3:00 parade starts. Don't leave this area or the parade will trap you on the wrong side of the park!
- Watch the first 5 minutes of the parade (you will see the full parade tomorrow or Saturday) from the Splash Mountain side and then walk to Big Thunder Mountain and ride it (the wait will not be long, as the parade will have drawn off many riders)
- Get off, and head back into Adventureland using the road to the right of Pecos Bills. Adventureland will be less crowded not only because of people watching the parade, but also because it is the only land that the parade cuts off

- Do the rides in Adventureland as you come to them, starting with Pirates of the Caribbean and making your way towards the Swiss Family Tree House
- Return to Splash Mountain when your fastpass time indicates and ride it
- If you have time before your 6pm dinner, return to Adventureland and continue there; otherwise, head to Liberty Square and explore while waiting for 6p
- As 6p nears, make your way to the Liberty Tree Tavern (table credit). If you have time, get your MVMCP armbands if you haven't already. Enjoy your meal
- MVMCP begins at 7. Get your armbands if you hadn't already, grab a MVMCP schedule and check against the times below
- Head to Tomorrowland and do all the rides you can there, beginning with Space Mountain
- Ignore the first parade—you will watch its identical repeat at 10:30
- Your first scheduled element of the evening is the 9:30 p.m. special Christmas fireworks. If you finish the rides in Tomorrowland well before then, make your way to Liberty Square and do the Haunted Mansion
- Near 9:30, make your way as close to the Cinderella's Castle as you can to watch the 9:30 fireworks
- After the fireworks, continue to edge in towards Cinderella's Castle to position yourself to...
- Watch the 10:15 show, on the Main Street side of the Castle, "Celebrate the Seasons," and to be in a good spot to...
- Watch the 10:30 Parade as it passes by
- After the parade, you may have time for one more ride in Tomorrowland before you make your way to the Galaxy Palace Theater by the Carousel of Progress to...
- See the 11:15 "Twas the Night Before Christmas"
- Do another ride or two if you have the energy. The park will be quite empty now
- Head back to the entrance, and leave the park. Pop Century guests go back to your hotel by bus. Polynesian guests will save as many as 20 minutes by taking the express monorail, not the resort monorail, back, getting off at TTC and walking back.

Note: Bring [The Comprehensive Guide to Rides](#) and [Rides that Might be Skipped](#) in case your day gets to be too intense!

PREVIEW OF TOMORROW

Another early-ish morning—which is why you have Thursday off! You will spend the day in the Magic Kingdom, with the option of a break for a nap in the middle of the day, and the evening in Downtown Disney seeing the fantastic Cirque du Soleil.

You need have finished breakfast in your room and be at the bus stop at Pop Century by 7:40, or at the Resort Monorail Stop at the Polynesian (the same one you used today) by 8:10

WEDNESDAY AGENDA: 12/9/09, 12/8/10, 12/7/11

Today you will continue at the Magic Kingdom and make your way to [Downtown Disney](#) (DTD) in the evening for the spectacular [Cirque du Soleil](#) La Nouba show, with dinner following at the Rainforest Café

The itinerary shows you as at the Magic Kingdom all day; however, if you were lucky with crowds Tuesday, or are just beat, you should have enough visiting time Saturday to depart the Magic Kingdom today as soon after your Cinderella's Royal Table Lunch as you wish, and take a nap or play by the pool until time to depart for Downtown Disney

FIRST THINGS

Finish breakfast in your room, make sure you have your Cirque du Soleil tickets, and be at the Magic Kingdom bus stop at Pop Century by 7:40, or at the Resort Monorail Stop at the Polynesian by 8:10

AT THE PARK

- Arrive by 8:30. When you are let in at the opening at 9, head straight for Cinderella's Castle and go through it to Fantasyland
- Ride first the attractions that because of their capacity, popularity, or both, get busy quickly—in order, Dumbo, Cinderella's Golden Carousel, Peter Pan, the Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh, and Snow White's Scary Adventures. If your children imagine they are too old to enjoy one or both of the first two—then they are, and skip to the next items on the list
- Finish the remaining rides in Fantasyland
- Note the time of your seating for Cinderella's Royal Table Lunch (cash) and interrupt your morning for it as needed
- When you have finished both Fantasyland and lunch, either return to your hotel for a nap and a swim, or, if you are up for, it return to (in order) Liberty Square, Frontierland, Adventureland, and Tomorrowland to ride any rides you either did not get to or were closed yesterday. (Not all the rides were open during MVMCP)
- If you are still present, keep track of the time, and get yourself ready to...
- Watch the 3p parade. (If you have left, you can see it on Saturday)
- If you have not finished with the attractions in the principal lands, continue; otherwise take the train to Mickey's Toontown Fair and explore for a few minutes

Note: Bring [The Comprehensive Guide to Rides](#) and [Rides that Might be Skipped](#) in case your day gets to be too intense!

YOUR EVENING

- If still at the Magic Kingdom, by 4:30 walk or take the resort monorail to the Contemporary Resort, and there find the bus stop for Downtown Disney (DTD), and take the bus to DTD. (You go to the Contemporary because buses do not run from the parks to DTD)

- If you had returned earlier to your hotel, be at your hotel's bus stop by 5p, and catch the bus to DTD
- Ask the driver which stop to get off for Cirque du Soleil (special ticket, cash)
- Get a map, and find Cirque du Soleil. If it is 5:30 or later, enter and find your seats. If earlier, explore DTD a bit, being sure to be inside Cirque du Soleil by 5:30
- Exit Cirque du Soleil, ask a cast member for directions to the DTD Rainforest Café (cash), find it, and either enter if it is near 8 or wander a bit if you are earlier than your reservation
- After dinner, spend as much time in DTD as you like, and when you are ready, use your map to find the closest bus stop and take the bus back to your hotel

PREVIEW OF TOMORROW

Other than a couple of scheduled meals (at 10:30a and 8p) you are off!

THURSDAY AGENDA: 12/10/09, 12/9/10, 12/8/11

Other than scheduled meals at 10:30a and 8p, and viewing the [Electrical Water Pageant](#) at 9:15p, you are off today!

- You may be tempted, as you read this in advance of your trip, to plan to go today to a Disney water park, or one of the other wonderful non-Disney parks in and around Orlando
- Don't make any firm commitments to doing so until today, or the night before. Your vacation will have been much more physically challenging to this point than you think, and you are almost certain to simply need most or all of today off!

YOUR DAY

- Be up in time to make your 10:30 character brunch at Chef Mickey's at the Contemporary Resort
- Pop Century guests will need to be on a bus to the Magic Kingdom by 9:30. To get from the Magic Kingdom bus stop to the Contemporary Resort, you can then either walk (5-10 minutes depending on your pace), take the boat that goes to the Contemporary, or take the resort monorail. Ask a cast member for directions to the transportation mode you prefer
- Polynesian guests need to be at their resort monorail stop by 10:10 and exit at the Contemporary Resort
- Enjoy your 10:30 character breakfast at Chef Mickey's (cash) and...
- Explore the Christmas decorations in the Contemporary lobby
- Polynesian guests can then take the resort monorail back to their hotel
- Pop guests should take the resort monorail from the Contemporary to the Polynesian and see its Christmas decorations, and then find their way in the Polynesian to Captain Cook's and get a Dole Whip (cash)
- Pop guests return to the Polynesian resort monorail station when ready, and ask the cast member in the station if they can ride in the front cab of the monorail. Get off at the

Magic Kingdom...perhaps after riding the monorail in a full circuit first...and grab a bus back to Pop Century

- Enjoy a late lunch at your hotel counter (counter credit) and be ready to depart for the Grand Floridian for your 8 pm character meal at 1900 Park Fare
- Pop Century guests should be at their bus stop by 7p, take the Magic Kingdom bus, and then the resort monorail to the Grand Floridian
- Polynesian guests can walk to the Grand Floridian (10-20 minutes) or be at their resort monorail stop by 7:40 and ride there.
- If time permits before your seating, explore the Grand Floridian's Christmas decorations; otherwise do so after dinner
- Enjoy your 8p character dinner at 1900 Park Fare (table credit). Ask your waiter when the Electrical Water Pageant will be passing by the Grand Floridian, (typically 9:15p) and the best place to watch it
- Watch the Electrical Water Pageant
- Return to your hotel

PREVIEW OF TOMORROW

Tomorrow you will complete Epcot.

Pop Century guests will need to have finished breakfast in their room and be at their bus stop by 7:50. Polynesian guests need to have completed breakfast in their room, walked over to TTC, and be on the Epcot monorail platform by 8:10

FRIDAY AGENDA: 12/11/09, 12/10/10, 12/9/11

Today you will complete Epcot, with an afternoon break at your hotel.

As a Walt Disney World Resort guest, you can stay at Epcot until midnight. (You have tomorrow morning off!)

FIRST THINGS

- Don't forget your Candlelight Processional tickets
- Pop Century guests need to complete their breakfast in their room and be at their bus stop by 7:50. Polynesian guests need to complete breakfast in their room, walk over to TTC and be on the Epcot monorail platform by 8:10

AT THE PARK

- Be at Epcot by 8:30
- Enter the turnstiles when the park opens at 9, grab a map and Times Schedule, and follow the cast members to Soarin
- Ride Soarin, then walk across the park to Mission: Space. Fastpass it
- Walk to Test Track and ride

- If your Mission: Space fastpass is ready, use it (ride the “green” version of the ride; if you love it, you can ride the much more intense “orange” version later tonight); otherwise ride Ellen’s Universe of Energy
- When you have ridden both the above, cross the park again to the Seas pavilion and see Turtle Talk with Crush, and then the Seas with Nemo and Friends
- Return to The Land pavilion—where you saw Soarin—and see the other rides in this building. If you wish, fastpass Soarin for another ride, if the return time works. (You will be able to see it again tonight after 10p)
- If you are ready for lunch, have it now, as you will be eating lunch in this building, in the Sunshine Seasons Food Fair (counter credit) on the same level as Soarin. If not, continue with the steps below and return for lunch when you are ready
- Move on to the Imagination building, and see Honey I Shrunk the Audience. Skip Journey Into Imagination with Figment unless you have a lot of time on your hands. A lot of time...



- You have now (almost) completed what you must do in the morning and early afternoon. You can begin heading back to your hotel now—seeing Innoventions and Spaceship Earth on your way out—or go on to the World Showcase and both continue your tour of it, and try out [Kim Possible’s World Showcase Adventure](#).
- If you continue in the World Showcase, go counterclockwise starting with Canada, as the gardens and flowers in Canada, England and France are at their best at daylight. As on Saturday night, attend the items with defined schedules and work the unscheduled items at the pavilions around them
- Check out Innoventions and ride Spaceship Earth on your way out, and return to your hotel and goof off

AT THE PARK: EVENING

- Be back at Epcot by 5p—Pop guests need to be at their bus stop by 4:20p; Polynesian guests at the Epcot monorail stop at TTC by 4:40.
- Make your way to Mexico and your 5:30 dinner reservations at San Angel Inn (table credit.) This is your special Candlelight Processional dinner which guarantees you a seat at the 8:15 Candlelight Processional show. Be sure to inform your waiter and ask if there is anything special you need or need to do
- After dinner, continue visiting the World Showcase until about 7:45
- At 7:45, find the line for the guaranteed seating for the Candlelight Processional. There are two lines—one standing room only, and one guaranteed. The guaranteed line—YOUR LINE—is usually the one the goes counterclockwise and ends at the American Pavilion stage. Check with a cast member (not with another, possibly equally confused, guest) to be sure you are in the right line!
- See the 8:15 Candlelight Processional

- After the show, get your armband that allows you to stay late, and the list of rides and restaurants that will remain open late. You likely will have time to tour one more pavilion—but not see a movie or ride in it—before finding a spot to watch Illuminations
- Between 9 and 9:15, find a spot to watch Illuminations—given where you are, the bridge near the International Gateway is as good as any
- At 9:30, watch the special Christmas version of Illuminations
- If you have not already seen the American Adventure, see it now
- Exit the International Gateway and see the Christmas decorations at the Boardwalk Inn (and at the Yacht Club if you missed them Saturday)
- Return to Epcot and stop in Boulangerie Patisserie in France for a snack (cash)
- Decide based on the list of what is open what rides to see again. Families often split on this.
- Return to your hotel by the means you used to get to Epcot

Note: Bring [The Comprehensive Guide to Rides](#) and [Rides that Might be Skipped](#) in case your day gets to be too intense!

PREVIEW OF TOMORROW

You are off all morning and the early afternoon, and don't need to be at the Magic Kingdom until 2:00 for lunch

- However, those of you still with excess energy may wish to revisit a favorite park other than the Magic Kingdom in the morning—to see Soarin again at Epcot, Tower of Terror at the Studios (Saturday is morning Extra Magic Hours at the Studios, so it opens at 8, not 9, for Walt Disney World Resort guests), or Kilimanjaro Safaris or Expedition Everest at Animal Kingdom, for example
- For each person who wants to do so, you will need to add (at the concierge desk of your resort) a \$45 plus tax “Park Hopper” option to the ticket of each person who wants to spend their morning this way. (The “Park Hopper” option allows you to see more than one park in a single day)

SECOND SATURDAY AGENDA: 12/12/09, 12/11/10, 12/10/11

You are off all morning and the early afternoon, and don't need to be at the Magic Kingdom until 2p. The Magic Kingdom is open until midnight tonight

- However, those of you still with excess energy may wish to revisit a favorite park other than the Magic Kingdom in the morning—to see Soarin again at Epcot, Tower of Terror at the Studios (today is morning Extra Magic Hours at the Studios, so it opens at 8, not 9, for Walt Disney World Resort guests), or Kilimanjaro Safaris or Expedition Everest at Animal Kingdom, for example
- For each person who wants to do so, you will need to add (at the concierge desk of your resort, or at the ticket office at the park) a \$45 plus tax “Park Hopper” option to the ticket of each person who wants to spend their morning this way. (The “Park Hopper” option allows you to see more than one park in a single day)

FIRST THINGS

- You are free today until early afternoon. Sleep in, play at the pool
- Eat a late breakfast at your hotel counter service (counter credit)
- Pop Century guests, be at the Magic Kingdom bus stop by 1:20; Polynesian guests, be at the resort monorail stop by 1:40

AT THE PARK

- Enter the Magic Kingdom by 2p, grabbing a schedule, and double checking the fireworks time
- Make your way back to the corner of Adventureland and Frontierland to Pecos Bill's, fastpassing anything that you pass or nearby for a later visit, and have lunch (counter credit)
- Step outside and, if you did not do so Wednesday, complete watching the 3p parade that you saw the first few bits of on Tuesday
- The rest of the afternoon, and the evening, are make up time. See anything in the principal lands of the Magic Kingdom that you missed—don't miss Tom Sawyer Island!—or want to see again. Use fast passes for rides with waits—or duck into them a few minutes after the evening parade begins, as you saw a better version of this already at MVMCP
- At some point during the day, grab a Dole whip at Aloha Isle in Adventureland
- Make your 8p Character Dinner at the Crystal Palace (table credit)
- Parents, make a call on what to do about fireworks, which will be similar to, but not as good as, the fireworks you saw on Tuesday night. The fireworks period is a great time to dive in to high demand rides for a repeat visit, as the lines shrink when people wait outside to watch the fireworks. On the other hand, the best (near) finale to your Walt Disney World vacation is for your family to watch the fireworks together at the Magic Kingdom
- Depart when you are ready—except don't leave within thirty minutes of the fireworks (or a parade) ending. Pop guests return the way they came; Polynesian guests take the “Express” or TTC monorail and walk back to Poly from the TTC

Note: Bring [The Comprehensive Guide to Rides](#) and [Rides that Might be Skipped](#) in case your day gets to be too intense!

PREVIEW OF TOMORROW

Tomorrow you start at Downtown Disney and finish at Hollywood Studios. You need be at your hotel's bus stop by 9:45a.

SECOND SUNDAY AGENDA: 12/13/09, 12/12/10, 12/11/10

You begin with brunch in Downtown Disney, and go from there to Hollywood Studios

FIRST THINGS

- You need to be at your hotel's Downtown Disney bus stop by 9:45a
- Ask your driver which stop to get off for the House of Blues
- Find the House of Blues, check in, and enjoy the Gospel Brunch (cash)
- (Note: the following steps work...but a cab from Downtown Disney to the Hollywood Studios is a lot simpler...)
- Catch a bus to the Swan and Dolphin
- Get off at the first stop at the Swan and Dolphin, and find the boat dock
- Catch the boat at the Swan to Hollywood Studios

AT THE PARK

- Arrive at the Studios by 12:30p
- Enter, pick up a "Times Guide" and head towards and see the 1:20 Lights, Motors, Action Extreme Stunt Show



- See the American Idol Experience
- Watch the 3p parade from the Sunset Boulevard side of Mickey's hat
- See the 3:30 Beauty and the Beast, Live on Stage
- See Walt Disney: One Man's Dream, and The Magic of Disney Imagination
- If you have time, see Playhouse Disney Live on Stage and then Sounds Dangerous—unless you have kids younger than 6, don't worry if you have to skip both; if you have younger kids, and have to skip one, skip Sounds Dangerous
- Have dinner at 5:45pm at the Sci-Fi Diner
- Continue in the park if you wish—you can stay until 11p as a Disney Resort guest—but tomorrow is an early day, and you need to pack up tonight

Note: Bring [The Comprehensive Guide to Rides](#) and [Rides that Might be Skipped](#) in case your day gets to be too intense!

PREVIEW OF TOMORROW

Tomorrow is your earliest day! **Set your alarm so that you can** have had breakfast in your room, checked out and checked your luggage, and **be at your bus stop by 6:40 am!**

SECOND MONDAY AGENDA: 12/14/09, 12/13/10, 12/12/11

Get up early, finish packing, have breakfast in your room, check out, check your luggage, be at the Animal Kingdom bus stop by 6:50a, finish the Animal Kingdom, and head home. Weather and your travel schedule permitting, spend the afternoon before you depart at your pool

FIRST THINGS

- Have breakfast in your rooms, get yourself ready to go, and check out. You need to be at the Animal Kingdom bus stop by 6:50a, having by then already
 - Packed up, checked out, and taken care of your luggage: have either
 - Checked it through the Disney Magical Express, or
 - Checked it directly at the resort to your airline if
 - a. you aren't taking the Express, and
 - b. your airline participates in Disney's resort check in program (all airlines at Orlando International can take bags from Disney's Magical Express, but not all can take a resort bag check from those guests who are not using the Express), or
 - Checked your luggage with your resort's front desk for later recovery
 - If the weather, and your departure schedule, suits, beside the bags you are keeping as carry-ons, keep out one bag of pool clothes and gear (and, if you are staying at Pop Century, towels), as you will be able to use the pool at your hotel in the afternoon, even though you checked out. Most resorts have a pool restroom with showers you can use to get yourself ready for your departure when you are done
- Be at the Animal Kingdom bus stop by 6:50 with your carry on/pool gear.

AT THE PARK

- Arrive at the Animal Kingdom park by 7:30 am
- Get in line and await the opening
- After 8:00 opening, rent a locker and stuff your gear inside
- Pick up a Times Guide and park map, go to Africa, and ride Kilimanjaro Safaris
- Stroll through the Pangani Forest Exploration Trail just outside the Safari exit. While strolling, double check the time schedule against the shows on this list and revise your plans if needed
- Head to Asia, and fastpass Expedition Everest. Your return window will likely begin after 10am
- Go to Dinoland USA, and ride Dinosaur
- You need to be in Camp Minnie Mickey by 9:20, so only if time permits, ride Primeval Whirl and Triceratops Spin
- Go to Camp Minnie Mickey, and see the 9:30 Festival of the Lion King
- Return to Asia via Discovery Island
- Ride Expedition Everest
- If time permits, and you missed them earlier, ride Primeval Whirl and Triceratops Spin; don't worry if you miss them entirely
- In Asia, see the 11:30 Flights of Wonder
- Have lunch in Andanapur Local (counter credit)
- Return to your hotel in time for your transportation arrangements

Note: Bring [The Comprehensive Guide to Rides](#) and [Rides that Might be Skipped](#) in case your day gets to be too intense!

See this [this](#) for a summary of this itinerary

NOTE: CALENDAR TO SHIFT BACK TO 180 DAYS

Many sources—e.g. WDWinfo.com [here](#)—are reporting that **on October 27th, most/all WDW restaurants will be returned to being reservable 180 days in advance.**

This means that for **arrival dates January 25th 2010** and later, for “90 days” below, you should read “180 days,” etc.

It also means that, as Mark Goldhaber of MousePlanet.com notes [here](#), that Disney reservations will be very busy on October 27!

For a 90 and 180 day calendar, see [this](#).

A. MORE THAN 90 DAYS (180 DAYS BEGINNING 10/27) BEFORE YOUR PLANNED ARRIVAL DATE

1. Confirm your budget, planned dates, kids’ development paths and heights, and your transportation choice and its availability for your planned dates.

2. Make your plane reservations, if flying. Make any other needed transportation arrangements.

3. Set up your hotel and tickets. Call 407-939-7675 (preferred**, because this allows you to tell the reservationist which building at your resort you wish to be in, which the new WDW website no longer allows you to do), or click [here](#) to use Disney’s online system.**

- When the page opens, click “Book Vacation Packages”
- Add your dates, party size and age of your kids
- Set up your basic package:
 - Click “Advanced Search”
 - Click “I know the Resort I want.”
 - In the drop down menu that appears, click to open, and scroll to pick your hotel
 - Click “Dining Plan”
 - Click “Continue”
 - Wait
- Fix the options—a page will open that has selected several options for you, most of them wrong. You will need to fix in each section, and update the sections as you go.
 - At the top of the page you will be put into the most expensive room. Click the button for the least expensive instead. (The views aren’t worth it for first time family visitors, except Animal Kingdom Lodge visitors should always pick a Savannah view)
 - Click “Update” and wait
 - Click, in the “Park Tickets and Options” section, the button in the upper right that says “Open.”
 - Unclick the “Park Hopper” and “Water Parks and More” boxes
 - Change the number of days in your tickets to 9

- Click “Update” and wait
- Click “Ground Transportation” and when it opens, click Disney’s Magical Express, and add your airline info
- Click “Continue” and wait
- Click “Select this Offer” at the bottom of the page and wait
- When the pricing pages shows up, unclick Trip Insurance (if offered)
- In the “Special Room Requests” section, click to open, then click “Refrigerator”
- If you are on the phone, tell the reservationist what room you want
 - If a Polynesian guest, ask for a room on the third floor (quieter) in Rapa Nui or Tahiti. (These are 2 of the only 3 buildings with both the largest rooms and balconies on all floors, and are the 2 buildings closest to the Epcot monorail. You are in fact so close to TTC that you can take the express monorail home from the Magic Kingdom—much faster than the resort monorail.)
 - If a Pop Century Guest, ask for a room on the 4th floor (quieter) in the 1970s area. (This is the only building group at Pop Century that does not surround a pool, so it will be quieter at night.)
- Complete the transaction with your credit card.

B. 91 DAYS (181 DAYS BEGINNING 10/27) BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL DATE

Go to the online restaurant reservations page [here](#), set up an account if you don’t already have one, and practice trying to reserve restaurants.

This may well drive you crazy, but the site works better than it used to...and is likely the only way you can get your Cindy reservations done! (as the site opens up a new reservable day at 6a, whereas the phone reservation line opens at 7a).

Collect your restaurant reservations together. You will want to do them online in order of hardest to reserve first. This is how they are listed below.

C. EXACTLY 6am EST, EXACTLY 90 DAYS (180 DAYS 10/27 AND LATER) BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL DATE

(For an 180-90 day calendar, see [this](#)).

1. Be on the restaurant website [here](#) by at least 5:50am EST, and have your Cindy reservation all set up on the page. Keep refreshing, as you will be let in as soon as Disney’s system decides it is 6a.

Make as many of the following as you have patience for (try to get through at least Akershus), in the exact order listed:

- **Cinderella’s Royal Table Lunch** (cash): Wednesday at 11a or later if you can; earlier than 11 only if your sole option...
- **Chef Mickey’s** (cash): Thursday at 10:30a if you can; ok anytime 9a and later, but earlier times cut into sleeping-in time

- **Hoop-Dee-Doo Revue** (dining plan, two credits): First Monday 7:15p show. The other two times don't work well
- **Crystal Palace** (dining plan): Second Saturday 8p if you can; earlier or later ok
- **Akershus Banquet** (dining plan): First Saturday 6:30p if you can, but no earlier than 6:15p, no later than 8p
- **Downtown Disney's Rainforest Café** (NOT the Rainforest café at the Animal Kingdom!!) (cash): Wednesday 8p if you can; no earlier, but later is ok
- **San Angel Inn as Candlelight Processional Package for the 8:15 Candlelight Processional show** (dining plan): Friday 5:30. Earlier OK but cuts into your pool/nap time; no later than 6:30p
- **1900 Park Fare** (dining plan): Thursday 8p. Between 7:30p and 8:15p
- **Liberty Tree Tavern** (dining plan): Tuesday 6p. Can be earlier; no later than 7p
- **50's Prime Time Café** (dining plan): First Sunday 6:15p. Not earlier; can be up to 15 minutes later
- **Sci-Fi Diner** (dining plan): Second Sunday 5:45p or later
- **Whispering Canyon** (cash): Tuesday 1:15p. Can be earlier, but no later

For those you don't make online, make them by calling call (407) WDW-DINE (939-3463)

2. Go to the site for [Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party](#), and order tickets for your family for Tuesday (Cash)

3. Order your Cirque du Soleil tickets (Category 2) for the 6p show on Wednesday at [this site](#) (cash).

4. Call the House of Blues Orlando at (407) 934-BLUE and order tickets for your second Sunday 10:30 Gospel Brunch (cash)

D. CHECK THIS SITE IN THE MIDDLE OF EVERY FOLLOWING MONTH FOR ANY CHANGES.

E. NOTES ON PACKING, ETC. BEFORE YOU LEAVE

1. Check in online at the link you can find on [this](#) page

2. If you use Disney's Magical Express, *you do not need to collect your bags at the Orlando airport. Disney will get them for you and, eventually, deliver them directly to your room. **Your bags may arrive hours after you do;** so, depending on the weather forecasts, have a carry-on with an appropriate change of clothes for Orlando weather on Saturday, as you will almost certainly go to Epcot on Saturday before your checked bags arrive.*

3. Follow the instructions in the Magical Express packet you will receive in the mail regarding both tagging your bags pre-departure, and where to go at the Orlando airport to find your transport to your resort.

- 4. Bring a copy of your room reservation, confirmation numbers (such as for the Gospel Brunch) and any tickets for special events you may have received in the mail.**
- 5. Pack breakfast utensils, as they are not always available in the gift shop: bowls, spoons, napkins**
- 6. When you arrive at the hotel, look for the special “On-line Check-in” line, and get into it.**