

PIXIE DUST NEWS

FALL 2016

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DESTINATION or WHAT I DID ON MY SUMMER VACATION:

In August this year, my husband and I went to central Florida. Why did we go there in the hottest month of the year? Well, there were two reasons. First of all, Tony had that week off from his job. Secondly (and most important!), Dade City Wild Things had a 2-month old lion named Lacy who was going to do encounters with the public. If you remember, last year my goddaughter and I went there and swam with a 5-month-old white tiger. This is a wonderful place if playing with big cats is on your Bucket List. Number 2 on my Bucket List was playing with a baby tiger. Number 1 on that list was playing with a baby lion. I have since crossed both things off my Bucket List. This August was the best. Why? Because Dade City had a 2-month-old lion AND a 2-month-old tiger. They wanted to try public encounters with both of these adorable cats because they are best friends! Odd—a tiger and a lion being best friends—but it's true. They don't know the difference! I suppose that because this was the first time they tried it with both of them, we got to be their test-models, which meant we got to play with both of them for a whole HOUR. Tony wasn't nearly as adventurous as I was. Me? Well, I just got down on the ground and literally rolled around in the grass with them. You just haven't lived until you've gotten down and dirty with 2-month-old big cats. They were on my lap, on my back, on my belly; Tiger "Lilly" climbed up Tony's leg. I hugged them, kissed them, played with them with their toys; Lacy Lion drank her bottle while kneading her little foot on the toe of my sandal, and then she sat on my lap and burped! While we were there, we also fed a 3-year-old white tiger named Remmy; I swam and played fetch with Royson (a 4-month-old tiger); we fed a bison named Tiffany; and then we had a little goodbye encounter with Lacy Lion. By the time we were done, we were covered with sweat, cat hair, mulch, and grass cuttings, and we smelled like the inside of the Cat House at the Philadelphia Zoo. Did I care that it was 98 degrees that felt like 108? No, I didn't even notice. But for the rest of the vacation that we spent in my favorite place on earth, Disney World, the 98 degrees that I didn't even notice in Dade City (80 minutes away) suddenly *felt* like 120 degrees! I love Disney World, but truly I would not recommend it in July or August. There are way too many people in too small a place. Not that Disney World is small, but let's just say that Splash Mountain felt extra good this time around! We were there for only 4 days, and we went to all four parks. This really isn't enough time, especially if you are a senior citizen (yeah, we are!). Please do yourselves a favor and go to Disney World for at least a whole week—and don't forget to take one day to rent a car and drive up to Dade City to visit the Stearns family and all their beautiful animals. You'll be glad you did! Of course, I would be most honored if you let me plan your trip. So, what do you say? ROOOAARRR.....



THE BEST WAY TO SEE THE NORTHERN LIGHTS IS...ON A CRUISE

By [Elissa Garay](#), September 26, 2016

NORWEGIAN COASTAL VOYAGES WITH HURTIGRUTEN

This Norwegian fleet—part pleasure cruise line and part lifeline ferry system for Norway’s coastal residents—has been plying the waterways off of Norway since 1893. While a handful of other cruise lines run Northern Lights-primed winter sailings in the Norwegian Arctic region, nobody beats Hurtigruten in terms of experience or their sheer selection of itineraries, with a dozen ships (accommodating 335 to 822 guests) running daily cruise departures during aurora borealis season. [Choose from 5-, 6-, or 11-night itineraries](#) that port-hop between Bergen and Tromsø (set smack in the center of the magnetic North Pole, which is primed for lights viewing) or Kirkenes (close to the Russian border) in the north. En route, set out on excursions like an evening snowmobile or dogsledding Northern Lights safari, or a tack on a pre- or post-cruise overnight stay at the Kirkenes Snowhotel, equipped with Norway's largest ice bar, or in a traditional indigenous Sámi lavvo (tent) outside of Tromsø, where you can experience reindeer sledging. For an added cosmic-themed treat, consider signing up for special astronomy voyages, helmed by guest astronomers; Hurtigruten even offers a one-off sailing this March where you can [hobnob with a NASA astronaut](#) on board. Bonus: The company is so sure that you’ll catch the lights on their 11-night voyages that they guarantee them via their Northern Lights Promise: If the lights don’t make an appearance, they’ll send you on a 5- or 6-night sailing the following winter season, free of charge.

GREENLAND GETAWAY WITH QUARK EXPEDITIONS

Specializing in polar expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic, [Quark Expeditions](#) journeys to the farthest reaches of Greenland, where guests can mix in viewing Northern Lights with exploring the world’s [largest fjord system](#), tundra hikes, Zodiac cruises, and kayak rides through iceberg-pocked landscapes, visits to indigenous Inuit communities, and spotting wildlife such as musk oxen, polar bears, arctic foxes, and [whales](#). Choose from a handful of 9- or 12-night Arctic Express itineraries aboard the Danish-built, Scandinavian-styled Ocean Nova, a 78-passenger arctic expedition ship that hones in on the Northern Lights show above Greenland in September 2017. (Guests meet up in [Reykjavik](#) before continuing on by air to Constable Point, Greenland, to begin the expedition.) On board and ashore, several earth science specialists are employed to interpret the aurora borealis and other aspects of the snow-smothered arctic landscapes via lectures and outings.

ICELAND AND GREENLAND JOURNEY WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS

Lindblad Expeditions, with a half-century of expedition travel under its belt, is the go-to operator for ecotourism-minded, small-ship voyages to some of the most remote regions of the world. In 2017, the line is debuting a 7-night [Hot Springs and Icebergs: Iceland to West Greenland](#) itinerary, with a duo of late August/early September sailings that are timed to coincide with the kickoff to the aurora borealis viewing season. During the Icelandic land-based portion of the trip, guests have three days to dip into [the steamy geothermal baths of the Blue Lagoon](#), ride an Icelandic horse, enjoy a private dinner and musical performance on [Viðey Island](#), and sample the cuisine and attractions in Reykjavik. In Greenland, guests embark on the 148-

passenger National Geographic Explorer from the transit hub of Kangerlussuaq to survey the vast ice cap, glaciers, fjords, and icebergs that define this nation's icy landscape, via excursions that include hikes, kayaking trips, Zodiac sailings, and bird's-eye charter flights.

Whenever the Northern Lights appear, expedition staff work to set up viewing opportunities on deck, Zodiac boats, or land. Throughout the trip, expect expert interpretations of the lights and arctic environment via lectures, daily happy-hour recaps, and shore excursions. The expedition team roster includes naturalists, mammal and marine biologists, an anthropologist, an undersea specialist (the ship is uniquely equipped with underwater cameras and a hydrophone), and a National Geographic photo instructor who leads photography workshops on [capturing the Northern Lights](#).

TRIP PLANNING 101: DECIDING HOW LONG TO STAY FOR YOUR DISNEY WORLD VACATION

Posted by: [Christy Caby](#) in [Planning](#), [Trip Planning](#)

We all want to stay at Disney World as long as we possibly can, right? Well, realistically, we have to base this decision on a whole list of factors that must be considered. If you are trying to decide on how long to book your vacation for, then here is a list of questions you must ask yourself before you book your vacation:

10. How much time do you have to take?

This is definitely going to be a major deciding factor for the length of your stay. You can only come for as long as you have the time to take off of work. So run the days and see how much vacation time and how much you can afford to use on the vacation to help with selecting the number of days.

9. What time of year or season will you be visiting?

If you are visiting during a busy time like the Christmas season or during the busiest part of the summer, then you may want to make sure that you can stay longer. Lines will be longer and the parks will be more crowded so you won't be able to see and do as much in a day as you could during one of the slower seasons. Don't get me wrong, these are still amazing times to visit and have their own perks, but in terms of deciding your time, this is something to definitely consider.

8. How far are you traveling from?

If you are traveling overseas or from a location where flights are extremely expensive, then you may also want to consider a longer stay. You would get more "bang for your buck" if you stay longer and make good use of the cost for the flights. This may also ring true even if you are closer but are able to find better flight deals with more flexible dates. If you have the extra time to take and can save a chunk of change on the flights, you can use that savings to spend more time on vacation.

7. What are the ages in your group?

It is important to consider the ages of everyone in your group to help determine stamina and the ability to go all day every day. Younger children and elderly adults may not be able to go at a rapid pace for the entire trip, so you would either need more time on vacation or to adjust your expectations for how much you can accomplish in a day.

6. How often do you get to visit Walt Disney World?

If you get to visit frequently and make regular trips to Walt Disney World, then you may not need a super long trip. If you know that you won't get to come back for a couple years or longer, then you may want to consider going all out and staying as long as you can so that you can see and do everything. You may even want to visit some things a couple times so that you get a good dose of Disney before you go back to your very long countdown until you get to come again. Plus, there are likely to be changes the next time you visit if it will be a long while.

5. Do you like to enjoy relaxation time on vacation, too?

If you and your family are the type who need rest days or days to just relax and not have to rush around or experience the theme park for multiple days in a row, then you will need to work in rest days and days for relaxation. This may mean that you will want to add a couple of days onto your vacation so that you can still do and see everything but have time to recuperate and rest up for more fun.

4. Are there must-do items outside of the parks on your vacation list?

Do you plan to go to the waterparks, golfing, miniature golfing, spa days, horseback riding, biking, and/or many of the other recreation activities available at Walt Disney World? If so, then you will want to factor these experiences into your decision so that you have plenty of time to do everything that you and your family have your heart set on.

3. Do you plan to visit other Orlando spots besides Walt Disney World?

Orlando is definitely the home to many different theme parks, shows, and experiences. You also have beaches, museums, and so much great stuff to do in the area. If you plan to do more than just Walt Disney World, then you will need to include days to enjoy those experiences as well—but you don't want to give up too much of your Disney time to fit in all of the other experiences.

2. What is your budget?

This will likely be another key deciding factor for your stay. If you have a set budget and you want to stay longer, you may have to adjust your accommodations to stay at a cheaper resort in order to make the budget work so that you can stay for as long as you want.

1. Will you need time to prep for your trip or time to unwind once you get home?

If you are the type of person who needs a day or two to pack and get ready or you need a day or two to unwind, do laundry, and unpack once you get home, then you also have to factor this into your decision. If you only have a set amount of vacation time, then this may dictate the length of your vacation if you know you will require this time in order to be able to get back to normal and be able to function in your job.

75th Anniversary of D-Day in 2019

In 2019 northern France will celebrate and commemorate the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings and the 2-month Battle for Normandy. Although it is more than three years away, accommodation is already at a premium on the Cotentin Peninsula, and taking a wrong turn may result in hours of lost time.

Joining one of Beyond Band of Brothers' special [D-Day 75 Tours](#) is the best way to take part in this

unique occasion. Booking early means securing your place on one of their all-inclusive tours and resting assured that you are in good hands.

Beyond Band of Brothers Tours gives you all-inclusive pricing that includes the following:

- Accommodations at 4-star hotels
- 3 meals a day (starting with dinner on day 1, ending with breakfast on the last day)
- Airport transfers on first and last day of the tour
- Welcome drink and tour orientation
- Luxury coach transportation and (where applicable) ferry crossing over the Channel
- Local expert guiding
- 24/7 tour manager
- All museum admissions
- Free Wi-Fi on bus and at hotels
- Tour-assist headsets
- Online access to a personalized *My Trip* account

Let me know if you are interested in this. It's not too early to get on their list!

9 REASONS WHY THE WINTER SEASON IS THE PERFECT TIME TO VISIT DISNEY WORLD

Posted by: [D.W. Noonan](#) in [Planning, Trip Planning](#)

Most travelers to Walt Disney World favor specific times of the year to visit. Some prefer waiting until school lets out to enjoy Florida's summertime fun; others can't wait for Epcot's spring and autumn festivals. Though these seasons certainly offer many wonders to enjoy, the following nine reasons reveal why the winter season, from mid-November to the end of January, is the perfect time to visit Disney World.

9. Fewer Crowds

Except during school breaks for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's, the vacation population of Walt Disney World drops significantly in winter, creating a number of benefits for those looking to flock to their favorite destination. To begin with, crowds tend to be more mature, since most families with children hesitate to pull their kids out of school for extended periods and retired "snowbirds" fly south to Florida to avoid frigid weather. This doesn't mean that you won't meet families with children at Walt Disney World in the winter, just fewer than normal. Locals also visit theme parks at this time, especially during weekends, and many South American families fly up for a bit of Mickey time during their summer break. Nevertheless, imagine standing on Main Street, U.S.A., or in the middle of Central Plaza and watching Wishes without having to keep your arms at your sides to avoid elbowing strangers.

8. Shorter Lines (Most of the Time)

While children are in school, the lines at most attractions shrink; then they grow very long during the winter holiday break. Planning your trip for the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas or a week or so after New Year's Day will result in shorter wait times at most attractions and shows. With reduced waiting, you'll experience more rides each day, get better seats at shows, and avoid long delays at counter-service restaurants, all of which are great reasons to visit in the winter.

7. FastPass+ Selections

Even though lines are smaller than usual during most weeks in the winter, they aren't necessarily fast enough to zip through at the popular attractions. You should still make your FastPass+ selections as soon as possible. However, with fewer resort guests staying on the Walt Disney World property during slow winter weeks, you'll have better opportunities to choose passes for attractions that would normally run out. Also, making additional FastPass+ reservations after using your first three becomes a breeze, because you'll face less competition in grabbing the remaining time slots.

6. Restaurant Reservations

Reservation hunting at Walt Disney World in peak season frustrates even the most patient restaurant guests. Trying to book tables at establishments like Le Cellier Steakhouse or 'Ohana during these busy periods proves to be an impossible task, and those times you manage to snag are usually inconvenient. Reserving tables during the winter lull offers visitors better time selections and more opportunities to dine at eateries normally out of reach for most guests during crowded weeks.

5. Mild Temperatures

The scorching heat of Florida spikes into the high 90s in the summer, and temperatures hover in the mid-80s during spring and autumn. Add sweltering humidity to the mix, and the heat almost smothers you. On the other hand, in the winter you'll enjoy temperatures in the 70s as you stroll through your favorite theme park. Be certain to bring a jacket for evening activities, however, because nights can dip into the 40s and 50s. Those who love swimming at Disney Resorts shouldn't worry about these low temperatures, since the pools are maintained at a comfortable 82 degrees.

4. Dry Weather

Florida's dry season begins in late November and extends until May, making winter an ideal time to visit. The rest of the year features the national hurricane season as well as Florida's normal wet season. From June to October, 70 percent of the state's annual rainfall falls in seemingly unpredictable fashion, keeping you dry for hours and then drenching you in a span of minutes. Also, Floridian storms often produce an incredible amount of lightning, which easily disrupts theme park operations. Winter travelers to Walt Disney World won't have to worry about Expedition Everest being closed due to dangerous weather conditions.

3. Lower Travel Prices

Because winter isn't the tourist season for central Florida, Disney Resorts and other hotels in the area lower their room rates, making them more affordable for Mickey fans on a tight budget. Additionally, many airlines discount tickets during this time due to low traffic to the region. Of course, you'll have to avoid the holiday weeks to get these rates, since demand for travel arrangements increases at those times. Nevertheless, being able to purchase a world-class vacation at bargain prices may be worth it, even if the timing is problematic.

2. Christmas Décor

Christmas serves as one of the most beloved holidays of the year, and Walt Disney World remains as the most popular vacation destination. During the winter holidays, Disney cast members decorate the parks and resorts with garland, Christmas lights, bows, trees, and more; small "snow flurries" even appear, though they consist of *soapflakes* rather than snowflakes.

Even Jungle Cruise undergoes a makeover, becoming “Jingle Cruise” to exhibit its holiday spirit. Intertwining Christmas and Disney magic provides the perfect occasion for feeling both holiday and vacation delight, which is why this 2-week holiday break is one of the busiest times of the year. Nevertheless, if you want to avoid the crowds of Christmas but want to feel its spirit, then schedule your trip 2 weeks before Thanksgiving or during the first 2 weeks of December. Disney cast members will have already decked the halls with boughs of holly, but most of the holiday visitors will not have arrived yet.

1. Holiday Events

The Imagineers and event planners at Walt Disney World have cooked up some pretty remarkable activities for the winter season, beginning with [Mickey’s Very Merry Christmas Party](#), which runs from early November to a few days before Christmas. This party includes all of Mickey’s friends, dressed in their best Christmas attire to perform for all attendees. The party also features “A Frozen Holiday Wish,” a special show with Elsa and Anna. After the party, be sure to watch Wishes Nighttime Spectacular, as it receives a holiday makeover that’s only available during this season. As you make your way to Epcot, be sure to check out Holidays Around the World, a presentation of Christmas décor and traditions from the nations represented at the World Showcase. Your visit to Epcot can be capped off with the [Candlelight Processional](#), a mass choir and orchestral show at America Gardens Theatre that’s hosted by a well-known celebrity. Disney even transforms IllumiNations: Reflections of Earth into a holiday event. Overall, these activities will enhance your holiday celebrations, providing you with a winter vacation that you’ll never forget.

DISNEY WORLD TRIVIA

How many white horses can be found on Cinderella’s Golden Carousel?

(Answer): Ninety

DISNEY WORLD BUILDS WALL AROUND SEVEN SEAS LAGOON

ORLANDO, Florida—Workers are building a stonewall around [a Walt Disney World lake where an alligator killed a toddler](#) earlier this summer.

Disney officials in Orlando said that the barrier wall is part of the new security plan following [the death of 2-year-old Lane Graves](#) of Omaha, Nebraska, [reports CBS affiliate WKMG](#). The boulder wall is going up along the beaches of the Seven Seas Lagoon where several resorts are located.

Disney also put up warning signs and ropes after Graves was dragged by an alligator into the lake on June 14. The boy’s body was found 16 hours later and an autopsy showed he died from drowning and traumatic injuries.

The family [decided not to file a lawsuit against Disney](#). In a statement, the parents described themselves as “broken” by the death of their 2-year-old son, Lane. “We will forever struggle to comprehend why this happened to our sweet baby, Lane,” they said. “As each day passes, the pain gets worse, but we truly appreciate the outpouring of sympathy and warm sentiments we have received from around the world.”

Disney World president George Kalogridis said in a statement the company continues to provide support for the family.

Authorities say an alligator pulled Lane Graves into the water June 14. His father said a second alligator attacked him as he tried to save his son. Lane's body was recovered the next day, and an autopsy showed he died from drowning and traumatic injuries. After Lane's death, Disney World made changes to limit possible visitor contact with alligators on the property. Rope fences with netting were installed around some waterfront areas, and "No Fishing" signs were installed. Fishing at Disney World is now limited only to excursions.

DISNEY WINTER DEALS

DISNEY WORLD WINTER DISCOUNTS NOW OPEN TO ALL GUESTS—LIMITED AVAILABILITY

Disney World has just released two special winter offers for all guests that offer great discounts on rooms, tickets, and dining. That's the good news. The bad news is, as usual, there are a very limited number of rooms available for these packages so guests will need to be quick. The first offer includes room, tickets, and dining. The second offer includes room and tickets only for those who prefer to skip the dining plan. Complete details are below.

These are very good package discounts and will likely fill up quickly. Disney World allocates a limited number of rooms for each discount and once those rooms are gone the discounts won't be available. The best way to ensure you get the maximum discount is to work with a certified Disney Vacation Planner (I am a certified Disney Vacation Planner – mancuso_pat@yahoo.com or call 484-686-5164).

Offer #1 – Stay, Play, and Dine

The Stay, Play, and Dine offer includes a discount on your accommodations, tickets, and your choice of Disney Dining Plans.

- Valid for travel most nights between January 1 through March 7, 2017
- Travel must be booked by December 21, 2016
- Number of packages available is very limited
- Availability is not guaranteed until payment is received
- Minimum 3-night, maximum 14-night stay required
- Tickets and options must be used within 14 days of first use
- Must purchase a Walt Disney Travel Co. room and ticket package and must mention the offer when calling to book.
- Some table-service restaurants may have limited or no availability at time of package purchase.
- Everyone in the same room must be on the same package.
- Cannot be combined with any other discount or promotion.
- Advance reservation required.
- Excludes alcoholic beverages and gratuities.
- Children ages 3 to 9 must choose from the children's menu, if available.
- Offer excludes campsites, 3-bedroom villas, Disney's Art of Animation Resort –The Little Mermaid Standard Rooms and Bungalows at Disney's Polynesian Villas & Bungalows.

Offer #2 – Room & Tickets

The Winter Room offer includes a discount on the room and tickets. Valid for travel most nights between January 1 through April 8, 2017. Travel must be booked by December 21, 2016.

- Number of packages available is very limited
- Availability is not guaranteed until payment is received
- Minimum 3-night, maximum 14-night stay required
- Tickets and options must be used within 14 days of first use
- Must purchase a Walt Disney Travel Co. room and ticket package and must mention the offer when calling to book.
- Additional per adult charges may apply if there are more than 2 adults per room at Disney Value, Moderate and Deluxe Resorts.
- Cannot be combined with any other discount or promotion.
- Advance reservation required.
- Children ages 3 to 9 must choose from the children's menu, if available.
- Offer excludes campsites, 3-bedroom villas, Disney's Art of Animation Resort –The Little Mermaid Standard Rooms and Bungalows at Disney's Polynesian Villas & Bungalows.

Again, the rooms allocated for these offers are limited so we recommend booking soon.

9 REASONS YOU NEED TO MAKE DISNEY WORLD FAST PASS+ RESERVATIONS ASAP!

Posted by: [D.W. Noonan](#) in [Planning](#), [Trip Planning](#)

Certainly, Walt Disney World recognizes the challenges of being a world-famous vacation destination. The resort strives to satisfy the millions of visitors who pass through its gates each year. Park guests anticipate enjoying the rides, restaurants, shows, and activities they love, despite the huge crowds, so Disney created the [FastPass+ system](#) for them. To access this express system, sign into or create your [My Disney Experience](#) account and connect your tickets or annual pass. Just remember that FastPass+ only works for you if you use it, and those who use it as early as possible benefit the most. Below, you'll find nine reasons why.

9. Walt Disney World Recommends It

Even though the *because-I-told-you-so* reason for doing anything normally doesn't satisfy, we should still take note of Walt Disney World's recommendations. The My Disney Experience app and Disney Parks representatives advise us to make advanced FastPass+ selections. Their topnotch researchers and statisticians have been collecting and analyzing data from theme park visitors since the beginning. How do you think they predict which changes at Walt Disney World will become popular? Disney leaves nothing to chance, but uses marketing research magic mixed with creativity to give you a world-class, vacation experience...so listen to them.

8. Popular Attractions Go Quickly

Disney limits the daily number of FastPass+ reservations for each attraction, so especially popular rides, shows,, and parades will likely run out. Imagine being stuck in standby lines for

several hours for Seven Dwarfs Mine Train, Frozen Ever After, Expedition Everest, or Toy Story Mania! With countless park guests choosing their attractions up to 30 days in advance, you may find zero passes for these beloved rides on the morning you arrive. Remember: The early bird gets the seat on the roller coaster.

7. Better Seats

Attractions may top the list of trendy FastPass+ choices, but the awesome shows, fireworks displays, and parades at Walt Disney World also warrant your attention. FastPass+ provides the best seats at the most popular shows and the best viewing areas for fireworks and parades. As a result, you'll get the chance to capture breathtaking photos for sharing online or placing into your scrapbook. If you prefer being in the middle of the action, then you should schedule your shows in FastPass+ ahead of time to ensure your own comfort in watching them.

6. Better Time Selections

Not only does Disney restrict the number of FastPass+ reservations for each attraction, but also how many of them are offered per hour. Disney spreads the FastPass+ return times throughout the day to avoid slow-moving, congested express lines. The most desirable times will likely be booked first, so pick your FastPass+ selections early to increase your chances of getting the times you want.

5. Extra FastPass+ Selections

Walt Disney World does not officially limit how many FastPass+ selections you can make in a single day. Though My Disney Experience only permits you to make three reservations prior to your arrival at the theme park, you can actually choose more attractions after your first three are used or their times lapse. For additional selections, you can visit a FastPass+ kiosk or use the mobile app, but you can only schedule them one at a time. In order to maximize the number of extra passes they can receive, many FastPass+ users reserve their first three in the late morning and avoid evening appointments altogether. Of course, making reservations far in advance helps you to group FastPass+ times appropriately.

4. Better Theme Park Planning

Naturally, the earlier you book FastPass+ prior to your vacation, the greater choice you will have for attractions and times. But even if your desired selections aren't available on your preferred days at particular theme parks, you can still check the other days of your vacation to discover alternate FastPass+ openings. Basically, you can plan your theme park visits around the availability of your favorite attractions and shows in FastPass+. If Animal Kingdom gives you better options on a different day than you planned to visit, then you can always revise your itinerary ahead of time.

3. Park Hopping

In the past, FastPass+ couldn't accommodate the avid park-hopper. Your FastPass+ selections could only be made for one theme park per day. This rule changed recently, allowing those who have the Park Hopper Option to fully enjoy express service in more than one park each day. Currently, you can only book extra FastPass+ selections (see #5) in other parks after you use your initial three selections in your first park. Since this is the case, advanced reservations will help determine which parks you should visit in the mornings in order to make park-hopping convenient for your schedule.

2. Resort Guest Advantages

Another reason for making FastPass+ reservations as soon as possible concerns the advantages of being a Walt Disney World Resort guest. If you aren't lodging at a Disney resort, then you may reserve passes up to 30 days in advance of your arrival. Resort guests receive a selection window of up to 60 days prior to arrival, allowing them to quickly gobble up passes for prominent attractions and shows during peak season. You can beat the competition by staying at a Walt Disney World Resort and making your selections at your earliest opportunity. If that's not possible, book your selections as soon as the 30th day arrives. The reservation window opens at 7:00 am EST.

1. Having More Fun

Many Disney fans and casual vacationers alike who visit Walt Disney World subscribe to the philosophy that spontaneity makes their trip fresh and exciting. They just want to improvise when choosing their activities, treating their trip as a great randomized adventure. As long as you're comfortable with the limitations that off-the-cuff planning in Walt Disney World provides, you should feel free to take this approach. The attraction lines may drag out for miles, and binoculars may be necessary for you to see the show, but as long as you spend time with loved ones, you'll probably enjoy yourselves. Or you can boost your enjoyment by preplanning your FastPass+ selections ASAP!

MORE DISNEY TRIVIA

What is the largest living thing in the Magic Kingdom?

(Answer): The Liberty Tree, which stands in the courtyard of Liberty Square. It weighs 38 tons and features thirteen hanging lanterns, each of which represents one of the original thirteen colonies.

In what attraction can you find two vultures wearing top hats?

(Answer): The two vultures can be found just before the big drop in Splash Mountain.

What is the name of the thrill attraction that takes guests on a plunge of 13 stories and uses an abandoned hotel to tell the story?

(Answer): The Tower of Terror

Who composed the songs from *The Lion King*?

(Answer): Elton John and Tim Rice

8 REASONS THAT YOU NEED TO VISIT THAILAND

BY KATIE LEIMKUEHLER

Ready for your next vacation or getaway to a new place that's culturally stimulating and relaxing at that the same time? If you are looking to escape to a foreign, exotic, and affordable land, there is no greater place than [Thailand](#). If the pristine white beaches and the relaxing atmosphere don't win you over, the food and people will. Not only is it one of the most beautiful places on earth, but there are endless sites, attractions, and excursions for any type of traveler. You might have such a great time that you won't want to return home. Here are eight reasons you need to be in Thailand right now.

1. You can visit Ko Phi Phi Le Island where the movie “*The Beach*” was filmed with Leonardo DiCaprio. This uninhabited island offers sandy white beaches, stunning cliffs, and crystal clear blue water that will take your breath away. You will feel like you are living in a dream.

2. Your money goes a long way in Thailand. Hotels, food, and clothing are all beyond affordable. What you might pay for a beach side hotel in the United States is likely half the price in Thailand, and food from the local village and street vendors can be as cheap as a \$1 for a meal.

3. The people in Thailand are incredibly friendly. Thailand is not called the “Land of Smiles” for nothing; the natives are kind, happy, and willing to help you when you are lost. It’s a country that welcomes tourism, but doesn’t bother its tourists.

4. Thai food will rock your world. You haven’t experienced real Thai food until you’ve had it in Thailand. Not only is it affordable, but it’s delicious. There are a variety of options and, if you’re lucky, you might even be able to pick out your own fresh crab or lobster to eat from the tank. Ask the locals what they recommend and without a doubt you will be more than satisfied. Just note that their idea of spicy is as close to a fireball in your mouth as possible, so order mild.

5. Phuket is the true paradise island of Thailand. Beach fans, scuba divers, snorkelers and watersport enthusiasts have just found their dream vacation spot. Additionally, the incredible and multi-colored sunsets are a sight not to be missed. Khao Phra Thaew National Park, a rainforest with protected wildlife, is also a treasure of Phuket that offers great hiking trails and waterfalls.

6. Bangkok is a cultural Mecca. This cosmopolitan city, the largest and capital of Thailand, highlights the heritage and nightlife of the Thai culture with floating markets, temples, local cuisine and rooftop bars. The Grand Palace and the Temple of Dawn are must-sees to add to your list. You will never run out of thing to do in Bangkok.

7. Full moon parties. A full moon party is an all-night beach party that started in Haad Rin on the island of Ko Pha Ngan , Thailand , that is thrown on the night of, before, or after every full moon. These famous parties boast of great music, glow in the dark body paint, and intense dancing with thousands of people.

8. Thailand’s location is ideal for a traveler. You might take awhile to get to Thailand, but once you are there everywhere is just around the corner. You can grab a flight and in just 4 hours be in Bali, 3 hours in Hong Kong, and 2 hours in Singapore, and it is halfway between Australia and Europe. It’s the perfect place to start or end a travel adventure.

HAVE A WONDERFUL AUTUMN!!
PLEASE DON’T FORGET, PIXIE DUST TOURS CAN BOOK
ANY VACATION DESTINATION, NOT JUST WALT DISNEY
WORLD!