



THEME PARKS

Walt Disney World: which parks, which days

Ordering your Disney days matters almost as much as picking your hotel. Here's the rhythm that consistently works best.

Prepared by Demo Advisor · April 20, 2026

ADVISOR TIP

Demo content — illustrative only. This is a showcase of Compass features, not travel advice. Verify anything you'd actually act on.

A well-ordered Disney week is the difference between "we did everything" and "we waited in three-hour lines." Here's how I sequence a 5-day park trip for families who want to hit all four parks without melting down.

The weather

WEATHER

BEST TIME

**Late January–
early February or
September**

AVG HIGH

**82°F year-round
average**

AVG LOW

**55°F winter
overnight**

RAINY SEASON

**June–September
afternoon storms**

The rhythm

1. Day 1 — Magic Kingdom. Open-to-close. It's everyone's favorite and the first day's energy carries you through the waits.
2. Day 2 — Rest day / water park / Disney Springs. Critical. Families who skip this hit the wall on day 3.
3. Day 3 — Animal Kingdom. Half-day park for most families (open by 7am for Flight of Passage, out by 2pm).
4. Day 4 — Hollywood Studios. Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge, Toy Story Land, Rise of the Resistance. Full day.
5. Day 5 — EPCOT. Food and drink day, low-key rides, end with fireworks.

Pick your dining

Worth planning for

- Be Our Guest (Magic Kingdom) — dinner only, Beast's castle dining room
- Space 220 (EPCOT) — "space station" dining, book at 60 days

Quick-service that actually delivers

- Satu'li Canteen (Animal Kingdom) — Pandora-themed bowls
- Docking Bay 7 (Hollywood Studios) — best quick-service on property

- Chef Mickey's (Contemporary) — character breakfast
- Tiffins (Animal Kingdom) — quietest full-service in any park
- Regal Eagle Smokehouse (EPCOT) — Midwest BBQ
- Pecos Bill's (Magic Kingdom) — toppings bar saves parents

Your pre-trip checklist

- ☐ Download My Disney Experience app and link reservations
- ☐ Book dining reservations exactly 60 days before arrival
- ☐ Decide on Lightning Lane Multi Pass per park
- ☐ Set memory maker expectations (pre-purchase vs. not)
- ☐ Confirm MagicBand+ orders arrive before departure
- ☐ Pre-plan park arrival times (rope drop the ones that matter most)

Common questions

Is Lightning Lane worth it?

For Magic Kingdom and Hollywood Studios, yes, on busy days. At Animal Kingdom and EPCOT, you can usually manage without.

How many days do we really need?

Four park days minimum if you want to see each. Five with a rest day is the sweet spot for most families.

What's the best time of year?

Late January through early February has the shortest lines all year. Avoid Thanksgiving, Christmas week, and spring break.

Genie+ or Lightning Lane?

Disney renamed Genie+ to Lightning Lane Multi Pass in 2024. Same concept — day-of skip-line passes.

[Plan your Disney trip →](#)

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