

A Short and Sweet Introduction to Walt Disney World Resort

# A Short and Sweet Introduction to Walt Disney World Resort: 2017-2018

1<sup>st</sup> edition

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All references in this book are for informational purposes only. It is understood that some information might change and be inaccurate. Disney World changes all the time. Did you hear that noise? I think something else just changed.

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# Another Disney World Guide Book?

So, you'd like to learn more about the Walt Disney World Resort in Florida? Maybe you've looked online and been overwhelmed, or you've looked at other guidebooks and been overwhelmed.

I looked up the page length to some popular Walt Disney World guide books. 320 pages. 330 pages. 392 pages. 856 pages! Don't get me wrong, these are great books! If you want to know EVERYTHING about Walt Disney World, then check them out!

Maybe you don't want to know everything. Maybe you just want an introduction. Maybe you're going next summer, but someone else is planning the trip. Maybe you're simply overwhelmed by 856 pages. (After all, the first edition of *War and Peace* was just a little bigger: 1,225 pages!)

When I introduce myself to someone, I give them my name, what I do, and where I live. I'll also talk about my wife and kids. I don't tell them everything about me, like the details of my last doctor's appointment, my political preferences, or the status of my bank accounts.

An introduction is short and sweet. The point of an introduction is to acquaint somebody with something. It's to scratch the surface.

That's what this book is – a short and sweet introduction to Walt Disney World. You should read it if you want to learn the basics. What are the different parks? How do I get tickets? Where can I sleep and eat?

This book isn't going to review every hotel, restaurant, and ride at Walt Disney World. That's not what an introduction is. I'll throw in a few tips and tricks along the way and talk about some of the major attractions, but mostly I'm going to give you a short and sweet overview of Walt Disney World.

So, I'd like to introduce you to the Walt Disney World Resort. Not 320 pages worth of introduction, just about 60.

# Walt Disney World in Two Pages

Walt Disney World Resort is a massive resort covering over 43 square miles in central Florida. With the desire to build a bigger and better version of Disneyland and to control the complete surrounding environment, Walt Disney began buying Florida property in the 1960s. Although he died before construction began, Walt's first park, Magic Kingdom, opened its doors in 1971.

Today, Disney World has four major theme parks, two water parks, a large shopping and entertainment district, an ESPN sports complex, over 25 hotels, two miniature golf courses and four real golf courses! Add to that options for boating, fishing, bike rentals, carriage rides, archery, parasailing, arcades, spas, playgrounds, swimming pools, and much more!

But, remember, we just want an introduction.

The four major theme parks are:

- **Magic Kingdom (p. 8)** is like Disneyland in California. It has the most attractions and the highest attendance.
- **Epcot (p. 12)** is a two-part park that combines a focus on technology and innovation with a celebration of countries from around the world.
- **Hollywood Studios (p. 16)** is going through some major renovations amidst a bit of an identity crisis. In general, it is a celebration of movies and television.
- **Animal Kingdom (p. 18)** is a combined zoo/amusement park. It has live animals and attractions that focus on animals and conservation.

In addition to the four theme parks, there are two themed water parks:

- **Typhoon Lagoon (p. 21)** is set up like a tropical island, complete with sand and one of the world's largest wave pools.

- **Blizzard Beach (p. 21)** is themed as if a freak snow storm hit Florida and the water attractions are the result of the snow's runoff. It even has a ski lift!

The shopping and entertainment district is called **Disney Springs (p. 23)**. It has a large variety of unique and chain retail stores and restaurants. It is built around a lake and also has an AMC movie theater, Cirque du Soleil theater, and other entertainment options.

The **ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex (p. 25)** hosts amateur and professional athletic events. It is geared more to teams that travel to Disney World to compete in tournaments and competitions.

Disney World's **hotels (p. 32)** are divided into categories based on room sizes and hotel amenities. There are Value Resorts that offer small rooms, quick dining, and fancifully-themed decorations. Moderate Resorts offer more spacious rooms, full-service dining and more theming. Deluxe Resorts have options for magnificent suites, expensive dining, and the amenities you expect at top resorts around the world. On top of these there is a campground, Disney Vacation Club resorts, and even non-Disney partner hotels located on Disney World's property.

Of course, there are lots of options for **tickets (p. 29)**, **dining (p. 36)**, **travel to get there (p. 47)**, and **travel while you are there (p. 49)**. You'll even find plenty of other options for **entertainment (p. 25)** in case the parks aren't enough.

If all of this sounds like a lot and a little bit overwhelming, it is! But imagine, with 43 square miles to work with, Disney World has plenty of room for even more growth!

# Interested in Purchasing the Book?

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