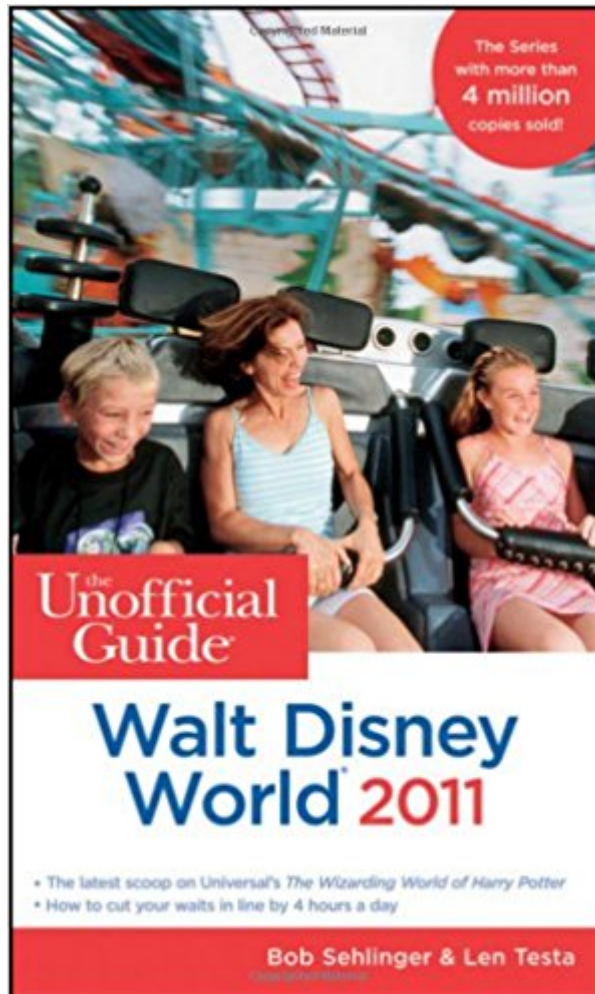




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# The Unofficial Guide Walt Disney World 2011 (Unofficial Guides)



## Synopsis

Unofficial Guides field tested touring plans can save as much as four hours of standing in line in a single day. In 2008, combined Walt Disney World Resort theme park attendance reached over 51 million, with the Magic Kingdom alone drawing over 17 million visitors. (Orlando Convention and Visitor Bureau) Despite significant downturns in the economy Disney theme parks have maintained attendance rates and made gains in attendance at some parks. Walt Disney World Resort theme parks are rated best in the world. earning high marks for things outside of the traditional theme park experience. Epcot's International Food & Wine Festival, which takes place for six weeks every fall and showcases food from twenty-five countries, was rated by Forbes Traveler as one of the Best U.S. Food and Wine Festivals.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Test Your Disney Smarts -exclusive quiz from author Bob Sehlinger

1. Which restaurant has the best view at Walt Disney World? A. LakeView Restaurant, B. The California Grill, C. Cinderella's Royal Table
2. Afternoon milkshakes for two kids will cost you: A. \$5.72, B. \$8.38, C. \$12.59
3. Disney Kids' Meals are available for children of what ages? A. 3-9, B. 3-11, C. Under 18
4. When is the best time to take the kids on Dumbo the Flying Elephant? A. Before 10 a.m. or after 9 p.m., B. Immediately following lunch, C. At exactly 3:15 p.m.
5. Which Disney theme park is five times the size as the Magic Kingdom? A. Disney's Hollywood Studios, B. Epcot Center, C. Animal Kingdom
6. The best time to visit Walt Disney World is: A. On your child's birthday, B.

The day of your child's final exam in math class, C. During the period between Christmas Day and New Year's Day

Answers: 1)B, 2)B, 3)A, 4)A, 5)C, 6)A

### Five Unofficial Ways to Prepare for Your Trip to Walt Disney World

-exclusive content from author Bob Sehlinger

1. Select the time of year for your visit: Walt Disney World is busiest Christmas Day through New Year's Day. Thanksgiving weekend, the week of Washington's birthday, the first full week of November, spring break for colleges, and the two weeks around Easter are also times when visitation can peak at 92,000 visitors in a single day. The park is far less crowded during the off season, but be advised that the parks often open late and close early during that time. You can find detailed charts and info on the best times to visit in *The Unofficial Guide to Walt Disney World*.
2. Shape up: Visiting Disney World requires levels of industry and stamina more often associated with running marathons. As you plan your time at Disney World, consider your physical limitations. It's exhausting to rise at dawn and run around a theme park for 8 to 12 hours day after day. Every Disney World vacation itinerary should include days when you don't go to a theme park and days when you sleep in and take the morning off. Plan these to follow unusually long and arduous days.
3. Formulate your park plan: First-time visitors should see Epcot first; you'll be able to enjoy it without having been preconditioned to think of Disney entertainment as solely fantasy or adventure. See Animal Kingdom second. Like Epcot, it's educational, but its live animals provide a change of pace. Next, see Disney's Hollywood Studios, which helps transition from the educational Epcot and Animal Kingdom to the fanciful Magic Kingdom. Also, because DHS is smaller, you won't walk as much or stay as long. Save the Magic Kingdom for last; it's the park that epitomizes Disney World for most visitors.
4. Create your touring plan: Which rides and attractions appeal most to you? What are you willing to forgo? Planning your day in advance can save you up to four hours of waiting time in line. We have developed a hierarchy of categories that will help you evaluate each ride and plan the best way to enjoy them all. For example, SUPER-HEADLINERS are the best attractions the theme park has to offer – and they usually have the longest lines. MINOR ATTRACTIONS are midway-type rides, small "dark" rides (cars on a track, zigzagging through the dark) and walk-through attractions – which can be a lot of fun, without the long wait. Remember that bigger and more elaborate doesn't always mean better. See examples of touring plans (and create your own) in *The Unofficial Guide to Walt Disney World*.
5. Getting hungry?: There are three lessons to learn before you dine in the parks. One: Theme-park restaurants rush their customers in order to make room for the next group of diners. If you want to linger over your expensive meal, don't order your entire dinner at once. Order drinks. Study the menu while you sip, then order appetizers. Tell the waiter you need more time to decide among entrees. Order your main course

only after appetizers have been served. Dawdle over dessert. Two: If youâ™re dining in a theme park and cost is an issue, make lunch your main meal. Entrees are similar to those on the dinner menu, but prices are significantly lower. Three: Disney adds a surcharge of \$4 per adult and \$2 per child to certain popular restaurants during weeks of peak attendance, including Easter,

Thanksgiving, and Christmas, and in 2009 every day from Memorial Day through July 4. Top Ten Unofficial Tips for the Wizarding World of Harry Potter -exclusive content from author Bob Sehlinger

1. To avoid the worst of the crowds, either be at the turnstiles 45 minutes before park opening or visit the Wizarding World after 8 p.m. If the park closes at 8 pm or earlier, visit the Wizarding World one hour before the park closes.
2. See Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey first. If you havenâ™t seen it before, use the regular queue that includes a tour of Hogwarts Castle.
3. If you want to repeat the ride portion of Forbidden Journey, use the singles line â “ youâ™ll be able to ride in 20 minutes or less.
4. One of the coolest things in Wizarding World is the Wand Selection demonstration at Ollivanderâ™s Wand Shop in Hogsmeade Village. See it immediately after experiencing Forbidden Journey.
5. On busy days, there are lines for everything including shops, the restaurant, the pub, and even the Butterbeer vendor carts. Try to complete your shopping early in the morning or return to shop in the two hours before park closing.
6. To buy Butterbeer without a long wait go to the rear patio entrance to the Hogs Head Pub.
7. Butterbeeer comes in both a regular and frozen version. Most visitors prefer the frozen version.
8. Filchâ™s Emporium of Confiscated Goods, which also doubles as the exit for the Forbidden Journey attraction is one shop you can visit without waiting in line, though youâ™ll have to buck the tide of exiting riders.
9. Note that on busy days, if you exit the Wizarding World, you cannot return except by joining the end of the line of those waiting to enter.
10. If Florida schools are back in session, try to visit on a weekday. And be sure to check out Wizarding World in the evening when the lighting gives the park a totally different and magical look.

Five Great Features and Benefits offered ONLY by The Unofficial Guide: Exclusively patented, field-tested touring plans that save as much as four hours of standing in line in a single day Proven firsthand advice on how to plan and save money on your Walt Disney World vacation More than 200 hotels rated and ranked for quality and value, including the top non-Disney hotels for families A complete dining guide with ratings and reviews of all Walt Disney World restaurants, plus extensive alternatives for dining deals outside the World Attractions rated and ranked for each age group; extensive, objective, head-to-head comparisons of the Disney and Universal theme parks

My family and I are planning to go to Walt Disney World in a couple of months, so I ordered the 2011 Version of the Unofficial Guide to Walt Disney World (WDW). I first went to WDW in the late 90's, and as I wanted to make sure I enjoyed everything there was to enjoy, I bought three or four books on WDW and the surrounding area. I found that the Unofficial Guide had pretty much everything the other books had, and more, so for my next trip in 2004, I only bought the Unofficial Guide. After receiving the 2011 version and heavily perusing it, I find that, if anything, it's even better than the previous versions. If nothing else, it's a LOT larger than the first one I bought in the 90's. It gives ratings and reviews of hotels and dining establishments in the area (both on and off Disney World), covers all of the parks and attractions on Disney in tremendous detail, and the parks and attractions off of Disney in lesser detail (primarily Universal Studios and Seaworld). Additionally, the book provides information on how Disney prices their tickets, how to save money on meals, when to visit Disney, and of course, at the end of the book, their recommended touring plans for each park in order to see as much of the parks as possible in the least amount of time. The touring plans themselves are almost worth the price of the books. If you've never been to WDW, the parks are HUGE ... and if you just start wandering around and getting on whichever attraction catches your eye, you're going to be spending a lot more time in lines (and less time enjoying the attractions) than you should. Not that there is necessarily anything wrong with just going where you want to, when you want to, but you could spend literally hours more waiting in lines than you need to. The guide has several plans for each park ... basically with and without children, along with a few variations for some parks. As this is my first trip to Disney with small children, I was particularly interested to get these touring plans. There is also an affiliated Unofficial Guide to WDW website that you have to pay a subscription to get to some of the site's exclusive content for a year. If you've bought the book, you get about one-third off of the price of the subscription (when claiming discount, you have to identify the correct word from a page of the guide). While the web site does have some interesting things and the very latest information, all that you need when visiting WDW is in the book, so don't feel as if you're being cheated if you don't choose to subscribe to the web site. Disney changes a lot every year. Given that it's been six years since I last visited, I'm glad I bought the book, to read about new things to do. I also learned some things that I wouldn't have discovered without the guide. For example, you can rent a pontoon boat and captain and watch the fireworks at Magic Kingdom and Illuminations at Epcot from the lakes, rather than being packed on the sidewalks. You will also be dropped off at a water-adjointing resort of your choice afterwards so you can beat the rush out of the park. It's not cheap, but I made a reservation and am looking forward to enjoying the fireworks without 10,000 of my closest friends close at hand. :-)

Overall, I give this book

5 stars. If you're looking to visit additional places in the Orlando area other than Disney (and perhaps Sea World and Universal Studios), you may want to buy a second book, but I'd wait to buy it until after I read this guide, as it may have all that you need.

This is the best guide book to Walt Disney World, Orlando, FL that I have found. This is the second edition I purchased. Has the most information in one book I can find. Tells the good and the bad. Can be complex. They give you schedules and plans to see the most, which may seem like a military drill, but you can read these guides and use the pieces you like.

I had used The Unofficial Guide to Disneyland many years ago when planning my first trip to Disneyland. It was hands down the best resource guide. I've always wanted to go to Walt Disney World but figured it would take a few years to save up the money for it. Then a few weeks ago I received a phone call informing me that I had won a trip for four to Walt Disney World! We were to depart the following week. Less than 10 days to plan! I immediately went online to [touringplans.com](http://touringplans.com) and ordered The Unofficial Guide to Walt Disney World. It didn't disappoint. I was able to learn more about about the The Boardwalk Inn Resort we were to stay at for four nights. I reviewed all the attractions and selected "the best of the best" in each park and created a list which we took to the parks. The author has a web site called [touringplans.com](http://touringplans.com). You can download a free iPhone app called Lines. However, when you have the subscription to [touringplans.com](http://touringplans.com) you have access to a lot of great information including park hours, a 10 day forecast for the best and worst park to visit each day (i.e., crowd levels) and the wait time for each attraction and fastpass availability. An indispensable app! Even more, because I had bought the Unofficial Guide I was able to get a discount on the subscription, bringing it down to around \$7. Now that the trip is over, I find myself thumbing through the book and reading the items we didn't have time to do and planning my next trip.

I used this book throughout our recent vacation in WDW and Universal. Tips and daily plans saved a lot of time and increased our enjoyment significantly. The most valued tip is how to start the day early in the morning and which attractions to get fast passes to first. This book is a highly recommended Orlando vacation companion. Although it is thick, I carried it in my backpack and referred to it many times each day, especially for age related ratings of attractions (we had grade schoolers, pre teens, adults, and seniors in our party). It has very good index, and important subjects are approached from multiple angles which is very useful for quick reference using index. For example to find all rides people in our party who are prone to motion sickness need to avoid, all I

had todo is go to subject index under "motion sickness" which gets you to a single page with all matching rides in each park. The information is almost always accurate (only inaccuracy I noticed was in DHS Fantasmic! schedule), and have both author subjective ratings and opinion side by side to "objective" (survey based?) ratings. My only complaint is that I paid \$10 for their iPad app annual subscription hoping I will get the rating and attractions descriptions (so I can leave nook in the hotel) but it only gives the touring plans, is slow, and only works while there is a network connection (the wait times are very usefull but free). Also it will be nice to have a fast reference "cut and use" pages also for Universal, and have those pages designed so they refer to same park on both sides of the cut page.

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