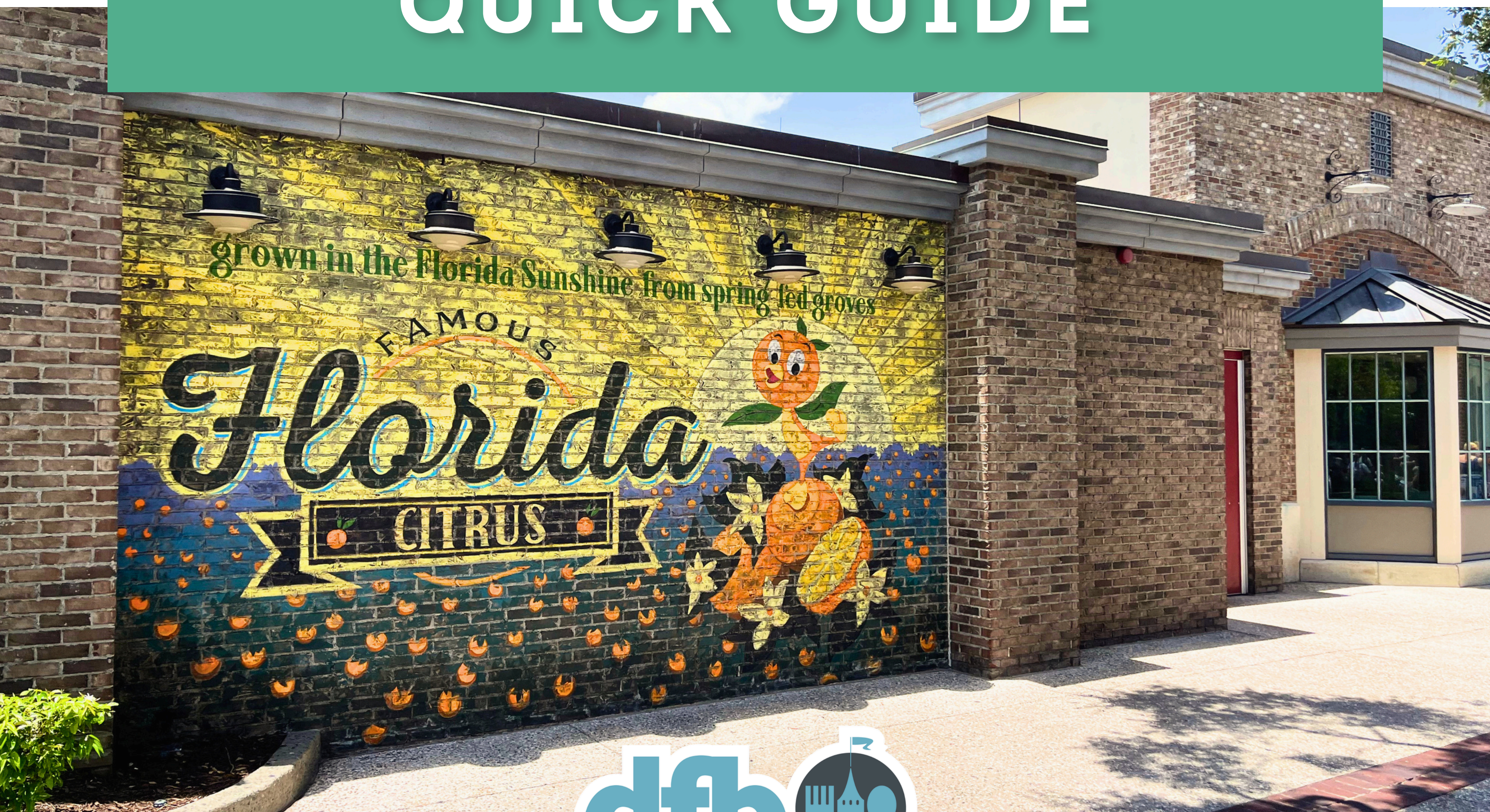




Non-Park Day at Disney World

QUICK GUIDE





INTRODUCTION

Want to experience a slice of Disney World MINUS the theme park ticket price? Then, do I have good news for YOU! There's TONS to do inside Disney World that has NOTHING to do with booking Lightning Lanes or fighting end-of-night crowds. So if you're looking for a way to spend your break days outside the parks – OR you're just wanting a few more unique vacation options that don't involve back-to-back rides – we've got a lot of suggestions to help you make the most out of your time visiting the Most Magical Place on Earth.

Follow us for even more news, reviews, and tips!



BEFORE YOU GO

Disney World is a BIG place. (We're talking about the size of San Francisco!) So if you're planning on spending a day outside the parks, which may include activities at the resorts and Disney Springs, you will be traveling around property quite a bit. There are a few complications that can come with this.

➔ **FIRST**, be sure to give yourself **PLENTY** of time to get between places, especially if you're trying to make it to restaurant reservations that you've booked. We'd recommend giving yourself 45 minutes to 1 hour to get between places.

➔ **SECOND**, because it can take a bit of time (and perhaps a bit of strategy) to get between non-park places, lay out your itinerary in a way that you'll be able to accomplish everything you want to at a certain place (a resort, Disney Springs, etc.) before moving on to the next location.

➔ **THIRD**, if you're hoping to hop between Disney World's hotels, transportation can be complicated.



DRIVING

If you're planning to drive between resorts, you can generally only park at Disney's hotels IF you're staying as a guest there OR if you've booked an Advance Dining Reservation for one of their Table Service restaurants ([though we've seen some exceptions made to this rule](#)).

DISNEY'S FREE TRANSPORTATION

Planning to use Disney's free transportation (buses, monorail, skyliner, etc.) to get between the hotels? While Disney's free transportation is extremely nifty, Disney hotels typically do NOT offer direct transportation to other hotels. You can still typically visit the hotels using Disney's free transportation, but you'll need to plan some more unique paths. Generally, expect to take transportation from your hotel to a nearby theme park and then hop on another transportation option from that park to the hotel you want to go to. This might look like taking a bus from your Disney hotel to EPCOT (for example), and then taking a boat from EPCOT to the Yacht Club Resort (if that's the hotel you're hoping to explore).

BE WARNED. At times (particularly busy holiday times), [we've seen Disney crack down on free transportation from Disney Springs to the hotels](#), limiting it only to those with hotel reservations, dining reservations, or other specific things.





QUICKER HOTEL HOPPING

If you want to quickly hop from one Disney resort to the next, you might be better off visiting the hotels along the Disney Skyliner route or monorail path. Those do connect via Disney transportation more directly. You might also want to consider booking a rideshare service (like Uber or Lyft) to drop you off at some of the resorts instead (this cost can add up, but it'll get you places more directly).

BE WARNED. Disney may restrict Uber options sometimes at certain hotels. For example, you may find that unless you have a room or restaurant reservation at Disney's Polynesian Village Resort, your Uber may need to drop you at the Transportation and Ticket Center rather than the Polynesian itself.

➔ **FOURTH**, be aware that the Magic Kingdom-area resorts (ie: Polynesian Village, Contemporary, and Grand Floridian Resort) have security checkpoints that you'll have to go through before boarding the monorail. Be prepared for these by removing items from your bag that could potentially set off the sensors (like umbrellas, electronics, etc.) and holding these items out in front of you so that Cast Members can easily see them. Disney Springs will also require you to walk through a security checkpoint before you're allowed inside the shopping district.



BEST DISNEY SPRINGS PHOTO SPOTS



1. Orange Bird Mural

This iconic citrusy fella can be found just around the corner from Erin McKenna's Bakery NYC.

2. Disney Springs Art Walk

Town Center becomes a canvas for local artists and visiting artists alike. You can find several murals down the alleyway between the Kate Spade New York and Jo Malone London stores.

3. Mad Tea Party Cup

Inside the DisneyStyle store, you can find this colorful prop (as well as several other photo op-worthy areas, too!)

4. LEGO Sea Serpent

Say hello to Brickley! He's hanging out over the water right across from the LEGO Store.

5. Spitting Stitch

It's worth taking a picture with the BIGGEST Disney World gift shop – **World of Disney** – no matter where you're standing, but if you go to the left side of the store, you can stand underneath a GIANT Stitch (who may occasionally spit on you. *You have been warned.* 😊).

6. Aerophile Balloon

Even if you don't take a ride on the balloon, you'll still want a picture with it! This attraction is only steps away from the DisneyStyle store.

7. M&M'S Wall

Inside the M&M'S Store, you'll find a wall featuring MILLIONS upon MILLIONS of this colorful candy treat! The M&M'S Store is across from Jaleo (but, believe me, it's NOT hard to miss).

8. Disney PhotoPass Studio

It's pretty easy to walk past this studio if you're not looking for it. This unassuming spot lets you choose your virtual backdrop, as well as a prop or two, and take a few family photos that you can access through Memory Maker.

WHERE TO FIND DISNEY SPRINGS CUSTOM SOUVENIRS



1. Little Words Project

Friendship Bracelets

2. Disney PhotoPass Studios

Disney Pin Boards

3. The Art Corner

Spin Art, Caricatures, Name Art, and more

4. Coca-Cola Store

Coca-Cola Cans

5. Crystal Arts by Arribas Brothers

Various custom glass pieces such as tiaras, cups, frames, 3D images, silhouettes, and more

6. Pandora Jewelry

Charm bracelets and necklaces

7. Goofy's Candy Co.

Create-your-own treats like Mickey's Premium Bars, Cake Pops, Candy Apples, and Marshmallow Wands

8. Uniqlo

Shirts and Tote Bags

9. Disney's Wonderful World of Memories

Hats and Mickey/Minnie Ears

10. Bows Signature Candles

Candles

11. Disney Days of Christmas

Ornaments

12. Basin

Candles and bath products

13. M&M'S Store

Printed M&M'S

14. LEGO Store

LEGO Minifigures

15. Dino Store at T-Rex

Build-a-Dino

16. Initial Rings

Rings

DISNEY SPRINGS ACTIVITIES AND HIDDEN GEMS



1. Aerophile – The World Leader in Balloon Flight

\$29.99 plus tax per adult (ages 10+)
\$24.99 plus tax per kid (ages 3-9)

2. AMC Theater

~\$20 per adult ticket (not including food)

3. Taste Soda from Around the World at The Coca-Cola Rooftop Beverage Bar

\$17 (plus tax) for an Around the World Tray (featuring 14 international soda flavors)

4. Drawn to Life by Cirque du Soleil

Starts at \$69 per ticket

5. Splitsville Luxury Lanes

Starts at \$21 per person

6. Stargazers Bar Karaoke

Free to perform; drink prices vary
NOTE: Karaoke only happens on Wednesday evenings between 7 and 11 PM

7. Vintage Amphicar Tours

\$125 per car (fits 3-4 people)



It's hard to spend a day in Disney Springs without running into FREE live music somewhere. Just keep your ears open so you can watch one of these complimentary performances during your shopping spree.

SEASONAL DISNEY SPRINGS SNACK TRACKER



Everglazed Donuts and Cold Brew

West Side

Everglazed frequently offers limited-time donuts (along with their classic donut lineup).



Jock Lindsey's Hangar Bar *The Landing*

We see apps and drinks come and go from Jock Lindsey's menu quite a bit, but the BIGGEST changes typically happen around the holiday season – when Jock Lindsey's Hangar Bar transforms into a Jock Lindsey's HOLIDAY Bar! We've also seen it transform into a Halloween Bar in the past, so that's something to watch for too!



Gideon's Bakehouse

The Landing

Gideon's switches up their specialty cookie, cake, and cold brew flavors each month. And – every now and then – Gideon's will release a super-exclusive sweet treat that you'll ONLY be able to order if you know the secret code (which is typically revealed on their social media pages).



The Ganachery

The Landing

Seasonal chocolates are the name of the game at The Ganachery...but one of the REALLY unique limited time offerings that tends to pop up in this little sweet shop is themed Chocolate Piñatas. Year-round, though, look for unique chocolate treats and the oh-so-delicious Artisan S'mores!



Coca-Cola Store Rooftop Beverage Bar

Town Center

The Rooftop Beverage Bar releases a new drink of the month that features a soda base. (So all you Soda Goblins out there, REJOICE!)



Amorette's Patisserie

Town Center

The seasonal petit cakes that Amorette's Patisserie creates are GORGEOUS. (Almost too pretty to eat...Almost.)



The Polite Pig

Town Center

The Polite Pig is home to all kinds of delicious Florida-inspired food options, including smoked meats, sandwiches, and more. But you'll want to pay special attention to the ever-changing Chef's Specials that can bring some REALLY unique options to this spot!



The Daily Poutine

Town Center

Every so often, we get a new, limited-time poutine option to go along with the other international poutine variants that are available year-round.



Swirls on the Water

Marketplace

DOLE Whip flavors switch out regularly at this kiosk. Order a DOLE Whip Flight to try three of the latest options!



Salt and Straw

West Side

Salt and Straw is no stranger to unique and WONDERFUL ice cream flavors. Each month, you can try a totally unexpected ice cream treat. (Around Halloween, you might even be able to try one with ACTUAL dried bugs?? Hey, don't knock it 'til you try it!)

RESORT HOPPING CHECKLIST

✓ IMPORTANT

Activities at the resorts may vary, but some activities also have the tendency to stick around longer than others. These checklists do NOT cover EVERYTHING you might be able to do at each resort, but they do cover some of the most popular offerings, as well as the hidden gems we think you need to know about.

SKYLINER RESORT ACTIVITIES

- 1 Make a day out of exploring everything the **Skyliner resorts** have to offer!
- 2 **Disney's Art of Animation Resort**
 - Mosaic Craft (select days only) (\$)
 - Story Time Yoga (select mornings only)
 - Mickey Tie-Dye (select days only) (\$)
 - Take pictures with the fun photo ops in each section (ie: The Lion King, Finding Nemo, The Little Mermaid, Cars)
 - Mermaid Tail Cupcake at Landscape of Flavors (\$)
- 3 **Disney's Pop Century Resort**
 - Marble Painting on Vinyl Records (select days only) (\$)
 - Paint Your Own Bowling Pin (select days only) (\$)
 - Rainbow Cheesecake and/or Flashback Oatmeal Cream Pie at Everything POP Shopping & Dining (\$)
 - Take pictures with fun photo ops (featuring different decades)



BoardWalk Inn, Yacht Club, and Beach Club are all within walking distance to the Fantasia Gardens Mini Golf Course – one of Disney’s very own mini golf courses!

4 Disney’s Riviera Resort

- Take a picture with the Tangled and Peter Pan Mosaics
- Coffee and/or pastry from Le Petit Cafe (\$)
- Lawn Games
- Voyageurs’ Lounge (near Le Petit Cafe – lots of cool decor to check out, and a nice spot to enjoy your snack or coffee)

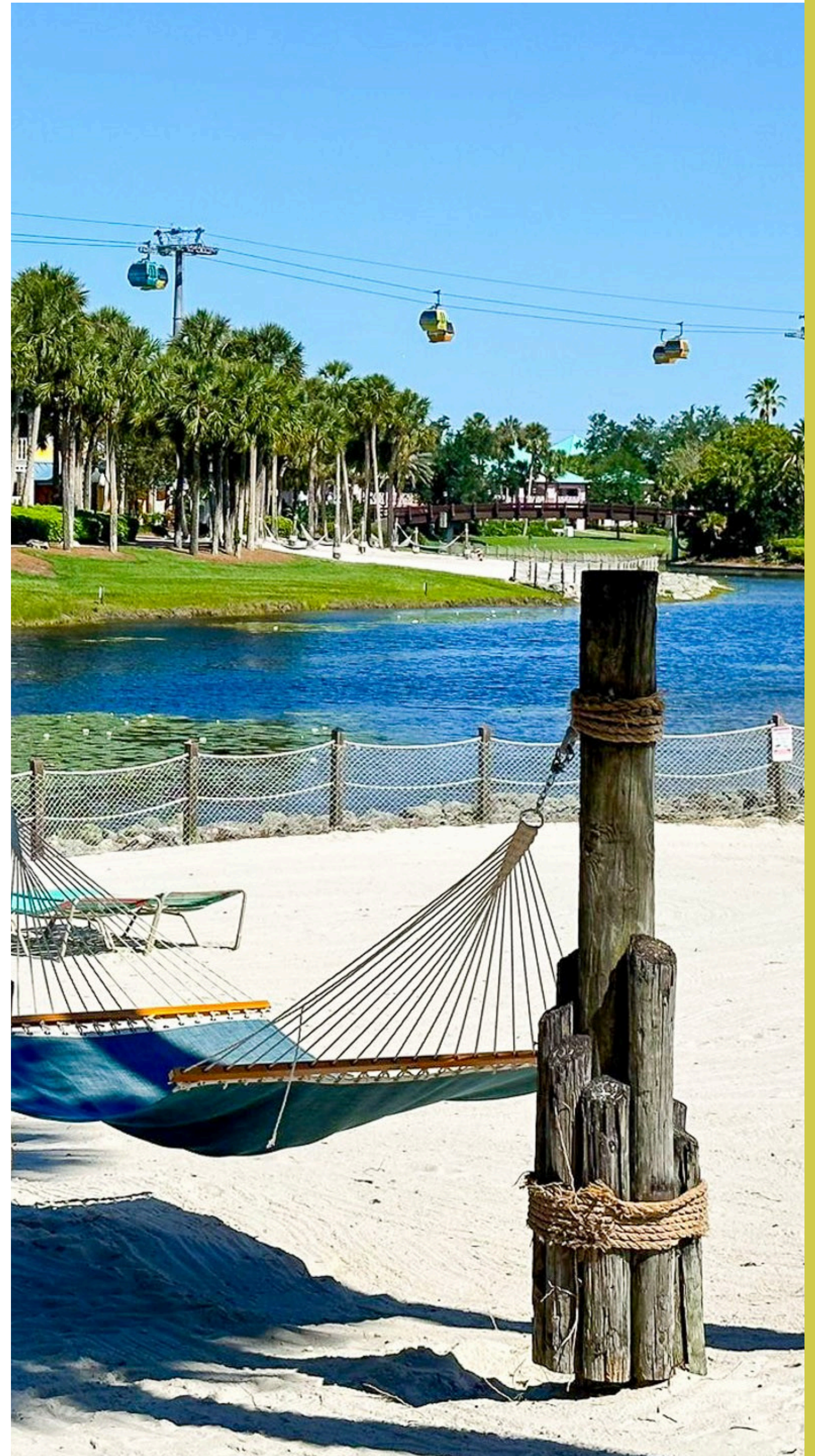
5 Disney’s Caribbean Beach Resort

- Paint your own shell (select days only) (\$)
- Relax in a hammock
- Fruity cocktails from Banana Cabana (and ask to see if they have the Pineapple-Coconut Bread Pudding available!) (\$)
- Fishing (\$)

6 Disney’s Yacht and Beach Club Resorts

(accessible via walking path from the EPCOT Skyliner station at International Gateway)

- Beach Club Solarium – a nice place to relax and enjoy a snack from Beach Club Marketplace
- Fireworks Viewing (Shipwreck Beach)
- Boat Rentals/Fireworks Cruises (\$)
- Ice cream sundae/float from Beaches & Cream Soda Shop (\$)



7 Disney’s BoardWalk Inn

(accessible via walking path from the EPCOT Skyliner station at International Gateway)

- Slice of cake at Cake Bake Shop Bakery (\$)
- A drink of your choice from Belle Vue Lounge (\$)
- Surrey Bike Rentals (\$)
- Specialty Corn Dog from Blue Ribbon Corn Dogs (\$)

MONORAIL RESORTS ACTIVITIES

1 Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa

- Grand Floridian Spa (\$)
- Motorized Boat Rentals (\$)
- Housemade Mac and Cheese from Gasparilla Island Grill (\$)
- Electrical Water Pageant (views at every monorail resort)
- Lavender Fog at Enchanted Rose (\$)
- Lobby Pianist
- Wedding Pavilion Tours/Open House (select days only)

2 Disney's Contemporary Resort

- Motorized Boat Rentals/Fireworks Cruises (\$)
- Fishing (\$)
- Pickleball Clinic (select days only)
- California Grill Bar + Private Balcony for Fireworks (\$) – Pro tip: You can sit at the California Grill bar (if there's space available!), enjoy a drink + bites from a limited small plates menu, and watch the fireworks WITHOUT committing to a Table Service reservation
- Grand Canyon Concourse fireworks views
- Drinks/Stack Burger at Steakhouse 71 Lounge (\$)

3 Disney's Polynesian Village Resort

- Beachside fireworks views
- Lapu Lapu pineapple drink from Tambu Lounge (\$)
- Tai Chi (on select mornings)
- DOLE Whip at Pineapple Lanai (\$)
- Drinks at Trader Sam's Grog Grotto (\$)
- Tonga Toast (breakfast only) at Capt Cook's (\$)
- Welcome leis (these are typically available for hotel guests, but it never hurts to ask if there are any extras available)
- Wayfinder Burger at Wailulu Bar and Grill (\$)



FREE ACTIVITIES AT MOST DISNEY RESORTS

- 1 **Campfires and Marshmallows**
- 2 **Movies Under The Stars**
- 3 **Playgrounds**
- 4 **Random Character Meet and Greets** (at select times and locations only)
- 5 **Scavenger Hunts** (ask a hotel Cast Member to see if any are available)
- 6 **Trivia Games and Dance Parties**
(Note: Some may take place at the pools and won't be available for non-resort guests)



Check for a sign at each resort lobby that details what hotel events will be going on during the week of your visit. Each **resort tends to have different free and/or premium offerings** (with a few overlaps here and there) that you'll want to learn more about. You can also **ask a hotel Cast Member for information** if you don't see a sign nearby.

BEST HIDDEN GEMS AT EVERY DISNEY WORLD RESORT

MAGIC KINGDOM AREA

- **The Carolwood Pacific Railroad Room**
Disney's Wilderness Lodge
- **Cookie Croissant at Contempo Cafe (\$)**
Disney's Contemporary Resort
- **Make Your Own Candles at Basin White (\$)**
Disney's Grand Floridian Resort
- **Secret 'Ohana menu eats – like the 'Ohana noodles and bread pudding – at Tambu Lounge (\$)**
Disney's Polynesian Village Resort

ANIMAL KINGDOM AREA

- **Starlight Safari (\$)**
Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge
- **Take pictures with larger-than-life props**
Disney's All-Star Movies, Music, and Sports Resorts
- **Sangria University (\$)**
Disney's Coronado Springs Resort



EPCOT AREA

- **Painting at Martha's Vineyard (\$)** (select days only)
Disney's Beach Club Resort
- **Prime Rib Sliders at Crew's Cup Lounge (\$)**
Disney's Yacht Club Resort
- **Roses of Gold Afternoon Tea at Cake Bake Shop (\$)**
Disney's BoardWalk Inn
- **Riviera Cookie Skillet at Bar Riva (\$)**
Disney's Riviera Resort

BEST HIDDEN GEMS AT EVERY DISNEY WORLD RESORT



DISNEY SPRINGS AREA

- **Lake Buena Vista Golf Course (\$)**
Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort
Note: Closed until fall 2026 for refurb
- **Daily Brunch at Olivia's Cafe (\$)**
Disney's Old Key West Resort
- **Mickey Beignets at Scat Cat's Club - Cafe (\$)**
Disney's Port Orleans Resort - French Quarter
- **Yeehaw Bob at River Roost**
Disney's Port Orleans Resort - Riverside

HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS AREA

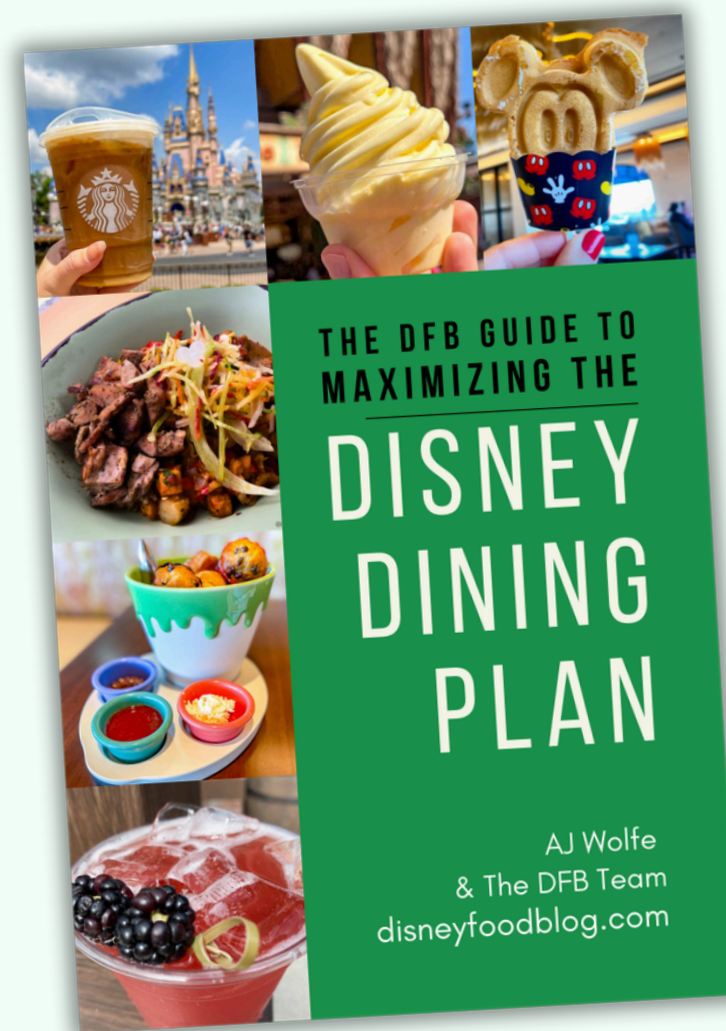
- **Pineapple Coconut Bread Pudding at Banana Cabana (\$)**
Disney's Caribbean Beach Resort
- **Stories of the Enchanted Gallery** (Play Disney Parks App)
Disney's Art of Animation Resort
- **GIANT characters and props**
Disney's Art of Animation Resort
- **Outdoor Twister/ various lawn games**
Disney's Pop Century Resort





DFB
Guide

everything
BUNDLE



Dining

Snacks



Festivals
&
Holidays



WANT MORE?

So glad you're enjoying our Non-Park Day at Disney World Quick Guide! It's a joy creating these guides, and guess what? There's a whole lot more to discover! From EPCOT festivals to the Disney Dining Plan, and details on EVERY snack available, we have a guide for just about everything at Disney.

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You'll gain comprehensive insights into the Disney Dining Plan, detailed reviews for every restaurant in the parks, festival maps, and stunning photos. Use code **NONPARKDAY** for a fantastic deal just for you!

I'M IN! I WANT THE EVERYTHING BUNDLE!