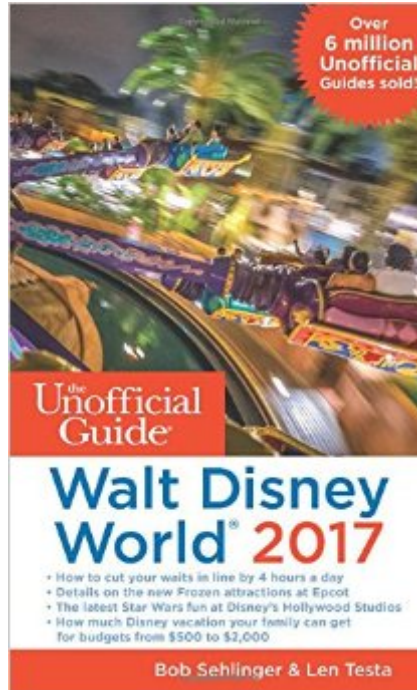


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The Unofficial Guide To Walt Disney World 2017 (The Unofficial Guides)



Synopsis

Compiled and written by a team of experienced researchers whose work has been cited by such diverse sources as USA Today and Operations Research Forum, The Unofficial Guide to Walt Disney World digs deeper and offers more than any other guide. The Unofficial Guide to Walt Disney World explains how Walt Disney World works and how to use that knowledge to make every minute and every dollar of your vacation count. With advice that is direct, prescriptive, and detailed, it takes the guesswork out of travel by unambiguously rating and ranking everything from hotels, restaurants, and attractions to rental car companies. With an Unofficial Guide in hand, and authors Bob Sehlinger and Len Testa as guides, find out what's available in every category, from best to worst, and use step-by-step detailed plans to help make the most of your time at Walt Disney World.

Book Information

Series: The Unofficial Guides

Paperback: 848 pages

Publisher: Unofficial Guides; 2017 ed. edition (August 16, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1628090529

ISBN-13: 978-1628090529

Product Dimensions: 1.8 x 5.8 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (16 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #109,732 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in [Books > Travel > United States > Florida > Disney World](#) #37 in [Books > Travel > Specialty Travel > Family Travel](#) #79 in [Books > Travel > Specialty Travel > Theme Parks](#)

Customer Reviews

I actually love the "Unofficial Guide" series but I just received my copy of the 2017 edition for WDW and noticed that the clip out Touring Plans at the back of the book are using last years maps with this year's touring plans. In other words, the numbers on the touring plans do not match the numbers on the maps. It may just be my copy or it might be a more serious problem with the proofs or the printers. If this gets fixed, I would give this 5+ stars. I only rated 2 stars to get attention. The "Unofficial Guide" series is not only well research but written with a refreshing candor and sense of humor that one wishes were in other guides. The centerpiece of the series devoted to theme parks is the Touring Plan, which prescribes the order of rides and attractions to visit in order to maximize

your enjoyment of the park by minimizing waiting in lines. The authors also describe in great detail not just the rides, attractions, fright potential, and guest feedback stemming from years of research and practical experience but also lavish the same detail on virtually every aspect of the typical Orlando vacation including ratings/descriptions of hotels both on WDW property and off but off property restaurant alternatives and transportation. There is info about reasonably priced grocery stores, bonded baby sitting services, and even emergency car and health care. But, beyond the travel guide aspect, the authors give a healthy dose of reality check in their advice about physical and psychological conditioning necessary for getting the most (or avoiding the worst) from visiting the happiest place on earth. Best of all, the writing is refreshingly candid and as unafraid to be critical when the Mouse's offerings are lacking as ready to assign praise when merited. So enjoyably do the personalities of the writers come through, I actually do read these cover to cover even when I have no intention of visiting Orlando; and when I have visited WDW, I have found the Touring Plans as effective as claimed.

PROS: My husband and I used the 2007 edition of this book to plan our honeymoon and it was extremely helpful and a wonderful guidebook. We have been 3 times since then and are approaching our 10 year anniversary in 2017. Of course, we use these books every time. Our last trip was in 2013 and a lot has changed. The book does a great job of explaining the magicband system (the biggest change for us). We usually stay at a friend's condo but like our honeymoon, we are "doing it big" for our 10 year anniversary and will be staying on property. The resort hotel information is wonderful for helping us make that choice. We also always use the dining guides to help us choose where setup our reservations 180 days ahead of our trip.

CON: Like another reviewers, my only complaint would be the maps in the back. The numbering list and the attractions are mismatched and very wrong. For example, the plan might say (17) Go to the Enchanted Tiki Room but the (17) on the map marks the Carousel of Progress. This is just an example. There are many, many errors, some sending you to the complete wrong side of the park. I have a membership with the website and am able to access the corrected touring plans online so I am in good shape for the trip, but it costs money to join so many readers might be upset with this error. The book as a whole is awesome and extremely beneficial and with correct touring plans the book is easily 5 stars. I will never go to Disney without buying the newest copy. Hopefully this error can be fixed or free access granted to their website for those with misprinted copies.

UPDATE: I emailed the publisher to let them know about this error. They responded that they are already aware of the issue and are working on posting a correction. They also mentioned that the steps on the maps are in the correct

order but that the numbers are mislabeled on the map.

This guide, although long, is packed full of extremely helpful tips for a Disney vacation. It also talks about Universal Studios, so that is a plus since many people do both Disney and Universal parks during one trip.

This is the third edition that I've purchased as it's the only guide that I trust. I have also purchased Passporters and Birnbaums and they pale in comparison to the objectivity present in the Unofficial Guide. The dedication and passion that the individuals involved, including the authors and their research team, shines through and results in a comprehensive guide. My first trip to Disney World five years ago was the first time I purchased it and was so very thankful as without it I would have been lost. Thanks to the trip planning details and the restaurant reviews, I had a better idea of what to expect and how to prepare for all of it. But the book isn't even my favorite part of the Unofficial Guide experience. The book is handy but their online site is second to none and truly world class, IMHO. What I value the most is the Lines app and the ability to personalize touring plans. Having gone now every year for the last five years, I have used Lines and TouringPlans each time. I can tell you that I waited in line for more than 20 minutes one time, and that was on me. In addition to the touring plans and the app, I am helplessly addicted to their blog. Several of their researchers for the book contribute to the blog in addition to others specific to the blog, from what I'm aware anyway, and even though I read it every day I always find new stories that keep me coming back. All around, Bob, Len, and team make a spectacular product that I am so appreciative of and have no problems with shelling out the money for the subscription to TouringPlans and for the book.

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