



by Kristie Caron

YOUR BLUEPRINT

TO PERFECT PARK DAYS



WELCOME TO YOUR DISNEYLAND PLANNING BLUEPRINT

I'm Kristie — Disneyland planner, mom of three, and your new park bestie.

If you're staring down a Disneyland trip and feeling more overwhelmed than excited... you're in the right place.

This planner is designed to help you:

- ✓ know what actually matters
- ✓ stop second-guessing every decision
- ✓ create a plan that works for your family (not just what you see online)

Inside, you'll find the exact process I use to plan our trips — and the same approach I use with my clients.

Simple. Flexible. And designed to make your days feel calm, not chaotic.

Let's make your trip feel doable — and actually fun to plan 🧡

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YOUR GAME PLAN

Here's exactly how to use this planner to create a trip that feels calm, fun, and actually doable.

1. Start with the strategy

Head to "The Blueprint Method" first.

This is the exact framework I use — once this clicks, everything else gets easier.

2. Use the ride breakdowns

This helps you:

- understand what's worth it for your group
- spot your must-dos
- avoid wasting time on things that don't matter to you

3. Map out your days

Use the planning templates to organize:

- rides
- meals
- breaks
- key moments

This isn't about being rigid — it's about having a plan that works.



4. This is where most people overcomplicate things

You don't need to do everything.

The goal isn't more — it's better.

5. Leave room for magic ✨

Some of the best moments aren't planned.

Give yourself space to slow down, wander, and enjoy it.

6. Quick prep tip

Measure your kids before you go — it makes ride planning so much easier (and avoids disappointment in the parks).

You don't need a perfect plan — just one that works for your people

YOUR DISNEYLAND PLANNING CHECKLIST

BEFORE YOU BOOK

- ☐ Pick your travel dates
- ☐ Check for special events (know that if an After Hours event is happening one park will close early and the other will get busier- avoid Grad Nights unless you're going)
- ☐ Decide how many park days you need
- ☐ Choose your hotel
- ☐ Book your trip early (bundle if you can!)
- ☐ Buy park tickets + Lightning Lane Multi Pass

75-60 DAYS OUT (DINING)

- ☐ Look at menus + pick your top spots
- ☐ Decide on dining packages or extras
- ☐ Make reservations right when the window opens (60 days out- 6am Disneyland time)

PLAN YOUR DAYS

- ☐ Choose your must-do rides
- ☐ Fill out your daily planning templates
- ☐ Divide parks across your days
- ☐ Add meals + experiences
- ☐ Plan breaks (this matters more than you think!)
- ☐ Download the Disneyland app + explore it

PACKING & PREP

- ☐ Prep your park bag
- ☐ Plan outfits (trust me — it helps)
- ☐ Save or screenshot your plans
- ☐ Charge your portable charger

FINAL CHECKS

- ☐ Review your daily plans
- ☐ Confirm park reservations
- ☐ Screenshot tickets + barcodes
- ☐ Decide: rope drop or slower start?
- ☐ Double check park hours
- ☐ Get excited — you're ready 🧡





THE BLUEPRINT METHOD

This is the exact step-by-step process I use for my own family and clients

01

Pick your dates (and keep it simple)

Choose dates that work for your family first.

Don't overthink crowd calendars — they change constantly. Instead, avoid major events like Grad Nights unless you're planning around them.

02

Book early + book smart

Book your hotel, tickets, and Lightning Lane as early as you can.

This gives you:

- better pricing
- better availability
- more flexibility if things change

03

Choose the right hotel for YOU

The “best” hotel depends on:

- your budget
- who you're traveling with
- how much rest your group needs

Closer isn't always better — sometimes space and comfort matter more.

04

Plan dining before your park days

Before your 60-day window:

- look at menus
- choose your top spots
- decide if you want any extras

Then book right when reservations open.

05

Build your days around your people

This is where most people go wrong.

Instead of planning for “everything”...

plan based on:

- energy levels
- ages + heights
- what actually matters to your group

06

Keep your plan flexible

You don't need a minute-by-minute schedule.

Focus on:

- one area at a time
- built-in breaks
- a few key priorities per day

That's how your trip feels calm instead of chaotic.

This is how you create days that feel smooth, fun, and
actually doable 🧡

YOUR DAILY PARK STRATEGY

This is how you structure your day to ride more, walk less, and avoid burnout



MORNING: GET AHEAD (THIS IS WHERE YOU WIN YOUR DAY)

This is your highest-leverage time.

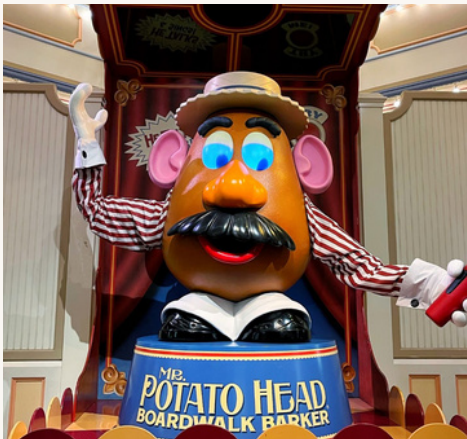
Focus on:

- 2–3 priority rides (without long waits)
- staying in one land
- avoiding early bottlenecks

Avoid:

- zig-zagging across the park
- starting with the busiest rides unless it's intentional

👉 The goal: build momentum without stress



MIDDAY: PROTECT YOUR ENERGY

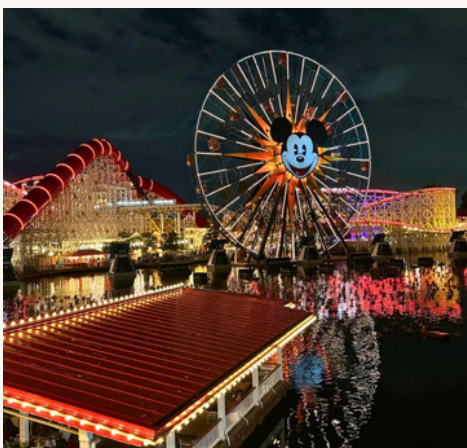
This is when most people burn out.

Do this instead:

- schedule a sit-down meal or break
- shift to lower-wait rides or experiences
- slow your pace intentionally

Pro tip: This is the BEST time to start stacking Lightning Lanes for later.

👉 The goal: rest now so your evening feels easy



EVENING: THIS IS WHERE THE MAGIC (AND EFFICIENCY) HAPPENS

Crowds shift, energy changes, and wait times start to drop.

Use this time for:

- your stacked Lightning Lanes
- re-riding favorites
- big rides with shorter waits

👉 The goal: do more with less effort

THE REAL SECRET: PLAN FOR ENERGY — NOT RIDE COUNT

Most people try to “do it all”...

That’s how you end up overwhelmed, exhausted, and not actually enjoying your trip.

Instead:

- plan around your group’s energy
- build in breaks BEFORE you need them
- focus on what actually matters

What This Actually Looks Like

Morning → Start in one area and move with intention while waits are low

Midday → Slow down, take a break, and start setting up your evening

Evening → Use your Lightning Lanes + lower waits to move through the park easily

How Your Day Should Feel

Morning → Focused, calm, and efficient

Midday → Slower, flexible, and recharging

Evening → Fun, easy, and a little magical



BEFORE YOU PLAN...

Before we plan anything — let's make sure this trip actually feels right for your family

01

WHAT MATTERS MOST

What's your top priority for this trip?

- ☐ Riding all the rides
- ☐ Seeing characters
- ☐ Taking it slow + soaking it in
- ☐ Making it magical for my kids
- ☐ Eating all the snacks
- ☐ Other: _____

02

Who are you traveling with?

Ages + heights: _____

Energy levels (early risers? need breaks?):

Anything important to consider? (sensory needs, accessibility, etc.) _____

03

YOUR MUST-DO MOMENTS

What are 3 things that would make this trip feel like a success?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

04

HOW YOU WANT IT TO FEEL

Pick the vibe you're going for:

- ☐ Full of action
- ☐ Calm + easy
- ☐ Magical little moments
- ☐ Flexible but planned
- ☐ A mix of everything

05

YOUR MAGIC ✨

What would make this trip feel extra special for YOU?

(And yes... you matter too)

- A quiet coffee moment?
- A certain photo?
- A meal you're excited about?

Write it here:

This is how you build a trip you actually enjoy —
not just one that looks good on paper 💛

YOUR PLANNING TIMELINE

WHAT TO DO (AND WHEN) SO NOTHING SNEAKS UP ON YOU



6+ Months Before

- Pick your travel dates
- Start a rough trip plan
- Book flights (if needed)
- Get a hotel + ticket quote
- Purchase tickets + link to the app - then as soon as you can, make your park reservation



60 Days Before (Dining Window)

- Look at menus + choose your top spots
- Book dining reservations right when they open
- Reserve experiences (Bibbidi Bobbidi, Droid Depot, etc.)



1 Month Before

- Check park hours + entertainment schedule
- Start organizing outfits + essentials
- Review your daily plans



2 Weeks Before

- Double-check reservations + bookings
- Start setting aside items to pack
- Review your plan again (this is where it clicks!)



1 Week Before

- Double-check reservations + bookings
- Start setting aside items to pack
- Review your plan again (this is where it clicks!)



The Night Before

- Charge all electronics
- Finish packing
- Set out outfits
- Screenshot tickets + plans

DISNEYLAND PARK — FULL RIDE BREAKDOWN

MAIN STREET, U.S.A.

Disneyland Railroad

Best For: Everyone

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

A scenic train ride that circles Disneyland, with stops in different lands

Good to Know:

A great option when your feet need a break — and an easy way to move across the park without walking

Lightning Lane: No

Main Street Vehicles

Best For: Everyone

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

Ride in a vintage vehicle (like a fire truck or omnibus) down Main Street

Good to Know:

Only runs earlier in the day — not something you can count on later

Lightning Lane: No

Main Street Cinema

Best For: All ages

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

A small theatre playing classic Disney cartoons on loop

Good to Know:

A quiet, low-key break spot — especially nice if you need a moment out of the crowds

Lightning Lane: No

DISNEYLAND PARK — FULL RIDE BREAKDOWN

MAIN STREET, U.S.A.

Great Moments with Mr. Lincoln

Best For: Older kids, adults

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

A seated indoor show featuring an animatronic Abraham Lincoln and historical storytelling

Good to Know:

Slower-paced and more educational — not ideal for little kids who want movement

Lightning Lane: No

Walt Disney – A Magical Life

Best For: Older kids, adults, Disney fans

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

A seated show focused on Walt Disney's life, story, and legacy

Good to Know:

More meaningful than exciting — a great place to slow down and take a break

Lightning Lane: No

ADVENTURELAND

Indiana Jones Adventure

Best For: Thrill seekers, older kids

Height Requirement: 46"

Thrill Level: High

What It's Like:

Fast, bumpy ride through dark ruins with sudden turns, drops, and loud effects

Good to Know:

This ride can feel intense and rough — not ideal for sensitive riders

Lightning Lane: Yes

DISNEYLAND PARK — FULL RIDE BREAKDOWN

ADVENTURELAND

Jungle Cruise

Best For: Families, all ages

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

A slow boat ride with a live skipper telling cheesy (but fun) jokes

Good to Know:

More about the experience than thrills — great when you want to sit and relax

Lightning Lane: No

Walt Disney's Enchanted Tiki Room

Best For: All ages, especially younger kids or anyone needing a break

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

A seated indoor show with singing birds and tropical music

Good to Know:

Cool, quiet, and a great reset spot during busy or hot days

Lightning Lane: No

Adventureland Treehouse

Best For: Families, slower-paced explorers

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

A walk-through attraction with stairs, views, and interactive elements

Good to Know:

Not a ride — but a fun way to let kids move around and burn energy

Lightning Lane: No

DISNEYLAND PARK — FULL RIDE BREAKDOWN

NEW ORLEANS SQUARE

🏴‍☠️ **Pirates of the Caribbean**

Best For: Everyone

Height: None

Thrill: Medium

What It's Like: Boat ride with dark scenes + small drops

Good to Know: One of the best "all ages" rides

Lightning Lane: Yes

👻 **Haunted Mansion**

Best For: Families, slightly older kids

Height: None

Thrill: Low

What It's Like: Slow-moving spooky dark ride

Good to Know: Can be scary for sensitive kids

Lightning Lane: Yes

BAYOU COUNTRY

🎢 **Tiana's Bayou Adventure**

Best For: Thrill-lite riders

Height: 40"

Thrill: High

What It's Like: Log ride with a **big** drop at the end

Good to Know: You will likely get wet

Lightning Lane: Yes

🧸 **Winnie the Pooh**

Best For: Littles

Height: None

Thrill: Low

What It's Like: Gentle, colorful dark ride

Good to Know: Easy, low-wait filler ride

Lightning Lane: No

DISNEYLAND PARK — FULL RIDE BREAKDOWN

FRONTIERLAND

Big Thunder Mountain Railroad

Best For: Families, thrill-lite riders

Height Requirement: 40"

Thrill Level: Medium

What It's Like:

A fast-moving mine train ride with drops, turns, and a wild-west theme

Good to Know:

This is one of the best “starter coasters” — fun and exciting without being too intense

Lightning Lane: Yes

Pirate's Lair on Tom Sawyer Island

Best For: Kids who need to move, families

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

A large, interactive island where kids can run, climb, explore caves, and cross bridges

Good to Know:

This is NOT a quick stop — kids can easily spend 45–60 minutes here

You'll need to take a raft to get over

Lightning Lane: No

Davy Crockett's Explorer Canoes

Best For: Older kids, active families

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

A guided canoe ride where guests paddle together around the Rivers of America

Good to Know:

You actually paddle — it's fun, but also a bit of a workout

Lightning Lane: No

DISNEYLAND PARK — FULL RIDE BREAKDOWN

FRONTIERLAND

Mark Twain Riverboat

Best For: Everyone

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

A large, slow-moving riverboat that loops around the Rivers of America

Good to Know:

Great for a break — lots of space to sit or walk around

Lightning Lane: No

Sailing Ship Columbia

Best For: Everyone

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

A historic sailing ship experience that also circles the river

Good to Know:

Similar to the riverboat, but smaller and more immersive

Lightning Lane: No

Frontierland Shootin' Exposition

Best For: Older kids, adults

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

An interactive shooting gallery with moving targets

Good to Know:

Costs a small additional fee

Lightning Lane: No

DISNEYLAND PARK — FULL RIDE BREAKDOWN

FANTASYLAND

✨ **Peter Pan's Flight**

Best For: Everyone, especially littles

Height: None

Thrill: Low

What It's Like: Flying dark ride over London

Good to Know: Long waits all day

Lightning Lane: No

🐘 **Dumbo**

Best For: Littles

Height: None

Thrill: Low

What It's Like: Flying spinner ride

Good to Know: You control height

Lightning Lane: No

🌍 **It's a Small World**

Best For: Everyone

Height: None

Thrill: Low

What It's Like: Boat ride with singing dolls

Good to Know: Indoors + relaxing

Lightning Lane: Yes

🦄 **King Arthur Carrousel**

Best For: Littles

Height: None

Thrill: Low

What It's Like: Classic carousel

Lightning Lane: No

DISNEYLAND PARK — FULL RIDE BREAKDOWN

FANTASYLAND

Mr. Toad's Wild Ride

Best For: Older kids, families

Height: None

Thrill: Low

What It's Like: Fast, chaotic dark ride

Lightning Lane: No

Alice in Wonderland

Best For: Families

Height: None

Thrill: Low/Medium

What It's Like: Dark ride with indoor + outdoor sections

Lightning Lane: No

Pinocchio's Daring Journey

Best For: Families

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

A dark ride following Pinocchio's story

Good to Know:

Similar style to Snow White — quick and easy

Lightning Lane: No

Casey Jr. Circus Train

Best For: Younger kids

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

A small train ride through Storybook scenes

Good to Know:

Pairs well with Storybook Land Canal Boats

Lightning Lane: No

DISNEYLAND PARK — FULL RIDE BREAKDOWN

FANTASYLAND

Storybook Land Canal Boats

Best For: Families

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

A boat ride past miniature Disney scenes

Good to Know:

Slow, relaxing, and surprisingly charming

Lightning Lane: No

Snow White

Best For: Families

Height: None

Thrill: Low

What It's Like: Story-based dark ride

Lightning Lane: No

Storytelling at Royal Theatre

Best For: Families

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

A live storytelling show with Disney characters

Good to Know:

Great break and something different from rides

Lightning Lane: No

Mad Tea Party

Best For: Everyone

Height: None

Thrill: Medium

What It's Like: Spinning teacups

Lightning Lane: No

DISNEYLAND PARK — FULL RIDE BREAKDOWN

Matterhorn Bobsleds

Best For: Older kids, teens, thrill-lite riders

Height Requirement: 42"

Thrill Level: Medium

What It's Like:

A fast, bumpy roller coaster through a snowy mountain with sharp turns and sudden drops

Good to Know:

This ride is rough — it's fun, but not smooth like newer coasters

Can be uncomfortable for some riders (especially adults)

Lightning Lane: Yes

TOMORROWLAND

Astro Orbitor

Best For: Younger kids

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

A rocket-spinner ride where you control how high you go

Good to Know:

Similar to Dumbo, but higher and more exposed

Queue can feel long for a short ride

Lightning Lane: No

Finding Nemo Submarine

Best For: Families

Height: None

Thrill: Low

What It's Like: Submarine underwater ride

Good to Know: Tight space — not great for claustrophobia

Lightning Lane: No

DISNEYLAND PARK — FULL RIDE BREAKDOWN

TOMORROWLAND

Buzz Lightyear Astroblasters

Best For: Families

Height: None

Thrill: Low

What It's Like: Shooting game ride

Lightning Lane: No

Autopia

Best For: Younger kids

Height: 32"

Thrill: Low

What It's Like: Drive your own car

Lightning Lane: No

Space Mountain

Best For: Thrill seekers

Height: 40"

Thrill: High

What It's Like: Fast indoor roller coaster in the dark

Lightning Lane: Yes

Star Tours

Best For: Families

Height: 40"

Thrill: Medium

What It's Like: Motion simulator ride

Lightning Lane: Yes

DISNEYLAND PARK — FULL RIDE BREAKDOWN

TOONTOWN

Mickey & Minnie's Runaway Railway

Best For: Everyone

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

A trackless dark ride with bright visuals, music, and lots of movement

Good to Know:

One of the smoothest and most fun “all ages” rides — great first ride of the day

Lightning Lane: Yes

Roger Rabbit's Car Toon Spin

Best For: Families, slightly older kids

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low to Medium

What It's Like:

A dark ride where you spin your own car through chaotic cartoon scenes

Good to Know:

You control the spinning — it can feel a bit wild if you spin a lot

Lightning Lane: Yes

Chip 'n' Dale's GADGETcoaster

Best For: Younger kids

Height Requirement: 35"

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

A short, beginner roller coaster with small dips and turns

Good to Know:

Very quick ride — great intro to coasters for little ones

Lightning Lane: No

DISNEYLAND PARK — FULL RIDE BREAKDOWN

TOONTOWN

Goofy's How-To-Play Yard

Best For: Younger kids

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

An open play space with climbing, bouncing, and interactive elements

Good to Know:

Perfect for letting kids burn energy — not a ride

Lightning Lane: No

Mickey's House & Meet Mickey

Best For: Families, character lovers

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

Walk through Mickey's house and meet him at the end

Good to Know:

Can be a longer wait, but a classic character experience

Lightning Lane: No

Minnie's House

Best For: Younger kids

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

Walk through Minnie's house with interactive elements

Good to Know:

Quick, cute, and easy to explore

Lightning Lane: No

DISNEYLAND PARK — FULL RIDE BREAKDOWN

STAR WARS: GALAXY'S EDGE

🌟 **Star Wars: Rise of the Resistance**

Best For: Older kids, teens, adults, Star Wars fans

Height Requirement: 40"

Thrill Level: Medium to High

What It's Like:

A multi-part experience that combines a walk-through, trackless ride, and a small drop — very immersive and story-driven

Good to Know:

This is one of the most popular rides in the park and can have long waits

It also opens late sometimes, so not always ideal first thing in the morning

Lightning Lane: Individual

🚀 **Millennium Falcon: Smugglers Run**

Best For: Families, groups, Star Wars fans

Height Requirement: 38"

Thrill Level: Medium

What It's Like:

A motion-based ride where you're part of the crew flying the Millennium Falcon (pilot, gunner, or engineer)

Good to Know:

Your experience depends on your role — pilots have the most control

Single rider is often a great option here

Lightning Lane: Yes

🔧 **Droid Depot**

Best For: Kids, Star Wars fans

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

Build your own droid experience

Good to Know:

Requires a reservation and additional cost

Lightning Lane: No



CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE— FULL RIDE BREAKDOWN

CARS LAND

Radiator Springs Racers

Best For: Families, thrill-lite riders

Height Requirement: 40"

Thrill Level: Medium

What It's Like:

Part dark ride, part outdoor race — smooth, fast, and really fun

Good to Know:

One of the longest waits in DCA

Single rider is a great option if your kids are older

Lightning Lane: Individual

Mater's Junkyard Jamboree

Best For: Younger kids, families

Height Requirement: 32"

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

A spinning ride where trailers whip around to music

Good to Know:

Short ride, but surprisingly fun — kids LOVE this one

Lightning Lane: Yes

Luigi's Rollickin' Roadsters

Best For: Families

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

Trackless cars that "dance" to music in choreographed patterns

Good to Know:

Each ride is slightly different depending on the dance pattern

Lightning Lane: Yes

CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE— FULL RIDE BREAKDOWN

AVENGERS CAMPUS

🕸 **WEB SLINGERS: A Spider-Man Adventure**

Best For: Families, kids, Marvel fans

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Medium

What It's Like:

An interactive ride where you use hand motions to “shoot webs” and hit targets

Good to Know:

You don't need to be good at it to have fun — it's more about participation than winning

Lightning Lane: Yes

🎵 **Guardians of the Galaxy – Mission: BREAKOUT!**

Best For: Thrill seekers, older kids, teens

Height Requirement: 40”

Thrill Level: High

What It's Like:

A fast-paced drop ride with music, sudden lifts, and multiple drop sequences

Good to Know:

This is one of the most intense rides in DCA — expect big drops and loud moments

Lightning Lane: Yes

🎤 **Avengers Campus Shows + Stunt Performances**

Best For: Everyone

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

Live shows and character moments happening throughout the land (including stunt shows)

Good to Know:

These aren't scheduled like traditional shows — they pop up throughout the day

Lightning Lane: No



CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE — FULL RIDE BREAKDOWN

PIXAR PIER

Incredicoaster

Best For: Thrill seekers

Height Requirement: 48"

Thrill Level: High

What It's Like:

A fast, looping roller coaster with launches, drops, and high speeds

Good to Know:

This is the most intense ride in DCA — not for anyone nervous about coasters

Lightning Lane: Yes

Toy Story Midway Mania!

Best For: Everyone

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

A 3D interactive shooting game where you compete for points

Good to Know:

Very popular and fun for all ages — expect some wait times

Lightning Lane: Yes

Jessie's Critter Carousel

Best For: Younger kids

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

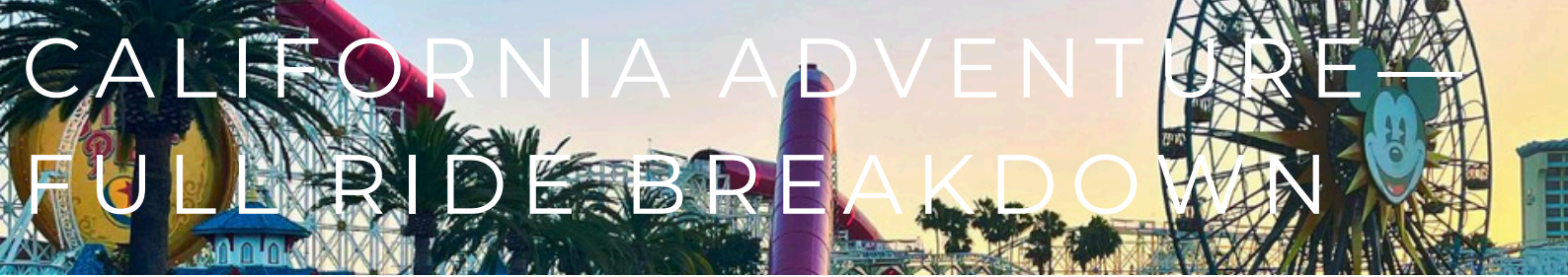
What It's Like:

A colorful carousel featuring Pixar animals

Good to Know:

Quick, easy, and a good reset ride

Lightning Lane: No



CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE— FULL RIDE BREAKDOWN

PIXAR PIER

Pixar Pal-A-Round

Best For: Everyone (depending on gondola type)

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low to High

What It's Like:

A large Ferris wheel with two options:

- Non-swinging (calm)
- Swinging (moves and slides — surprisingly intense)

Good to Know:

The swinging gondolas are MUCH more intense than they look

Lightning Lane: No

Pixar Pier Games

Best For: Families, kids

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

Carnival-style games with prizes

Good to Know:

Costs extra — not included with park admission

Lightning Lane: No

SAN FRANSOKYO SQUARE

The Bakery Tour (Sourdough Bread Tour)

Best For: Everyone

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

A short, self-guided walk-through showing how sourdough bread is made

Good to Know:

You usually get a free sample at the end — quick, easy, and worth doing

Lightning Lane: No



PARADISE GARDENS PARK

Goofy's Sky School

Best For: Older kids, teens

Height Requirement: 42"

Thrill Level: Medium

What It's Like:

A wild mouse-style coaster with sharp turns and quick drops

Good to Know:

Feels more intense than it looks — lots of sudden turns

Lightning Lane: Yes

The Little Mermaid – Ariel's Undersea Adventure

Best For: Families, younger kids

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

A slow-moving dark ride through scenes from The Little Mermaid

Good to Know:

Almost always a short wait — great “easy win” ride

Lightning Lane: Yes

Golden Zephyr

Best For: Families

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

A spinning ride that lifts you over the water

Good to Know:

Can close for wind — not always running

Lightning Lane: No



PARADISE GARDENS PARK

Jumpin' Jellyfish

Best For: Younger kids

Height Requirement: 40"

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

A gentle up-and-down ride with a view of the park

Good to Know:

Short ride but a fun intro to small "drops"

Lightning Lane: No

Silly Symphony Swings

Best For: Families, older kids

Height Requirement: 40" (single) / 32" (tandem)

Thrill Level: Low to Medium

What It's Like:

A swing ride that lifts you into the air and circles around

Good to Know:

Feels higher and faster than it looks

Lightning Lane: No

GRIZZLY PEAK

Grizzly River Run

Best Thrill-lite riders

Height Requirement: 42"

Thrill Level: High

What It's Like:

A white-water rafting ride with spinning rafts, rapids, and big splashes

Good to Know:

You will get wet — sometimes soaked

Great on hot days, less appealing when it's cooler

Lightning Lane: Yes



CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE — FULL RIDE BREAKDOWN

GRIZZLY PEAK

✈️ **Soarin' Around the World**

Best For: Everyone

Height Requirement: 40"

Thrill Level: Low to Medium

What It's Like:

A flight simulation ride where you're lifted into the air and glide over global landmarks

Good to Know:

Smooth and immersive — a great option if you want something calm but still exciting

Lightning Lane: Yes

🌲 **Redwood Creek Challenge Trail**

Best For: Younger kids, families

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

A large outdoor play area with climbing structures, slides, and trails

Good to Know:

One of the BEST places in the park to let kids burn energy

Plan extra time here if your kids love to explore

Lightning Lane: No

HOLLYWOOD LAND

👾 **Monsters, Inc. Mike & Sulley to the Rescue!**

Best For: Families, younger kids

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

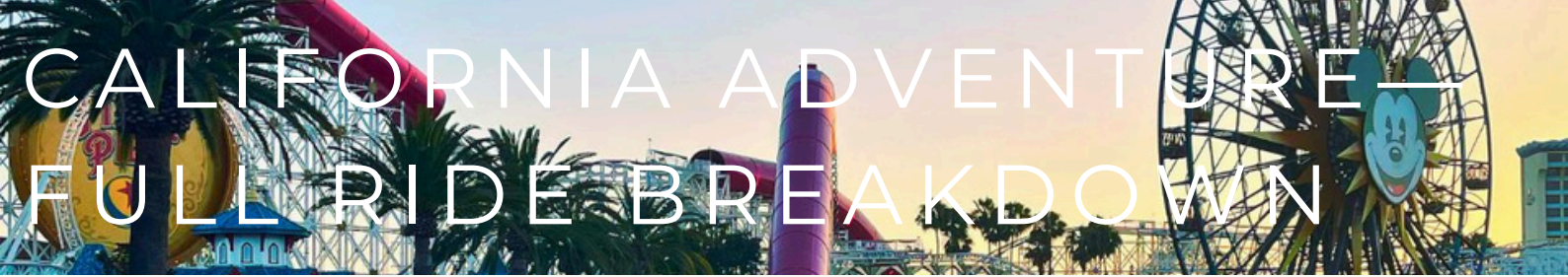
What It's Like:

A slow-moving dark ride through scenes from Monsters, Inc.

Good to Know:

Usually a shorter wait — great when you want something easy and low stress

Lightning Lane: Yes



CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE— FULL RIDE BREAKDOWN

HOLLYWOOD LAND

Animation Academy

Best For: All ages

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

A guided drawing class where you learn to sketch a Disney character

Good to Know:

Air-conditioned and seated — one of the BEST break spots in the park

Lightning Lane: No

Turtle Talk with Crush

Best For: Families, younger kids

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

An interactive show where Crush talks directly with the audience

Good to Know:

Different every time — kids love being part of the conversation

Lightning Lane: No

Mickey's PhilharMagic

Best For: Everyone

Height Requirement: None

Thrill Level: Low

What It's Like:

A 3D musical show featuring Disney songs and characters

Good to Know:

Indoor, seated, and a great way to cool down

Lightning Lane: No

YOUR PARK PLAN

A SIMPLE WAY TO SEE YOUR WHOLE
TRIP WITHOUT OVERTHINKING IT

DAY 1

Date: _____

Park: Disneyland / DCA / Park Hopper

Must-Do Moments:

→ _____

→ _____

→ _____

Dining / Reservations:

→ _____

Notes:

→ _____

DAY 2

Date: _____

Park: Disneyland / DCA / Park Hopper

Must-Do Moments:

→ _____

→ _____

→ _____

Dining / Reservations:

→ _____

Notes:

→ _____

DAY 3

Date: _____

Park: Disneyland / DCA / Park Hopper

Must-Do Moments:

→ _____

→ _____

→ _____

Dining / Reservations:

→ _____

Notes:

→ _____

DAY 4

Date: _____

Park: Disneyland / DCA / Park Hopper

Must-Do Moments:

→ _____

→ _____

→ _____

Dining / Reservations:

→ _____

Notes:

→ _____

DAY 5

Date: _____

Park: Disneyland / DCA / Park Hopper

Must-Do Moments:

→ _____

→ _____

→ _____

Dining / Reservations:

→ _____

Notes:

→ _____

YOUR TRIP AT A GLANCE

Date:						
Reservations						
Morning 8:00am - 11:59am						
Early Afternoon 12:00pm - 2:59pm						
Afternoon 3:00pm - 5:59pm						
Evening 6:00pm - CLOSE						
Events						

YOUR DAILY PLAN

A flexible plan to help your day feel smooth —
not scheduled

DATE:

PARK & HOURS:

RESERVATIONS & MUST-DO'S

MORNING:

AFTERNOON:

EVENING:

EXTRA:



PARK DAY CHEAT SHEET

Little things that make a BIG difference in your day

The Night Before

- Lay out everyone's outfits
- Repack your park bag
- Charge all electronics + portable chargers
- Check the weather + adjust if needed

Before You Head In

- Screenshot tickets + plans
- Double check park hours + reservations
- Decide your morning plan (rope drop or slower start)

In the Parks

- Use the app for more than rides (bathrooms, food, characters)
- Mobile order food to skip lines
- Ask for free water at quick service locations
- Take breaks BEFORE you need them

Don't Forget

- Not everything has to be a ride
- Check in with your group throughout the day
- It's okay to change your plan
- Sit down, hydrate, and reset when needed



You're ready

You did it.

You now have a plan — not a perfect one, not a rigid one... but one that actually works for your family.

And that's what matters.

Because the best Disneyland trips aren't the ones where you do everything — they're the ones where you feel present, relaxed, and actually enjoy it.

If something doesn't go exactly as planned... that's okay.

Take a break. Grab a snack. Change direction.

Some of the best moments happen when you least expect them.

However your trip unfolds, I hope it feels calm, fun, and full of those little moments you'll talk about long after you're home.

Kristie in the parks