



November 2013



First off, I want to apologize for not having a newsletter last month. I was preparing to put one out just before the ToaD Magic sailing when we got the call no travel agency (or client for that matter)

likes to get. The cruise in three days was being cancelled. As much as I wanted to bring you the newsletter, the priority was with those who needed to make alternative arrangements (including mine as well).

We were finally able to go on the Disney Magic on October 25 for a two night cruise. Let me tell you two nights is not enough time to take it all in! We had a great time and started to blog about the changes to the ship. We checked out nearly everything new and improved, including the AquaDunk. If you were near the Bahamas on October 26 and heard a blood-curdling scream, it was me! I will be back though! Best water ride on a cruise ever! Check out our blog for more pictures and descriptions of this classic ship. We can't wait to get back onboard.

Just last week, Disney Cruise Line opened sailings through April 2015 for bookings. All four ships will be sailing out of Florida and every sailing includes a stop at Castaway Cay. There includes one new itinerary that we haven't seen before on the Wonder. It is a five night sailing with Grand Cayman and Castaway Cay! For those wanting to stop at Key West, the Disney Magic will be making calls there every other week in early 2015.

Additionally, Disney Cruise Line made two other announcements. First, for new bookings between now and December 15, 2013, the deposit requirement will be 50% of the usual amount on all non-concierge categories. This is only available when

full payment is not required and normal terms and conditions do apply.

Second, Disney has put a limit on the use of onboard bookings. From this point forward, new onboard bookings will still receive a 10% discount (for non-concierge categories) and on onboard credit up to \$200 per stateroom. Unfortunately, only sailings of 7 nights or longer will receive the half-off deposit. Finally, new onboard bookings will need to be used within 18 months of booking. The start date is based on the date you are given the quote onboard (the moment the onboard agent "holds" a quote for you). If you do not start your cruise within 18 months, your onboard booking benefits will be removed.

For those with existing onboard bookings (made prior to November 12, 2013) you are being given until November 30, 2015 to use the onboard booking without losing the benefits.

We have a holiday promotion going on as well. When you book your Disney Vacation with Travel On A Dream between now and December 1, 2013, mention promotion code HOHOHO to your agent and receive your choice of the following*



This promotion has been very popular and there are not many items remain so contact us today!

**Some restrictions apply. Contact your travel agent for full details. Promotion is being offered by Travel On A Dream only. Valid on Disney vacations totaling \$1500 or more. One per reservation number. Disney Packages must include 3-day park tickets. Not valid with any other promotion offered by Travel On A Dream. Travel must take place by the end of 2014. Items will be mailed in time to gift for the holidays. Quantities are limited.*

Finally, I wanted to let you know that we are in the process of completing a database conversion which will help us to serve you better. Over the next couple of months, if you have a current reservation your agent will be asking you if we can store your credit card information in the system. Our system is PCI compliant. Without your approval we will be maintaining your personal credit card information as previously instructed. Please let us know if you have any questions.

10 Reasons I Love Disney's Polynesian Resort

By Nicole Riley

I have been visiting Disney World for about fifteen years. I have read many, many people say that one you have stayed in a deluxe resort, you won't be happy in a value resort. That is simply not the case for me. If it means going to Disney World, I will stay at any of the Disney resorts. But, given the choice, I love the deluxe resorts. In September, I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to try out the Polynesian, and I have a new favorite. Here are ten reasons I love the Polynesian, in no particular order.

1. The atmosphere. You are completely immersed in the Polynesian theme from the minute you arrive. Someone greets you as you walk in the doors to a beautiful lobby. The grounds are abundant with lush trees, and you almost feel like you are in another part of the world.
2. The monorail. You can catch a monorail to the Magic Kingdom or Ticket and Transportation Center right from the main lobby. Or, you can do what we did and walk to the TTC. It's a quick five-minute walk. From here you can catch a

non-stop route to the Magic Kingdom and Epcot.

3. The restaurants. If I could only choose one sit-down meal in all of Disney World, I would pick Kona Café. Who cares what's for dinner. I love the macadamia nut butter with the bread. But, there are also some great entrees to be had here. 'Ohana is another popular and fun restaurant located at the Polynesian. Captain Cook's is the quick serve-dining restaurant at the Polynesian. They have some yummy BBQ pork nachos here. But one of the best things you can get at Captain Cook's is a Dole Whip. If you've never had one, you must try one either here or at the Magic Kingdom.
4. This drink. It's in a pineapple. How can it be bad? Really, this was fun enough that I would make a trip to this resort just for this drink.



5. Fireworks on the beach. The Polynesian has a beautiful beach on the lake. You can't swim in the lake, but you can sun on the beach. And, at night, you can sit and watch the fireworks. The music is piped in. You have a beautiful view and don't have to fight the crowds.
6. The Electrical Water Pageant. While you are sitting on the beach watching the fireworks, you can also catch the Electrical Water Pageant. This cute water parade can only be seen from the Magic

Kingdom area resorts and the turnstile area of the Magic Kingdom.

7. The Size. I love that the Polynesian seems pretty small. I suppose if you want to walk from one side to the other, it's a little big. But, everything is centrally located and therefore a pretty easy walk, no matter where you are staying.

8. Never Land Club. I'm cheating a bit on this one. With just two adults, we didn't use the Never Land Club, but have in the past. I think in the history of all of our Disney trips, the Never Land Club might be one of the best things my kids have experienced and maybe us. The Never Land Club is a place where you can drop your children off, and they can spend a couple hours parent free supervised by some fun Disney people. There is a fee involved with this service. But, my children had so much fun. We dropped them off after dinner at 'Ohana and thought they'd just sleep. They had a great time and were thoroughly entertained the entire time.

9. The large rooms. First of all, the rooms sleep up to five people. There are two queen sized beds, a couch, and a chair. The extra space in the room in the "sitting" area is great. We only had two people in our room, but I was in love with how roomy it was. And, they are currently updating the rooms. I love the new look. It has a fresh look about it.

10. You can walk to the Grand Floridian. There is a very nice walkway that connects the Polynesian and the Grand Floridian. We had the nicest walk over to the Grand Floridian one evening. We watched the sunset on our peaceful stroll. It was a nice change from the noise and bustle of people in the parks.

10 Travel Tips and Money Saving Ideas

By Cathy Schlueter

My family **loves** to travel. However, we are a family of 5, with three children who are not yet self-supporting (oldest a freshman in college), and our travel expenses can add up quickly if we are not

careful. So over the years we have learned to cut travel expenses while not cutting out family fun.



1. Price different days and times to fly

We fly on days & times where the airfare is cheapest. As we still have kids and have to contend with school schedules, we are not entirely flexible. But, in the last year we have flown on the 4th of July and Christmas Eve because they were the least expensive days to fly in our vacation day range. Also, be willing to fly first thing in the morning or late in the evening for lowest fares.

2. Don't buy travel sized items

Travel size items like toothpaste, shaving cream and deodorant cost almost as much as full size. We use regular sized toiletries until they get used mostly but not all the way, we simply set them aside for our next trip, then use them on the trip and toss them away on our last day so we don't have to bring them back.

3. Buy an Entertainment Book for the area



On larger, longer trips we buy an Entertainment coupon book for the city we are visiting; in fact if you buy it mid-year, often you can get it for a small fee plus shipping. We saved over \$100 on a whale watching trip using an Entertainment coupon in Vancouver, Canada.

4. Stay in accommodations that have kitchen facilities

In addition to being expensive, eating out sometimes takes up valuable vacation time. We bring cereal, instant oatmeal, instant mac and cheese and from

home and purchase milk and bread when we get to our destination. We like to eat in at least 2 simple meals a day while on vacation. It also gives us time to reconnect and talk about our plans for the day. Also, with a kitchenette we can eat our restaurant leftovers as a meal the next day.

5. Rent the least expensive car that we can fit in

Many times you can get an upgrade at the car rental either because they don't have the size you booked or for a nominal fee you can upgrade to a larger vehicle. With our trip to California this summer, we got a rental car for \$100 for four full days. While they did not have an inexpensive upgrade, we did all fit in the car and after a couple of re-configurations, so did our luggage. AAA and AARP can also get you discounts if you're a member.

6. Plan ahead, pack light & pack smart



Okay, so I admit, we're one of those families that sometimes have to shuffle clothes from one suitcase to another one at the airport because of the weight restrictions. Not fun...for us or anyone around us. For \$10 we bought a portable

scale that will keep us from having to grab shoes and dirty clothes from one suit case and shove them in another to stay under the 50 pound limit. We also try to stay where we can have access to laundry facilities as it cuts down on what we need to pack. Purex has awesome 3 in 1 laundry sheets that we bring with us. One sheet can be used in the washer and has soap and fabric softener in it and then used as a dryer sheet.

7. Pack "disposable" clothes

With the 5 of us, oftentimes it looks like we are immigrating rather than vacationing, and when we are coming back no matter how neatly we packed, our suitcases are still bulging. So, to reduce our overflowing suitcases, we bring along clothes and shoes for a one way trip. You know, those pants that

are too far gone for Goodwill, but if you wear with a sport coat and tie, no one knows there is a hole in your wallet pocket? Or those dress shoes that are beyond repair? One vacation we packed twice times hand-me downs for our then toddler that she had just about grown out of, when she dropped spaghetti sauce on the shirt, no worries. Tossed it. When she had potty training accidents, no worries. Tossed it.

8. Keep some travel items in your suitcase

We keep a plastic shoe box packed with sunscreen, aloe, small first aid kit, roll of quarters (for laundry), wet wipes, etc. Things that are a pain to unpack and re-pack each trip. We have two foldable laundry hampers that we keep in our suitcases, that way dirty clothes go into the hamper, not on the floor and we can use the hamper to carry laundry back and forth from the laundry facilities.

9. Know what to buy at our vacation destination

We buy water and beach toys at our vacation location – they are just too bulky to bring with us. We then "pass them on" as we are leaving to another family.

For our Disney Cruises we bring candy and snacks on board to eat at the shows and movies. (Candy and snacks some of the few things not included with the cost of the cruise and are pricey on board.) My husband and I bring on some beer and other adult beverages as they are very expensive to buy on the ship. Same with bottled water – we buy it before we board the ship. We carry on our bottled water and alcohol to ensure nothing breaks in our suitcases, so we are careful not to bring on too much.

10. Travel Insurance...don't leave home without it

Protect your vacation investment, especially if it is an expensive trip. Things happen in life, illness, accidents and loss of employment. There are hundreds of policies out there, pick one that works for your travel situation. We learned the hard way, several years ago our daughter became very ill the day before we were to fly out for a 4 day stay at Disney World and a seven day Disney cruise. We

were in the ER not only freaking out because she over a 106 degree fever and strep and pneumonia, but also because it was the one time we cut corners and did not purchase trip insurance. Not only was it an expensive trip, it was an extended family vacation, as we had grandparents and aunts and uncles going too. We were lucky, we only missed the Disney World part of the vacation. She was well enough to travel after a few days and was able to fly after a couple of days on antibiotics, so she was able to go on the cruise with the family. After that, we always buy at the very least basic trip insurance. And yes, it did come in handy a couple of years later, when one of our other daughters got sick on a cruise and we had to take her to the clinic on the ship. We were reimbursed in full for the clinic visit and medication by our trip insurance.

ToaD Traveler of the Month / Facebook Fan

By Tracy Whipple

Over the last two months we have selected a ToaD Facebook Fan of the month. Each of them have received a \$25 gift card of their choosing. To get entered, all you have to do is be on our mailing list for the monthly newsletter (a new sign up will be coming soon online) and be a fan of Travel On A Dream's Facebook wall. Once a month, towards the end of the month, we will select one fan at random to receive the gift certificate.

We have also had a ToaD Traveler of the Month. To qualify for this prize you must have a vacation booked in the upcoming month with Travel On A Dream to a Disney Destination. Our first traveler was Matthew T who went to Universal Studios and Disney World in October. He received a Mickey tote filled with snacks and a gift card for Disney's Food and Wine Festival. Our second traveler was Katie R who took a Disney Cruise in November. She was treated to a Touch of Romance package onboard her sailing. These are just a couple ideas of what could happen if you are selected as our ToaD Traveler of the Month!

Photos Around the World

By Leo DeCandia



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