



September 2013



Once again fall is upon us and soon it will be winter. While I'm not looking forward to winter, I am looking forward to getting on the newly reimagined Disney Magic in October!

But we have a couple newsletters to get through before that! We want to thank you all for your continued business and referrals. Because of your support, we have decided to start a new program in October. At first it will be just for our Disney customers. At the beginning of the month, we will randomly select one reservation traveling during the month. It could be a room reservation at Walt Disney World, Disneyland, Aulani or a tour with Adventures by Disney or a cruise on Disney Cruise Line. Those traveling on that reservation will become our ToAD Travelers of the month!

What does that mean? You will receive magical upgrades to your vacation! It could be a complimentary upgrade, a gift in room, services, etc. It will be appropriate for you and your vacation because we know not everyone would like the same extras. Your agent will work with us to make your vacation extra magical. How do you enter to be selected? Just be sure your vacation is booked at least 5 days prior to the end of the previous month and keep your fingers crossed! Winners will only be identified by first name on Facebook and dates of travel will never be disclosed. Want to tell us about your vacation when you come back? We'd love to do a feature on you in the following newsletter!

Disney has been expanding the testing of My Magic + to include 17 resorts with more planned in the future. Several of your ToAD agents will be attending a conference in Orlando at press time to learn even

more about My Magic + including testing it for themselves. We can't wait to share this with you!

Mickey's Not So Scary Halloween Party

By Jonathan Fair



It's that time of year again. The temperatures are cooling down and school is back in session. It's the perfect time to start preparing for Halloween! Walt Disney World and Disneyland offer a unique holiday treat, Mickey's Not So Scary

Halloween Party. This unique event is sure to delight all ages. You can dress up as your favorite characters (there are some restrictions, be sure to ask your Travel Agent about them), and take the entire family trick or treating, this includes you mom and dad.

Mickey's Not So Scary Halloween Party has exclusive entertainment you won't see outside of the event. All the best Disney Villains are out, from special character appearances to the Villains dance party. There's also a special parade led by the famous headless horseman... No trip would be complete without a ghoulish fireworks display. The best fireworks show gets taken over by the Disney Villains for a good ole' fashioned scream.



This event is a special ticket event which means your regular passes will not work after 7 PM. Special bands are issued to verify access. With the purchase of event tickets you can enter the parks at 4 PM to get the most out of your trip. This exclusive event won't have any of the shows, characters, parades, or fireworks at any other time. Be sure to ask your Travel Agent about tickets for Mickey's Not So Scary Halloween Party today.



Paradise Pier Hotel at the Disneyland Resort

By Melissa Kyler

I recently had the opportunity to visit the Disneyland Resort with my teenage son. Since Disneyland is more compact than Disney World most guests have the dilemma of deciding where to stay. Disneyland is located in the middle of the city of Anaheim and is surrounded by an abundant number of hotels that are within either walking distance, or a short drive to the theme parks. There are three Disney owned hotels: the Paradise Pier Hotel, the Disneyland Hotel and the Grand Californian Hotel.

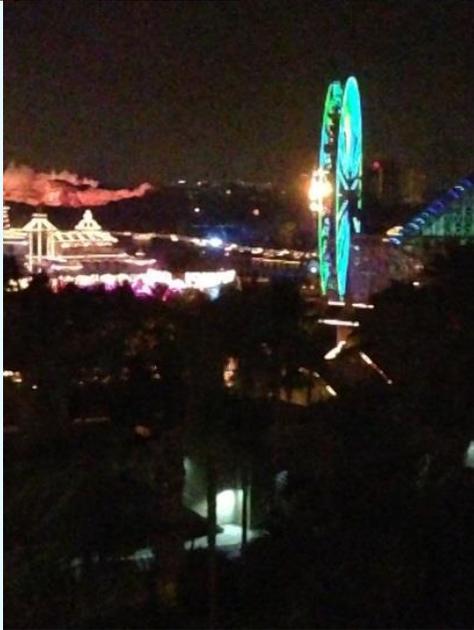


I am sure that most of you have heard of the Disneyland and Grand Californian Hotels, but what about Paradise Pier? I find that when I talk to potential clients, they are interested in either the Disneyland Hotel or the Grand Californian. The Paradise Pier Hotel does not get the attention that it deserves. It is most economical of the three and has a seaside theme. The theming may not be as dramatic as the other two Disney owned hotels, but you still know you are in a Disney Hotel with the statue of Goofy in his beachwear in the lobby and the hidden Mickey's you will find throughout the resort.



The rooms are very spacious and can sleep five. Most rooms have two queen beds and a couch that transforms into a twin daybed. This makes these rooms great for a family of five or a family with two older children who would prefer to have their own sleeping areas. These hotel rooms recently underwent a refurbishment and now have the clean bedding look and who could forget the cute Beach

Ball Pillows or the Mickey lifeguard lamp? Just don't take one of those pillows home with you or they will charge you for it. Some of the rooms even have a view overlooking the Paradise Pier section of the California Adventure Park. We were lucky enough to get to stay in one of these rooms. I loved changing the TV to the World of Color Music station and watching the backside of the show.



The Paradise Pier Hotel has 3 locations to grab some grub. The Surfside Lounge is the quick service location in the lobby that serves up your basic breakfast, lunch and dinner. Items such as waffles, oatmeal, pastries, burgers, sandwiches and salads are readily available here. The second location is Slurpin' USA located on the 3rd floor roof at the pool. They have limited options, but it is nice to know that you don't have to get changed and head downstairs to grab something quick to eat. PCH Grill is the sit down restaurant that offers a nice place to relax. They have

a character breakfast buffet called [PCH Grill Surf's Up Breakfast with Mickey](#) that has your favorite characters in their beach wear every morning. They have a nice selection for dinner and for dessert you can even order the Kitchen Sink. I know there are a few of you out there that know what I'm talking about.

The pool is located on the 3rd floor. It is not as themed as the other two Disney Owned Hotel pool areas, but it does have all the necessities to have a great time, like a hot tub and waterslide. There are nice seating areas and some are even under cover. Seats are first come first serve, but if you are lucky enough to grab one of the seats undercover it is like having your own cabana. Plus you do not have to pay to use them like at the other two hotels, which makes that a very nice perk. This is also a great place to watch the Disneyland Fireworks as Paradise Pier plays the music on the pool deck making you feel like you are in the park.



Another great reason to stay at the Paradise Pier Hotel are the extra benefits that you receive while staying at a Disney owned hotel. These benefits include charging meals and purchases to your room, delivery service of packages purchased at the theme parks or Downtown Disney, a special entrance into California Adventure Park through the Grand Californian Hotel and an Extra Magic Morning every

day of your stay at either Disneyland Park or California Adventure Park depending on the schedule. So the next time you are not sure where you should stay while visiting the Disneyland Resort, why not give Paradise Pier some consideration. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

California Trip Report

By Cathy Schlueter

Day 1 – The family (me, my husband, and three girls, 10, 14 & 18) get up very early for a July 4th 6:30 am flight from the Midwest (St. Louis) to Los Angeles. This is a 5 hour flight, but everything went smoothly; everyone was excited to see California and especially Disneyland. It will be our first time after many visits to Disney World in Orlando.

After picking up our Budget rental car (got an awesome deal \$100 total for 4 day rental!) we stopped for lunch at In-and-Out Burger. We've heard so much about this restaurant and it did not disappoint. Great hamburgers and fries. Not to mention the crossing palm trees at nearly every location. Great photo op.

We then headed to Disney's Grand Californian. What a beautiful resort! The lobby was reminiscent of the Wilderness Lodge in Orlando. Very rustic, with dark wood, rock and awesome chandeliers hanging from a very high ceiling.

The check in at the resort was fast and efficient and the Cast Members were friendly and helpful. One thing that surprised us was that things are a bit different at Disneyland as opposed to Disney World. For example, at Disney World resorts you can just have your park tickets put on your room key card, but at Disneyland park tickets are issued separately. One thing that is a constant with any Disney resort or park though, is the personal service of professionalism of any and all Cast Members we meet.

After a short wait, we got to our room and relaxed a while. The girls then hit the pool. There are three different themed pools and cabanas are available for an additional cost.

We had tickets to the Anaheim Angels baseball game that night. The stadium is about 5 minutes from the hotel and since it was the Fourth of July, there were fireworks planned for after the game.

One of the best things about this resort is the location. It's within walking distance to both Disney parks and Downtown Disney. You literally walk out the door, down a corridor and you're at the entrance to California Adventure. No driving or shuttle or parking hassles. We loved it.

We crashed around 11 pm after the game (actually 1 am to us with the time change). We needed our rest, we had a big day in LA coming up!

Day 2 – This was a day to explore L.A. We first headed downtown to Farmer's Market. What a cool place! All sorts of vendors and delicious food. There was also an outdoor shopping mall with all the major stores. After a bit of shopping, we had lunch. We all picked a different cuisine. There was so much to choose from including authentic Italian, Chinese, pizza, crepes, and bar-b-cue.

After lunch, we headed to the La Brea Tar Pits in Hancock Park. These are a group of tar pits where tar seeps up from the ground and has for thousands of years. You can smell the gasses escaping in the lake as it gurgles up. There is no cost to get on the park grounds and an inside museum for an additional cost, (around \$15 a person). There were 5 of us, so we stuck with the free part of the park. Street parking is available next to the park for minimal cost.

Next, it was on to Chinatown for some bargains. Chinatown was fun, there is a big dragon sign as you enter that section of downtown. After that, our girls really wanted to look at clothes and jewelry, so we headed to the LA Fashion District at Maple and E. Olympic Blvd. We have never seen so many shops in one place! My oldest daughter was in awe of all the prom/quinceañera style dresses.

Day 3 – Disneyland! We woke up early in order to take advantage of the early Magical Hour. This alternates between the two parks: Disney's California Adventure and Disneyland Park (which is similar to

Magic Kingdom). This is a perk of staying 'on property'. We bought park hopper tickets, but spent most of our time at California Adventure. The Cars Land area was worth the price of admission all by itself. The details by the imagineers were astounding. You feel like you are in the actual movie!



Radiator Springs Racers is the main attraction/ride and will be crowded. Get your FastPass tickets as soon as you arrive or they'll be gone by noon. Another option is the single rider lane, which pairs you up with other riders' available seats and is usually quicker than waiting in line. This is a must-ride attraction. It is similar to a roller coaster, but you ride in small race cars with six to a car. The ride was a blast and the scenery awesome! Do not miss this ride.



The other do-not-miss area is Paradise Pier. This is where California Screamin' is located, an old-time like roller coaster with a 35 mph launch and huge loop that will have you screamin'! We used our Magic Hour early admittance to ride this, then Radiator

Springs Racers, before the crowds arrived (also got FastPasses for later too).

For lunch we made reservations at Wine Country Trattoria, so we could take advantage of the preferred seating at the World of Color event that evening which is included with your meal price. We sat outside to take advantage of the beautiful ambience of the restaurant.

We needed a break, so we walked from Disneyland to Downtown Disney and grabbed a bite at the Earl of Sandwich and went back to the Grand Californian for a couple of hours rest.

We had the 9:00 pm seating for Disney's World of Color. This is a spectacular water show at Paradise Pier that includes fountains shooting water high into the sky, colorful lights and even fire while accompanied by classic Disney music. (Beware: if you sit too close to the water, you will get wet.)

We managed to sneak one last ride on Radiator Springs Racers after the show before walking back to the resort.

Day 4: We packed up and headed to Farmers Market for lunch. Then it was on to LAX for our flight to Honolulu, HI and Disney's Aulani Resort and Spa.

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Until next month, you can follow us on a variety of social networks.

Facebook – <http://www.facebook.com/TravelOnADream>

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ToaD Runners –

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ToaDRunners/>

Twitter – <https://twitter.com/TravelOnADream>

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