

Theme Park (and Attraction) Touring Times

Something to keep in mind; attractions listed with touring times of between 9 and 12 hours may take upwards of 2 days due to time restraints such as the parks operating times. For example; if a theme park is open only between the hours of 9:00am and 5:00 pm, and is therefore operational for only 8 hours, it may very well take you 2 days to tour the park properly as the number of hours you should allot to tour exceed the number of hours it is actually operational.

Also keep in mind that during peak vacation seasons (The week of Thanksgiving, Christmas through New Year's, Spring Break (the two weeks on either side of Easter) during the summer months [however the summer is not quite as bad as the other times mentioned] and on holidays) you may need to add (to the time listed below) 1 to 2 additional days to tour the Magic Kingdom, 1 to 1 ½ additional day to tour Epcot, 1 additional day to Universal Studios and 1 additional day to tour Islands of Adventure.

Other parks, including the Animal Kingdom and Disney's Hollywood Studios, will be exponentially busy as well however they will likely only require a few additional hours (which can be accomplished by either staying later into the evenings or adding an extra ½ day to the touring time).

SeaWorld will only require a few extra hours to tour while the remaining attractions (many of which take under 4 hour to tour) won't require much additional time, if any, to tour reasonably. One other thing to keep in mind; if your family has both toddlers and tweens (teens, or all of the above as mine does) this greatly increases the number of attractions and rides that will be of interest and therefore increase your touring time rather substantially in certain cases.

Splitting up, skipping the less interesting attractions and rides all together, allotting extra touring time, or any combination of these, will likely be necessary - especially at the Walt Disney World and Universal Orlando theme parks.

Attraction Touring Time Touring Times

With Tweens
And Teens

With Tots in Tow

Walt Disney World

- Circ Du Soleil – La Nouba
2 hours or less

2 hours or less

- Disneyquest
2 to 4 hours

Skip

- Disney's Hollywood Studios

9-12 hours
Allow 1 day

9-12 hours
Allow 1 day

Due in part to the number of shows offered at Disney's Hollywood Studios, touring this park is far more relaxing than some of the other more ride intensive parks - especially if you can allow an entire day to tour it.

-Disney's Animal Kingdom

8 hours
Allow 1 day

8 hours
Allow 1 day

Because this is the least ride intensive park out of all the Disney theme parks, it too offers a more relaxing experience. While it may not take the entire day to tour (it's easily toured in slightly over a half day), if you intend on experiencing the park as intended (making note of the immensely impressive attention to detail throughout the entire park -- soaking in your surroundings so to speak) plan on taking your time - not rushing through it. Also, it's one of the largest theme parks in the area so plan on allot of walking (this is part of what will allow you to see all there is to see).

- Epcot

12 hours +
Allow 1 day for
Future World and
1 day for the World Showcase

12 hours +
Allow 1 day for Future
World and 1/2 day for the
World Showcase

Epcot, while geared more to the tween and teen set, offers plenty for younger kids as well (including the Kidcot stations). The biggest difference I find that affects the touring time is that kids under 7 may simply wish to tour select attractions more superficially while the older kids may be interested in exploring a bit more -- especially when touring the World Showcase. Younger kids (under 6) will also be likely to skip the more intense thrill rides which would then allow you to skip the lengthy queue (saving you quite a bit of time in the end).

- Magic Kingdom

12 hours +

Allow 1 ½ days,

12 hours +

Allow 2 to 3 days (with
Preferably 2 days breaks built
into your day)

This is the most ride intensive, though child friendly of all the Disney theme parks. The time it takes to simply get through the many queues can add significantly to your touring time. It's also the most over stimulating park of the bunch which in itself can tire out even the most tenacious

of toddlers in time. Building in breaks (which again adds to your touring time) is a necessity with younger children in tow. Taking an extra day (or even extra ½ day) to tackle the Magic Kingdom can be the difference between experiencing a magical day or a miserable one (keeping in the forefront of your mind that having a magical experience is truly why you came in the first place after all).

- Typhoon Lagoon

4 to 6 hours
Allow ½ to 1 day

4 to 6 hours
Allow ½ day

When it comes to the water parks just remember to keep in mind the strength of the Florida sun, the time of day you're visiting and just how tiring water play can be - for Everyone in the family!

- Blizzard Beach

4 to 6 hours
Allow ½ to 1 day

4 to 6 hours
Allow ½ day

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Other Theme Parks & Attractions

- Discovery Cove

8 hours

8 hours

* Discovery Cove is an all day inclusive experience no matter what age children you have along

- SeaWorld

9 to 12 hours
Allow 1 day

9 to 12 hours
Allow 1 day

Much of what SeaWorld has to offer are walk through exhibits and can easily toured in a single day - and at a rather relaxing pace at that. The only difficulty you may find, and one that may greatly affect your touring time, is how to fit all of the shows into your day as they are offered at set times throughout the day.

- Universal Studios (UO)

9 to 12 hours
Allow 1 day

9 to 12 hours
Allow 1 day

Universal Studios can generally be experienced in a day however the biggest impediment you may find (and one that greatly affects your touring time) is the amount of time you'll spend waiting in the many queues during peak seasons. The time you spend in line can easily double the amount of time it takes to tour the park.

- Islands of Adventure (UO)

9 to 12 hours

Allow 1 to 1 1/2 days

6 to 8 hours

Allow 1 day

Islands of Adventure is home to some of the most popular thrill rides anywhere around and as such ensures that it also has some of the longest queues too. Thrill seekers who want to ride again and again may find 2 days here are far better than 1 while those with toddlers may find a 1/2 day (or slightly more) will do.

- Gatorland

3 to 5 hours

3 to 5 hours

An attraction that's easily toured in a 1/2 day, Gatorland allows for a relaxing, though very interesting morning (or afternoon).

Smaller Attractions

-Fun Spot Action Park

2 to 4 hours

Skip

-Green Meadows Petting Farm

2 to 4 hours

2 to 4 hours

-Orlando Science Center

2 to 4 hours

2 to 4 hours

-Ripley's Believe it or Not

1 to 2 hours

Skip

-WonderWorks

2 to 4 hours

2 to 4 hours

-Wet 'N Wild

4 to 6 hours

4 to 6 hours

Boat Tours

-Boggy Creek Air Boat Rides

2 to 4 hours

2 to 4 hours

Dinner Theaters

-Disney Character Dining

2 hours (slightly less)

2 hours (slightly less)

-Disney Dinner Shows

2 to 3 hours

2 to 3 hours

-The Spirit of Aloha

2 to 3 hours

2 to 3 hours

Hoop-Dee-Do Musical Review

2 to 3 hours

2 to 3 hours

-Makahiki Luau (SeaWorld)

2 to 3 hours

2 to 3 hours

-Arabian Nights

2 to 3 hours

2 to 3 hours

-Medieval Times

2 to 3 hours

2 to 3 hours

-Pirate's Dinner Adventure

2 to 3 hours

2 to 3 hours

-Sleuth's Mystery Dinner Show

2 to 3 hours

2 to 3 hours

Entertainment Complexes

-Disney's Boardwalk

2 to 4 hours

1 to 2 hours

-Downtown Disney

*currently Pleasure Island is in the midst of being reimagined – while a handful of shops and eateries are currently operational, the reimagined island will be to reopen in phases(over the

next two years) and will include not only a slew of all new shops and restaurants but an all new family friendly atmosphere.

Marketplace

2 to 4 hours

1 to 3 hours

Westside

4 to 6 hours (adults)

skip

-Old Town

2 to 4 hours

1 to 2 hours

-Universal CityWalk

4 to 6 hours (adults)

skip

Other Attractions

-Harry P. Leu Gardens

2 to 4 hours

1 to 2 hours

-Orlando County Regional History Center

2 to 3 hours

1 to 2 hours

Beyond Orlando

-Cypress Gardens

9 to 12 hours

Allow 1 day

9 to 12 hours

Allow 1 day

-Dinosaur World

1 to 2 hours

1 to 2 hours

-Historic Bok Sanctuary

2 to 4 hours

1 to 2 hours

-Silver Springs

4 to 6 hours

4 to 6 hours