

Walt Disney World

Resorts Guide

Choosing the Perfect Resort for Your Family

If you are headed to Walt Disney World and you have asked friends, families, or even a facebook group for resort recommendations, chances are you have gotten a TON of responses but haven't been able to narrow down your selections much. This is because there are so many amazing Walt Disney World resorts and choosing the right one for your family really comes down to some very personalized preferences.

In this guide, I will break down each of the tiers of resorts at Walt Disney World, share information about the resorts in each tier and details about what each resort offers to help you make an informed decision for your family.

Once you have digested all of the information about each of these resorts, you can use the planning tool on page 9 to compare costs, amenities and transportation for your top choices. ALL Disney World resorts offer a standard recreational activities menu with free and paid activities.

Resort Tiers

You may already know this, but there are three different tiers of resorts on Walt Disney World property: deluxe, moderate, & value. The next six pages will highlight the different amenities offered at each of the resorts in these tiers.

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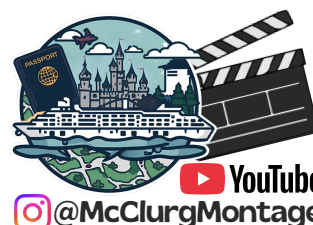
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Questions to Ask Yourself When Choosing a Resort

- How much time will you actually spend at the resort?
 - Will you be in theme parks from open to close and only use the resort to sleep?
 - Will you utilize the resort pools?
 - Will you return to the resort for mid-day breaks, or will you spend a full rest day at the resort during your stay?
- What are the needs of your travel party?
 - Do you have children who are still using a stroller?
 - Are you traveling with an elderly or disabled person who will utilize an electric scooter?
 - What size room will comfortably fit your travel party?
- What theme park or area will you be spending the most time in?
 - Are you traveling as adults who want easy access to Disney Springs in the evenings?
 - Are you visiting for a festival and want quick access to the International Gateway in Epcot?
- What theming is your travel party excited about?
 - Are you interested in classic Disney theming with characters and nods to the movies?
 - Are you looking for something that feels more like a luxury resort than a Disney hotel?
 - Does your crew love to camp and would enjoy a campground feel right on Disney property?

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Resorts Guide - Deluxe Resorts

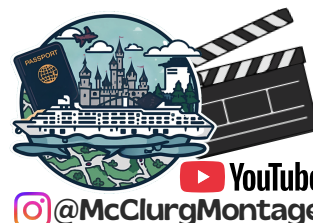
Deluxe resorts are the most expensive but offer the most spacious accommodations and some premium amenities. Almost all of these resorts also contain at least a portion of rooms that are Disney Vacation Club villas. Disney Vacation Club villas can be booked by regular guests at these resorts and offer amenities like laundry access, kitchenettes or kitchens in the rooms and basic dishes. Many of these resorts also offer 1, 2, and even 3 bedroom accommodations in the DVC villas for larger travel parties. You will notice when booking these resorts that some are listed twice - that means the property has DVC accommodations and regular accommodations. They are the “same” resort property, just with a DVC section and a regular section for booking purposes. DVC accommodations will be listed as “Deluxe Villas” under the hotel category.

Disney's Deluxe Resorts are:

- Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Villas
- Disney's Polynesian Resort, Villas, & Bungalows
- Disney's Contemporary Resort & Bay Lake Tower
- Disney's Wilderness Lodge (Boulder Ridge Villas & Copper Creek Villas)
- Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge (Jambo House & Kidani Village)
- Disney's Beach Club Resort & Villas
- Disney's Yacht Club Resort (NO DVC Villas)
- Disney's Boardwalk Inn & Villas
- Disney's Old Key West Resort
- Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort
- Disney's Riviera Resort

When choosing between these resorts, some of the most important things to consider are theming, transportation options, pools and resort amenities, location and food.

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Deluxe Resort Amenities

These deluxe resorts are located around Seven Seas Lagoon and offer exclusive activities, dining, & transportation options. All four resorts utilize a ferry boat to get to and from the Magic Kingdom and all but the Wilderness Lodge are on the monorail loop. Guests can take the monorail or walk to the TTC to use the monorail to get to Epcot. To get to other parks, guests must use bus transportation. There is also a large walking trail that circles the lagoon with access to the Grand Floridian, the Polynesian, the Contemporary and Magic Kingdom.

Resort	Theming	Pools & Amenities	Dining Options
The Grand Floridian Resort, Villas & Spa	Victorian-era, upscale classic with subtle Disney touches	2 different pools with cabanas available to rent & toddler splash area, full service spa & fitness center, fireworks cruises, fishing, & boat rentals, beach access, basketball courts, access to laundry services or self-serve laundry	Afternoon tea at Garden View Lounge, character dining at 1900 Park Fare, 4 table service restaurants, 3 quick service restaurants and 3 lounges
Disney's Polynesian Resort, Villas & Bungalows	South Pacific/Hawaii Lilo & Stitch Moana	1 main pool, 2 quiet pools, 2 toddler splash areas, fitness center, fireworks cruises, fishing, & boat rentals, volleyball on the beach, beach access	Character dining at 'Ohana, 3 table service restaurants, 5 quick service restaurant, & 2 lounges
The Contemporary & Bay Lake Tower	Mid-Century Modern, Futuristic The Incredibles	2 pools with cabanas, toddler splash area and a pool exclusive for BLT guests, fitness center, tennis & pickleball	Character dining at Chef Mickey's, 4 table service restaurants, 4 quick service restaurants & 1 lounge
The Wilderness Lodge (Boulder Ridge & Copper Creek Villas)	American National Parks and woodland lodges	2 pools with a toddler splash area, fitness center & sauna, jogging trails, fishing	Story Book Dining at Artist Point, 2 table service restaurants, 2 quick service restaurants & 1 lounge

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Deluxe Resort Amenities

These deluxe resorts are located in the Epcot area with easy access to Epcot and Hollywood Studios on the skyliner. Yacht Club and Beach Club share an amazing pool - Stormalong Bay, and a large quiet beach area. Yacht Club, Beach Club, & the Boardwalk Inn all surround Crescent Lake and have access to a ferry boat to travel between the resorts and to Hollywood Studios and the Epcot International Gateway entrance. These resorts do not feature a ton of Disney theming.

Resort	Theming	Pools & Amenities	Dining Options
Beach Club	New England Beach Town Vibes	Beach Club and Yacht Club are sister resorts and share amenities; these resorts share one large pool with a life sized shipwreck, a huge water slide, a sand floor and a lazy river. There are also 3 quiet pools, There is a small kiddie pool on the shipwreck itself, which is honestly very inconvenient to the rest of the resort and does not feature the same buckets, splashes, etc. that most toddler splash areas have. There is also a spa & fitness center, tennis, volleyball, & boat rentals.	Character dining at Cape May Cafe, 2 table service restaurants, 3 quick service restaurants, 2 lounges, & the Beaches & Cream Soda Shop - an old-fashioned ice cream parlor
Yacht Club			
Boardwalk Inn & Villas	Seaside Island Village with a real boardwalk to explore	1 main pool with a water slide and a very small, very plain kiddie pool, 2 quiet pools, access to mini golf, surrey bike rentals, fishing, tennis, pickleball, a spa and fitness center and a playground for children	This resort is unique in that it has 2 table service restaurants and then 8 different snack/quick service options on the boardwalk, plus 1 lounge
Riviera Resort	Upscale French Riviera theming	1 main pool, 1 quiet pool and a toddler splash area, fitness center, lawn area with games and places to unwind	Character dining at Toppolino's Terrace, 1 table service, 2 quick service, 1 lounge

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Deluxe Resort Amenities

These deluxe resorts are located elsewhere on Walt Disney World property and all require bus transportation to get to the four theme parks. Old Key West and Saratoga Springs are in the Disney Springs resort area and a water taxi can be taken to get from the resorts to Disney Springs easily. Animal Kingdom Lodge can only be accessed via bus transportation on property. The Cabins at Fort Wilderness are located in the same area as the monorail resorts and do have access to the water taxi.

Resort	Theming	Pools & Amenities	Dining Options
Animal Kingdom Lodge	African Safari with live animals	Expansive Savannah with live animals, paid nighttime safari experience, 2 main pools, 1 toddler splash pad and 1 kids' playground, rec hall with video games, pool, shuffleboard and grill tools, basketball, tennis, pickle ball, spa & fitness center	3 table service restaurants, 3 quick service restaurants, 3 lounges
Old Key West Resort	Inspired by Historical Florida Keys	One large pool with a slide and a kiddie pool, 3 quiet pools, fitness center, community hall with games, bike rentals, surrey bike rentals, fishing, tennis, basketball & pickleball, 3 playgrounds	1 table service restaurant and 3 quick service restaurants
Saratoga Springs Resort	Upstate New York Equestrian Theming	Two large pools with kids splash areas and 3 quiet pools, community hall with games, bike rentals, surrey bike rentals, fishing, fitness center, tennis, basketball and a playground	1 table service restaurant, 4 quick service restaurants and 1 lounge
The Cabins at Fort Wilderness	Camping resort with campsites and cabins	HUGE property; 2 pools with 1 toddler splash area, campfire sing-along with Chip & Dale, archery, Tri-Circle-D Ranch with pony and carriage rides, canoe rentals, fishing, golf cart rentals, bike rentals, basketball, volleyball and playgrounds	Hoop Dee Doo Musical Revue dinner show, 3 quick service restaurants & 1 lounge

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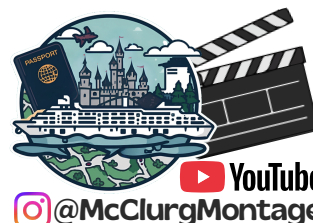
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Moderate Resort Amenities

These resorts are in the moderate resort tier and each offer different pros and cons. Caribbean Beach Resort is a unique moderate option because it is on the skyliner loop, providing easy access to Epcot and Hollywood Studios. The other 3 moderate resorts all utilize bus transportation to get to and from the 4 theme parks. Port Orleans Riverside and Port Orleans French Quarter do have access to a water taxi that takes guests back and forth to Disney Springs.

Resort	Theming	Pools & Amenities	Dining Options
Caribbean Beach Resort	Caribbean Island theming	One large pool with two waterslides and a toddler splash pad, 5 quiet pools throughout, fishing, volleyball and a playground	1 table service restaurant, 2 quick service restaurants, 1 lounge
Coronado Springs Resort	Spanish, Mexican, and Southwest American theming	One large pool with a waterslide and a kiddie pool, 3 quiet pools, painting and art classes, volleyball, fitness center, playground	2 table service restaurants, 6 quick service restaurants, 2 lounges
Port Orleans Riverside	Rural Louisiana, on the Bayou theming	One large pool with a kiddie pool and 5 quiet pools, horse drawn carriage rides, bike rentals, surrey bike rentals, fishing (can utilize all amenities at Port Orleans French Quarter)	1 table service restaurant, 1 quick service restaurant, 2 lounges
Port Orleans French Quarter	Historic French Quarter New Orleans, Mardi Gras theming	One large pool with waterslide and kids' splash area, bike rentals, surrey bike rentals, playground and fishing (can utilize all amenities at Port Orleans Riverside)	2 quick service restaurants, 3 lounges

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Value Resort Amenities

These resorts are in the value resort tier and each offer different pros and cons. The All Star Movies/Sports/Music resorts will be the cheapest resorts on Disney property. These three resorts are only accessible by bus transportation. They have 1 restaurant on site, set up like a food court. Art of Animation and Pop Century Resorts have similar amenities, but have access to the Skyliner to get to Epcot and Hollywood Studios easily. Some of these resorts offer family suites to accomodate larger travel parties at a cheaper price.

Resort	Theming	Pools & Amenities	Dining Options
All Star Sports	Sports & Disney theming	2 pools, 1 kiddie pool, jogging trail, playground	1 quick service restaurant, 1 pool bar
All Star Music	Music & Disney theming	2 pools, 1 kiddie pool, jogging trail, playground, family suite option	1 quick service restaurant, 1 pool bar
All Star Movies	Disney movie character theming	2 pools, 1 kiddie pool, jogging trail, playground	1 quick service restaurant, 1 pool bar
Art of Animation Resort	Finding Nemo, Cars, The Lion King, Little Mermaid	3 pools and kids' splash pad, playground, family suite option	1 quick service restaurant, 1 pool bar
Pop Century Resort	1950s-1990s theming	2 pools, kiddie pool, jogging trail, playground	1 quick service restaurant, 1 pool bar

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Planning Tool

What are your top priorities when it comes to resort selection? (having access to a splash pad, lots of dining options, price, family suite option, etc.) Write your priorities here, then fill out the chart with your top choices.

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-
-
-
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Resort	Cost for Hotel Stay and/or Resort Package	Pros	Cons

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