Doing Walt Disney World on a Budget by Liz Fenoa

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Families dreaming of a vacation to Florida's Walt Disney World in Orlando may think the cost is beyond their reach, but with a little pre-planning and the help of professionals, it can be done on even a limited budget. Once you arrive in southern Florida, the cost of taking your family to Walt Disney's magic kingdom can be surprisingly affordable.

Although it is tempting to hop on the internet to drum up deals for yourself, the truth is that your best chance of getting the lowest price overall is to hire a competent travel agent who specialises in family trips to theme parks. Realise that these professionals get first pick of the special package deals offered seasonally by the promotional departments of Walt Disney World.

Many seasoned travel agents can use their influence to land your family choice perks that you would never have considered otherwise, like unlimited rides on the Magical Express shuttle service or getting to stay for the â€œextra magic hourâ€• that lets you into the park before opening and lets you stay after closing. They can also alert you to last-minute deals or cancellations that coincide with you travel plans.

To save even more, request that your accommodations have self-catering kitchens so you can prepare meals and make snacks to take along on excursions. When you drive your own car, you can stay in the smaller towns outside Orlando where rates are even lower and drive to the hubs for the free Walt Disney Transportation System that totes guests around the park.

Sometimes it turns out that room rates and car rental fees are significantly lower if you are willing to stay on certain days, so if your schedule is flexible be sure and let your travel agent know so they can make appropriate deals. Also ask about getting one of Disneyâ€™s refillable mugs that lets you have a virtually bottomless cup of coffee, tea or soda in certain areas for your entire stay at Walt Disney World.

To help you budget your vacation to Walt Disney world, a travel agent can arrange for all major expenses like transportation, meals, accommodations and tickets to be rolled up into a single price all-inclusive package. You can then arrange pre-payments on your vacation so you can have the bulk of your expenses covered before you ever leave home.

For off-premise activities, travel agents can tap free promotions that include wildlife tours, golfing mornings, afternoon fishing charters and trips to cruise the Everglades. The best part about having a professional agent book your Walt Disney World vacation is that if you encounter any snags along the way, theyâ€™ll use their influence to get things sorted out quickly.

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