



## THE PERFECT WEEKEND AT DISNEYLAND

Disneyland can charm the biggest cynics, but its crowds can also wear down devoted fans. To extract the most magic from your time in the kingdom, you need a plan.

» **GET A ROOM** The Grand Californian (714-956-6425 or [disneyland.disney.go.com](http://disneyland.disney.go.com)) is the park's priciest hotel, but the Craftsman details are striking. A back entrance into California Adventure puts your room (and dry clothes) steps away from the whitewater-rafting ride and Downtown Disney.

» **BEAT THE CROWD** Grand guests often can enter Disneyland an hour before the general public. Get to the Finding Nemo Submarine Voyage first, where the line can be especially long. Then grab a FastPass for Splash Mountain to use in the hot afternoon. The passes list an expiration time, but you can board anytime after.

» **SIT AND RELAX** To avoid heavily trafficked rest rooms, try the one in the Enchanted Tiki Room's waiting area, which is tiny but never busy, or the vast facility under the Hungry Bear Restaurant in Critter Country.

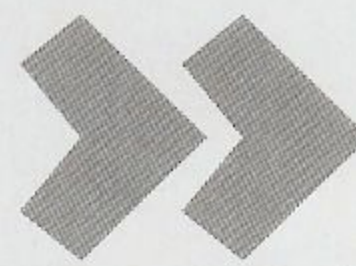
» **MAKE IT SPECIAL** Celebrating a big occasion? Go to City Hall for a free JUST MARRIED or HAPPY ANNIVERSARY sticker or a birthday phone call from Goofy. Pleading with ride attendants may also net a Jungle Cruise map or a VIP trip in the *Mark Twain* wheelhouse or the monorail's nose cone.

» **EAT WELL** Downtown Disney's La Brea Bakery Café makes impressive sandwiches. White Water Snacks, poolside at the Grand, has some of the park's lowest prices on burgers and such. For a blowout meal, eat at the Napa Rose. The best seat is the kitchenside chef's table; if you call the restaurant directly, you can make reservations up to 90 days beforehand.

» **STRATEGIZE** Disneyland's fireworks beat most Fourth of July shows. To see the special effects and projections on the castle, wait for the evening parade to pass and stake out a spot at the end of Main Street when parade watchers aim for the exit.

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## Floating in a Boil in Florida



EACH DAY MILLIONS OF GALLONS of liquid crystal are released from the natural springs of **Manatee Springs State Park** (352-493-6072 or [floridastateparks.org/manateesprings](http://floridastateparks.org/manateesprings)) in northern Florida. Locals call them boils, and here's the best way to enjoy them: Look up at the canopy of cypress and hickory, cast your body backward, and just float on the roiling surface of a turquoise cauldron. It's an hour's drive from Manatee to **Micanopy** ([welcometo.micanopy.com](http://welcometo.micanopy.com)), the first town settled after Spain's territorial cession in 1821. Though only 12 miles south of the Gainesville airport, the town remains a time-warped aggregate of slanting antiques shops, museums, and the literary outpost **O. Brisky Books** (352-466-3910). Check your bags at the oak-shrouded **Herlong Mansion** (800-437-5664 or [herlong.com](http://herlong.com); \$129-\$189), built in 1845, which has 12 balconied suites and cottages that exhibit admirable doily restraint. Walk to the **Pearl Country Store** (352-466-4052), where at lunch ribs and greens fly across the counter, then drive ten minutes to **Paynes Prairie State Park** (352-466-3397 or [floridastateparks.org/paynesprairie](http://floridastateparks.org/paynesprairie)) to see alligators and swamp chickens. Later you can visit Cross Creek, home of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings when she wrote *The Yearling*, then sway to live blues and dine on cooter and fried alligator at the **Yearling Restaurant** (352-466-3999).



HERLONG MANSION IN MICANOPY, FLORIDA