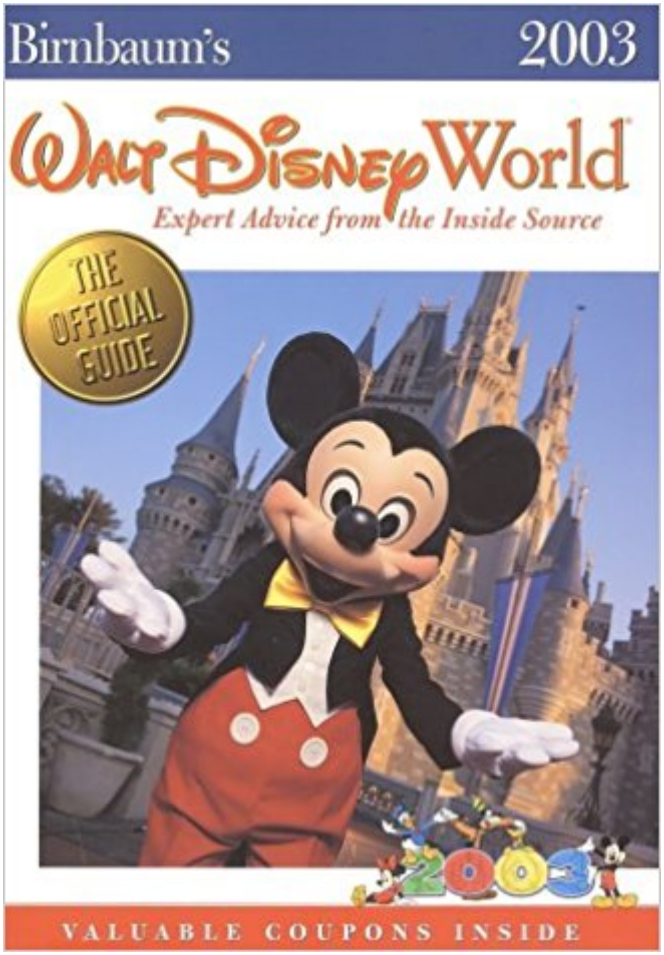
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Birnbaum's Walt Disney World 2003: Expert Advice From The Inside Source



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Synopsis

Expert advice from the inside source! Birnbaum's Walt Disney World 2003, the most respected and well-known name in travel guides, takes readers to and through the world's most popular tourist attraction. Since our guide is the only one that's official, this book includes the most accurate information on prices, changes, and new attractions for 2003. Highlights include the lowdown on Disney's latest blockbuster Mission: SPACE as well as a complete listing of all teh attractions that offer the timesaving FastPass option. Also included is an explanation of Priority Seating and tips on how to score a seat in the most popular dining spots. All the information you have come to expect from the world's leading travel guide, including prices, insider tips, valuable coupons, and much more, is here to help you make your stay a magical and memorable one.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I bought this book to plan my spring vacation to WDW. The detail descriptions of rides (and which to avoid if you have back problems) and excellent suggestions and reviews of restauratnts, has made my planning easier. Needless to say I've read and reread, marked and underlined, tons of stuff.....now if I only remember to bring the book along, I'll be fine. A great resource!***June '03***Well I remembered to take the book and it was a valued resourse even after all our planning. Knowing where everything was and double checking the tips made each day more enjoyable. The restaurant reviews were right on and every evening we were delighted. This book along with the cast members at WDW made our vacation top notch.

Got me good tips!

great

This is an official Disney guide, with all that implies for good or ill; the bias is obviously positive, but the information is reliable too. Disney is becoming the ultimate cradle-to-the-grave company, and that big-picture, we-even-brought-the-toenail-clippers efficiency is captured in this compleat guide to all things Disney in the Orlando FL area.The book begins at the beginning: Getting Ready to Go gives sound advice on when to go, how to get there, various ticket options and even sample schedules for each of the parks (Magic Kingdom, Epcot, MGM Studios, Animal Kingdom) complete with must-see lists and tips for travelling with young children and maximizing the number of rides you get on. There are lots of color graphics, charts and tip boxes to liven things up and present material understandably. A planning timeline is oddly reminiscent of a wedding planner, with things to do 6 months before the trip, 4 months, 3 months, 1 month, 2 weeks and 1 week before. Yikes! Obviously Mickey is a better planner than me, who is grabbing a book the day before I travel and hoping to read it on the plane.The chapter on Transportation & Accommodations (including Disney cruises) is equally thorough, and then there is a chapter for each of the parks that includes maps, attraction descriptions (and sometimes pictures), shopping and entertainment information, and a Hot Tips section which did help us out. After reading the book we hit the ground running and made good use of our time.A hodge-podge chapter gives info about Downtown Disney, BoardWalk, Daredevil Disney, the water parks, spas, cruises and behind-the-scenes tours, and a Sports chapter covers golf, tennis, boating, fishing and swimming opportunities while you're in the area.Finally, the chapter on restaurants reminds you that even eating within the kingdom requires planning, but all the information you'll need is here. We picked out a few restaurants we thought we'd like, and then when we got hungry we chose based on crowds and our location. I feel we made an informed decision and were happy with our food, the experience and the way our time flowed. Again, graphics and charts lay out a lot of information in a clear way.When every detail of services and attractions is in the book, the problem becomes one of finding those details relevant to you, and this index is comprehensive but it is not exhaustive. If you want to squeeze every drop of fun from your holiday in Orlando, you will have to page through, marking and noting pertinent information.The ten coupons, all expiry dates in December 2003, were not helpful to us, featuring food and admission breaks at Disney Quest, Vero Beach and Hilton Head Island resorts, Dive Quest, Pleasure Island

and the sports complex, Fantasia Gardens, mini-golf and Dolphins in Depth, but maybe they will be handy for you.This is a very helpful guide, well written and informative, though it could use a better index.Whether you are a plan-weeks-in-advance traveller or a fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants traveller, a novice or a seasoned Disney visitor, this official handbook will help you get the most from your trip.

Planning for a family vacation to Disney World can be as complex as launching an expedition to Anarctica -- and nearly as expensive if you aren't careful! If you've made the decision to take the plunge and head for the most popular family vacation spot in America spend that first few dollars on the most current edition of Birnbaum's book. This book will help you save both time and money.Birnbaum's guide was a great choice for me -- I'm a "gotta have everything organized in advance" kind of person and the detailed, accurate information in this guide helped me do everything from pick out a hotel and book a ride from the airport to organize a packing list and rough-in plans for daily itineraries. Although the guide was absolutely jammed with information it was in a very readable format with lots of color, charts and sidebars. Birnbaum's also helped walk us through a lot of the decisions -- for example we decided to splurge on a nice on-resort hotel with access to the monorail knowing we would want to spend the middle part of most days relaxing at the pool with the kids. To balance that expense, we took Birnbaum's tip and had lunches at the nicer restaraunts instead of the more expensive (and more crowded) dinners.My husband also found Birnbaum's guide very helpful and he is more of a "let's just wing-it" sort of vacation planner. On the days he was in charge of activities he carried the Birnbaum's book with him and used it to pick restaraunts, find less crowded rides and choose activities near wherever we happened to be walking. The color-coding on the sides of the pages helped him quickly find the section of the book he wanted just as soon as he pulled it out of the bag.By far the best feature were the sample schedules -- these helped us avoid the crowds during our vacation (Christmas week one of the most crowded times of the year). In fact, using Birnbaum's advice we got to the parks early and walked onto many rides without waiting at all. Once the parks started getting crowded we used the tips on fast passes to cut our waiting time significantly on the more popular rides.There's lots and lots of information out there on how to plan and enjoy your Disney Vacation -- I highly recommend checking out the Disney web site (booking online can save more $$$) and buying this guide. Maybe you won't have to spend an entire semester's worth of college savings after all!

My first trip to soak in the full magic of Disney's Four theme parks came in October 1999. My

husband and I planned for months. This was our first "real" vacation after 4 years of marriage and we were very excited! I read everything I could get my hands on but Birnbaums far and above gave the best, most accurate information about exactly what to do and when to do it to make the most of your time at Disney. And thanks to the coupons that were in the back of my book, we got a 1 car class upgrade on our rental car and a free AAA Tote Bag!I bought the book again when we went back with my Mother in 2001 and didn't get as much out of it since not as much had changed since our last visit. So If you have "been there done that" recently, skip this book, because it won't tell you anything you don't already know, but if it's been awhile since you've been to WDW or this is your 1st time, then pick this book up so you won't miss a thing!Have Fun! Wish I was going again this year!

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