

LET'S GO! TRAVEL

Disney World vacation enhanced by planning

BY BRIAN LYBAGHT
SPECIAL WRITER

Ann Kalvelage and her family did their homework before they embarked on a weeklong trip in August to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

Their efforts paid off nicely, she said. The Westland family of four spent \$2,200 during a week's stay at the mega-entertainment complex.

"It was wonderful," said Kalvelage, who traveled with her husband, Dan, and sons, Chris, 9, and David, 4. "It costs a lot of money but it's immaculate, and it really is magic. They call it the Magic Kingdom. They treat their guests very well."

But guests can spend money faster than you can sing the Mickey Mouse song, Kalvelage offered a few tips for cutting costs:

- Consider staying outside the gates; it can be cheaper. The Kalvelage's \$59 efficiency motel room was two miles from the main gate.
- If eating inside, choose your restaurants carefully.
- Bring snacks into the park; though this technically is not allowed, Kalvelage said their backpacks were never checked.
- Read Bob Sehlinger's "Unofficial Guide to Walt Disney World." Kalvelage said it proved

valuable, even at \$13. Also, get tips from friends and neighbors who had been there before.

■ Kalvelage said her family was outside the gates each morning before opening, then left at mid-afternoon to swim, relax and rest. Then, they returned about 6 p.m. for another few hours.

■ The Orlando Chamber of Commerce offers a vacation planning guide that includes coupons for accommodation and other tips. Call (407)363-5871.

Keep in mind, too, that Disney offers vacation packages, some for as low as \$149 for a three-night stay. Your travel agent should have more information.

Meanwhile, the residents of the Magic Kingdom are offering plenty of new attractions to keep America entertained. There is, for example, "The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror," a 198-foot building that leads visitors to an ominous 13th floor. We won't give anything away, but it involves an elevator.

There is the new 1,920-room All-Star Sports Resort, with five different themes for sport fans of any stripe. Room rates begin at \$69 per night, making it one of the most economical Disney resorts.

"Innovations" in Epcot '95 allows guests to fiddle with the latest high-tech gadgets that are destined for the consumer market — meaning a store near you or me.

If you're interested in the romance of the Great Northwest, you can check into the new Wilderness Lodge Resort, a rustic 728-room hideaway. (Now, if you're really interested in the Northwest, you should probably catch a plane to Seattle, not Orlando). A man-made geyser erupts hourly, and rooms start at \$149 per night.

Magic Kingdom explorers can visit a fantasy African jungle based on the hit motion picture musical "The Lion King."

There's a Doll and Teddy Bear Convention Nov. 4-6 at Disney Village Marketplace, and it includes a public auction. Also on the horizon is a showing of the works of 200 of the nation's finest artists. Nov. 11-13.

Of course, the unofficial king of Disneyworld — we're talking about Mickey Mouse — stars daily in the new Mickey Mouse parade at the Magic Kingdom. There are floats, balloons, mouse ears and 28 other Disney characters, who tell the story of Mickey in Music, Mickey in Tim, Mickey in Motion, Mickey in Toys, and Mickey in Balloons and Mickey Through the Years.

For information of the official sort, call Walt Disney World Guest Information at (407)824-4321. Or write PO Box 10,040, Lake Buena Vista, Fla. 32830-0040.



M-I-C-K-E-Y: Mickey and friends make their way through the Magic Kingdom during one of the new daily parades. With some careful planning, you can save some money and have more fun at Disney World.

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Let's say you've got a bad case of Mickey Mania. It happens to the best of us.

But let's also say you lack the desire or the cash to buy a ticket to Florida or California.

The publicity machine at Walt Disney World offers a few pointers:

Put on the latest Disney garb, from "Lion King" T-shirts to "Winnie the Pooh" sweatshirts. Pooh Bear turns 70 this year.

Flip in the cassette of Walt Dis-

ney Records' "Travelling with Mickey" or "Disney Children's Favorites."

For something a little brasser, try Disney's Hollywood Records' "The Brian Setzer Orchestra," a recording that features the former Stray Cat Setzer and his big band.

New from Disney's Hyperion publishing house is "Suitable for Framing" by Pulitzer Prize winner and crime writer Edna Buchanan. Then there's the memoir from former Mouseketeer

Annette Funicello, "A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes: My Story."

Tune into "Dateline Disney" for updates. That's on the Disney cable TV channel.

In a pinch, you can visit the Disney Store at Twelve Oaks Mall or Laurel Park Place.

There now, that should cure what ails you. But consider this: Is Mickey and company omnipresent or what?

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