

The logo features the word "Magical" in a purple cursive font. A red starburst graphic is positioned above the letter 'i'. Below "Magical" is the text "★ TRIP GUIDE ★" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Magical
★ TRIP GUIDE ★

The
Ultimate Guide to
Walt Disney World
Character Dining

INCLUDED IN THIS GUIDE

Meeting characters is one of the most fun things to do at Walt Disney World, Getting to experience those characters while enjoying some great meals will make your next trip that much more amazing. Luckily, WDW offers tons of opportunities for you to do just that.

Commonly known as Character Dining, there are a number of designated dining locations across the various WDW parks and resorts where characters will make their way from table to table as you eat, interacting and taking photos with patrons. It's a great way to liven up a meal and potentially meet characters you may have missed in the parks.

This guide will help you maximize your Character Dining experiences. It includes a number of exclusive tips, as well as a cheat sheet that outlines all the Character Dining locations. Have a read through it as you plan your next WDW vacation, especially while you're making your dining plans.

5 CHARACTER DINING TIPS

Let's jump right in with 5 exclusive tips that will help you maximize Character Dining for your next WDW vacation.

Tip #1: Meet More Characters with Less Effort

If you've been to WDW recently, you'll know that meeting characters at parks is no longer as simple as flagging down Mickey as he leisurely strolls down Main Street. There are now designated character meet spots throughout the parks, complete with their own dedicated areas and photo pass photographers. Unfortunately, the other thing these character meet spots include is lines, sometimes really long ones.

Sure, you can use FastPasses to jump the lines, but if you want to meet a bunch of characters, you'll run out of those pretty quickly. There is however, a better way. Yup, you guessed it, Character Dining!

First, human anatomy dictates that you need to eat, a number of times a day in fact. So if you have to do that anyway, you might as well kill two birds with one stone and meet some of the characters while you dine. Instead of waiting in the blistering sun for an hour for a photo with Donald and Daisy, you can sit in an air conditioned restaurant, nibbling on appetizers while you wait for them to come right to your table.

Second, and more significant, most Character Dining locations feature a bunch of characters, like, a lot of them. For the cost of one overly priced buffet (or one table service dining plan credit) at Chef Mickey's, you can meet the entire Fab Five (that's Mickey, Minnie, Donald, Goofy and Pluto for those keeping score). Compare that to character meet spots in the parks, where you typically meet one or two characters at most, and the value proposition here becomes pretty clear, Character Dining for the win.

Tip #2: Maximize Dining Credits

As mentioned in Tip #1, if you've included a Dining Package as part of your WDW stay, you can use those credits on any of the restaurants that feature Character Dining. Chef Mickey's, as well as the majority of the other Character Dining locations only cost one table service credit

Because people love meeting characters, and Disney loves being a profitable business, they can charge inflated prices for these restaurants, the cost per meal for guests paying outright can easily exceed \$50. So if you're trying to maximize the value of your Dining Plan Package, dollar for dollar, Character Dining restaurants provide some of the best bang for your dining credits.

Tip #3: Special Dining + Entertainment Packages

WDW offers a number of special dining and entertainment packages, wherein you make a dinner reservation at a park restaurant, and they toss in premium seating to a show. For those of you that are super value conscientious, this is a way to even further maximize one dining credit. Not only do you get the double whammy benefit of eating an expensive restaurant and meeting a ton of characters at once, but you also get premium seating to an awesome show for no extra charge.

A few places that offer this sort of package are Hollywood & Vine in Hollywood Studios, where you'll snag premium seating for the Fantasmic show, and Tusker House at Animal Kingdom, where you'll get premium seating to the Rivers of Light show.

Tip #4: Early Park Openings

If you're an early-to-rise kind of person or family, you'd surely appreciate the chance to get into the parks before the bulk of the crowds. Luckily for you, many of the restaurants that offer Character Dining also offer pre-park opening reservations.

These are just regular old dining reservations that happen to be before the public park opening time. Check out Hollywood & Vine in Hollywood Studios or The Crystal Palace in Magic Kingdom for a few options on this one.

Tip #5: Explore New Resorts

Many of the Character Dining locations are at WDW resorts, located across Disney property. If you're someone that enjoys seeing new sites, each of the various resorts provides a truly unique atmosphere and experience, so it's highly

recommended to step outside of the resort you're staying at and check out at least a few.

Hitting up a Character Dining location as part of resort hopping is just another way to maximize your time and the value of your vacation package. And, don't forget, if you're staying on property, you can use any WDW provided transportation to get from one place to another, whether that be monorail, bus, or boat.

CHARACTER DINING CHEAT SHEET

Name	Characters	Park / Resort	Restaurant
Supercalifragilistic Breakfast	Characters may include: Alice in Wonderland, Mary Poppins, The Mad Hatter, Tigger, and Winnie the Pooh	The Grand Floridian	1900 Park Fare
Cinderella Happily Ever After Dinner	Cinderella and Prince Charming, may sometimes include other characters such as the Stepsisters and Stepmother	The Grand Floridian	1900 Park Fare
Minnie's Beach Bash Breakfast	Minnie and Friends dressed up in their beach best!	Beach Club	Cape May Cafe
Chef Mickey's	Breakfast, Brunch, and Dinner. Characters include: Mickey, Minnie, Donald, Pluto and Goofy in their chef attire!	The Contemporary	Chef Mickey's
Best Friends Breakfast	Featuring Lilo and Stitch	The Polynesian	Ohana
Bon Voyage Breakfast	Characters may include Ariel, Prince Eric, Rapunzel and Flynn Rider	The Boardwalk	Trattoria Al Forno
Storybook Dining with Snow White	Meet Snow White, Dopey, Grumpy and The Queen every evening for dinner in a rustic setting. (2TS Credits)	Wilderness Lodge	Artist Point
Cinderella's Royal Table	Dine with Cinderella and other Princesses for a one-of-a-kind dining experience inside the Castle during breakfast lunch or dinner (2TS Credits)	Magic Kingdom	Cinderella's Royal Table
Be Our Guest Dinner	Meet the Beast after your dinner in Belle's castle (2TS Credits)	Magic Kingdom	Be Our Guest
The Crystal Palace	Enjoy an all-you-can-enjoy buffet with someone of your favorite characters from The Hundred Acre Wood	Magic Kingdom	The Crystal Palace
Princess Storybook Dining	Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner. Belle is the hostess and other characters may include: Ariel, Snow White, Cinderella, Aurora	Epcot	Akershus
Hollywood & Vine - Breakfast	Hollywood & Vine - Join popular Disney Junior characters for a buffet breakfast	Hollywood Studios	Hollywood & Vine
Hollywood & Vine - Lunch or Dinner	Join Minnie and Friends in their seasonal best for a buffet lunch or dinner	Hollywood Studios	Hollywood & Vine
Tusker House - Breakfast, Lunch, or Dinner	Join Safari Donald and Friends for breakfast, lunch or dinner	Animal Kingdom	Tusker House