Walt Disney World Planning Timeline

ONE YEAR OF PLANNING, SIMPLIFIED STEP-BY-STEP

10-12 Months Before

Foundation Phase

- Choose travel dates
- Set budget
- Decide on resort & ticket type
- Book hotel
- Create My Disney Experience account
- Research special events & festivals
- Purchase travel insurance

4-9 Months Before

Research & Strategy

- Research dining & character meals
- Learn Lightning Lane options
- Make must-do rides list
- Build rough park plans
- Monitor/book flights
- Research transportation

2-3 Months Before

Prep & Purchase

- Buy MagicBands & park essentials
- Break in walking shoes
- Finalize park days
- Check refurbishments
- Research quick-service dining
- Order Disney outfits/gear

60 Days Before

Dining Reservation Window

- Book dining reservations
- Reserve character dining
- Book special experiences
- Confirm reservations in MDE

30 Days Before

Finalizing Plans

- Make final package payment
- Set up Mobile Order
- Complete online check-in
- Book airport transportation
- Place grocery delivery order

3 or 7 Days Before

Lightning Lane Booking Window

- Book Lightning Lane Multi Pass
- Reserve Single Pass attractions
- Finalize park itineraries
- Double-check MDE setup

2-3 Days Before

Final Prep

- Confirm reservations
- Charge MagicBands & devices
- Pack park essentials
- Screenshot confirmations
- Prepare travel documents

Arrival Day

The Magic Begins

- Check in through MDE
- Explore your resort
- Review transportation options
- Rest up for park days

Magic in the Planning