



How to...

DID YOU KNOW?

Tivoli Gardens, a theme park in Denmark that opened in 1843, reportedly inspired Walt Disney to create Disneyland.



Have more fun at a theme park

Plan for the best visit possible with these helpful tips.

Amusement parks, with their thrilling rides and live entertainment, are loads of fun. But they can also mean long wait times, crowds, and pricey food and drinks. If you're visiting a theme park this summer, plan to get the most from your visit with a few smart strategies. Here's how you can get started.

Do your research

Before you and your family head to the park, check out its website for information that can help you plan your day. Check for locations and times for character meet-and-greets and live performances. Many parks allow you to make reservations for popular rides in advance, so have an adult check the park's policies. Find out if you're allowed to bring your own refillable water bottle and snacks to avoid high prices and long concessions lines. Check the weather forecast and plan to dress in comfortable clothes and shoes.

Arrive early

Lay out your clothes and pack anything you plan to bring the night before, so you and your family can get out the door to the park as soon as it opens and before it gets crowded. Pack zipped plastic baggies

and use them to protect devices from getting wet. When you arrive at the park, you can ask park staff which rides they suggest you go to first to beat long lines. If you're new to the park and its attractions, you can also plan to go on smaller rides first, like a carousel, and work up to more daring rides, like a big roller coaster, whether this visit or a future one!

Build in breaks

Theme parks can be exciting—and exhausting.

Going to one of the park's shows in a shaded or air-conditioned area is a great way to cool off and recharge between rides. Stop to refill your water bottle at a hydration station, and remember to reapply sunscreen.

If you're getting tired trying to get to everything you wanted to see, talk with your family about crossing one or two things off the list of what you all planned to do.

Stay flexible

Sometimes an attraction is temporarily closed for repairs or design updates, which can be disappointing. You can use that extra time to explore a new ride, or go for a second spin on one of your favorites. After all, the goal is to have fun!



Enjoy classic rides like the carousel.

Claw machine tips



Claw machines are tricky, but these strategies can give you a better chance to grab a prize.

Observe closely. Watch the person before you to see how the machine works. Does the claw have a firm grip? How tightly are the prizes packed?

Pick a target. Choose an item with something to grab onto, like a head, arm, or leg. Be warned—prizes that are round or close to the glass will be harder to pick up. Aim for a toy in the middle instead.

Get in position. Use the claw to push other items away and move your target into a better position for an easier grab.