

## TRAVEL

# Disneyland, California – The Magic Lives On

Disneyland may have opened in 1955, but a trip to the original theme park today is filled with plenty of new discoveries. Throughout the park, you'll see all the Disney magic



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you remember from your own childhood. But Disneyland continues to keep pace with today's digital generation, appealing to kids' love of technology and gadgets.

Even Mickey Mouse is in on the latest technology

with Fantasmic!, a musical pyrotechnic spectacular. Kids can hone their lightsaber skills in the Jedi Training Academy. We loved watching Pixar pals from *The Incredibles*, *Finding Nemo*, and *Monsters, Inc.* come to life in interactive shows and a delightful parade. Be sure to see the new Star Tours and Buzz Lightyear Astro Blasters.

**Disneyland – You'll feel the magic.** For me, walking through Disneyland brought back fond childhood memories of Walt Disney on TV showcasing the park. It's a Small World left me singing. A spin on the Mad Tea Party and riding Dumbo brought out the kid in me. Pirates of the Caribbean was grand entertainment, especially knowing where this story line has gone. Even for adults, Disneyland remains an enchanted place that never grows old.

**Disney California Adventure – Opens its golden gates to you.** I was duly impressed

with Disney California Adventure Park, right next door, which features favorite Disney characters in exciting new venues. My favorite was the 3D interactive Toy Story Mania – both a ride and an interactive video game. It's shoot, shoot, shoot! Bug's Land let me see things through a "bug's eye view." And we sailed on a clam shell in Ariel's Undersea Adventure with characters from *The Little Mermaid*.

**World of Color – A Nighttime Extravaganza.** Paradise Pier in California Adventure is both a tribute to old-time boardwalks and a showcase for modern technology. People raved about the World of Color show, so we stayed until the lights came on and Paradise Pier weaved its own spell of magic. This incredible show combines water, fire, and light into a kaleidoscope of fantasy and imagination. We watched in amazement as more than 1,000 jets of water shot up in the air, while music played and Disney characters came to life in the water. It was breathtaking.

**Family-Friendly Embassy Suites.** Embassy Suites Anaheim South, just minutes away from the park, is the ideal place to stay while visiting Disneyland. With roomy accommodations and complimentary cooked-to-order breakfast, the hotel was filled with families. There's also a free shuttle that runs between the hotel and the park throughout the day. The onsite Disney Desk can help with tickets as well as information to other nearby attractions like the Anaheim GardenWalk, Discovery Science Center, and Knott's Berry Farm. With a great Harbor Boulevard location, we walked to nearby restaurants, and



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Paradise Pier's World of Color lights up the night at Disney California Adventure.

even got discount coupons from the hotel. At night, we hung out at the nightly manager's reception, enjoying the complimentary beverages and snacks. Embassy Suites offers special Disneyland packages, too. 714-539-3300; [embassysuites.com](http://embassysuites.com).

**Special Disneyland Offers.** For more information about Disneyland Vacation Packages, call 714-520-5060 or visit [disneyland.com](http://disneyland.com). Head out to sunny California soon to let the magic of Disney take you back to your childhood and to create new

memories for your family.

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## Glitz, Fur, and Funky Details

New Year's Eve. A time for celebration, resolutions, and, of course, fashion. There are some great winter trends this year, and they're all easy to imitate while still staying true to your own style. Even if some of these styles are not necessarily *you*, don't worry; New Year's is a time for fun, frills, and a lot of sparkles!

**What:** Glitz

**How:** The main thing to consider about glitter is subtlety. If your dress has a crystal embellishment, pair it with black opaque tights, booties, and even a blazer. Likewise, a shimmering, jeweled necklace can be a festive statement piece that makes a little black or white dress pop.

**Where:** Cusp, 1206 Northbrook Court Mall, Northbrook.

**What:** Lace

**How:** Lace can be extremely chic and feminine once you learn to sidestep certain fashion faux pas. For a more revealing take on the trend, opt for a lace-backed top with an opaque front, and pair it with high-waisted skinny jeans and heels. To stay on the girlier side of things, a white lacey skirt is beautiful paired with a simple boat-neck tee and statement cocktail rings.

**Where:** Gray Boutique, 821 Chestnut Court, Winnetka.

**What:** Fur

**How:** Whatever your stance on animals is, there are chic (and cruelty-free) ways to get into this trend. Seeing as how Dec. 31 in Chicago will no doubt be freezing, stay warm in a beautiful way by throwing on a mink (or faux-mink) stole over a sophisticated dress or pencil skirt. Another more youthful version is the fur vest, which comes in a variety of cuts, lengths, and colors. Pair with dark jeans and a simple tank for a subtly decadent look.



There are chic and cruelty-free ways to get into the fur trend this New Year's Eve.

**Where:** Chalk, 2611 Prairie Ave., Evanston.

**What:** Funky Details

**How:** Ranging from beaded and sequined evening clutches to bedazzled heels and baubles, NYE is the perfect time to let your opulent side run wild. If you prefer a simpler ensemble, such as an LBD or sleek suit, slip on a pair of silver heels to spice up the look. However, don't be afraid to mix a pair of printed or velour pants with a studded bag and smoky eyes ... it's New Year's Eve after all!

**Where:** My Best Friend's Closet, 1780 Green Bay Road, Highland Park.

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