

Don't Leave Home Without . . .

- ✓ *Comfortable shoes.* Forget about wearing sandals or slides in the parks—stick to sneakers. And this is no time to be breaking in new shoes.
- ✓ *Minimal clothing.* Many hotels have laundry facilities, and you can always wash out clothes in the sink. Most families over-pack, not figuring on all the souvenirs they'll bring back. Disney T-shirts are not only great for touring but can serve as swimsuit cover-ups and pajamas as well. And unless you're planning a special evening out at Victoria & Albert's, casual clothing is acceptable everywhere.
- ✓ *Lightweight jackets.* It rains in Orlando year-round, so jackets should be water-resistant.
- ✓ *Basic necessities.* These include disposable diapers, baby formula, camera, memory cards or film, and blank camcorder tapes. All of these are available within Disney World, but at premium prices.
- ✓ *Sunscreen.* Keep a tube with you and reapply it often. Sunburn is the number-one complaint at the first-aid clinic in the Magic Kingdom. You need sun protection all through the year in Orlando, not just in summer.
- ✓ *A waist pack.* Unlike a purse, a waist pack frees up your hands for boarding rides, pushing strollers, and holding on to your kids. A backpack is another option and good for carrying snacks and water, but even a light one can start to hurt your shoulders after a while. Plus, some rides don't allow backpacks, so you may have to keep putting yours in a locker.
- ✓ *Ziploc bags.* Disney serves such large dining portions, even on kiddie meals, that some parents report they save some of the fruit or chips for a later snack.
- ✓ *Sunglasses.* The Florida sun is so blinding that more than once I've reached into my bag for my sunglasses only to realize I already had them on. Kids too young for sunglasses need wide-billed caps to cut down the glare.
- ✓ *Strollers.* Most Orlando hotels are huge, so if you have an infant or toddler, you'll need your own stroller just to get around your hotel.
- ✓ *Your iPhone.* This can have many in-park uses other than the obvious advantage of relocating each other when someone gets lost. In the MK, you can download a wait-time app, Mobile Magic, that gives you real-time info on the length of lines at key attractions.

And one enterprising father from Montreal reported that he used his iPhone every morning to take a picture of the family's parking spot du jour. "Otherwise," he said, "by day four we couldn't have possibly remembered where we'd left the car."