



Walt Disney World UK Planning Checklist

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12–18 Months Out: Preparation & Booking

- ☐ **Passport Check:** Ensure all passports have at least 6 months validity remaining from your return date.
- ☐ **Book Package Deal:** Watch for UK-exclusive Disney packages (e.g. Free Dining / Dining Credit promos, usually released April–May for the following year).
- ☐ **UK Disney Tickets:** Secure 7 or 14-day Magic Tickets (includes Memory Maker, Water Parks, and Park Hopper at exclusive UK rates).
- ☐ **Comprehensive Travel Insurance:** Get cover immediately after booking. Note: UK GHIC/EHIC cards are NOT valid in the USA.

11 Months Out (330 Days): Flights

- ☐ **Book Flights:** Scheduled airlines (Virgin Atlantic, British Airways, Aer Lingus) release flight seats about 330 days in advance. Compare MCO (Orlando International) vs. SFB (Sanford) or MLB (Melbourne).
- ☐ **Airport Parking & Hotels:** Book UK airport overnight hotel and parking/transfers early for the best rates.

6–12 Months Out: Admin & Logistics

- ☐ **Apply for ESTA:** Apply ONLY via the official US Government website (esta.cbp.dhs.gov). Beware of third-party scam sites!
- ☐ **My Disney Experience (MDE):** Create your account and link your Disney resort reservation and UK ticket confirmation numbers.
- ☐ **Airport Transfers & Car Hire:** Arrange MCO-to-resort transport (MEARS Connect, private transfer, or car hire if not already included) unless you plan to use a ride-share on arrival.

60 Days Out: Dining & Extras

- ☐ **Dining Reservations (ADRs):** Book table-service dining 60 days in advance starting at 6:00 AM EST (11:00 AM UK time). Disney Resort guests can book for their entire stay (up to 10 days).
- ☐ **Enchanted Extras:** Book special experiences (Bibbidi Bobbidi Boutique, Savi's Workshop, Droid Depot, Fireworks Cruises).

7 to 3 Days Out: Disney App & Passes

- ☐ **Lightning Lane Passes:** Purchase and reserve Lightning Lane Multi Pass / Single Pass via the MDE app.
 - Disney Resort Guests: 7 days before check-in.
 - Off-Site Guests: 3 days before ticket start date.
- ☐ **Online Resort Check-In:** Complete via MDE to skip the front desk on arrival.
- ☐ **Set Up Disney MagicMobile / MagicBands:** Link MagicBands or set up Apple Wallet / Google Pay passes.

1–2 Weeks Out: Currency, Tech & Packing

- ☐ **Travel Cards & Dollars:** Order fee-free travel debit cards (Monzo, Chase UK, Revolut, Currensea) if you don't have a fee-free card, and carry a small amount of cash USD for tips/taxis.
- ☐ **US Roaming / eSIM:** Set up a US eSIM (e.g., Airalo, Holafly) or check your UK mobile provider's US roaming add-on rates.
- ☐ **UK-to-US Plug Adapters:** Pack Type B plug adapters and USB multi-port plugs.
- ☐ **Park Essentials:** Pack broken-in walking shoes, ponchos, cooling towels, power banks, and sun cream.

Departure Day Check-Off

- ☐ Printed ESTAs, insurance documents, and flight tickets
- ☐ Passports and travel money/cards
- ☐ Mobile phones loaded with MDE app and power banks
- ☐ Essential medication in hand luggage with prescription labels

