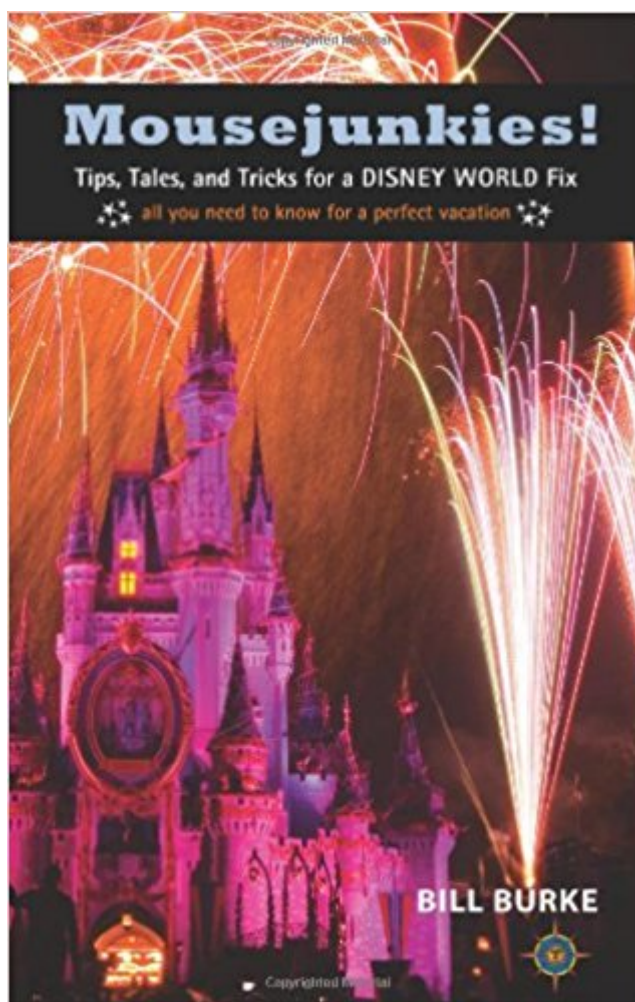


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# Mousejunkies!: Tips, Tales, And Tricks For A Disney World Fix: All You Need To Know For A Perfect Vacation (Mousejunkies: Tips, Tales, & Tricks For A Disney World)





## Synopsis

Far more than one obsessed travel writer's take on Walt Disney World, *Mousejunkies!* is a collection of amusing travelogues and savvy insider's tips gleaned from a group of seemingly rational adults who find themselves inexplicably drawn to the Magic Kingdom. It covers all the essential topics; when to go, where to stay, what to do, and where to eat; as well as experiences not found in other guides. Readers learn how to indulge in an all-day beer and football orgy at the resort, how to extract the family from Fantasmic with sanity intact, where to catch a mid-afternoon catnap, and how a Disney cruise can go very, very wrong. Packed with useful information, from touring plans to restroom reviews, these funny, affectionate personal accounts paint a vivid portrait of a creatively engineered world where unexpected surprises create lasting memories.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Bill Burke is a veteran newspaper reporter and editor. He is a columnist for *Parenting NH Magazine*, has spent 11 years at the *Boston Herald* and its Web site and is currently the assistant features editor for the *Boston Herald*. He has traveled to Walt Disney World countless times over the years. During his 18-year journalism career, he has covered marathons and murders, and written everything from business features to comic book scripts. He has interviewed musicians and actors and worked as a travel writer. Bill has been traveling to and writing about Walt Disney World for the past ten years. A dyed-in-the-wool New Englander who recently came to the conclusion he hates the

cold weather but can't live without good fried clams, Bill spent portions of his childhood living in different parts of the country and traveling throughout the United States. His family then returned to the northeast where he remained until discovering the joy of having his meals served by adults dressed as fictional characters. Now he flees to the warm embrace of central Florida whenever time and finances allow. Or even if they won't. After trying out a number of different career options ranging from installing concrete foundations and digging ditches to working as a bouncer at an oceanfront nightclub and selling sci-fi collectibles, he stumbled across journalism. Bill plays bass guitar in a blues band, Irish music on the tenor banjo and mandolin, and bagpipes when he wants to annoy his wife of thirteen years. He has considered moving to Florida, but has been told that the region lacks good Chinese food. He lives in southern New Hampshire with his wife, Amy, and six-year-old daughter, Katie.

My husband and I are planning our fifth trip to WDW for Sept. 2012. We would consider ourselves mini-Mousejunkies. I read the excerpt for this book on and found the authors writing style quite engaging and downright funny at times. Being pretty well versed in all things Disney, we didn't really get many new tips, but for a newbie, this would probably be a helpful read. It is heavy in Epcot. It is obvious that the Mousejunkies enjoy that park the most. We are a Magic Kingdom kind of family and would prefer to have a little more insight there. Overall, I am not disappointed with the book. We read it for the comedy and it did provide us with a little refresher on some of the fun things to do at 'the World'. It has been nice because it has been the first book we are reading to get us amped up for the trip, so the reminder of why we love the place has been joyful. We are reading the second Mousejunkies now, then we will move on to the more serious (and dry) Unofficial Guide to Walt Disney World 2012.

Not a guide book to Walt Disney World - there are better books at that - and the second edition falls down because it tries to be a guide book. The strength of this book is one man's story of how and why he likes Walt Disney World with input from his adult friends who also love Walt Disney World. If you want to go there on vacation, and friends or family object and complain about kiddie rides, give them this book (FIRST edition) so they can see that there is a lot more to do, to see, and ultimately to be happy about.

It is not a traditional guidebook, as others have said. You read it like a book - and I did so quite quickly. I found myself reading passages out loud to my husband, and he wondered if the writer was

quoting me. For those that truly love Disney, you will laugh as you read this because you will agree with so much of it. For those who wonder WHY some people love Disney so much - this may give you some insight. This is about a group of adults who fell in love with Disney as childless adults and have since devoted their lives to going "home" as often as possible. I gave it 4 stars instead of 5 only because I would have liked to hear more about the Mousejunkies experiences after they had children.

Good, usable and helpful information. ã Æ Å™Ä,,

Having been a Walt Disney World(WDW) enthusiast since my first visit to the resort in the early 70's, A book written by someone with similar experiences, sounded like a pretty fun read. Even though I have never heard the term "Mousejunkie", I can say after reading the criteria, that I am one wholeheartedly.....sort of? While I identify with the author, being a bass player, Rush fan and a Mousejunkie too, there are some areas of this book I do not agree with completely. While Disneyworld is full of some incredible and unsurpassed magical places and experiences, I have been a little less than amazed at times. It's not a perfect place, but about as close as a place can get. The Mousejunkies here offer smart tips and certainly wet the appetite for one longing to go or return to the magic of WDW by offering up their personal experiences of their many visits. I found the writing style to be very fun, relaxed and I finished this book in a couple of days. Considering that I don't usually read that many books(unless you count reference books?), this is quite a feat for me! I agree with most things stated by these "junkies", but they do tend to make everything sound a little too good. Let me first offer some of my credentials on why I can argue the point with these Mousejunkies on all things Disney. First, I have been to WDW at least 20 times since the early 70's..the last time was 2009 and I'm already booked for late 2011. I have stayed at 12 of the Disney resorts including one that no one seems to remember, The Golf Resort which is no longer there!..where did it go? I've stayed at the Contemporary Tower, Polynesian Resort, all four All Star Resorts, both New Orleans hotels Riverside and French Quarter, Caribbean, Coronado and The Animal Kingdom Resort (Savanna view). I vow to stay at every one of the remaining resorts before this decade is over....umm as long as my bank account can handle it! The first chapter of this book brings you in, with Burke telling of his first visit as a kid and wanting to go back for many years. He would not get back until he was an adult and his journey is one I can identify with as I had a very similar experience. My story doesn't involve a travel agent, but the results are very much the same....with me telling the clerk(at the dump I was register at outside of WDW), that I was leaving

immediately and would indeed get my money back! He also talks about his first encounters with certain landmarks in the parks( the castle) and how he remembers the feeling of being at WDW more than seeing it. It's an insightful statement that I never really thought about, but I totally get what he meant .I had stayed at the three resorts that made up all of the Disney Resorts back in the 70's and at the time there was only the Magic Kingdom for park entertainment. I loved the Contemporary Tower because the monorail brought me right back to my room. My parents loved this too, because my brother and I could run wild in the park by ourselves NO adult supervision?!! Yep!.. you could do things like that in those days....I wasn't even in double digits yet with my brother a mere 4 years older. We would start out with our parents in the morning, but by mid afternoon they were ready for some relaxation and my brother and I were just getting started. Sometimes we would meet them for dinner, sometimes we would stay in the park. One of my big disappointments was when I stayed at the Animal Kingdom Resort with a Savanna view in 2009, the room was extremely over priced. While the grounds, lobby and corridors are beautiful, the rooms themselves are small and over crowded with furniture that is too big for the room. It's actually laughable, as you try to squeeze between the bed and breakfast nook to get to the ledge that they call a balcony. I did enjoy the view of the animals, but I think for a room that cost well over \$500.00 a night, I should get a little more than two plain chairs on a balcony that is no deeper than the chair plus six inches for your knees. The balcony was very plain and looked like something from a cheap apartment complex. Another thing I would like to point out is that there are numerous discounts for accommodations at Disney, which are barely mentioned in this book. If you look around you can save up to 50% on your hotel rooms. I paid \$240 a night for a room that regularly cost around \$540, but I checked out after a day or so to another hotel on the property that was less expensive and actually nicer. New Orleans Riverside Resort is one of my favorites, it has a beautiful landscape and is so relaxing to sit on a bench by the river and listen to horse drawn carriages off in the distance at night. It's been my experience that Disney has basically the same room size at most of these resorts regardless of price and they upgrade the decor, but not always for the better. The oversized furniture at the Animal Kingdom made the room feel like a closet. I know there are larger rooms, but I usually travel with my wife only and I'm not going to pay up to \$2,000 for a room that sleeps six. I don't want to split hairs with these "junkies"(ha-ha I love saying that!) I so much identify with, but another issue is the food choices. They seem to like the buffets, which I loath. Buffets, no matter how well stocked are never as good as ordering what you want. I don't want to eat a half of a cow and then eat a dessert big enough for an army in one sitting. When you pay the price of admission at these things, you want to get your money's worth ..right? ..so you end up stuffing yourself and not wanting to

continue with the park fun. Who wants to walk many miles after such an undertaking? They also frown upon bringing food into the parks, well, I for one am usually in the parks for 15 hours and I don't want to be weighed down by huge meals every few hours or take the time waiting to eat either. I tend to have breakfast at the hotel, then have some snacks packed in my survival pack for the park and then if possible eat an early dinner in one of the restaurants in the park. If you go for a late lunch you usually can get the dinner at a reduced price and in many instances it's pretty much the same meal you would get at dinner time. This is good for a number of reasons. I don't have to make reservations, the meal is less expensive and I don't have to wait in lines. When everyone else is eating dinner or standing in line waiting to eat, I am going all of the popular attractions with little to no wait time whatsoever....stick with me kids, I'll have you doing the entire resort in four park days. I've actually done all four parks in one day and saw just about every great thing there was to see at them. That doesn't mean you should never eat dinner or buy a giant smoked turkey leg in the park, but if you spend your days eating three meals and getting snacks from the concession stands, you will not have much time to see the attractions. More than just a money issue, is the food quality throughout the park. It's very good for the most part, but I have never had the "best" version of any food in WDW. I go for atmosphere when I go to eat in Disney World, but I will not be warmed over with a lot of smoke and mirrors. Do I go to the food tasting in October? Absolutely, I didn't say not to eat here, but I've had more authentic tastings walking the streets of Philadelphia, Baltimore(..thanks for the reminder FM ;-))and New York and at a fraction of the price. I know, I know atmosphere, atmosphere!! I'm not all about speed though, I do visit the park often enough that I like to do one park a day sometimes and really soak it all in, but every other year or so I enjoy a quick paced marathon of running from park to park. I know this is a long way around the world to get to my opinion of this book, but I guess that's where the magic comes in. The author and his junkie friends inspired me enough to write my own experiences down for this review. The short is the book is a very fun read with many helpful tips, it is more unusual than the average guide to Disney World and that is a good thing. If you're a Disney fan and if you're reading anything on this product page, I know you are! Then this is an excellent book to read between trips to the magical world of Disney. It may not be my first choice for first timers at WDW, but it is a great companion to one of the more straightforward guidebooks. Even though I've been there many times, I learned quite a bit reading this book. I guess every "Mousejunkie" knows something another may not?

If you are a big kid and enjoy whenever you can be one, Walt Disney has designed the perfect places for you. I love the book since it's full of great people who like me are in love with Disney.

Enjoy it wit will make you laugh and even cry at times.

I really loved this book. After having read Birnbaum, Unofficial guides, Passport, and many other guidebooks which were extremely helpful, I was looking for something new and fresh.

MouseJunkies was it! I laughed out loud at many of the author's observations. I didn't really learn anything new about Disney World from this book and I don't think it would be helpful for first or even second-time visitors. But I want all my friends and family to read this book to understand why I love Disney World so much and want to go there on every vacation. I shared so many of his feelings and loves of Disney World that I think Mousejunkies would be able to help everyone in my life that thinks I'm a little nuts over Disney to finally understand me. If you are looking for a fun read that takes you back to Disney World for a short time this is the book for you.

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