

DELUXE RESORT FIELD GUIDE · SEPTEMBER 2026

Disney's Contemporary Resort

Rooms, pools, dining, sample menus, transport and the practical tips that make the Magic Kingdom location work.

The headline: this is Walt Disney World's most transport-forward deluxe hotel - the monorail runs through the tower, and Magic Kingdom is close enough to reach on foot.

Deluxe Resort **Magic Kingdom Area** **Monorail**

BEST FOR

Park-focused trips, fireworks fans and families who value a fast exit after Magic Kingdom.

START HERE

The location is the luxury

~10 min
WALK TO MAGIC KINGDOM
Actual pace and security queues vary, but the dedicated path is usually the simplest route.

2
MAIN HOTEL BUILDINGS
Iconic Main Tower and lower-priced South Garden Wing.

4
HEADLINE DINING CHOICES
Contempo Cafe, Chef Mickey's, Steakhouse 71 and California Grill.

Choose it for

- The easiest walk back from Magic Kingdom after fireworks.
- Monorail access inside the Main Tower.
- Large hotel rooms that commonly sleep up to five.
- A dining lineup that works for quick breakfasts, characters and celebrations.
- Theme Park View or Bay Lake scenery from many Main Tower rooms.

Think twice if you want

- Deeply immersive resort theming; the look is modern and architectural.
- A secluded, hushed lobby; the Grand Canyon Concourse is active.
- A low-cost deluxe stay; location and views carry a premium.

2026 construction watch

Disney's published notice says phased refurbishment is expected through late 2027 in select areas, including Bay Lake Tower and the Main Tower atrium. Exterior maintenance may affect some views or walking routes, with daytime noise possible.

Booking move: check the latest notice shortly before final payment and again before travel.

Bay Lake Tower is separate

It is the adjacent Disney Vacation Club villa resort, connected by bridge and sharing many amenities. This guide focuses on the Contemporary's hotel rooms; book Bay Lake Tower when kitchen, laundry or multi-bedroom space matters.

Grounded in the Disney Parks Blog resort guide, current transportation references and Disney's September 2026 refurbishment language.

ROOMS

Main Tower versus Garden Wing



Current hotel rooms use a sleek mid-century palette with subtle Incredibles details.

Main Tower

Why book it: indoor access to the Grand Canyon Concourse, monorail, shops and most dining, plus a private balcony and elevated views.

- **Theme Park View:** Magic Kingdom skyline, with parking areas also in the sightline.
- **Water View:** Bay Lake and sunrise-facing scenery; usually the calmer visual choice.
- **Club Level:** select rooms and suites with lounge access and additional service.

South Garden Wing

Why book it: the usual entry point to Contemporary pricing, with quick access to pools and Bay Lake.

- **Resort View:** parking, landscaping or partly obstructed outlooks.
- **Water View:** pool, marina or Bay Lake-facing possibilities.
- **King / Deluxe:** less common layouts; confirm bed type and capacity before booking.

You walk outdoors to reach the Main Tower. Ground-floor rooms may have patios; do not assume every upper-floor Garden Wing room has a full balcony.

Best value play: choose Garden Wing if you want the Magic Kingdom location and Deluxe Resort benefits but do not need a tower balcony or premium view.

ROOM PLANNING

Book the feature that matters most

Priority	Best starting category	What to confirm
Fastest access to dining and monorail	Main Tower	View category, bed arrangement, balcony and floor preference.
Fireworks-facing outlook	Main Tower Theme Park View	The view can include parking areas; fireworks schedules and in-room audio can change.
Quieter water scenery	Main Tower Water View	Request away from elevators if hallway noise is a concern.
Lower deluxe price	Garden Wing Resort View	Outdoor walk to tower, exact view and ground-floor patio preference.
Lounge access	Club Level	Which lounge serves the room, service hours and whether the price makes sense for your routine.
More than a standard room	Suite or Bay Lake Tower villa	Guest capacity, number of real beds, kitchen/laundry needs and cancellation terms.

Typical hotel-room setup

Many standard categories offer either two queen beds plus a day bed or a king bed plus a day bed, and several sleep up to five adults. Exact bedding varies by booked category and accessible configuration.

Accessible rooms

Accessible variants can change bed count and bathroom setup. Filter for the exact mobility or hearing feature needed, then read the room description line by line before checkout.

Request strategy

- ☐ Book the minimum category you will be happy receiving.
- ☐ Prioritize one request: high floor, quieter location, near elevator or ground-floor patio.
- ☐ Treat requests as preferences, not guarantees.
- ☐ Verify crib/pack-and-play availability and occupancy rules for your party.
- ☐ Recheck construction notes if view quality is a major reason for the upgrade.

Do not book a cheaper view hoping for an upgrade. Theme Park View inventory is limited, and the premium exists precisely because that sightline is not guaranteed elsewhere.

POOLS & RECREATION

One lively pool, one calmer pool



The Feature Pool sits on the Bay Lake side of the resort.

Contemporary Feature Pool

- 131-foot curving waterslide from a 17-foot-high launch.
- Two whirlpool spas and a nearby children's water-play area.
- Poolside food and drinks at The Sand Bar.
- Typical published hours around 10:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.; seasonal changes apply.

Bay Lake Pool

- Round leisure pool with a quieter atmosphere.
- No waterslide; better for an easy swim or decompression day.
- Typical published hours around 7:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.; check signs on arrival.

Free & low-key

Campfire, Movies Under the Stars and rotating poolside activities. Times change; use the posted recreation calendar.

Active

Fitness center, jogging path and selected sports activities or clinics.

On the water

Boat rentals, fishing and specialty cruises may be offered from the marina for an extra charge.

Pool-hopping rule: Bay Cove Pool at Bay Lake Tower has restricted access. A Contemporary hotel reservation alone should not be treated as automatic entry; verify current eligibility.

Hours and activities are operational and weather-dependent. Check the My Disney Experience app and resort signage during the stay.

DINING

A full day of choices without leaving the tower



Chef Mickey's is the resort's high-energy character buffet.

Reservation strategy

Book Chef Mickey's and California Grill as early as your dining window allows. Steakhouse 71 is often the more flexible table-service target. Use mobile order at Contempo Cafe when the concourse is busiest.

Dining reservations, characters, meal periods and menus can change.

Venue	Style	Best use	Typical hours*
Contemporary Grounds	Coffee / pastry	Early caffeine and a grab-and-go start	About 5:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
Contempo Cafe	Quick service	Mobile-order breakfast, lunch or dinner	About 7:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.
Chef Mickey's	Character buffet	Mickey and friends with breakfast or dinner	7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; 5:00-9:30 p.m.
Steakhouse 71	Table service	Breakfast, lunch or a classic steak dinner	Meal-period service
California Grill	Signature prix fixe	Celebration dinner and fireworks viewing	About 5:00-10:00 p.m.
Outer Rim	Lounge	Drinks overlooking Bay Lake	Afternoon to midnight; earlier on some days
The Sand Bar	Poolside quick service	Lunch, snacks and cocktails by the pool	About 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

*Representative hours checked September 29, 2026. Confirm the date-specific schedule in the app.

SAMPLE MENUS · 2026

Quick-service value and character dining

Contempo Cafe

Mobile-order quick service on the Grand Canyon Concourse.

Sample item	Price
Mickey-shaped waffles with breakfast meat	**$11.29**
Loaded Totcho Bowl	**$11.49**
Signature Rice Bowl with Chicken	**$13.49**
Signature Rice Bowl with Barbacoa Beef	**$14.99**
Contempo Artisanal Burger	**$14.69**
Vegetable Flatbread	**$12.79**
Rapid Fill refillable mug	**$22.99**

Good to know: breakfast and later-day menus differ. Order before leaving the room, but time pickup for when you are actually near the fourth floor.

Chef Mickey's

All-you-care-to-enjoy character buffet; tax and gratuity extra.

Meal	Price
Breakfast - adult	**$58**
Breakfast - child 3-9	**$37**
Dinner - adult	**$69**
Dinner - child 3-9	**$44**

Representative buffet choices

- **Breakfast:** Mickey waffles, eggs, breakfast meats, pastries and fruit.
- **Dinner:** carving selections, shrimp scampi, macaroni and cheese, vegetables and desserts.
- Character lineup is subject to change.

Budget test: the value is the character time as much as the food. For a quieter meal, choose Steakhouse 71 instead.

Sample prices were checked against 2026 menu listings on September 29, 2026 and can change without notice.

Steakhouse flexibility or California Grill spectacle

Steakhouse 71 · dinner samples

Sample item	Price
Steakhouse 71 Onion Rings	**$10**
Bacon & Eggs appetizer	**$15**
10-oz New York Strip	**$36**
12-oz Roasted Prime Rib	**$38**
Chicken Chasseur	**$24**
Vegetable Wellington	**$26**
Chocolate Cake	**$11**

Most steaks include a choice of side and sauce. Lunch and breakfast can be materially less expensive than dinner.



California Grill pairs a prix-fixe dinner with panoramic Magic Kingdom views.

California Grill · three courses

$99 adult · $42 child ages 3-9

Plus tax and gratuity; optional wine pairing extra.

Starter examples: Sonoma goat cheese ravioli, seasonal flatbread, Surf & Turf Roll.
Main examples: Wagyu strip loin, market fish, cioppino, carrot gnocchi.
Dessert examples: creme brulee, cheesecake, flourless chocolate-espresso cake.

Fireworks tip: diners may use the restaurant's viewing area during the show; if dinner finishes earlier, ask whether same-evening return access is available under the current policy.

Menu selections are seasonal. Prices and policies were checked September 29, 2026.

GETTING AROUND

Walk first for Magic Kingdom

Magic Kingdom	**Walk:** typically about 10-11 minutes and usually the cleanest exit after fireworks. **Monorail:** scenic, but the resort loop visits other stops before returning to Magic Kingdom.
EPCOT	**Monorail:** ride the Resort Monorail to the Transportation and Ticket Center, then transfer to the EPCOT line. Allow time for the transfer and platform waits.
Hollywood Studios	**Bus:** depart from the stop outside the lobby. There is no direct Skyliner connection from the Contemporary.
Animal Kingdom	**Bus:** direct resort service when operating. Build in extra time at opening and park close.
Disney Springs	**Bus:** the standard direct option. Check the resort display or app for current departure information.
Wilderness Lodge / Fort Wilderness	**Water launch:** when operating, Bay Lake service makes resort dining and recreation convenient. Weather and operating hours can interrupt service.

Stroller advantage

Walking to Magic Kingdom avoids folding a stroller for a bus. Monorail boarding policies can vary with crowding, so the walkway remains the reliable fallback.

Ride-share reality

Use the Contemporary's designated pickup area. Security and resort-access rules can affect non-guests, so dining visitors should keep their reservation handy.

Departure rule of thumb: for anything time-sensitive, leave a generous buffer. Transportation is complimentary, but waits, transfers, security and weather are not fixed.

MAKE THE STAY WORK

Booking checklist and sources

Before booking

- ☐ Decide whether tower convenience is worth more than Garden Wing savings.
- ☐ Choose Theme Park View only if the view itself justifies the premium.
- ☐ Price a Bay Lake Tower villa separately if kitchen or laundry matters.
- ☐ Read the current refurbishment notice.

Before arrival

- ☐ Reserve priority dining within the active booking window.
- ☐ Submit one clear room request.
- ☐ Check pool, monorail and recreation schedules.
- ☐ Save mobile-order favorites in the app.

Resort details

Disney's Contemporary Resort
4600 North World Drive
Lake Buena Vista, Florida 32830
(407) 824-1000

Operating details, menus and transportation can change. This guide reflects information available September 29, 2026.

Planning sources

Resort & room overview: Disney Parks Blog - planDisney Pocket Guide

Room categories: Virgin Atlantic Holidays resort listing

Construction: DisneyDining, Sept. 2026 report quoting Disney

Pools: Magical Resort Guide pool details

2026 recreation: Official resort activities schedule

Contempo Cafe: TouringPlans menu, updated Aug. 2026

Chef Mickey's: TheMouseForLess 2026 menu

Steakhouse 71: WDWInfo current menu

California Grill: WDWMagic June 2026 menu update

Transportation: MagicGuides transportation map

Photo sources: cover via Cvent; room via WDWInfo; pool via MickeyBlog; Chef Mickey's via DisneyDining; fireworks view via MickeyVisit.