

Hollywood Studios Cheat Sheet

Rope Drop: Rope drop at Hollywood Studios may be the most essential of all the Parks because of how fast Toy Story Mania wait times and FASTPASS return times take off. Disney usually begins letting guests into the Studios 15 minutes before official Park open, but it may be earlier (30 to 40 minutes) if crowds are expected to be well above average. In order to be among the first to enter the Park, plan to be at the entrance 45 minutes prior to open. Once the gates open, guests are free to head to the attraction of their choice with no internal ropes, though Toy Story Mania is often the only attraction actually operating until official open. Disney used to hold guests inside the Park on Hollywood Boulevard, creating a large mass of people pushing and shoving their way to Toy Story. The new procedure allows for a much more relaxed walk.

General Touring Philosophy: Toy Story Mania is the highest priority and should be most guests' first stop. FASTPASSes are often gone by 1pm and afternoon waits hit 60+ minutes even during the least crowded days of the year. Rock 'n' Roller Coaster and Tower of Terror are the other two ride priorities. Star Tours is the only other ride that often has a posted wait longer than 15 minutes. The Legend of Jack Sparrow is the other high priority attraction – not because it's amazing (it's not), but because it has an incredibly low capacity bundled with name recognition. Most people will want to skip it or save it for the end of the night. The main problem most people run into is trying to schedule the various scheduled shows, all of which take 40 to 60 minutes to experience. With one day, you may need to prioritize several of the lengthy attractions that appeal to your group and skip others – there just isn't enough time.

Jedi Training Academy: Kids between the ages of 4 and 12 can participate in this show. You must bring the participating child to the old Sounds Dangerous building to the left of American Idol Experience and across from Indiana Jones Epic Stunt Spectacular as early in the morning as possible to sign them up. There are usually 12 to 15 shows scheduled throughout the day. Ask for a show in the afternoon so it doesn't interfere with morning touring. If they can't accommodate, let others sign up first and sign up for a show around 12pm.

Characters: The Toy Story characters across from Toy Story Mania are the highest priority and see 30 to 50 minute afternoon waits. Sorcerer Mickey and Phineas/Ferb also see 20 to 40 minute waits. Classic characters like Minnie, Goofy, Donald, and Pluto greet at the Sorcerer's Hat before noon only, mostly with short waits. See the Character Priority list for more information.

FASTPASS Priority:

1. Toy Story Mania
2. Rock 'n' Roller Coaster
3. Tower of Terror
4. Star Tours
5. Voyage of the Little Mermaid (only available in heavy crowds)

Toy Story Mania FASTPASSes run out earlier than any other attraction at Disney World every day. That means you'll need to collect them by noon at the very latest most days. Return times will be into the evening by 10:30am.

Ideal Morning Touring Plan:

1. Collect FASTPASSES for Toy Story Mania– Return time of 9:45am – 10:45am
2. Ride Toy Story Mania: 8:55am – 9:10am
3. Ride Rock ‘n’ Roller Coaster: 9:20am – 9:35am
4. Ride Tower of Terror: 9:40am – 10:10am
5. Ride Toy Story Mania with FASTPASS: 10:20am – 10:35am
6. (Collect another Toy Story FASTPASS set now if desired, they’ll be gone soon)
7. Ride Star Tours: 10:45am – 11am
8. Have lunch: Studios Catering Co., Backlot Express, and ABC Commissary are nearby. Sci-Fi Dine-In and 50’s Prime Time are nearby inexpensive table serve restaurants.

Afternoon and Evening: It’s time for the Studios’ scheduled stage shows and high capacity attractions like Great Movie Ride, Backlot Tour, Voyage of the Little Mermaid, The Magic of Disney Animation, One Man’s Dream and Muppet Vision 3D. For good seats at Beauty and the Beast and Indiana Jones, arrive 15 to 25 minutes before show time– earlier always results in better seats. For American Idol Experience, Disney Jr. Live on Stage, Jedi Training Academy, and Lights Motors Action Extreme Stunt Show, arriving 5 to 15 minutes early will suffice. Visit desired characters in the last 60 to 90 minutes that they’re scheduled to appear.

Ideal Morning Plan with Kids:

1. (If desired, sign up the kids for Jedi Training Academy. If possible, have one parent head to sign-ups with the kid(s) while the other collects Toy Story FASTPASSES)
2. Collect FASTPASSES for Toy Story Mania– Return time of 9:45am – 10:45am
3. Ride Toy Story Mania: 8:55am – 9:10am
4. Visit Toy Story Characters: 9:15am – 9:20am
5. Visit Phineas and Ferb Characters: 9:30am – 9:45am
6. Ride Star Tours or Visit Honey I Shrank the Kids Movie Adventure: 9:50am – 10:10am
7. Ride Toy Story Mania with FASTPASS: 10:20am – 10:35am
8. Visit Sorcerer’s Hat Characters: 10:45am – 11:30am
9. See Voyage of the Little Mermaid and Disney Jr. Live on Stage

Fantasmic: Hollywood Studios’ nighttime spectacular is now scheduled at least once almost every night. During busier times, a second show is scheduled 90 minutes after the start of the first. Shows can start as early as 6:30pm or as late as 10pm. If two shows are scheduled, the second will always be less crowded, especially if that show begins at 9pm or later due to the number of families that will opt for the earlier show. If you’re headed to the first or only Fantasmic, plan to arrive 45 to 75 minutes early to secure good seats together. For the second show, an arrival 15 to 30 minutes early should suffice. Seating is bleacher-style - uncomfortable and without backs. The best seats are at least half way up in the middle section. Any closer and you risk getting wet and won’t be able to see what’s happening on the water. The Fantasmic Dining Package, a fixed price meal at Hollywood Brown Derby, Hollywood & Vine, or Mama Melrose, guarantees a seat for the show and a three course meal. While the reserved seats are off-center, they offer a very good view and you’ll only need to arrive 15 to 30 minutes early.

Crowd Level 7 - 8

	9:30am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm
Backlot Tour	5	10	10	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	10	n/a	n/a
Great Movie Ride	5	10	15	20	20	20	20	20	20	15	10	10	10
Muppet Vision 3D	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Pirates Legend of Jack Sparrow	25	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	30	30	20	20
Rock 'n' Roller Coaster	10	20	50	60	70	75	75	60	50	50	40	30	20
Star Tours	5	10	20	20	30	30	30	30	30	20	20	10	10
Tower of Terror	20	30	40	60	70	70	60	50	50	40	40	30	10
Toy Story Mania	40	60	70	80	90	90	70	70	60	60	50	40	30
Voyage of the Little Mermaid	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10

Crowd Level 9

	9:30am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm
Backlot Tour	5	10	20	20	30	30	30	30	20	20	10	n/a	n/a
Great Movie Ride	5	15	20	25	30	25	20	20	20	20	10	10	10
Muppet Vision 3D	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Pirates Legend of Jack Sparrow	25	45	45	45	60	60	45	45	45	30	30	20	20
Rock 'n' Roller Coaster	10	30	60	70	90	90	90	80	60	50	40	30	30
Star Tours	5	10	20	30	40	40	40	30	30	20	20	10	10
Tower of Terror	20	30	50	70	90	90	80	70	60	50	50	40	20
Toy Story Mania	40	60	80	90	100	100	90	80	70	70	50	40	30
Voyage of the Little Mermaid	10	10	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	10	10

Crowd Level 10

	9:30am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm
Backlot Tour	10	10	20	30	40	40	40	30	30	20	20	n/a	n/a
Great Movie Ride	10	20	20	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	20	20	10
Muppet Vision 3D	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Pirates Legend of Jack Sparrow	30	45	60	60	60	60	60	60	45	30	30	30	30
Rock 'n' Roller Coaster	40	60	90	100	120	120	100	100	90	70	70	60	40
Star Tours	20	20	30	40	50	60	50	40	40	40	30	20	20
Tower of Terror	40	60	70	90	120	140	100	100	80	70	60	60	30
Toy Story Mania	60	80	120	140	140	120	120	100	90	90	80	60	50
Voyage of the Little Mermaid	10	20	20	30	30	30	20	20	20	20	20	10	10