

THE CASTLE CONNECT

The monthly newsletter for Castle Connections Travel

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TOY STORY LAND Opening June 2018

The highly anticipated Toy Story Land is finally opening at Hollywood Studios on June 30, 2018! This brand new 11 acre land is coming to Walt Disney World in Orlando and is actually set up so that you feel like you're walking through Andy's backyard! Toy Story Land will include a few new attractions including Slinky Dog Dash, a family-friendly coaster, and Alien Swirling Saucers, which will be similar to the spinning teacups. Of course this one-of-a-kind land wouldn't be complete without oversized crayons and Green Army Men. According to a press release from Disney, "The Aliens' ride is "designed as a play-set Andy won at the Pizza Planet Restaurant," also telling that "Guests swirl and whirl among toy planets and space stations as par to the game while 'The Claw' hangs overhead." In addition to these fun new rides, there will also be a new quick service restaurant, Woody's Lunch Box, and many more themed attractions and areas to explore. New merchandise is also set to hit stores including kids tee's, headbands featuring Slinky and the aliens, and an actual Slinky of the beloved dog. Disneyland in California will also debut a new land this month, Pixar Pier will be replacing the existing Paradise Pier and will feature a new attraction, the *Incredicoaster*, which is themed for the upcoming sequel to the 2004 Pixar hit, the Incredibles. The sequel, Incredibles 2, will be in theaters starting June 15th.

-@LindsayCastleConnectionsTravel

Tip from an agent:

Grocery delivery is your best friend! Have items delivered right to your resort. The bell hop will even keep your cold items in the refrigerator. Items to have delivered can include; diapers, wipes, snacks, grab and go breakfast items, and anything else you can think of. Some places will even deliver alcoholic beverages to your room, so you can enjoy a drink after a long day. Garden Grocer is my favorite delivery service. Please note that as of May, you can no longer have bottled water delivered.

-@JaclynCCT

Current Construction & Refurbishments:

IN THE PARKS: (Disney & Universal)

- Liberty Square Riverboat (until June)
- Monorail (ongoing) may be operating on modified schedule
- Star Wars Land in Hollywood Studios (opening summer 2019)
- Harry Potter Expansion in Islands of Adventure (opening sometime 2019)

RESORTS: (Disney)

- All-Star Movies; rooms only (until early 2019)
- Animal Kingdom Lodge Jambo House; Rooms (Aug. 2018 - Fall 2019)
Uzima Springs Pool and Pool bar (Sep. 2018-Winter 2018)
- Art of Animation; rooms only (ongoing)
- Boardwalk Inn and Villas; rooms and around resort (ongoing)
- Caribbean Beach; rooms, dining, Pool & Bar, Arcade, and Merchandise shops (ongoing)
- Coronado Springs; amenities (until summer 2019)
- Old Key West; rooms and amenities (until Spring 2019)
- Pop Century; rooms and amenities (until Summer 2018)
- Port Orleans - French Quarter; rooms only (until Summer 2018)
- Port Orleans - Riverside; rooms and amenities (July 2018 - Early 2019)

OTHER:

- Starting August 1, 2018 - Children's Activity Centers located at select Walt Disney World Resorts will be permanently closing, however Kids Night Out BabySitting service will still be available.

Guests may hear or see construction, but noise will not be heard from between dusk - 9 AM.
Exact construction details will vary at each Resort, for more details and information, please contact Castle Connections Travel.

Parents Planning Disney

On our Disney Planning Facebook page we asked members, 'As an adult, what is your favorite Walt Disney World park?' Here are the results:

- Magic Kingdom - 57%
- Epcot - 21%
- Animal Kingdom - 14%
- Hollywood Studios - 7%
- Other - 1%

Join our facebook page ([facebook.com/groups/parentsplanningdisney](https://www.facebook.com/groups/parentsplanningdisney)) to get all your Disney questions answered and to take part in our poll next month!



Minnie Vans - a new, fast, and easy way to get around Walt Disney World

Guests can request this service by using the Lyft App on their phone. Lyft (and Uber) are car services that you request from the push of a button. All billing is done directly on the phone. The cost is a flat rate of \$20; the 6 passenger SUV will pick you up and bring you anywhere on Walt Disney World property for \$20. As most people are aware, Disney offers free transportation in many forms, but Disney veterans know that can sometimes cost you a great deal of time, depending on your destination.

To continue reading this blog by @JaclynCCT, head to www.thecastleconnection.blog

Ready, Set, Sail

Norwegian Cruise Line will be christening their newest ship on May 30th in Seattle, Washington. The brand new Norwegian Bliss is the 3rd ship in the Breakaway Plus class and



is most famous for its race track on deck 16 of the ship. This 2 story race track features electric go carts that can go up to 30 MPH. In addition to the thrilling race track, the ship also features an open air laser tag course. With a beautiful 2 story observation deck, the Bliss was specifically built for Alaskan cruises. In the summer, the ship will offer 7 day Alaskan itineraries, but will also have itineraries from Los Angeles to the Mexican Rivera, Miami to the Caribbean and NYC to Florida/Caribbean.

Norwegian is known for the Free at Sea promotion that lets you select up to 5 free items. Most commonly, guests choose free alcoholic beverages! Contact your favorite Castle Connections Agent for more information!

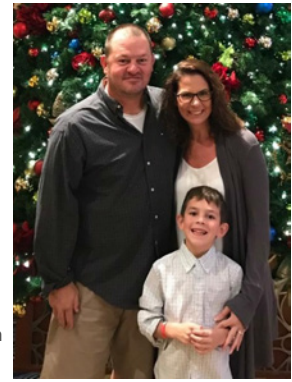


Universal Orlando's newest attraction - Fast and Furious: Supercharged

Universal Studio's Orlando recently debuted their newest ride, Fast and Furious Supercharged. This attraction is one of the first to offer a 'virtual line' where you are able to stop by the kiosk at the entrance of the attraction or take advantage of the mobile app to reserve your return time to the ride. (similar to Disney's fastpass system) While walking through the queue you will get to see the underground headquarters for the Fast and Furious family filled with many of the movie's hot rod cars. During the attraction you are invited to an after race party with the Fast and Furious crew but of course, things go wrong and you end up involved in a high speed chase through San Francisco. All complete with gun play, explosions, and high speed crashes... just what you would expect from The Fast and Furious. Whether you are a fan of the movies or not, this attraction is definitely worth checking out on your next visit. -@KarenCCT

The Cursi Family have always been lifelong Disney fans and visit the parks frequently (especially since they live in Florida). They decided to take their first ever Disney Cruise a few months ago and here's what they had to say:

"Castle Connections Travel helped me plan a trip of a lifetime for my son on the Disney Dream. They walked me through every detail and answered all of my questions (like can myself or my son fall overboard? and their answer... not unless your husband throws you over.) They were amazing and warned me of the great time we would have and how addicting they can be, we are planning cruise #2 later in 2018. Thanks for everything. Our son has not stopped talking about it!"



Ongoing Promotions

Dig into a Delicious Offer –
Free dining at Walt Disney World:
Book NOW through July 7, 2018 for arrivals most nights:

August 20 - September 29,
November 24 - November 27
December 7 - December 23, 2018.

Offer valid for participating Walt Disney Resorts only, reservation must include: 5-night/6-day room and ticket package including hopper tickets to be eligible for the Disney dining plan. Value and Moderate resorts will receive the Quick Service Dining Plan, Deluxe and Villa Resorts will receive the standard dining plan. Both have the option to pay a fee to upgrade. Offer has limited availability.

For more information on additional promotions for a Disney vacation, please visit our Facebook page ([facebook.com/CastleConnectionsTravel/](https://www.facebook.com/CastleConnectionsTravel/))

What is... the Wild Africa Trek?

Have you ever been on The Kilimanjaro Safaris in Disney's Animal Kingdom and seen the bridges set up in the distance or even people hanging over the hippos? Well then you've seen guests enjoying what we think is one of the BEST magical extras, The Wild Africa Trek. During this one-of-a-kind adventure you will get to experience the beauty of Disney's Savannah up close and personal. On the tour you will be placed into a safety harness so that you too can peer into the hippo and croc exhibits and cross the rope bridge! The rope bridge is much higher than it looks and the boards are far apart in some spaces so if you are afraid of heights, this may not be the tour for you. The second portion of the trek starts with a truck ride through the Savannah. Many advantages to this safari ride VS the regular safari is the added benefit of pulling right up next to animals off the normal track, making frequent stops, and of course being able to move around the truck to see the animals! During our tour we were so close to some giraffes, they even poked their heads inside our truck. The Wild Africa Trek also includes an African inspired meal (including dried meats, fresh fruits, humus, spiced shrimp and even an edible flower) that you enjoy at the lunch pavilion with fantastic views of the Savannah and surrounding animals. The cast members on this tour are incredibly knowledgeable and willing to answer any questions you may have. When the trek is over, you get your own PhotoPass CD with all the photos the Cast Members took of you, your party, and the animals you saw on your trek! All different time tours are available with the afternoon tours being eligible for the annual pass discount. For more information about the Wild Africa Trek, please call Castle Connections Travel.



Summer Photo Contest

Summer is here and with it we would like to start our first ever photo contest! Do you have a perfect picture from your 2017 or 2018 Summer Vacation or something else you did that was fun? Send it to us via email at lindsay@castleconnectionstravel.com and list the subject as 'photo contest'. Submit your entries before noon EST on August 13th. We will post our favorite photos on our facebook page to be voted on so make sure you have liked our page so you can share with your friends and family for a better chance to win! The winner will be awarded a gift card!

Rules: The photo must be taken in 2017 or 2018. When submitting your photos, please include your name, mailing address, and a phone number, and a note about where the photo was taken and who is in the photo. By submitting your entry, you agree to allow us to share in our upcoming newsletter, our facebook page, and warrant that the photo does not infringe on the rights of others.



Who is Castle Connections Travel?

Castle Connections Travel is owned by 2 sisters who decided to turn a love for Disney into a business. Our 9 agents are located all across the United States and have a first-hand experience and knowledge of all things Walt Disney World, Disneyland, Disney Cruise Line, Adventures By Disney, Aulani (a Disney Resort and Spa in Ko Olina, Hawaii), Universal Studios Orlando, Royal Caribbean Cruise Line, and Norwegian Cruise Line. Castle Connections Travel is an EarMarked Agency meaning we are recognized by Disney for our extensive knowledge of the Disney company and the value our agency provides to our clients. When planning your vacation with Castle Connections Travel you will work one-on-one with the same agent during the entire booking process, which ensures the best care is given to your vacation experience. In addition we constantly monitor your reservation for possible discounts, we do all we can to save you money AND do our very best to make sure you have a memorable vacation. And the VERY best part about booking your vacation with Castle Connections... **our services are ALWAYS 100% FREE!** - Ruby Anne and Lisa

Mickey Cupcakes that are sure to be a hit at your 4th of July BBQ

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (176°C) and prepare a cupcake pan with liners.
2. Add the flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt to a large mixer bowl and combine. Set aside.
3. Add the milk, vegetable oil, vanilla extract and eggs to a medium sized bowl and combine.
4. Add the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients and beat until well combined.
5. Slowly add the water to the batter and mix on low speed until well combined. Scrape down the sides of the bowl as needed to make sure everything is well combined. (note: the batter will be very thin)
6. Fill the cupcake liners about half way and bake for 15-17 minutes, or until a toothpick comes out with a few moist crumbs.
7. Remove the cupcakes from oven and allow to cool for 2 minutes, then remove to a cooling rack to finish cooling.
8. To make the frosting, combine the butter and shortening in a large mixer bowl and mix until smooth.
9. Add 2 cups of powdered sugar and mix until smooth.
10. Add the vanilla extract and 1 tablespoon of water or milk and mix until smooth.
11. Add remaining powdered sugar and mix until smooth.
12. Add remaining water or milk as needed and mix until smooth.
13. Separate into 2 bowls, add food coloring until you reach your desired color
14. Pipe the frosting onto the cupcakes.
15. Place Oreos on either side of cupcakes to look like ears

INGREDIENTS:

- VANILLA CUPCAKES**
 2 1/2 cups - all purpose flour
 2 cups - sugar
 3 tsp - baking powder
 1 tsp - salt
 1 cup - milk
 1/2 cup - vegetable oil
 1 tbsp - vanilla extract
 2 - large eggs
 1 cup - water

VANILLA FROSTING

- 1/2 cup - salted butter, room temperature
 1/2 cup - shortening
 4 cups - powdered sugar
 1 1/2 tsp - vanilla extract
 2-3 tbsp - water or milk
 Red and Blue food coloring

TOPPING:

- 1-2 - packages of regular Oreos



Disney Fun Fact:

The iconic Tree of Life in Animal Kingdom features over 300 animal carvings, stands 14 stories tall, and is 50 feet wide!

For a FREE no obligation quote on your next dream vacation, call us!



Free Gift

Mention this newsletter when booking with Castle Connections Travel and receive a free gift from us as a thank you for letting us help with your vacation needs!

(678) 957-7500

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