

# WALT DISNEY WORLD HOLIDAY SEASON TOURING PLANS E-GUIDE 2012 *SAMPLE SECTION*







## MICKEY'S ONCE UPON A CHRISTMASTIME PARADE

There are a few unique aspects to the party that make it desirable for many guests wanting to get into the spirit of the season. Chief among those is Mickey's Once Upon a Christmastime Parade. This special parade displays many of the well known characters decked out in their wintry best. While listening to seasonal music, partygoers can see lovely sights such as elves, reindeer, toy soldiers, and, of course, Santa Claus marching right down the middle of Main Street, U.S.A.

Those wishing to see the parade should note that it runs in the opposite direction of many Magic Kingdom parades, starting in Frontierland and ending on Main Street, U.S.A. Mickey's Once Upon a Christmastime Parade runs at 8:15 pm and 10:30 pm during each party. Spots on Main Street for the earlier parade are spoken for quite early.

To add to the already cheery atmosphere, Disney makes it snow on Main Street during the Christmastime Parade. Okay, it is not technically snow. Disney opts for a safe soap mixture that does not require quite as many laws of physics to be broken. That does not take anything away from the heightened atmosphere that the "snow" adds to the parade.





Due to the delightful background music and roaming entertainment you'll hear and experience before the parade, and the ambiance during the parade, we highly recommend watching the parade on Main Street, even despite the larger crowds you will undoubtedly encounter on Main Street. This is especially true if you want photos of the parade, as Cinderella Castle with its icicle lights, Christmas garland on Main Street, and snow (plus better lighting making for easier picture-taking), make for a much more photogenic and thematically fitting scene than the dark areas of Frontierland and other areas through which the parade passes.

If you want the best of both worlds, lower crowds and great ambiance, consider skipping the first parade in favor of the second, which typically has lower crowds because many families depart the Magic Kingdom after the fireworks. Many guests elect to watch both showings of the parade to get the most bang for their buck and because the parade is really that enjoyable. This is something to keep in mind before deciding to skip the first parade. You may later regret only getting to see the parade once!













## HOLIDAY WISHES

Since it is not really a party unless there are extravagant, over-the-top fireworks, Disney has no choice but to deliver the fabulous Holiday Wishes fireworks extravaganza. This annual display features holiday music set to hundreds of fireworks bursts that light up the sky around Cinderella Castle starting at 9:30 pm. What really makes the holiday fireworks special is the secondary bursts that add several layers of width to the display. These extra bursts mean that, at times, the entire sky above Cinderella Castle seems filled with fireworks...and it is.

Holiday Wishes is filled with a variety of bursts added specially for Christmas. Our favorites include the “Christmas Tree” (when the Castle “becomes” a Christmas tree thanks to fireworks bursts streaming above it) and “presents” (featuring box-shaped bursts) sequences, but the entire show is filled with stunning sequences like this, all choreographed to a catchy Christmas soundtrack!











