

The Ultimate Guide to Disneyland during



Fall Break



WHAT THIS GUIDE COVERS



What to Expect During Fall Break



Oogie Boogie Bash



**Sample Park Structures + How I Stay Out of Lines
During Fall Break**



Seasonal Experiences I'd Prioritize



Fall Foods to Know About



Fall Weather: What to Know



Park Day Concierge

Why Fall Break Requires a Little More Strategy

Fall Break is one of my favorite times to visit Disneyland, but it is not necessarily a slower or cooler time to visit.

School breaks across California and neighboring states are staggered throughout October, which can bring higher crowds even during the week. Add in warm Southern California afternoons and Oogie Boogie Bash changing the flow of California Adventure on select nights, and having a plan matters.

That does NOT mean you can't have an amazing trip or get a lot done. You just need to know what to expect.

What to Expect: Fall Break Crowds

The first thing to know: Fall Break isn't just one week.

School districts across the West and Southwest take their breaks at different times, which means Disneyland can see waves of families throughout October.

October 1–8

Generally the better part of October for crowds.

I still wouldn't call Disneyland "slow," especially during Halloween Time, but this is before many of the larger Fall Break schedules begin.

October 9–18

This is the period I would be most prepared for heavier Fall Break crowds.

The October 9–12 holiday weekend kicks things off, followed immediately by major Fall Break schedules in Texas and Colorado. Several Utah districts then begin their breaks around October 15–16. Translation: don't expect the weekdays in the middle of this stretch to automatically mean low crowds.

October 19–25

Crowds may ease in some areas, but Utah Fall Break schedules continue into this week, including some districts with extended breaks. If you're visiting during this period, I would still plan your park days as busy days rather than counting on low waits.

Halloween Weekend

Halloween falls on a Saturday in 2026, so I would also expect October 30–31 to bring another increase in crowds.

My biggest advice

Don't choose your Fall Break dates based solely on a crowd calendar. You may not have flexibility anyway!

Instead, go into your trip expecting crowds and structure your park days so you aren't spending the majority of your vacation standing in line.

I'll show you exactly how I do that later in this guide!



OOGIE BOOGIE BASH

the details

Oogie Boogie Bash is a separately ticketed Halloween party at California Adventure on select nights during Halloween Time.

Your party ticket allows you to enter California Adventure beginning at 3:00 PM, with the party running from 6:00-11:00 PM.

The event includes:

- Treat trails
- Rare characters
- Villains Grove
- Special entertainment
- Shorter waits for select attractions
- Disney PhotoPass downloads during the party

MY OOGIE BOOGIE BASH TIPS

- Wear comfortable shoes, even with a costume
- Bring a fan because afternoons can still be hot
- Bring a light layer for later in the evening
- Bring an extra bag for all your treats
- Look at the party map before 6:00 PM
- Pick 2-3 must-see characters instead of trying to do everything
- Save Villains Grove for after dark
- Take advantage of included PhotoPass
- Enjoy the treat trails more than once
- Fit in some attractions when waits are lower



IF YOU DO NOT HAVE OOGIE BOOGIE BASH TICKETS

Oogie Boogie Bash still affects how I would plan your park days.

If You Have Park Hopper

Start your day at California Adventure.

Crowds have historically been lighter there in the morning on Oogie Boogie Bash days, so take advantage of it.

Spend the morning at California Adventure, then hop to Disneyland in the afternoon before the party begins.

If you have Lightning Lane Multi Pass, start stacking Disneyland Lightning Lanes while you are still at California Adventure so you have rides waiting for you later.

Not sure how to stack Lightning Lanes? I have a full how-to pinned on Instagram at @chelseaunpacked.

If You Do NOT Have Park Hopper

Make Oogie Boogie Bash days your Disneyland day or a non-park day.

During Halloween season, parties are generally held on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

I would save California Adventure for a non-party day so you can enjoy a full park day instead of having your time cut short.



SAMPLE PARK STRUCTURE

how I stay out of line

Morning Strategy

Use the morning for standby while waits are still low.

Pick one area of the park and stay there so you can knock out several nearby attractions without criss-crossing the park.

Example at Disneyland:

- Adventureland + Frontierland
- Jungle Cruise
- Pirates
- Big Thunder

If you have Lightning Lane, I usually use the morning to ride standby while building Lightning Lanes for later.

Start Stacking Lightning Lanes

Stacking means having multiple Lightning Lanes ready to use later, back-to-back..

Here's how I do it:

- Book your first Lightning Lane as soon as you can.
- Keep riding standby while waits are low.
- When you are eligible to book again, grab another Lightning Lane.
- Continue building Lightning Lanes for the busier part of the day.

The goal is to save those Lightning Lanes for when standby waits are much higher.



Use Mobile Order

While you are already standing in an attraction line, decide where you want to eat and place your Mobile Order.

Choose your pickup time, then tap "I'm Here" while you are walking toward the restaurant so they can begin preparing your food.

One less line to stand in.

Afternoon Strategy

Afternoons are typically when waits are highest and temperatures are hottest.

This is when I would redeem stacked Lightning Lanes, watch shows or seasonal entertainment, slow down for food, or head back to the hotel for a pool break, nap or reset.

If you are staying close enough to take a break, use it. You will enjoy your evening so much more.

Nighttime Strategy

Nighttime Strategy

Watch the nighttime entertainment if it matters to your family, then use the last part of the night for attractions.

If your family can hang, staying late is one of the best ways to get more done on a crowded Fall Break day.

Waits often become much more manageable as families with younger kids start leaving.

My Fall Break Formula



Rope drop and standby in the morning



Build Lightning Lanes for later



Use Mobile Order instead of waiting in food lines

 Use the afternoon for Lightning Lanes, entertainment or a hotel break



Stay late for lower waits

SEASONAL EXPERIENCES I'D PRIORITIZE

MICKEY AND FRIENDS HALLOWEEN CAVALCADE

A quick way to see a ton of characters in their Halloween looks without committing to a full parade.

MICKEY'S TRICK AND TREAT

This interactive show at Disney Theater includes Mickey and friends, music, dancing and a take-home treat. (California Adventure)

HALLOWEEN SCREAMS

The nighttime show features projections, music and Disney villains, with fireworks added on select nights.

PLUTO'S PUMPKIN PURSUIT

One of my favorite no-park-ticket fall activities. Pick up a game board in Downtown Disney, hunt for the hidden pumpkins and turn it in for a keepsake.



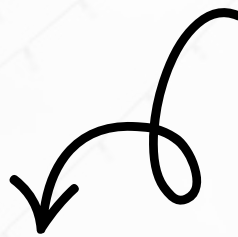
SEASONAL RIDES I'D PRIORITIZE

MATER'S GRAVEYARD
JAMBOOREE

LUIGI'S HONKIN' HAUL-
O-WEEN

HAUNTED MANSION
HOLIDAY

GUARDIANS OF THE
GALAXY - MONSTERS
AFTER DARK



Tip: Ride Mission: BREAKOUT! earlier in the day, then come back for the Monsters After Dark version later. During Halloween Time, you can book a Lightning Lane for the daytime version and another for Monsters After Dark once those return times open (around noon).



FALL FOODS TO KNOW ABOUT

BIRRIA POTATO

Refreshment Corner
Disneyland Park



PUMPKIN COOKIES

Harbour Galley
Disneyland Park



PUMPKIN CRUNCH CAKE

River Belle Terrace
Disneyland Park



FRENCH TOAST COLD BREW

Red Rose Taverne
Disneyland Park



STEAK FRITES

Lamplight Lounge
California Adventure



GINGERBREAD SKELETON COOKIE

Grand Californian Great Hall Cart
Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa



FALL WEATHER

what to know

EXPECT WARM AFTERNOONS

October in Anaheim is usually warmer than people expect.

- Average highs: around 77–80°F
- Average lows: around 59–60°F
- Early October can still reach the 80s and occasionally hotter.

WHAT TO WEAR

My advice: dress for warm afternoons, bring a light layer for evenings, and don't skip the sunscreen.

TIP

Use the park lockers to store sweatshirts or jackets (and souvenirs!) during the day so you don't have to carry them around until temperatures drop later.





PARK DAY CONCIERGE

Custom itinerary + live Lightning Lane and in-park support

Want someone else managing the park strategy while you enjoy the day?

With my Park Day Concierge service, I create your custom itinerary, book and modify your Lightning Lanes throughout the day, and tell you where to head next based on wait times, location, crowds, and your family's priorities.

I only work with one family per day so I can actively manage your park day in real time. Availability is limited and must be confirmed before booking.

