Shay's Disney Tips

Disneyland Park	
Main Street USA	• The “Paint the Night” parade is a can’t miss. Find a place to stand near the flag circle if you plan to exit the park when the parade is over. However, if you plan to stay for fireworks (which you should) find a spot near the shops on Main Street. You won’t want to be too close to the castle because you will miss out on all the incredible projection they do on the buildings of Main Street. • Stop by the Jolly Holiday bakery for a quick breakfast and cup of coffee. They have an Abuelita mexican hot chocolate that is delicious in the winter months. • One of my favorite places to shop is “Disney Clothiers Ltd” on Main Street. Often times I will find items here that I don’t see in every single shop.
Adventureland	• Indiana Jones offers “Single Rider” passes that can make for a much shorter wait. If you are okay with not riding with your group, this is a great option. Chris & I do this all the time; sometimes we end up in the same car. • If you are looking for a nice, cool place to sit down, go visit the Tiki Room. There is a Dole Whip line inside the Tiki Room turnstile gate that usually has a much shorter line.
New Orleans Square	• A fun dining experience is to eat at the Blue Bayou inside Pirates of the Caribbean. You can call ahead for reservations or visit the reservation desk in New Orleans Square. • The Royal Street Veranda has delicious Gumbo. • Cafe Orleans is very popular for their Monte Cristo Sandwiches. They serve beignets here, but I highly suggest you skip them and have the beignets at the Jazz Kitchen in Downtown Disney.
Frontierland	• Previously there was a passage along the backside of Thunder Mountain that connected to Fantasyland. This has been closed for the Star Wars expansion. Thunder Mountain ranch is gone forever. • Often missed is the Winnie the Pooh ride up by Splash Mountain. This is a great ride if you have little ones.

Fantasyland	• Taking pictures in front the castle is mandatory. If you ask a cast member, they will take a photo for you on your phone or camera. • Peter Pan is an awesome kid's ride. It always has a long line, but it is super cool. • The Matterhorn has 2 tracks. The line toward the left is going to be faster and bumpier. The line toward the right is going to be smoother. Just let the cast member know which you prefer.
Tomorrowland	• Star Tours has been updated to include stops from "The Force Awakens." • You can visit the Marvel Superheroes in the new "Superhero Headquarters." This is in the building that used to be "Innoventions."
	
Buena Vista Street	• Carthay Circle is a great place to have dinner or just a cocktail. With the same executive chef as Napa Rose, Andrew Sutton, Carthay Circle has an amazing menu. The lounge is a nice place to sit down for a bit. Order a manhattan in the lounge and watch them make an ice sphere for your drink- it's amazing.
Hollywood Land	• This area is pending an update. What used to be the Muppets 3D theater is now being used for movie premiers. Disney is incorporating Marvel comics into this area slowly but surely. • Stop by the Animation Studio and receive a lesson in drawing a popular Disney character. • Turtle Talk with Crush has been updated to include characters from Finding Dory. • Frozen at the Hyperion Theatre is AMAZING. You need to get fast passes for the show to the left of the big street backdrop at the end of Hollywood Street, near the bathrooms. • Soon, Tower of Terror will be rethemed to Guardians of the Galaxy.
A Bug's Land	• Tough to Be a Bug is one of our favorite shows. It can be a little scary for younger ones. Sit near the exit just incase. • There is a new passageway that goes from Bug's Land to Car's Land. It's between the bumper cars and Flick's Fun Fair.

Cars Land	• Radiator Springs Racers has a single rider entrance. This is a great way to get through the line more quickly. • Mater's Junkyard Jamboree is a very fun ride, especially for kids.
Pacific Wharf	• This is one of our favorite places to eat in the park for a quick counter service meal. The bread bowls at the Pacific Wharf Cafe are great- broccoli cheddar is my fav. Everything is delicious at Cocina Cucamonga. • Be sure to stop go on the Boudin Bakery tour to get a free taste of sourdough bread. • Ghirardelli has delicious ice cream and you don't have to wait forever for your order like you do in San Francisco. They also give out samples when you walk in the door.
Paradise Pier	• Toy Story always has a long line. It's a fun ride though. Pay attention to the edges of the screens- you can usually find items worth more points. • Chris' favorite thing to eat in DCA is the spicy corn dog from Corn Dog Castle. The stand is near Goofy's Sky School.
Grizzly Peak	• If you are going to World of Color, you get your fast passes in the Grizzly River Run cue. • The Redwood Creek Challenge area is a fun place to play for kids. • For a quick exit to Downtown Disney, use the Grand Californian Hotel exit near Grizzly River Run.
Condor Flats	• This area was recently re-themed and is beautiful. • Soaring Around the World is now open and replaced Soaring Over California.
DOWNTOWN DISNEY DISTRICT	
Grand Californian Hotel	• Near fireplace in the lobby there are great places to nap or relax. Enjoy the pianist playing Disney classics while you rest. • Napa Rose is probably my most favorite restaurant anywhere. For an exclusive experience, call ahead and make reservations at the chef's counter. They will cook a custom meal to you likes and dislikes. The patio at Napa Rose has a great view of DCA. A Napa Rose bread basket and Swizzled Monk cocktail is all I need in life. • You can always exit DCA through the hotel into downtown Disney. Depending on how busy the park is, sometimes they

	will allow non-hotel guests to use the guest entrance to DCA. It's worth a try to save you some time!
Disneyland Hotel	● TRADER SAM'S! One of the best tiki bars you will find. If Mike is there, ask for one of his special Navy Grog's and get him to tell you the story behind the drink. Get to know the bartenders and they will make you some special drinks that aren't on the menu.
General Downtown Disney	● Ralph Brennan's Jazz Kitchen is another one of our all time favorites. Their garlic cheese bread will change your life. Shrimp and grits will change your life even more. Then order the beignets. Roll yourself out of the restaurant full and happy. ● Marceline's Confectionary has a window where you can watch the cast members make delicious treats. Fun fact- Marceline is the name of the town Walt Disney spent his childhood. ● Near the ESPN Zone, there is a stage where fantastic bands perform on a regular basis. Throughout Downtown Disney there are several other musicians. ● If you are a flip flop lover like I am, don't miss the Sanuk store. This is the only Sanuk store in California, aside from their outlet in Palm Springs. ● The World of Disney Store is a great place to make your final stop. They have almost everything you will see in the stores around the parks.