

November 15, 2006 - Pleasure Island

Disney World, Orlando, Florida

Cirque du Soleil (La Nouba), AMC, Planet Hollywood, Cafes and Pub, Lego Imagination Center, World of Disney, Harley-Davidson

Newton's mother picked us up from our apartment at 11 AM and drove us to Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport. She dropped us off at the terminal and we checked in our one luggage. We flew US Airways flight 0569 at 12:54 PM to Orlando International Airport (MCO), and arrived at 6:51 PM Florida time. Florida is two hours ahead of Arizona.



We did not get a rental car and instead took the Disney Magical Express bus from the airport to our hotel. This was a dedicated bus line that connected the hotels in

Disney World to the Airport. This was a dedicated bus line that connected the hotels in Disney World to the airport. The entire Disney World complex formed a big circle over 10 miles in diameter with the theme parks located in the middle of the circle. The cheaper hotels were at the edge of the circle and the more expensive hotels were located closer to the parks in the middle of the circle. One freeway connected the airport to Disney World, and this drive took under half an hour. There was nothing along this freeway between the airport and Disney World, so technically we did not see any part of Orlando except what we saw from the airplane.





We stayed at one of Disney resorts, Disney All star Movies resort. This was one of the cheaper hotels, but still was ~\$120 a night.



Each of the Disney hotels has a theme, and ours was Disney movies, hence each building was decorated with images and statues from Disney movies. We stayed in the Love Bug building; hence a big statue of the Volkswagen Herbie was situated in front of our building.



After checking in, we walked down to the cafeteria and had dinner. Each of the hotels had a cafeteria - food court, and they were expensive. Our food court served the equivalent of high school cafeteria food; pizza, burgers, sandwiches, pasta, salads, cookies, chips, sliced turkey, etc... We had dinner for about \$16 a person.



By this time, it was about 9 PM local time and all the parks had closed, so we took the bus to Downtown Disney. Each of the hotels and attractions in Disney World came with a huge parking lot, but buses also connected each hotel and theme park to every other theme park and hotel. These buses ran every 15 - 20 minutes. The bus ride took about 30 minutes as we stopped by several other hotels to pick up guests heading for Downtown Disney.

Downtown Disney is a collection of shops and restaurants in the middle of Disney World. It is composed of three villages situated along the coast of a man-made lake: Pleasure Island, the Market Place, and West Side. Pleasure Island is more adult-orientated and is full of clubs and bars that all charge admission. The Market Place is full of toy stores and souvenir shops and is basically where parents spend money on their children. This is also the best decorated place with many statues and figures of Disney Characters. The West side contains the expensive restaurants, a theme park of rides and games, and a big auditorium where Cirque du soleil perform every day.





We walked around and took pictures for two hours. We then went back to the hotel to go to bed. The weather is cool here, in the mid 50's with the humidity in the high 60's.