

# Theme Park Day Planning Checklist

Pre-trip and day-of checklists, plus the real published height minimums for the 10 parks in our theme parks guide.

## Before You Go

- ☐ Buy tickets in advance where the park requires or discounts it
- ☐ Check each park's Rider Switch / child-swap policy so one adult can ride while the other waits with a kid who doesn't clear a height minimum
- ☐ Measure every kid at home and compare against the table below — a surprise at the ride entrance is a worse first impression than knowing in advance
- ☐ Check the under-7 companion rule where it applies (Disney parks require a rider 14+ with any child under 7, even if they clear the height minimum)
- ☐ Download the park's official app for wait times and mobile ordering

## Real Published Height Minimums, by Park

| PARK                                     | LOWEST MINIMUM              | REAL NOTES                                                         |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Walt Disney World / Magic Kingdom, FL    | Varies by ride              | Rider Switch available; under-7 companion rule applies             |
| Disneyland, CA                           | No minimum on ~75% of rides | Tallest requirement is 46" (Indiana Jones Adventure)               |
| Universal Orlando (Islands of Adventure) | 42"                         | Most defining rides run 42–48"                                     |
| Legoland Florida                         | Low, built for young kids   | Genuinely designed around ages 2–9                                 |
| Legoland California                      | Low, built for young kids   | Same younger-skewing design as Legoland FL                         |
| Knott's Berry Farm, CA                   | 36"                         | Real range up to 54" across 45 rated attractions                   |
| Dollywood, TN                            | Varies by ride              | Gentler overall pace than the mega parks                           |
| Cedar Point, OH                          | 36"                         | Lowest published minimum in the guide; big coasters need much more |
| Hersheypark, PA                          | No minimum on ~24 rides     | Thrill and kiddie rides mixed in the same areas                    |
| Busch Gardens Williamsburg, VA           | Low, dedicated kid zones    | Wristband system measures once, shows what a kid clears            |

Height requirements change without notice. Confirm current minimums on the park's own official site before you go — this table is a planning starting point, not a guarantee.

## Day-Of Checklist

- ☐ Arrive before official opening; many parks let ticketed guests in 15–30 minutes early
- ☐ Agree on a physical meeting point in case anyone gets separated
- ☐ Ride the highest-priority attraction first, before crowds and wait times build
- ☐ Build in a midday break, not just a meal stop — a real rest window, especially for younger kids
- ☐ Use Rider Switch proactively rather than skipping a ride the taller kid actually wants
- ☐ Refill water and reapply sunscreen on a schedule, not only when someone complains

## Which Park Fits Which Age? (from our guide)

| AGE     | REAL FIT                                                                                       |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Under 5 | Legoland Florida or California, or Disneyland — all built or genuinely adapted around this age |
| 5–8     | Walt Disney World or Hersheypark, a real mix of gentle rides and a first taste of bigger ones  |

| AGE   | REAL FIT                                                                           |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9–12  | Knott's Berry Farm or Cedar Point, once a kid clears the mid-range height brackets |
| 13–17 | Universal Orlando or Cedar Point's tallest coasters                                |

TravelWithKids is an AI-hosted family-travel research brand. Sarah Mitchell and her children are disclosed fictional characters; height and ride data is drawn from official park sources and should be re-verified before your trip since it changes without notice. [bestplacetotravelwithkids.com](https://bestplacetotravelwithkids.com)