

## Free Disney Dining Plan Deal: Will It Be Offered for 2011?

by Jennifer Marx, PassPorter Guidebooks Author

The big question we hear this time of the year is, "**Will Disney have a free Disney Dining Plan promotion?**"

The simple answer is that right now, we do not know.

But fear not -- there is a longer answer to the "will there be a free dining plan this year?" question! First, rest assured that if and when Disney does offer a free dining promotion, they tell the world about it! **Free Disney Dining is not going to be a secret.** Travel agents are often the first to know, and it quickly spreads across the Internet and by word of mouth. If you're listening and watching, you'll know. Here are the ways to keep your Mickey ears to the ground:

Check Disney's Special Offers page at <http://disneyworld.disney.go.com/special-offers/> (and while you're there, register on their site for e-mail announcements and snail mail, which may include a special PIN code for deals).

Check PassPorter's Feasting & Snacking forum at <http://www.passporterboards.com/forums/feasting-snacking-eateries-walt-disney-world/> (and sign up for our [newsletter](#))

Check MouseSavers.com at <http://www.mousesavers.com/disneyresorts.html#codes> (and sign up for their newsletter)

**The most recent free Disney Dining Plan offer was for 2011 dates, but had to be booked by December 20, 2010.**

**Historically speaking,** the free [Disney Dining Plan](#) was first offered in summer 2005 as a means of drawing in guests during the typically low-crowd season of mid-August through September. Free Disney Dining was first offered as part of a package (requiring at least a 3-night stay) and included the "regular" Disney Dining Plan -- with 1 table service (TS), 1 counter service (CS) and 1 snack per person per night of the reservation.

The notice of this promotion has often been released first to Disney Visa Cardholders a few days prior to it being released to the general public -- typically, the announcement has come in the spring and had to be booked by early summer. Additionally, it was offered to UK travelers

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and became an indicator if it would be offered to everyone.

Then came the global economic downturn and Disney began offering all sorts of promotions to increase bookings -- Free Dining being one of their offerings. Disney began offering the promotion according to different levels of resorts. If you stayed in a Disney value resort, you got the Quick Service Dining Plan (QSDP) for free -- with 2 QS meals and 2 snacks per person, per night of the reservation. Guests could pay to "upgrade" from the QSDP to the regular DDP or the Deluxe DDP -- all they had to do was pay the difference in price between the QSDP and the plan they wanted.

**However, note that these free Disney Dining promotions seem to be slowing and Disney has said they will be reducing them significantly this year.**

In terms of booking, you can book your reservation now and then hope for Free Disney Dining to be offered during your timeframe. When it's announced, quickly try to add the promotion to your reservation. (Promotions are first-come/first-served, so act fast.) Hopefully, there will be available promotions for your resort during your timeframe, but you may need to try different dates or a different resort to get the promotion.

Here are the dates when free Disney Dining plan deals became available, and the dates the deals were applicable, in the past:

Booking Period	Vacation Dates	Intended For
6/2-7/3/05 & 7/21-8/20/05	8/21-10/4/05	General public
4/1-6/4/06 & 6/2/-6/25/06	8/13-9/30/06	General public
11/8-12/31/06	5-9/29/07	"Bounceback" Package Discount only for guests staying at WDW
Nov-Dec 2006	4/9-6/24/07	8/26-9/22/07
Disney Visa cardholders offer	4/12-6/24/07	8/26-9/22/07
General public	8/31-10/12/07	8/30-9/27/08
"Bounceback" Package Discount only for guests staying at WDW	Aug-Oct 2007	4/7-6/22/08
8/24-9/20/08	Disney Visa cardholders offer	4/10-6/22/08
8/24-10/24/08	8/30-10/8/09	"Bounceback" Package Discount only for guests staying at WDW
Aug-Oct 2008	3/26-6/21/09	8/16-10/3/09
Disney Visa cardholders offer	3/30-7/26/09	8/16-10/3/09
General public	7/24-9/26/09	9/27-12/17/09
Disney Visa cardholders offer	7/27-9/26/09	9/27-12/17/09
General public	8/16-10/24/09	8/15-9/30/10
"Bounceback" Package Discount only for guests staying at WDW	Aug-Oct 2009	4/29-8/14/10
8/15-12/21/10	Disney Visa cardholders offer	5/3-8/14/10 & 8/16-12/20/10
8/15-12/21/10	General public	8/6-12/20/10
1/1-3/3/11, 5/27-6/2/11, & 8/19-9/29/11	General public	Data thanks to <a href="http://MouseSavers.com">MouseSavers.com</a> ( <a href="#">Historical Data</a> )

Finally, if you're searching for news about availability this year, check the comments at the bottom of this article -- if and when free dining is made available again, no doubt someone will note it here!

*Thank you to PassPorter Guide Caldercup (Eileen) for inspiring and contributing to this article!*

*About The Author: Jennifer is the co-founder and webmistress of PassPorter.com, as well as author of more than 50 books about Walt Disney World, Disney Cruise Line, and Disneyland.*

Article last updated: 02-20-2011

View the latest version online at:

<http://www.passporter.com/articles/free-disney-dining-plan-deal-2011.html>

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