STARLIT MAGIC • PRINTABLE GUIDE

The Rope Drop Playbook

Beat the lines at all four WDW parks, with one plan for the first, best hour of the day.

THE ONE RULE

The first 60 minutes after opening have the lowest waits of the entire day. Be at the tapstiles before then, and go straight to your one must-ride. Everything else can wait.

EARLY ENTRY (Resort Guests)

Staying at a Disney resort? You get 30 minutes before official open, every park, every day. At Magic Kingdom that's Fantasyland and Tomorrowland rides, but not TRON.

ROPE DROP (Everyone)

Not on-site? Arrive before official open and get positioned near the front. When the rope drops, walk fast (never run) to your headliner.

5 RULES FOR A SUCCESSFUL ROPE DROP

1 Pick ONE headliner.

Sprint there first. Trying to do everything is how you end up doing nothing quickly.

2 Arrive early: 30 to 45 minutes before your access time.

Earlier for the biggest headliners. But don't over-invest: 90 minutes early can just mean 90 minutes of standing.

3 Go against the flow.

Most guests turn right and pile onto the same first ride. Zag where they zig.

4 Don't rope-drop what you can Lightning Lane.

Save the sprint for rides without a good skip option, and book your first Lightning Lane for about an hour after open.

5 Have a pivot.

Your target will occasionally be down at open. Know your backup before you walk in.

WHERE TO RUN FIRST (current top targets)

MAGIC KINGDOM

Seven Dwarfs Mine Train or Peter Pan's Flight (Fantasyland at Early Entry). Line up for TRON. No Early Entry? Big Thunder Mountain, west side.

EPCOT

Head straight to Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind, then Frozen Ever After or Remy's Ratatouille Adventure.

HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS

Slinky Dog Dash or Rise of the Resistance, then Millennium Falcon: Smugglers Run.

ANIMAL KINGDOM

Avatar Flight of Passage first, then Na'vi River Journey or Expedition Everest.

Priorities shift as rides open, close, and refurbish. Confirm live waits in Starlit Magic before you sprint.

BEFORE YOU GO

Set two alarms. The morning is the whole game.

Mobile-order breakfast so food never costs you your head start.

Check your park's exact opening time the night before. It shifts by season.

STARLIT MAGIC

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