

# How Disney's Lightning Lanes Work in 2025: The Complete Guide

By Happily Ever After Hours

In 2025, Disney officially retired Genie+, replacing it with a streamlined version of **Lightning Lane access** that feels a bit closer to the original FastPass+ system—but with a few important changes.

If you're planning a Disney trip this year, understanding how Lightning Lanes work is crucial for making the most of your park days. Here's everything you need to know, including how to book, what it costs, and how to make it work for your schedule.

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## What Are Lightning Lanes?

Lightning Lanes are essentially Disney's version of a line-skipping system. They allow you to reserve access to popular attractions at specific times, letting you bypass the standard standby line. The name hasn't changed—but the **way you use them has**.

As of 2025, you no longer need to purchase Genie+ to use Lightning Lanes. Instead, guests **select and schedule Lightning Lane access** to individual attractions either **in advance or the day of**, depending on your ticket type and resort status.

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## When Can You Book Lightning Lanes?

The new system gives different booking windows depending on where you're staying:

### Guests at Disney Resort Hotels and Partner Resorts:

- Can book **Lightning Lanes up to 7 days in advance**
- May book **up to 3 attractions per day in advance**
- Additional selections may be made once you use your initial bookings, subject to availability

## Off-Property Guests:

- May book **Lightning Lanes** beginning at **7:00 AM** on the day of your visit
- May only hold **one Lightning Lane at a time** until it's used or expires

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## How to Book Lightning Lane Access

You'll use the **My Disney Experience app** (or the Disneyland app if you're in California). Here's how it works:

1. Open the app and tap on "Lightning Lane Planning"
2. Select your park and date
3. Choose the attraction you'd like to reserve
4. Confirm your time and party

You'll get a return window (usually one hour), and you'll scan into the attraction entrance during that time frame.

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## Which Rides Offer Lightning Lane Access?

Most of the high-demand and mid-tier attractions in each park offer Lightning Lanes. Here's a breakdown by park:

### Magic Kingdom

- Tron Lightcycle Run
- Seven Dwarfs Mine Train
- Jungle Cruise
- Peter Pan's Flight

- Space Mountain
- Haunted Mansion
- Big Thunder Mountain Railroad

## **EPCOT**

- Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind
- Remy's Ratatouille Adventure
- Soarin'
- Test Track
- Frozen Ever After

## **Hollywood Studios**

- Rise of the Resistance
- Slinky Dog Dash
- Mickey & Minnie's Runaway Railway
- Tower of Terror
- Toy Story Mania
- Millennium Falcon: Smugglers Run

## **Animal Kingdom**

- Avatar Flight of Passage
- Na'vi River Journey
- Expedition Everest

- Kilimanjaro Safaris

Availability may vary based on seasonal adjustments and crowd levels.

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## Is There a Cost?

Lightning Lanes are **not included** with your park admission. Here's how pricing works in 2025:

- Most Lightning Lanes are **individually priced**, ranging from **\$10–\$25** per person, per ride
- Prices vary by date, ride, and demand (for example, Saturdays are more expensive than weekdays)
- You'll see the price listed in the app before confirming

There are **no longer bundled day-passes** like Genie+ used to offer. Every ride is à la carte.

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## Smart Strategies to Maximize Value

- **Book early**—especially for top-tier rides like *Rise of the Resistance* and *Tron*
- **Stack return times in the afternoon**, allowing you to rope-drop attractions in the morning with little to no wait
- **Avoid booking back-to-back rides across opposite sides of the park**, or you'll lose valuable time in transit
- Consider using standby lines for lower-demand rides and **save Lightning Lane purchases for the headliners**

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## Final Thoughts

While the new Lightning Lane system adds some complexity to trip planning, it also gives you more control. You're no longer locked into a daily Genie+ fee—you simply pay for what you want to skip.

And if you're not sure which rides are worth the cost, or when to book them? That's where we come in. Chelsea and Jen can help you build a customized park day plan that fits your budget, priorities, and walking pace—without the stress of figuring it all out yourself.

Reach out today to get started on your ideal Disney itinerary.