

# Capturing Disney Parks presents **DISNEY ICON SPOTLIGHT**

## Episode 27 | Antonio from Why We Disney | July 22, 2019

In this series of Q&A's, Capturing Disney Parks introduces you to some of the biggest and most iconic Disney Parks fans sharing the magic on their social media, video platform, blog, vlog, podcast, or website. Questions by Niels van Eijkelenburg.

### Q 01 | THE ICON

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Please introduce yourself to our readers.

Hi! My name is Antonio. I'm 26 years old and I'm from Long Island, New York and I've been visiting Walt Disney World for almost my entire life! I've also been an annual passholder since all the way back in 2018! \*haha\*.



*Pictures provided by Antonio*

### Q 02 | THE PARKS

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Which Disney Parks have you experienced, and which one do you consider your 'home' Park?

Of all the Disney Parks around the world, I've only ever been to Walt Disney World. So specifically, I've been to Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Hollywood Studios, Animal Kingdom, Typhoon Lagoon, and Blizzard Beach. I never got to experience River Country before it closed. My favorite park of all is Epcot!

### Q 03 | THE PLATFORM(S)

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**Where can we find your Disney fan platforms?**

Instagram: [@whywedisney](https://www.instagram.com/whywedisney)

Twitter: [@whywedisney](https://twitter.com/whywedisney)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/whywedisney>

Etsy shop: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/whywedisney>

### Q 04 | THE FORMAT

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**Tell us something about the format of your online platform(s), how it all started, which Disney Parks you cover, and why you love to put such a lot of effort in those activities.**

Instagram is my main platform. My page covers everything Walt Disney World. I take photos from all over the Walt Disney World parks and resorts and share them daily on my page... And I mean photos of anything. My pictures vary from Cinderella Castle or Spaceship Earth, to a staircase at the Animal Kingdom Lodge, the lighthouse at Yacht & Beach Club, and a playground at Art of Animation. In addition to these photos I provide my followers with informational captions filled with tips, advice, fun facts, etc. all about the subject of the photo that day. For example, did you know at the Wilderness Lodge resort there's a water channel that starts from inside the lobby, flows through to the outside, down a waterfall, and into their pool. It's pretty awesome! Anyway, you can think of my posts as a new miniature article every day!

### Q 05 | THE LOVE

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**How and when did your love for Disney Parks start?**

Well I went on my first trip to Disney World when I was 2 years old. I don't remember that one much, but I would go pretty often with my family throughout my childhood. My passion for Walt Disney World really came to fruition however during my later years of high school. So that'd be around 2009/2010.

### Q 06 | THE TRIPS

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**How many times/days a year do you visit Disney Parks (estimate)? And how many days are most of your trips?**

During my childhood my family and I went fairly often, but we started going more frequently, about once a year, after we became DVC members. Ever since I started Why We Disney June 1st, 2018, I've been taking more solo trips. I went 3 times last year and I'll be going 3 times by the end of this year. Generally, the trips last about 6 days. Although my first trip this year was just a quick weekend trip.



## Q 07 | THE FAVORITS

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**Please name your favorite Disney attractions, parades, or shows.**

My favorite ride that I've ever been on is "Flight of Passage", period, end of story. Other attractions that I really enjoy: Test Track, Rock 'n' Roller Coaster, Toy Story Mania, Expedition Everest, Mickey's Philharmagic.

As for parades, I love the "Festival of Fantasy". The "Boo to You" parade during Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween Party is amazing and I highly recommend seeing that one. I also miss the "Main Street Electrical Parade" but that's no longer in Walt Disney World.

## Q 08 | THE MEMORY

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**What's your most memorable Disney Parks moment? Tell us all about it please!**

I'll tell you my most shell-shocking amazing out of nowhere moments. This actually happened just last year. Some back story first, Thumper is my favorite character of all time. Now I know you may interpret that as Thumper is my favorite Disney character. To clarify... Thumper is my favorite character (anywhere) of all time.

Story: I was exiting Animal Kingdom with my family around late afternoon. We were about to head to our dinner reservation at Boma in the Animal Kingdom Lodge, which is an amazing buffet by the way, one of the best on property. As we were about to cross the exit of the park I realized we were about to leave without returning a wheelchair we rented for my mom. The rest of my family had already exited the park at this point, so my mom and I turned back to return the wheelchair. When I turned to my left, I spotted Miss Bunny talking to some guests just past the entrance. At that point, my heart skipped a beat and I began to freak out. I knew that if Miss Bunny was here then Thumper had to be nearby. I had never seen Thumper in the parks before (he's usually only out during Easter).

One of the cast members at the exit realized what was going on and offered to return the wheelchair for us. So, I handed them the wheelchair and began frantically (FRANTICALLY) searching for Thumper. After what was probably about 5 seconds or so I spotted him, and my mom and I went over to meet him.

I did not say a word the entire interaction. I think I might've said the word Thumper but that's it. I was literally too busy trying to compose myself and hold back the tears. I'm not kidding, my mom had to do all the talking. I took a picture with him and after that Miss Bunny popped up from behind me out of nowhere and I took a selfie with her. That was one of the most amazing moments I've ever experienced at Disney World.

## Q 09 | THE TIP

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Do you have a tip or advise - about anything Disney Parks related - to share with our readers?

My whole page is filled with tips and advice but here is my go-to number one piece of advice for Walt Disney World. DO NOT buy water. I know it's hot, and you have to stay hydrated, but you do not have to purchase water. You can actually get water for free! By law, every quick service restaurant is required to offer free cups of ice water to the guests. So instead of purchasing tons of water, bring your own bottle to the parks, filled with ice and water. When your bottle begins to run low, you can go to the nearest quick service location, walk up to the register and ask for a cup of ice water. I find they give up to 2 per person. Use those to refill your bottle. You can even refill your bottle with the water fountains around the park if you like. But please, you DO NOT have to purchase water. You're spending enough money already!

## Q 10 | THE CHOICES

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Make your choice! You have to choose one...

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|--|----|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mickey       | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Donald                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Characters   | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Attractions               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Star Wars    | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Marvel                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parades      | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Nighttime spectaculars    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> On-site hotel           | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Off-site hotel |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual Pass  | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Ticket                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Animation    | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Live-action               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pins         | or | <input type="checkbox"/> TsumTsums                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early morning visits    | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evening visits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PhotoPass               | or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FastPass       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jack Sparrow | or | <input type="checkbox"/> Captain Hook              |

## Q 11 | THE QUESTION

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### Do you have a question for me?

I'm really honored to be a part of this series, so thank you very much Niels! My question to you is: When would you say is the best time to visit Disneyland Paris? And why?

Niels: *Well, that's not just one advice. It really depends on a lot of factors what the best time is to visit for you.*

*You can check the official Disneyland Paris website to get an idea of the seasons. They're very different and usually focus on one of the parks. Last couple of years we've had seasons like Pirates & Princesses, Marvel, Star Wars, Halloween and Christmas. Summer 2019 is all about The Lion King & Jungle Festival, a new season.*

*Crowds wise I would skip Disneyland Paris in the extremely busy Halloween period (end of October), the week between Christmas and New Year, and in the runDisney weekend (usually end of September). Other European public holidays like Eastern could be busy too, just like the French national holiday on July 14. Summers (July/August) are usually busy but still doable as crowds spread over this longer period of time.*

*From a weather perspective I would suggest visiting April – September. It could always rain in Paris, but temperatures are much nicer in those months.*

## THE END

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I would like to thank Antonio for participating in this Q&A series. Hope you've enjoyed this episode. Until next time and have a magical day!



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owner of Capturing Disney Parks

**Instagram** <https://www.instagram.com/capturingdisneyparks>  
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