

PassPorter's Update to Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge Resort

Authors Jennifer and Dave had the pleasure of a week-long stay at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge during its opening week in April 2001. One month later, we brought Dave's extended family (over 30 in all) to the lodge for a five-day stay. During those visits, we took copious notes, asked far too many questions, and tried to do virtually everything at least once (if not several times). The result is a great collection of knowledge and facts on Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge. We are delighted to share our experiences through our travel guidebook, [PassPorter Walt Disney World](#) and our Web site at [PassPorter.com](#).

Because PassPorter 2001 went to press before Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge opened, we were unable to include our usual first-hand information on the new resort. We did include four pages on the Lodge, but they were based only on press releases and other preliminary sources. Now that we've stayed at the Lodge, we've updated those four pages with first-hand facts and our own opinions. This file represents that update, which we're making available to all our readers and visitors to our Web site at <http://www.passporter.com/wdw/aklodge.htm>.

To learn more about Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge, we encourage you to read our extensive trip report, available on PassPorter.com at: <http://www.passporter.com/wdw/trip0401.htm>.

Other good resources of information on the Lodge include:

[PassPorter Message Board: Staying in Style \(Lodging\)](#)
[WDWIG's Frequently Asked Questions on Animal Kingdom Lodge](#)
[Joanne's Disney World Info on Animal Kingdom Lodge](#)
[Themeparks.com Info on Animal Kingdom Lodge](#)
[MousePlanet.com's Info on Animal Kingdom Lodge](#)
[Disney Information Station on Animal Kingdom Lodge](#)
[Disney's Official Information on Animal Kingdom Lodge](#)

We will continue to update these pages, if necessary, up to the release of our next edition, [PassPorter Walt Disney World 2002](#), next January!

We invite your comments, suggestions, experiences, and tips for future updates of our guidebook, Web site, and these pages. You can e-mail us at jenniferanddave@passporter.com.

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Note: Information on Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge is based on first-hand information.

Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge Resort (Opened April 16, 2001)

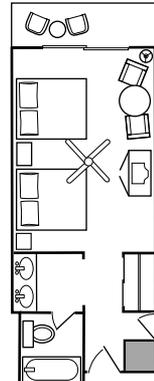
Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge shares the ambience of its neighboring theme park, Disney's Animal Kingdom. In fact, guests at Disney's newest deluxe resort will be able to stand on their balconies and watch grazing mammals and birds on 33 acres of African savanna.

AMBIENCE

Your trek to the Lodge is rewarded as soon as you step into the atrium lobby, which offers a dramatic view to the animal reserve and "kopje" (rock outcrop) beyond. Sunlight pours through high windows, painting the lobby's thatched ceiling and carved wooden decorations in a warm, intimate glow. African artwork, much of it museum quality, greets you at every turn. Designed by the architect behind Disney's Wilderness Lodge, the new six-story hotel shares its sister resort's rustic appeal, but adds a welcome warmth and intimacy, even in the largest public spaces. Then, of course, there are the animals, which add a sense of delight unique to this resort.

LAYOUT & ROOMS

The horseshoe-shaped resort, inspired by an African Kraal (corral) village, gives all but 100 of the 1293 rooms a view of the Lodge's private wildlife reserve. The rooms are vibrant with rich tapestries, hand-carved furniture, gauze hangings at the head of the beds, and Kente-inspired fabrics. Standard rooms (344 sq. ft) have two queen-size beds, one king-size bed and a day bed, or one queen-size bed and bunk beds. Deluxe rooms (381 sq. ft.) add more amenities like a make-up mirror and a second phone. All rooms have a balcony, ceiling fan, table and two chairs, armoire with a 27" TV and drawers, double sinks, in-room safe, hair dryer, iron and ironing board, voice mail, newspaper delivery, and valet parking.



Standard Room Layout

DINING

A casual yet upscale restaurant, **Jiko**, is open at dinnertime for guests who want an elegantly inventive meal prepared with African, Asian, and European influences. **Boma**, which means "place of refuge," offers an exciting, African-flavored dining adventure with all-you-care-to-eat buffets at breakfast and dinner. **The Mara** is a quick-service cafe open all day—this is the perfect place for a fast meal. Refillable mugs can be purchased (and refilled) at The Mara. Room service is also available.



Using the Amenities at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge Resort

Victoria Falls Lounge, which overlooks Boma, serves specialty coffees, African wines, and international beer in the evenings. The **Cape Town Lounge and Wine Bar**, adjacent to Jiko, serves remarkable wines from South Africa. **Uzima Springs** is a poolside bar offering beer and mixed drinks. Snack foods, beer, and wine are available from the **Zawadi Marketplace** shop and **The Mara**.

For Animal Watchers: Bring plenty of film for your camera. Binoculars are an excellent idea, too. If your room doesn't have a view of the savanna, watch the animals from the kopje (the large observation area that extends into the savanna), the Sunset Overlook (a delightful room on the west side of the lobby), the overlook near the pool, and the alcoves along Zebra Trail and Kudu Trail (visit the second floor for outdoor viewing platforms that feature rocking chairs and high-powered binoculars).

For Athletes: Keep in shape in the Zahanati Fitness Center near the pool. Alas, there are no walking or jogging paths.

For Children: Simba's Cubhouse is a supervised childcare club for kids 4–12. There's also the Hakuna Matata playground near the pool, storytelling at the fire pit, and daily activities at Boma.

For Gamers: Pumbaa's Arcade lets the young-at-heart play video and pinball games to their hearts' content.

For Shoppers: The festive Zawadi Marketplace can outfit you with sundries, foodstuffs, books, clothing, and African crafts.

For Swimmers: Soak in the Uzima Pool, a 9,000 sq. ft. pool with an African theme, waterslide, kids' pool, and two spas (hot tubs). The pool features a zero-entry section where you can wade into the water (like you would at a beach).

Buses to theme parks and Downtown Disney (see chart below for in-transit times) are a short walk outside (see the map on page 43). Travel to other resorts via Disney's Animal Kingdom theme park (daytime) or Downtown Disney (evening). Ample parking is available, as is valet. This is the first deluxe resort to lack boat or monorail access to a nearby park.

Magic Kingdom	Epcot	Disney-MGM Studios	Disney's Animal Kingdom	Downtown Disney
direct bus ~20 min.	direct bus ~15 min.	direct bus ~10 min.	direct bus ~5 min.	direct bus ~15 min.

Approximate time you will spend in-transit from resort to destination during normal operation.

LOUNGING

PLAYING & RELAXING

GETTING ABOUT

Making the Most of Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge Resort

TIPS

The Lodge's own **33-acre savanna**, which is distinct from the theme park, is home to 36 species of mammals and 26 species of birds—over 330 animals in all. Guests can see zebras, antelopes, giraffes, gazelle, wildebeests, ostriches, cranes, vultures, and storks. Animals may come within 15 feet of the main observation area on the kopje, or as close as 30 feet from your balcony, day or night.

At night, the savanna is lit by **artificial moonlight**. Bring a bathrobe so you can make late-night visits to your balcony.

African story-telling is held nightly at the firepit. "Safari guides" are also on hand to educate guests on the animals.

NOTES

Only the first 754 rooms were open by April 16. The remaining rooms in the Lodge's Kudu Trail should be ready by **July 15**.

Automobile access to this resort is **no longer restricted** to resort guests or those with a dining reservation. Everyone is welcome to visit this resort and take a look around.

The savanna is comprised of **three separate areas** (each about 11 acres), which can be viewed 24 hours a day. Each savanna has a distinctive character and a few animal species that are unique to that savanna. Each area closes daily for cleaning and animal care, but at least two savannas are open at all times. Best viewing times are typically early to mid-morning, and afternoon through sunset.

Check-in time is between 3:00 pm. Check-out is 11:00 am. Late checkouts are not available at this resort.

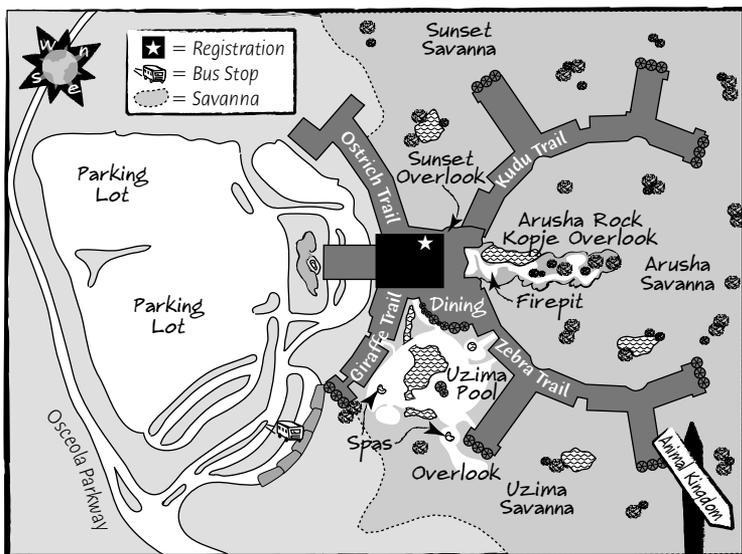
Ratings are explained on page 26.

RATINGS

Our Value Ratings:		Our Magic Ratings:		Readers' Ratings:	
Quality:	9/10	Theme:	10/10	Want to rate this resort?	
Accessibility:	5/10	Amenities:	5/10	Visit us on the Web at:	
Affordability:	5/10	Fun Factor:	8/10	http://www.passporter.com/wdw/rate.htm	
Overall Value:	6/10	Overall Magic:	8/10	... com/wdw/rate.htm	
Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge is enjoyed by... (rated by authors)					
Younger Kids:	♥♥♥♥	Young Adults:	♥♥♥♥	Families:	♥♥♥♥♥
Older Kids:	♥♥♥♥	Mid Adults:	♥♥♥♥♥	Couples:	♥♥♥♥
Teenagers:	♥♥♥	Mature Adults:	♥♥♥♥	Singles:	♥♥♥♥



Finding Your Place at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge Resort


ANIMAL KINGDOM LODGE MAP

Standard rooms are located on floors 1-4 and come in three different views: standard (Giraffe and Ostrich Trails), pool (Ostrich and Zebra Trails), and savanna (Zebra, Kudu and Ostrich Trails). **Deluxe rooms** are on floors 5 and 6 and offer views of the pool or the savanna. If the animal-watching is your main draw, reserve a room with savanna view. Rooms on the far ends of the Zebra and Kudu Trails require a long walk, so consider requesting a room near the lobby. **Concierge rooms** (floors 5 and 6) are also available in pool and savanna views, as are several one-bedroom, two-bedroom, and "royal" suites, but only the 6th floor is key-protected.

Rates for the Lodge's rooms begin at **\$200** for a standard room, with savanna view rooms beginning in the **mid-\$200's**. Deluxe rooms are about **\$70-90 more**. Concierge rooms begin in the **high-\$300's**. Room views include standard, pool, and savanna (only savanna rooms have a view of the animals).

Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge Resort

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For reservations, call Central Reservations: 407-934-7639

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RATES
INFO

How To Use These Pages

You can simply read these pages online in Adobe Acrobat Reader, or you can print them out and place them in your PassPorter. To print, select Print from Adobe Acrobat Reader's File menu in the top left. For best results, be sure that the "Fit to Page" option is unchecked in the Print box before printing—this ensures that the pages print at the standard PassPorter size (5.5" x 9"). To get double-sided pages, first print page one, then print page two on the back of page one. Repeat for subsequent pages. Once your pages have been printed, cut them to size. If you are placing your pages in a Deluxe PassPorter, use a hand-held paper punch to punch the six holes in the margin. If you want to place these pages in a PassPocket, trim the margin at the dotted lines.

Tip: When you're reading these pages on your computer, you can click any of the [blue, underlined words](#) to open a Web browser and view the indicated Web site.

About This Update

This update was created on 6/12/2001 and modified on 7/5. You can check for newer versions at <http://www.passporter.com/wdw/aklodge.htm>.

These updates are intended for PassPorter readers and visitors. If you're unfamiliar with PassPorter, we encourage you to visit our Web site at <http://www.passporter.com>. If you're interested in learning more about our award-winning travel guidebook to Walt Disney World, visit the PassPorter 2001 page at <http://www.passporter.com/wdw/2001.htm>.

If you're interested in more detailed report on Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge Resort—for personal or professional use—please contact us at reports@passporter.com for more information.

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