

# A GUIDE TO ORLANDO

Central Florida, USA





## “THEME PARK CAPITAL OF THE WORLD”

### EXPERIENCE THE THRILL OF ONE OF THE WORLD’S MOST POPULAR DESTINATIONS.

Orlando in the state of Florida, USA, is hugely popular with both global and native visitors all year round. The fantastic weather, accessibility and the numerous leisure activities help make the state the second most visited in the United States. It also has one of the top economies in the country, headed by tourism, which is great for anyone looking to purchase property.

In this guide, prepared by Halcyon Developments, you will discover that the Orlando area has become a real centre for adventure and thrills, with numerous resorts, wildlife parks and entertainment venues across the region, in addition to some stunning natural environments.

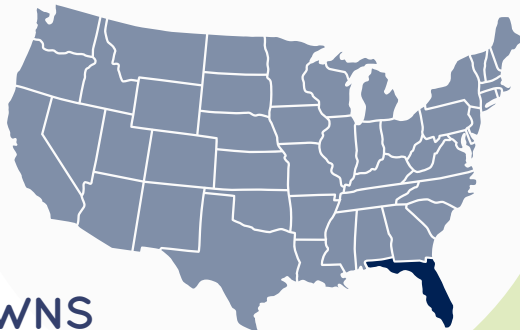
Orlando has a fantastic mix of sunshine and high temperatures with relatively low levels of rain throughout the year... so it lives up to the nickname of the region – the ‘Sunshine State’.

**We hope you enjoy finding out more about the thrills Florida has to offer!**





Florida is the 27<sup>th</sup>  
state of the U.S.A



## CITIES & TOWNS

- Orlando
- Kissimmee
- Tampa
- Daytona Beach
- St. Augustine

## THEME PARKS

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- 2 Universal Studios®
- 3 Seaworld®
- 4 Busch Gardens®
- 5 Legoland® Florida
- 6 Kennedy Space Centre™

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To Miami





## WALT DISNEY WORLD IS BOTH THE LARGEST VACATION RESORT AND MOST VISITED THEME PARK RESORT IN THE WORLD.

At over 25,000 acres, the massive site features four world-renowned theme parks, twenty-four on-site resorts, two water parks, four mini-golf courses in two locations, an interactive/video game park, a shopping and night time entertainment area and 5 professional golf courses and outdoor recreation. At night time each of the parks hosts its own spectacular firework display!

### MAGIC KINGDOM® PARK

Meet Mickey Mouse, take in enchanting entertainment, experience thrilling rides and attractions then relax to watch fireworks in a world famous theme park where fairy-tale dreams come true. The Park's icon is its famous Cinderella Castle, as represented in every Disney film. Popular rides include Adventureland, Splash Mountain, Big Thunder Mountain, Liberty Square and Fantasyland.





## EPCOT®

Twice the size of Magic Kingdom and celebrating the human spirit, Epcot has 2 unique realms – Future World and World Showcase. Enjoy activities and entertainment dedicated to technological innovation and the culture and cuisine of 11 nations from Norway to Japan.

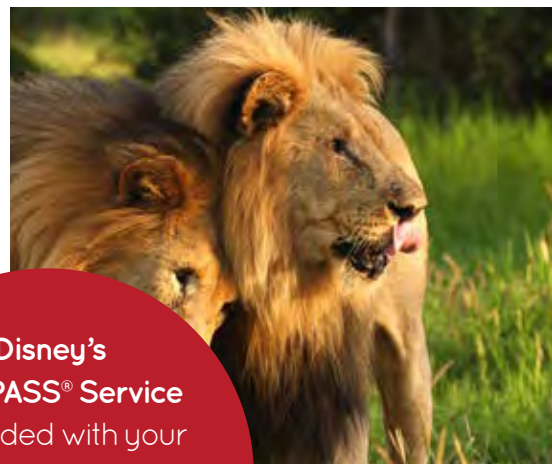
Rides include Mission: SPACE where you can experience an astronaut's flight to Mars and the theme park's signature ride Spaceship Earth, which flies you back to the dawn of time and uses a spectacular array of audio and visual systems to narrate you through the critical events that have happened for mankind.



## DISNEY'S ANIMAL KINGDOM®

Imagine all the excitement of an African safari ride, mixed with the magical enchantment of Disney. Animal Kingdom is a world leader in animal care, education and research. Get up close and personal with over 1,700 animals across 500 acres of savannah landscape.

A particular must see is the Finding Nemo musical, a lavish stage show that has all the makings of a fantastic Broadway performance!



**Disney's FASTPASS® Service** is included with your theme park admission and can drastically cut the waiting time for popular rides.

## DISNEY'S HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS®

Have you ever pretended you were a star of your own movie? At Disney's Hollywood Studios you can immerse yourself in the glitz and glamour of the golden age of show business, step into the action with exhilarating attractions and experiences inspired by television and silver screen favourites. Go centre stage and into the spotlight with the American Idol Experience, stunt shows and much more.

With countless attractions based on blockbuster movies, 8 areas make up the park including Hollywood Boulevard and Pixar Place.



## 'MUST-DO' Waterparks!

Typhoon Lagoon is a tropical utopia of first-rate fun for the whole family. Catch 6-foot waves in the Surf Pool and snorkel with real sharks on Shark Reef! Meanwhile Blizzard Beach is based on a 'melting down' sky resort, with waterslides guaranteed to give you a revitalising jolt of adrenaline.

Orlando also has outstanding waterparks, check out Wet n Wild, Florida's original waterpark, just minutes from SeaWorld!





Slip behind the scenes and right into the action of your favourite films at the world's premier movie and TV based theme park. Enjoy themed dining and shopping as well as state-of-the-art rides which bring the magic of the cinema to life. The combination of incredible entertainment and famous icons, such as Transformers and The Simpsons mean fun for all the family!





## SEAWORLD® ORLANDO

A wonderland of rides and dazzling shows featuring ocean animals including the famous Shamu killer whale, watch spectacular displays, swim with dolphins and hand-feed exotic birds at the world's most exhilarating aquatic park featuring Discovery Cove. Get up-close to all of its mesmerizing creatures – gentle manatees, graceful dolphins, playful penguins, fascinating sharks and so much more, making Seaworld the ultimate marine playground.



## BUSCH GARDENS® TAMPA

The ultimate family adventure park, Busch Gardens Tampa features an unparalleled combination of up-close animal encounters, award-winning live entertainment and world-class thrill rides, bringing you face-to-face with exotic and endangered animals. Jump on-board a jeep and embark on a Serengeti Safari, get close enough to animals to even feed them (lions not included!).



## LEGOLAND® FLORIDA

LEGOLAND Florida is the largest of its kind in the entire world. Sporting over 50 rides across a 150-acre interactive landscape. Just 45 minutes away from Tampa and Orlando, the theme park resides in the City of Winter Haven, along the shores of the beautiful Lake Eloise. LEGOLAND Florida also includes countless shows and attractions, restaurants, shopping, a breathtaking botanical garden and the LEGOLAND Water Park.



## KENNEDY SPACE CENTER™

The Kennedy Space Centre is a must see destination in Central Florida. Not more than an hour east of Orlando, the Centre provides a mixture of the past and the future, with rich historical references in each of the exhibits, coupled with a clear vision into the future, bolstered by the amazing learning from both the International Space Station and the Hubble telescope photos.





# FUN IN THE SUN



Of course, the adrenaline-filled theme parks aren't the only way of enjoying Orlando and its surroundings. It's an incredible place for all ages.

Below are a just a small handful of activities that can be enjoyed whilst visiting Central Florida. We recommend that you check out the Visit Orlando website ([www.visitorlando.com](http://www.visitorlando.com)) to get a more in depth idea of what there is to do...



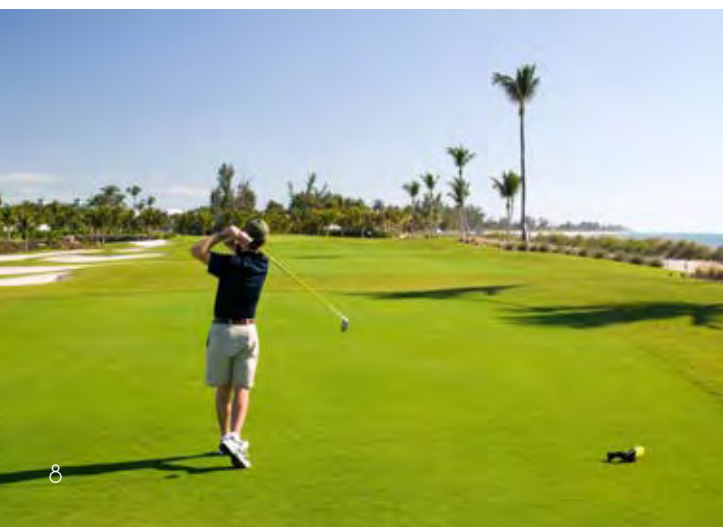
## AIRBOAT RIDES

Several operators run airboat tours in Central Florida. It's just like you've seen on TV and on the silver screen... stunning landscapes and incredible wildlife including alligators and majestic birds. For all the family, it's one of the best adventure thrill rides you can experience near Orlando.



## GATORLAND®

Gatorland provides affordable family fun while showcasing thousands of alligators and crocodiles including four extremely rare leucistic "white" alligators. The free-flight aviary, petting zoo, one of a kind animal shows, natural alligator breeding marsh and the thrilling Screamin' Gator Zip Line will ensure your day will be filled with fun, sun and special memories for all the family.



## TOP GOLF COURSES

Whether you are a passionate golfer or just somebody who likes to dip in and out of the sport for fun, year round sunshine makes playing a round of golf in Florida a special experience like no other! The Orlando region alone sports 176 championship golf courses, including 23 golf academies; great if you want to work on your game. Whether golfing pro or total novice, Central Florida can definitely cater for all of your golfing needs.



## SHOPPING

Orlando has shopping variety that rivals any fashion capital. Whether you're down with the latest fashion trends or prefer casual window shopping, there is no end to the variety of products on offer! In fact Orlando is the 4th most popular shopping destination in the USA – headlined by the world renowned 'International Drive'.

Don't miss out on a visit to the Lake Buena Vista Factory Stores where you can save up to 75% off big brands such as Levi's, Nike, Gap and the Disney Outlet.



## CHOCOLATE KINGDOM

The factory adventure tour at Chocolate Kingdom is an interactive journey that uncovers how chocolate is made. Join forces with a Prince and his Dragon sidekick who take guests through a Cacao Tree Greenhouse, a one-of-a-kind Chocolate Museum, a mystical River of Chocolate and a Micro Batch Bean-to-the-Bar Factory utilising old world machinery.

With an opportunity to create a customized chocolate bar, Chocolate Kingdom is the most unique chocolate experience in North America (perhaps the world) that will inspire and amaze chocoholics of any age.



## CENTRAL FLORIDA ZOO & BOTANICAL GARDENS

Nestled in lush tropical foliage, the Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Gardens boasts over 400 animals, 23 acres of native gardens, an Insect Zoo, Reptile House, live animal encounters, many educational opportunities and demonstrations, Tropical Splash Playground, and the Little Florida Coastline Railroad and Animal Carousel. With something for everyone, the adventures are endless!



## SPACE COAST

With over 72 miles of beach along Florida's Atlantic coast, you can visit some of the most unspoiled pristine natural habitats Florida has to offer. Enjoy kayaking in the Indian River Lagoon or Turkey Creek Sanctuary, go charter boat fishing off Port Canaveral or take advantage of a family cruise!

The Space Coast is located in east Central Florida 45 minutes from Orlando city. More information can be found at:

[www.visitspacecoast.com](http://www.visitspacecoast.com)





# CITIES AND TOWNS

EXPERIENCE DELICIOUS CULINARY  
CUISINE, SERENE RIVER EXCURSIONS,  
THRILLING ATTRACTIONS AND  
EXCEPTIONAL SHOPPING



## ORLANDO

Orlando isn't named 'Theme Park Capital of the World' for nothing. It sees over 60 million visitors a year, making it one of the most popular global cities. Aside from its world renowned theme parks, Orlando offers a fantastic range of shopping centres and malls with opportunities for every taste and budget. Enjoy all-season golf courses capped by rustling palms and sample some of the most enticing dining opportunities on the planet.

More passengers than ever now land at Orlando International Airport to experience the area, with direct flights available from the UK and around the world. Orlando has plenty of opportunities for excitement and just as many opportunities for rejuvenation. In fact, it has some of the world's top spas. There are also beach retreats which are under an hour's drive away.

**“Enjoy all-season golf courses capped by rustling palms”**

## KISSIMMEE

One of the most popular gateways to Orlando's amazing theme parks, Kissimmee is a family oriented destination known for its themed dinner theatres, swamp tours and outdoor activities.

In downtown Kissimmee, you can spend some time in Kissimmee Lakefront Park and walk around the waterfront, stopping for ice cream, paddle in the fountain pool and perhaps cast a line into the lake known for bass. Walk past the Monument of States, made of minerals from every state and many worldwide destinations. Watch for murals depicting the town's past as a regional cattle capital, where present day rodeos and cattle auctions keep the town rooted.

If you're visiting Walt Disney World, Universal Studios Florida, SeaWorld Orlando or any of Orlando's other theme parks, consider staying and playing in Kissimmee. From thrills to tranquility, Kissimmee guarantees to deliver.





## DAYTONA BEACH

The city is historically known for its beach where the hard-packed sand allows motorised vehicles to drive on the beach in restricted areas. This sand made Daytona Beach a haven for motor sports and the old Daytona Beach Road Course hosted races for over 50 years. This was replaced in 1959 by the Daytona International Speedway. The city is also the headquarters for NASCAR and the Grand American Road Racing Association.

Over 8 million visitors visit Daytona every year, taking in not just its racing heritage but other sights including the Museum of Arts and Sciences and the Root Family Museum, featuring one of the largest Coca-Cola collections in the world!

## TAMPA

Once the world's cigar capital, Tampa takes pride in its rich, cultural heritage. From native tribes, the railroad boom to the roaring twenties, Tampa has seen it all. Because of this, there is always

something going on. Travel around on the TECO Line Streetcar, instrumental in the city's growth, and visit the likes of Ybor City, Tampa Theatre and for something very different, the Electric Manatee Viewing Center at Apollo Beach.

## ST AUGUSTINE

Founded by the Spanish in 1565, St Augustine is the oldest continuously occupied European settlement in the US, preserved for centuries and awaiting your discovery. Saunter along cobbled roads, linger at charming cafes and learn about the city's rich history at countless museums. Cap it all off with dinner at a gas lamp-lit restaurant and a horse drawn carriage ride through the historic district. Well worth a visit if you enjoy your history!



# SPORTING VENUES



For sports fans there are so many opportunities to watch fantastic live sports action in Orlando and the surrounding areas. Whether you love watching a 'home run' or you have a 'need for speed'.

## SOCCER

The closest professional team is the Orlando City Soccer Club, based at the Citrus Bowl in Orlando. They currently play in USL Pro, the third tier of the American soccer pyramid, but have recently been announced as a Major League Soccer (MLS) expansion franchise for 2015.

## BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association (NBA) team Orlando Magic play regularly at the Amway Centre. They currently are the only team in the major pro sports leagues to play in the city of Orlando.

## NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

A hugely popular sport in the US, the largest professional team near to Halcyon Palms is the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who play at the Raymond James Stadium.

## ICE HOCKEY

The recently formed professional team, Orlando Solar Bears play in the ECHL. The Orlando Solar Bears play 36 regular season home games at The Amway Center.

## BASEBALL

Major league team Tampa Bay Rays play at Tropicana Fields in Tampa Bay. They are currently a member of the East Division of the American League.

## MOTORSPORT

Daytona International Speedway is home to the world famous 'Daytona 500' NASCAR race and the '24 hours of Daytona' sports car motor race.

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