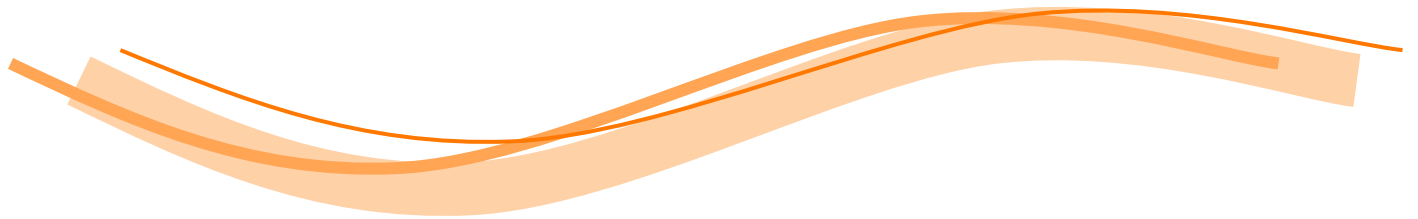




UNIVERSAL ORLANDO RESORT





<p>UNIVERSAL ORLANDO RESORT</p>	<p>Universal Orlando Resort - where you'll find two amazing theme parks, non-stop nightlife, and three AAA Four Diamond Award on-site hotels, all in one convenient location. Jump into the action of the movies at Universal Studios. Live the Adventure at Universal's Islands of Adventure. Enjoy live music, dining, dancing and movies at Universal CityWalk. And redefine entertainment with the world-renowned Blue Man Group. It's all at Universal Orlando where you can Be Courageous. Be Outrageous. Be Extraordinary.</p> <p>For more information on Universal Orlando Resort, or for great deals on Universal Orlando vacation packages, read on and visit www.universalorlando.com/vacationpackages .</p>
<p>The Wizarding World of Harry Potter</p>	<p>Universal Orlando's Islands of Adventures "The Wizarding World of Harry Potter"</p> <p>The Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry will open to Muggles for the first time on June 18th 2010. The Three Broomsticks Inn, Honeydukes sweets and all the other quirky shops in Hogsmeade village will open then too.</p> <p>That's when the non-wizarding public will be allowed to step into The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, the much-anticipated new attraction inside Universal Orlando's Islands of Adventure park that brings to life the weird and wonderful realm of the famous boy wizard. And all those Potterphiles who've been waiting for the day they could peer into the Gryffindor House common room, soar on Harry's broomstick or quaff a butter beer in the Hog's Head pub will not be disappointed.</p> <p>The theme park attraction was created with the close collaboration of the set designers from the Potter movies, as well as with input from author J.K. Rowling, who first conjured the world in her imagination. The scope and attention to detail are stunning, from the bizarre bric-a-brac displayed in headmaster Albus Dumbledore's office inside the castle, to the boxes of magic wands stacked in the window at Ollivander's wand shop. (Located in Diagon Alley in the books, the shop was moved to Hogsmeade at Universal with Rowling's OK.)</p> <p>"This is so authentic to what I experienced on the films that I find it hard to tell them apart," noted Alan Gilmore, who helped design sets for three of the Harry Potter movies before joining the attraction's creative team. "I'm a stickler for detail, and I really haven't let go of these guys until it was perfect."</p> <p>Not only that, but team members working on the Universal park made a</p>

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series of trips to Scotland to consult with the hands-on Rowling, who signed off on everything from what would be displayed in the Hogsmeade shop windows to the recipes for the butter beer and pumpkin juice served in the restaurant at the Three Broomsticks and the Hog's Head.

The Wizarding World of Harry Potter is within Universal's Islands of Adventure, so there's no extra charge to step from The Lost Continent section of the park right onto the cobblestones of Hogsmeade village, with its steep snow-covered roofs, grimy crooked chimneys and menacing doorways. The Hogwarts Express locomotive belches steam at the train station nearby. Fans of the later Potter movies will recognize this place right away.

The ancient, foreboding castle that is **Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry** looms over the village, drawing visitors inside to the centerpiece of the attraction, a ride combining 360-degree filming techniques and sophisticated robotics to create the illusion of a magic adventure in flight with Harry and his wizarding pals Ron and Hermione. Believe it or not, standing in line for the ride — called **Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey** — is half the fun. The queue snakes through the castle's dungeon up to the greenhouse (complete with potted mandrakes) and through a corridor to the soaring portrait gallery where the quirky characters from Hogwarts' past talk to each other and move from painting to painting.

From there, visitors move into **Dumbledore's office**, where the headmaster welcomes Muggles — non-wizarding folks — to the castle for the first time. Dumbledore is on screen, but the illusion magically puts him right in the room. Next it's the **Defense Against the Dark Arts classroom**, where Harry, Ron and Hermione — the movie actors appearing on-screen — intercept the group and invite everyone along for an adventure with them. The **Gryffindor House common room** is one of the last stops before the ride, which includes an encounter with the **Whomping Willow**, a narrow escape from a dragon attack and a **Quidditch match**. The queue and ride are supposed to be an hour-long experience, but long lines may extend the wait time.

In addition to the Forbidden Journey ride, two outdoor roller coasters on the 20-acre Harry Potter attraction are there for adrenaline junkies who need a fix. And, of course, the **shops in Hogsmeade** will provide ample retail opportunities for witches and wizards of all ages.

You'll walk past the **Hogwarts Express** and enter into the streets of **Hogsmeade™**, where you can visit the shops and sample fare from the

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	<p>wizarding world’s best-known establishments. Dine at the Three Broomsticks™ and enjoy a refreshing Butterbeer™ or a pint of pumpkin juice at the Hog’s Head pub. Pick up some wizarding supplies at Dervish and Banges™. Then be sure to stop at Honeydukes™ where you’ll find sweets ranging from Chocolate Frogs™ and Bertie Bott’s Every-Flavour Beans™ to Cauldron Cakes and treacle fudge. Enter Zonko’s™ Joke Shop and purchase an array of tricks and jokes including Extendable Ears and Sneakoscopes. Visit the Owl Post™ and send a letter with a Hogsmeade postmark. Then visit Ollivanders™ wand shop for an incredible interactive experience where a wand chooses YOU.</p> <p>You’ll experience exciting rides like Dragon Challenge™, twin roller coasters that engage in a high-speed chase across the sky. The Flight of the Hippogriff™ is a smaller, family coaster that takes you on a fun ride over the Hogwarts™ grounds. Join Harry and his friends on a thrilling new state-of-the-art attraction that will bring the magic, characters, and stories of Harry Potter™ to life in ways you’ve never before experienced</p> <p>Universal announced the June 18 grand opening date, but the attraction will be open beginning May 28 for park guests who buy a special Harry Potter travel package. (Some of those early dates may already be sold out.) Those packages are still available via Universal's web site, http://www.universalorlando.com/harrypotter .</p>
<p>Overview of Universal Orlando Resort</p>	<p>Families will experience two world-class theme parks - Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure - a nighttime entertainment complex and magnificently themed on-site hotels. Universal Studios is a working film and TV production studio as well as a highly acclaimed motion picture and television theme park featuring attractions such as “Revenge of the Mummy—The Ride” and “Shrek 4-D.” Islands of Adventure is the world’s most technologically advanced theme park and features five uniquely themed islands that include Seuss Landing, Marvel Super Hero Island and Jurassic Park. Its marquee attractions include “Jurassic Park River Adventure” and “The Amazing Adventures of Spider-Man.”</p> <p>In addition to its theme parks, Universal Orlando Resort also includes CityWalk, a 30-acre nighttime entertainment complex that features restaurants, shops, clubs, a 20-screen cineplex and live-entertainment. The destination’s three on-site Loews hotels include the Portofino Bay Hotel, the Hard Rock Hotel and the Royal Pacific Resort.</p>
<p>On-Site Hotels</p>	<p>Universal Orlando’s award-winning resorts immerse guests in an experience entirely different from their everyday lives. Whether it’s the tropical escape of the Royal Pacific Resort, the life of a rock star at the</p>

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	<p>Hard Rock Hotel or the pampered, Mediterranean luxury of the Portofino Bay Hotel, Universal Orlando Resort has something for everyone.</p>
<p>Blue Man Group</p>	<p>Blue Man Group – which occupies the state-of-the-art Sharp AQUOS Theatre – adds an entirely new dimension in live entertainment for Universal Orlando guests and Florida residents. The new show combines music, comedy and multimedia theatrics to create the blissful party atmosphere that is a Blue Man Group trademark. The production has been custom-designed for Universal Orlando and includes elements of the group’s existing shows as well as newly created material exclusive to this production.</p> <p>Blue Man Group performs continuously throughout the week from Universal Orlando Resort’s Sharp AQUOS Theatre. The 1,000-seat theater, complete with a 30-foot-tall Blue Man façade, is accessible from both Universal CityWalk and Universal Studios theme park. The façade’s large size makes Blue Man visible from nearly everywhere in CityWalk, adding to the distinct variety offered by the already established hotels, restaurants, clubs, theaters, shops, and theme parks.</p> <p>The Blue Man Group show is a separately ticketed event with tickets starting at \$59 for adults and \$49 for children ages 3-9, combination theme park admission and show tickets from \$112 for adults and \$101 for children. For more information or to purchase tickets, guests may call the Universal ticket line at 888-340-5476 or visit www.universalorlando.com.</p>
<p>Rides, Rides, Rides!</p>	<p>Imagine plummeting down a virtual 1,000-foot waterfall in Shrek 4-D or speeding through darkness in the world’s first psychological thrill ride in Revenge of The Mummy—The Ride or performing pulse-pounding stunts in the Fear Factor Live attraction. The place is Universal Studios theme park at Universal Orlando Resort, home to some of the most revolutionary rides and shows ever created.</p> <p>Universal Studios, which opened in 1990, has evolved into an innovative entertainment experience with a personality all its own. Its cutting-edge attractions--based on pop-culture icons, Hollywood blockbuster films and hit television shows--transport visitors into a highly imaginative world where they can become heroes of their own adventures.</p> <p>Universal Orlando’s creative consultant, Academy Award-winning producer/director Steven Spielberg, along with Universal’s creative team, have collaborated with makers of Hollywood’s hottest movies and T.V. shows to create attractions with powerful storylines and amazing special effects.</p>

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Universal Studios features an array of exhilarating, state-of-the-art rides, attractions and shows. They include:

Universal 360: A Cinesphere Spectacular This high-tech lagoon show is a sweeping celebration of blockbuster films unlike anything ever attempted in the United States. Spread across the entire Universal Studios lagoon, the show relies on four-story-tall, 360-degree projection “cinespheres,” an original music score, 300 outdoor speakers, lasers and pyro-technic effects to place guests in the midst of their favorite films. Universal 360 made its debut in the summer of 2006 and is featured seasonally throughout the year.

Fear Factor Live Guests at Universal Studios test their courage and strength as they perform exhilarating stunts in the Fear Factor Live attraction, based on the hit reality television show. Audience members experience the thrill of the blockbuster series in a way they could not before: live. In each show, park guests compete against each other in a progression of extreme stunts. The stunts have been developed with help from Fear Factor’s creators and were designed to test the physical and emotional limits of each contestant.

Revenge Of The Mummy – The Ride Based on the popular “Mummy” films, the world’s first “psychological thrill ride” places riders in seeming jeopardy, bringing them face-to-face with both physical and psychological fears – fear of the dark, fear of bugs, fear of fire, fear of falling, fear of being out of control and more.

Shrek 4-D - The screen and theater come alive with the adventures of Shrek, Princess Fiona and Donkey in Shrek 4-D. As guests don green OgreVision glasses and sit in specially designed seats, they come face-to-face with ghostly foes, a steep 1,000-foot waterfall, and fire-breathing dragons. The attraction features 12 minutes of imaginative 3-D animation, which bridges the narrative between the first Shrek film and its sequel, “Shrek 2.”

Jimmy Neutron’s Nicktoon Blast - Jimmy Neutron enlists guests to help him save the planet and his friends. Using sophisticated computer graphics, state-of-the-art ride technology and programmable motion-based seats, travelers are on a literal crash-course with their fate as they roar, spin, crash and careen into the action and through the universe.

Men In Black Alien Attack - Riding in high-tech “MIB training vehicles” through a huge New York Street set, guests try to zap more than 120

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animatronic aliens in the world's first life-sized, ride-through interactive video game. This interactive experience is the first attraction where guests determine the ride's outcome by their individual and collective abilities.

Terminator 2: 3-D Based on the blockbuster motion picture, Terminator 2: 3-D is a 12-minute, 3-D film shot especially for Universal Studios that features the cast and creative team from the Terminator films. Guests are enveloped in the action through 3-D filmmaking, live action stunt work and innovative special effects.

Twister...Ride It Out - Based on the hit film, Twister...Ride It Out places guests within feet of a twister more than five-stories tall and 12-feet wide that "dances" as much as 30-feet in any direction from its origin point. It is the largest indoor twister ever created, using 150,000 gallons of recycled water daily, hundreds of strobe lights, and a sound system as loud as a rock concert.

Jaws - The incredibly realistic, multi-sensory ride adventure JAWS reawakens guests' most primal fears by recreating the spine-tingling thrills of Steven Spielberg's blockbuster movie.

Earthquake: The Big One - The attraction introduces visitors to the world of special effects. Fiery explosions, crashing San Francisco subway trains, tumbling walls and tidal waves engulf guests as they experience tremors equivalent to an 8.3 Richter scale quake.

Woody Woodpecker's Kidzone - A highly-themed area dedicated to kids, Woody Woodpecker's KidZone features 12,500 foam balls, 15,000 gallons of water, gizmos, gadgets, squirters, shooters and a kid-friendly roller coaster.

E.T. Adventure - E.T. Adventure continues the saga of one of the world's most beloved screen characters. Visitors are lifted to the stars as they climb aboard bicycles and venture across the endless universe with E.T. in an effort to save his dying home – the mysterious, mist-shrouded "Green Planet."

A Day In The Park With Barney - A whimsical, sing-along, clap-along, imaginatively interactive show at A Day in the Park with Barney. The show features the lovable purple dinosaur and his friends, B.J, Baby Bop, and more. The attraction is the only place in the world where children can see Barney live every day.

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<p>Live Shows</p>	<p>Beetlejuice’s Graveyard Revue: The show features new music, including “Dancin’ in The Dark” and “Jump!,” new costumes and a surprise ending. Guests can sing along with Universal’s classic monsters as they unleash their hot sound in a rock ‘n roll revue with a modern twist.</p> <p>The Lucy and Ricky Show: Supported by a seven-piece band, Lucy and Ricky will have guests dancing in the street to traditional Cuban rhythms reminiscent of their 1950’s sitcom, “I Love Lucy.”</p> <p>The Blues Brothers Guests can party on Delancey Street with famed Blues Brothers, Jake and Elwood.</p> <p>Animal Actors on Location! Animal stars—including many animal shelter adoptees—take center stage in the exciting, interactive attraction, highlighting behind-the-scenes movie magic for guests.</p>
<p>The Simpsons Ride</p>	<p>Ride along with The Simpsons™ as they visit Krustyland, the low-budget theme park created by famed TV personality and shameless product huckster Krusty the Clown. Is somebody out to sabotage the park? You'll find out as you join Homer, Marge, Bart, Lisa and Maggie and enter through the carnival-like midway.</p> <p>Once you board your vehicle you're in for one surprise after another as you embark on a wild, over-the-top ride through the park... flying, floating, and more or less crashing your way through Krustyland's kiddie attractions, stunt shows, and thrill rides.</p> <p>Be sure to keep an eye out for many of your favorite characters from the TV series in this all-new animated adventure, which takes you through Springfield and beyond... it's the first-ever attraction based on the show! State-of-the-art digital projectors cover an 80 ft. diameter dome surface with an image four times the standard High Definition found in most home theaters, and twice what you'd experience in a normal digital theater.</p> <p>All the character voices in the attraction were performed by the original stars of the long-running The Simpsons show.</p> <p>Hilarious new The Simpsons animation was created not just for the ride, but for the pre-show and queue areas as well.</p>
<p>Islands of Adventure</p>	<p>State-of-the-art technology is uniquely combined with storytelling and adventure at Universal’s Islands of Adventure theme park. With Academy Award-winning producer/director Steven Spielberg as creative consultant, Islands of Adventure is home to some of the most thrilling and technologically advanced rides and attractions ever made.</p> <p>Opened in 1999, the 110-acre theme park features five spectacularly themed islands, all with one-of-a-kind rides, attractions, shows, shops and restaurants, imaginatively themed to each particular island. With its</p>

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thrill-based rides and attractions, Islands of Adventure is a perfect complement to the movie and television-themed park next door, Universal Studios.

Marvel Super Hero Island

This island is forever caught in an epic battle between Marvel super heroes and super villains.

- Doctor Doom's Fearfall – Doctor Doom's diabolical device is designed to extract fear from hapless riders. Guests are strapped in and rocketed 185 feet into the air then dropped faster than gravity itself.
- The Amazing Adventures of Spider-Man – Guests don 3-D Spider-Vision glasses and careen through the streets of New York to help Spider-Man defeat Doc Ock in an amazing 3-D adventure.
- Incredible Hulk Coaster – Riders experience the power of the Incredible Hulk as Dr. Bruce Banner's gamma-ray accelerator launches them on a high-speed roller coaster rampage.
- Storm Force Accelatron – X-Men superhero Storm summons the forces of nature by putting riders in a whirling, twirling, spinning power generator.

Toon Lagoon

This delightful land is where everyone's favorite cartoon characters live when they are not in the pages of the Sunday comics.

- Dudley Do-Right's Ripsaw Falls – Canadian Mountie Dudley Do-Right must save Nell from the clutches of Snidely Whiplash, and, in so doing, sends guests rocketing over a waterfall in this wild and wet flume ride.
- Popeye & Bluto's Bilge-Rat Barges – A white-water raft ride which puts riders in the middle of the age-old conflict between Popeye and Bluto.
- Me Ship the Olive – An interactive play area where children can climb, crawl and play in and around Popeye's ship.

Jurassic Park

Dinosaurs come roaring back to life on this tropical island based on the famous novel and motion pictures.

- Jurassic Park River Adventure – A leisurely raft ride through the backwaters of Jurassic Park allows the curious to see and be seen by friendly dinosaurs, until something goes terribly wrong, placing guests face-to-face with a gigantic T-Rex.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pteranodon Flyers – Children get a Pteranodon’s view of Camp Jurassic as they glide gently through the air. • Camp Jurassic – A prehistoric playground of discovery, with caverns, amber mines and dinosaur nets to explore. • Jurassic Park Discovery Center – A hands-on interactive area where guests can scan fossilized skeletons, examine dinosaur eggs and view velociraptors hatching. <p>The Lost Continent Myths and legends become reality on this mysterious island which features three sections: one based on ancient Greece with temples and crumbling ruins, the second resembling a bustling North African bazaar and the third a medieval English village from the days of King Arthur.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poseidon’s Fury – Guests tour the ancient temple of Poseidon, only to be drawn into an epic undersea battle. • The Eighth Voyage of Sindbad Stunt Show – Guests experience amazing stunts and feats of skill as Sindbad attempts to rescue the beautiful Princess Amoura from the evil witch Miseria. • The Flying Unicorn – This family-styled roller coaster sends guests soaring through the sky, courtesy of a magical flying unicorn. <p>Seuss Landing Awash with color, music and whimsy, Seuss Landing is where the beloved books of Dr. Seuss spring to life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High In The Sky Seuss Trolley Train Ride! - The Seuss Sky Trolley immerses guests in the world of Dr. Seuss and his famous stories, including “Dr. Seuss’s ABCs” and “The Sneetches and Other Stories.” Families journey through seven specially created scenes – and get a bird’s eye view of all of Seuss Landing. • The Cat In The Hat – Guests ride a moving couch through the pages of Dr. Seuss’ “The Cat in the Hat” and meet the world’s most mischievous feline. • Caro-Seuss-el – An interactive merry-go-round featuring an array of whimsical Seussian creatures. • One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish – Riders steer their fish through a circular obstacle course of playfully squirting fountains. • If I Ran The Zoo – This interactive play area provides a fun-filled spot for children to romp amid Seussian-styled creatures.
<p>Roller Coaster Fans Take Note!</p>	<p>Islands of Adventure’s revolutionary roller coasters are designed to give riders unprecedented thrills unlike any coaster experience anywhere --</p>

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	<p>including near-misses, dramatic high-speed catapults and g-force flashes of speed through underground tunnels.</p> <p>Hollywood Rip Ride Rockit: Adrenaline pumping and music thumping, you start climbing straight up. A moment later, you're screaming at 65 mph, 17 stories over Universal Studios. Gasping with excitement, you rock out to the song YOU picked before strapping in. And, it's all been recorded on video. Edit your adventure into a music video, then buy a copy to take home or send to your friends.</p> <p>It's true high-tech, customizable, multi-sensory entertainment. This groundbreaking combination of audio and special effects engineering, sophisticated on- and off-board video and one-of-a-kind personalization will take you on a coaster experience unlike any other. Orlando's tallest roller coaster will also feature several exciting "never been done" elements including the world's first non-inverting loop.</p> <p>Dueling Dragons: Dueling Dragons® are the world's first inverted, dueling roller coasters. You'll soar 125 feet in the air and reach speeds of up to 55 mph on two unique rides (they're two completely different experiences, to experience all the excitement you need to ride them both). The two coasters narrowly pass within inches of each other on three thrilling near-misses.</p> <p>The Incredible Hulk Coaster catapults riders up a 150-foot tunnel at g-force speed - with the same energy as a U.S. Air Force F-16 fighter attack jet - and immediately spins them into a weightless, zero-g, heartline roll, turning them upside down more than 110 feet above ground. Riders then dive at 60 mph before skimming the waves of the lagoon and then rising 109 feet before plunging toward the water below. The storylines and themes created by Universal's designers are as remarkable as the rides themselves.</p> <p>Visitors enter through Dr. Bruce Banner's high-tech lab and find that he is conducting special gamma-ray accelerator tests. They climb inside a vehicle and something appears to go terribly wrong – and then the ride begins by accelerating them from zero to 45 mph in two seconds.</p>
<p>CityWalk</p>	<p>The rhythmic beat of music pounds from high-tech speakers. Neon lights illuminate figures dancing in the streets. Revelers dine at top-name restaurants and club hop until the wee hours of the morning. Stiltwalkers, jugglers and street entertainers dazzle onlookers. It's a typical action-packed night at Universal CityWalk.</p> <p>A collection of brightly colored, 10-story towers, icons and free-form sculptures identify CityWalk's distinctive skyline from miles away,</p>

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	<p>enticing guests to lounge over morning coffee, enjoy a leisurely meal or party late into the night.</p> <p>An eclectic collection of themed restaurants, nightclubs, specialty shops and a 20-screen movie theatre, Universal CityWalk is Orlando's hottest spot for entertainment, boasting the biggest names in live music, dining, dancing, movies and more. CityWalk captures everything from the elegance of Emeril's Restaurant Orlando to the rock n' roll beat of the world's largest Hard Rock Café. The expansive, two-tiered promenade features individually themed shopping, entertainment and dining venues and sits at the entrance of both Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure theme parks. The 30-acre entertainment complex is a meeting place with a distinct attitude where guests can taste, touch, see and hear great entertainment.</p> <p>From the casual "Floribbean" food of Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville to the Latin-flavored cuisine of The Latin Quarter, from the concerts at Hard Rock Live to the island music performed at Bob Marley- A Tribute To Freedom, CityWalk has something to appeal to every taste. Nightly entertainment such as live comedians at CityJazz, teen nights at the groove, specialty martinis at Red Coconut Club, musical acts from around the world and street performances throughout CityWalk keep the energy high seven nights a week.</p>
<p>Disaster!</p>	<p>Disaster! A Major Motion Picture Ride...Starring You! opened in January 2008 at Universal Studios Florida. The new attraction features the first-ever use by a theme park of a high-tech virtual imagery technology called "Musion" and a special appearance by Hollywood actor Dwayne Johnson.</p> <p>Disaster! replaces Earthquake and combines the best, most dramatic elements of Earthquake with an all-new storyline, top name celebrities, new "Musion" technology and all-new interactive elements. Park guests enter "Disaster Studios" and become part of the production action surrounding a "major motion picture." In the attraction, Johnson plays a film hero who helps "save the day."</p> <p>Musion technology is a unique high-definition video projection system that transforms two-dimensional images into what seem to be live three-dimensional images. The Musion set in place at Disaster! is the first-ever use of the technology by a theme park and the largest permanent installation of that technology ever. Universal uses Musion technology to bring Disaster Studio Director "Frank Kincaid" to life as he explains the passion behind his work and recruits guests to take part in</p>

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	<p>his next picture.</p> <p>Throughout the 15-minute attraction experience, guests are filmed as extras for different elements of Disaster Studios' newest blockbuster film, "Mutha Nature," taking direction from Frank Kinkaid and his production assistants. In the end, they are able to see the results of their work in a tongue-in-cheek trailer for the film, starring Johnson. Disaster! A Major Motion Picture Ride...Starring You! is located in the San Francisco area of Universal Studios Florida.</p> <p>Dwayne Johnson is best known for his roles in Universal Pictures' The Mummy Returns, The Scorpion King and, most recently, The Game Plan.</p>
<p>Summer Concert Series 2010</p>	<p>Universal Orlando Resort's Summer Concert Series is returning to Universal Studios this June with more concerts and top-name musical talent than before. Starting June 12, 2010 and running every Saturday night through July 17, 2010, guests can top off their day of thrills in the parks with an exciting concert by a multi-platinum selling artist.</p> <p>This year's Summer Concert Series lineup showcases some of music's most popular superstars. Each artist has scored top 10 hits on the Billboard charts, sold millions of albums worldwide and produced some of today's most recognizable songs. Headliners include Train – the voice behind the international hit, "Hey, Soul Sister;" Pitbull – the hip-hop/reggaeton artist known as "Mr. 305;" Pat Benatar – one of the top-selling female artists of all time; Rob Thomas – the front man of award-winning rock band Matchbox 20 and Counting Crows – the chart-topping band whose songs have appeared in films like Shrek 2 and Clueless.</p> <p>SUMMER CONCERT SERIES 2010 LINEUP June 12 ~ Train June 19 ~ Pitbull June 26 ~ Earth, Wind & Fire July 3 ~ Pat Benatar & REO Speedwagon July 10 ~ Rob Thomas July 17 ~ Counting Crows</p> <p>All concerts will take place at the Music Plaza, the state-of-the-art outdoor music venue located in front of the new Hollywood Rip Ride Rockit roller coaster at Universal Studios. Universal Orlando's Summer Concert Series is included with admission to Universal Studios</p>
<p>Dining</p>	<p>Pizza? Sushi? Whether you're got a taste for five-star dining or burgers 'n' fries, you'll find it at one of the many unique restaurants at Universal</p>

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	<p>Orlando's theme parks, on-site hotels, and Universal CityWalk®. Dining is an adventure in itself at Universal Orlando® Resort. At CityWalk® you can dine on the gourmet cuisine of Emeril's® Restaurant Orlando, or enjoy a cheeseburger in paradise at Jimmy Buffett's® Margaritaville®. Spice it up at Latin Quarter™ or grab a meal at the world's largest Hard Rock Cafe®.</p> <p>At their on-site hotels there's exceptional dining at the legendary Palm restaurant in the Hard Rock Hotel®, Bice Ristorante at Loews Portofino Bay Hotel, and Emeril's Tchoup Chop at Loews Royal Pacific Resort. There are great dining experiences in the theme parks, too! Mythos Restaurant® in Islands of Adventure is renowned as the best theme park restaurant in the world. At Universal Studios® you can go back to the 50's at Mel's Drive-In, or dine surrounded by monster movie memorabilia at Universal Studios' Classic Monsters Cafe</p>
<p>Costs</p>	<p>One week, two park, unlimited admission ticket is \$170 US per adult and \$140 per child aged 3-9 (2010)</p> <p>This gives you Unlimited admission* to both Universal Studios Florida & Universal's Islands of Adventure, and enables you to save almost \$30 per ticket when you purchase online in advance compared to a Universal Orlando Resort 2-Day / 2-Park ticket purchased at the theme parks' front gate. It also includes all-club access to Universal CityWalk</p> <p><i>*Unlimited admission equals seven consecutive days of admission, including first day of use, to Universal Studios Florida, Universal's Islands of Adventure, and Universal CityWalk.</i></p> <p>Daily two park tickets are \$109 and \$99 for adult and kids respectively in 2010.</p>

<p>On-Site Hotels</p>	<p>Universal Orlando's award-winning resorts immerse guests in an experience entirely different from their everyday lives. Whether it's the tropical escape of the Royal Pacific Resort, the life of a rock star at the Hard Rock Hotel or the pampered, Mediterranean luxury of the Portofino Bay Hotel, Universal Orlando's resorts have something for everyone. Since the first resort opened in 1999, the three hotels have consistently won AAA's "Four Diamond Award," as well as accolades from publications including Conde Nast Traveler and Travel & Leisure Magazine. Whether it's for a family vacation, a honeymoon spot, or a business conference, Universal Orlando's hotels have the amenities and facilities to make anyone's stay a memorable experience.</p>
<p>Royal Pacific Resort</p>	<p>At the Royal Pacific Resort, guests are transported to the isles of the South Pacific. When approaching the resort, guests pass through a towering bamboo forest and authentic Kul-Kul tower -- a Balinese structure used to celebrate special occasions. Once visitors cross a bamboo bridge they enter the lobby, which surrounds an open-air Orchid</p>

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	<p>Court – a space filled with hundreds of brilliantly colored orchids, exotically shaped palm trees, hand-carved stone statues and hand-painted panels, all from remote island villages</p> <p>Royal Pacific Resort, which opened in June 2002, offers 1,000 luxury rooms and suites, with Club Floor rooms and Club Lounge and Executive, Hospitality, Governors and Presidential Suites. Guests can dine at several areas on the property, including: Emeril’s Tchoup Chop, a fine-dining South Pacific culinary experience from celebrity Chef Emeril Lagasse, The Islands Dining Room, Jake’s American Bar, Bula Bar & Grille and Orchid Court Lounge.</p> <p>The resort has a massive lagoon pool, complete with its own island. The pool area covers 12,000 square feet and the recreation area has a 4,000 square-foot interactive play area. Additionally, the resort has nearly 85,000 square-feet of meeting space and 25,000 square-feet of outdoor space that is ideal for theme events.</p>
<p>Hard Rock Hotel</p>	<p>The heart of rock n’ roll beats throughout the entire 650-room Hard Rock. From the moment guests enter Hard Rock Hotel, they are surrounded by the spirit of music. Video screens and speakers play the hottest videos and music, and throughout the hotel, an eclectic assortment of rock memorabilia that includes Elvis’s rhinestone jumpsuit, footwear from Elton John’s closet, and some of Madonna’s famous ensembles let guests get up close and personal to their favorite rock stars. Dining at Hard Rock is a far cry from the craft services table, with restaurants including the Palm Restaurant, a steakhouse straight from New York, known for its prime beef cuts and lobster, and The Kitchen, where you can dine on the favorite dishes of rock icons. To top off the day, the chic, urban setting of Velvet Bar in the main lobby can smooth out the evening. Hard Rock Hotel also has more than 15,000 square-feet of meeting space.</p> <p>Hard Rock Hotel opened in January 2001 at Universal Orlando. Guests have a variety of rooms and suites to choose from, including the King, Club and Graceland Suites, the Hospitality Parlor and Kid’s suites. Rooms feature three black and white pieces of art from the Hard Rock Café private archives and a selection of rock star wake-up calls from celebrities like N’Sync and Dee Snider. The hotel was designed as if it was formerly the estate of a rock star who might have acquired a collection of rock memorabilia on his decades of “road trips.”</p> <p>The rock ‘n roll excitement of this “Hotel California” mission style property continues at the trendy outdoor pool area. Surrounded by lush</p>

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	<p>palm trees, visitors can sun bathe on the white sand beach, sip cocktails around the sparkling blue pool, and slide down the 260-foot water slide-all while listening to the hottest music playing on outdoor speakers. And to make sure swimmers don't miss their favorite songs, there are 12 underwater speakers, as well.</p>
<p>Portofino Bay Hotel</p>	<p>Replicating a picturesque European seaside village, the Portofino Bay Hotel opened at Universal Orlando in September 1999. Guests are immersed in the elegant Italian ambiance as they enter the hotel, with dramatic trompe l'oeil paintings enhancing the ceiling. The enchantment continues throughout the property with Italian cypress and olive trees, cobblestone streets, sidewalk cafes, a harbor and Italian sports cars and Vespas parked in the harbor piazza. The hotel's grounds are also full of ornate fountains, a staple of Italian artistry.</p> <p>The 750-room Portofino Bay Hotel was the first property at Universal Orlando Resort and has received recognition from Travel & Leisure and Conde Nast Traveler as one of the country's top 100 hotels and the highest-rated property in Central Florida. The luxurious guest rooms, including Governatore and Presidente Suites, as well as Portofino, Villa and Hospitality Parlors and 18 kid's suites, are patterned after the village's waterfront homes. Restaurants share space along the harbor-side piazza just as it is in the original village.</p> <p>Visitors can savor the flavor and environment of Portofino with a myriad of on-site dining options like the internationally known Bice Ristorante, as well as Trattoria del Porto, Mama Della's Ristorante, Sal's Market Deli, Splendido Pizzeria and an authentic Italian Gelateria. Guests can relax and unwind at the Mandara Spa; three swimming pools (including a beach pool with Roman aqueduct-styled water slides), Villa pool and Hillside pool and bocce ball courts.</p>
<p>On-Site Hotel Benefits</p>	<p>Universal Orlando hotel guests enjoy several privileges on property, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal Express – hotel room keys eliminate the wait by providing front-of-line access to the rides and attractions at the theme parks during a stay; • Complimentary on-site transportation to theme parks and CityWalk via convenient water taxis and/or walkways throughout the resort; • Priority seating at select restaurants; and • Complimentary package delivery of purchases at the theme parks and CityWalk to guests' rooms. <p>All hotels provide the following amenities: swimming pool, game room, childcare, restaurant, lounge/bar, fitness centre and laundry facilities.</p>

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<p>Spa</p>	<p>The Mandara Spa is a sanctuary where you can relax and discover the elixir of youth, not as a goal, but as a moment of blissful reverie. Mandara Spa at Loews Portofino Bay Hotel is part of a resort triad of Loews Hotels at Universal Orlando Resort. Indulge in exotic Mandara signature therapies such as the the Mandara Four Hands Massage (two therapists working on you simultaneously), Javanese Lulur (Traditional body cleansing utilizing Tumeric, Red Rice, Fenugreek, Jasmine Cempak and Ylang Ylang that will give your skin a spicy aroma and leaves it sensuously smooth) or a Balinese Massage (a combination of combination of stretching, acupressure and Swedish massage techniques).</p>
<p>Golf</p>	<p>Orlando is home to some of the nation's most beautiful and challenging golf courses, several just minutes away from our resort. Loews Hotels at Universal Orlando Resort and four of Orlando's finest courses have created Golf Universal Orlando, a program that enables Portofino Bay Hotel, Hard Rock Hotel and Royal Pacific Resort guests to take to the links during their stay.</p> <p>With a simple phone call to the hotel's Golf Representative, guests receive the exclusive benefits of complimentary transportation. Each course offers an added value ranging from complimentary rental clubs, range balls, lunch, beverages and more.</p> <p>To make a tee time or get more information, call (407) 503-3097 or email golfuniversalorlando@loewshotels.com . Here's a couple of examples:</p> <p>Metrowest Golf Club Robert Trent Jones, Sr. designed a course that integrates its unique topography and landscape. Dramatic elevation changes set this course apart from any other in the Orlando area. MetroWest Golf Club boasts tournament playing conditions on a daily basis with spring fed lakes and sculpted bunkers protecting the generous-sized greens.</p> <p>Mystic Dunes Golf Club Bring your short game and your imagination because you'll need both at the 7,012 yard, par 71 Mystic Dunes. Here the eastern front nine is reminiscent of classic Carolina-style courses, meandering through native wetlands and marsh areas bordering oak and cypress forests. The western back nine has the characteristics of a British Isles links course, with extensive perimeter mounding and pot bunkers and expansive, sandy waste areas bordering rolling, sweeping fairways.</p>

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<p>ORLANDO</p>	<p>Orlando Will Make You Smile!</p> <p>Unique, smile-filled memories are waiting to be made in Orlando. Memories of time spent with your family never fade – and the adventure, magic, and endless excitement of this sunny destination just can't help but bring people together. And there's always something new!</p> <p>You can tour the theme parks or shop the outlets, get close to nature or play a round of world class golf — no matter your skill level. Whatever you choose to experience in Orlando, you'll end up connecting with the ones you love. That's because the adventure, magic and endless excitement of this sunny destination brings people together and strengthens relationships. So get pampered. Get thrilled. And get happy. Just make sure you get together.</p> <p>Plan your next vacation, choose lodging and discover new attractions and restaurants today at www.VisitOrlando.com/Canada .</p> <p>Go to Orlando with WestJet and WestJet Vacations</p> <p>WestJet offers daily non-stop flights from Toronto to Orlando starting from \$99*. Or book a WestJet Vacations package to the Universal Orlando Resort complete with air, on-site hotel and theme park tickets. Book your family getaway today at www.westjetvacations.com or for air-only visit www.westjet.com .</p> <p><small>*Book by May 29, 2010 (11:59 p.m. MT) for travel on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays until June 30, 2010. Fares on other days may be higher. Taxes, fees and surcharges are extra where applicable. Advance purchase required. Seats at these fares are limited and may not be available on all flights. New bookings only. 100% non-refundable. Offer combinable with other fares. Flights may not operate on certain days. All fares shown are one way. See westjet.com for details</small></p>
<p>Location</p>	<p>At the approximate geographic center of the state of Florida in the U.S.A., the three-county Orlando area consists of 2,856 square miles making it the approximate size of Austin, Texas or Stockholm, Sweden. Orlando is situated approximately 150 miles from the Florida/Georgia border to the north, 50 miles from the Atlantic Coast to the east, 75 miles from the Gulf Coast to the west, and 370 miles from the Florida Keys at the southern tip of the state.</p>
<p>Geography</p>	<p>The region Orlando occupies is generally low-lying, the only exception being minor sand hills formed by wave action in earlier geological eras when sea level was higher. Orlando is rivaled only by the Twin Cities in the number of natural lakes to be found in its metropolitan area. The Orlando area is home to more than 100 lakes.</p>
<p>Name</p>	<p>The real namesake was a man named Orlando Rees, who operated a sugar mill and plantation about thirty miles north of the modern city; An alternative explanation for the name is a founders of the city was enamored with Shakespeare, and named the city for the hero of As You</p>

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	Like It. Rosalind Avenue runs through downtown, as Rosalind ran through Orlando's heart.
Population	The population of Metro Orlando is approximately 1.8 million. Metro Orlando consists of Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Lake counties. The population of Orange County is approximately 1 million.
Language	English
Currency	US Dollars; the current exchange rate at May 20, 2010 is 93 cents US to the Canadian Dollar
Tipping	The custom of tipping is a common practice in Orlando: 15% to 20% for waiters; 10% to 15% for taxi drivers; \$1 per bag for bellmen. Occasionally gratuities are automatically added to restaurant checks, but not usually.
Dress	Clothing styles in Orlando are as varied as any other major city in the world. Styles of dress ranging from comfortable and casual to elegant and stylish will be seen in all parts of the city. Air conditioning is a way of life during Florida summers, making all clothing comfortable indoors.
Documentation	Passports are required for Canadian visitors arriving either by air or by car.
Time zone	Eastern Standard Time, same as Toronto
Health	Excellent services available but ensure that you have travelers health insurance as health costs in the US can be very high
Safety tips	Orlando is relatively safe for the tourist. One should use the same precautions as when traveling anywhere - try not to travel alone and avoid deserted areas at night

CLIMATE	
General climate	Orlando has a warm and humid subtropical climate, and there are two major seasons each year. One of those seasons is hot and rainy, lasting from April until October (roughly coinciding with the Atlantic hurricane season). The other is a cooler season (November through March) that brings more moderate temperatures and less frequent rainfall. October - May Average Daily Temperatures Days - Low 70s F (22 C) to mid 80s F (27 C) Nights - Low 60s F (16 C) to high 60s F (20 C) June - September Average Daily Temperatures Days - Upper 80s F (27 C) to mid 90s F (32 C) Nights - Upper 60s F (20 C) to mid 70s F (25 C)
Today's weather	31 degrees Centigrade with sun and clouds (20 February 2010) with a low of 21C at night.
Best time to visit	Certain periods of the year are busier than others in terms of visitation to Orlando. The December holiday season as well as the traditional spring break vacation period (March and April, especially around Easter weekend) and summer vacation periods acquire the highest visitation

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	numbers. In addition, various conventions and trade shows come to Orlando each year and may limit hotel space. The best travel times are February or September-November.
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GETTING THERE	
Flying time	Flight time to Orlando from Toronto is around 2 hours 40 minutes
Airport	For two consecutive years, Orlando International Airport was named by the International Air Transport Association survey as the number one airport in North America and number one in the world for overall passenger satisfaction for airports serving more than 30 million passengers annually.
Distances	Cocoa Beach via the 528 Beeline Expressway is approximately 1 hour from the Orlando attractions area.
Trolleys	I-Ride Trolleys are the fun way to get around International Drive. Symbolizing its role as a true destination, the International Drive Resort Area offers its guests a certain amenity with all the bells and whistles: the exclusive, convenient, and economical I-RIDE Trolley Service. Single fare is just .75. Kids under age 12 ride free. Just hop on board an I-RIDE Trolley. Hours 8 a.m. - 10:30 p.m. daily.
Trains	Amtrak serves Orlando with two daily trains originating from New York and Miami with stops in downtown Orlando, Winter Park, Sanford and Kissimmee, as well as with a tri-weekly train originating from Los Angeles. Amtrak also offers its popular Auto Train, which transports passengers and their vehicles and features the comfort of bi-level Superliner sleepers, a diner and a lounge. The Auto Train runs daily between Lorton, Va., and Sanford, leaving each town at 4 p.m. and arriving at the destination at 8:30 a.m. the next morning.
Car Rental	Car rental is easy at the airport and downtown locations with all major companies represented. Because of the competition for customers, the car rental rates are among the lowest in the world. Those who rent a car while in Orlando will find excellent signage that makes it easy to navigate throughout the area as well as friendly rental agents who will provide detailed maps that will guide you to your destination. Major highway networks provide easy access for visitors to reach their destination and for traveling in and around the Greater Orlando area. Major highways include Interstate 4, the Florida Turnpike, Highway 528 (Bee Line Expressway), Highway 408 (East-West Expressway) and Highway 417 (Central Florida Greenway).
Buses and More	Besides taxi and limousine service to anywhere in the Greater Orlando area, the city's Lynx bus system provides economical public transportation around Orlando. Bus stops are marked with a 'paw' print of a Lynx cat. The downtown Orlando Lymmo bus system provides free transit reaching from the T.D. Waterhouse Centre to City Hall. The 11 Lymmo stations are designated by kiosks and the eight Lymmo stops

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	are indicated by a small sign. Returning to the horse-and-buggy days, carriage rides are also available through local vendors in downtown Orlando.
Passes	The Orlando CVB offers the Orlando Preferred Visitor Magicard , a year-round money-saving discount card that allows visitors to save up to \$500. The card is valid at 105 area establishments including attractions, accommodations, restaurants, dinner theaters, ground transportation, golf courses, shopping malls, eco-tourism and cultural arts. Visitors can conveniently download the card at www.orlandoinfo.com/magicard .

ACCOMMODATION TYPES	The greater Orlando area contains approximately 450 hotels and 112,000 hotel guestrooms. There are also more than 26,000 vacation home rentals available and more than 16,000 vacation ownership units
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LIFESTYLE GROUPS	
Kids	<p>This is THE Kid's Destination on Planet Earth! Nowhere else in the world will you find seven incredible theme parks, three water parks, and more than 80 other attractions offering astronauts to zoos and everything in between. You would need to stay for 67 days just to experience all of Orlando's attractions!</p> <p>The Grande Lakes Adventure Course is a multi-level structure consisting of poles, cables and platforms with 25 traversing and climbing elements designed to allow every guest to choose their personal level of challenge. The course takes about three hours to complete and is held in three sessions: morning, noon and afternoon. Guests are provided with water, sun screen and equipment. Cost is \$45 for children ages 10-16 and \$65 for adults. The course is open on Saturdays and Sundays. Children must be at least 10 years old to participate. www.grandelakesoutfitters.com ; 407-393-4007</p>
Teens	<p>A concert at House of Blues or Hard Rock Live could be just the ticket to keep teens happy during their visit. And dinner at Race Rock Supercharged Restaurant, NASCAR Café at Universal Studios CityWalk, Sharks Underwater Grill inside SeaWorld Orlando, Planet Hollywood or Rainforest Café is a treat they won't forget.</p> <p>There are no less than five major water parks in the area:-</p> <p>Aquatica - SeaWorld's Water Park 407-363-2280 www.seaworldaquatica.com 10303 International Drive Orlando, FL 32821</p> <p>Adventure Island 813-987-5660 www.adventureisland.com 10001 Malcolm McKinley Drive Tampa, FL 33612</p> <p>Disney's Blizzard Beach Water Park 407-824-4321 www.disneyworld.com Post Office Box 10,000 Lake</p>

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	<p>Buena Vista, FL 32830-1000 Disney's Typhoon Lagoon Water Park 407-824-4321 www.disneyworld.com Post Office Box 10,000 Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830-1000 Wet 'n Wild - Orlando 407-351-1800 www.wetnwildorlando.com 6200 International Drive Orlando, FL 32819</p>
<p>Disabled Travellers</p>	<p>An Orlando vacation offers lots to explore for all members of your travel party. Guests with mobility disabilities will find our more than 500 hotels, 99 attractions and many recreational opportunities specially equipped to ensure their comfort and ease of access.</p> <p>Accommodations Hotels and motels are required by law to have special rooms equipped for wheelchairs, with hand rails and wider doorways. Please mention your special needs when making your reservations</p> <p>The Able Trust, is a public-private partnership foundation established by the Florida Legislature in 1990. Through its Web site, you can find listings of additional service providers: http://www.abletrust.org/links/agency_listings_CF.shtml The Society for Accessible Travel & Hospitality (SATH) provides information on traveling with a variety of special needs.</p>
<p>Honeymoons & Weddings</p>	<p>Known for years as a haven for honeymooners, Orlando has emerged as a premier wedding destination. From the simple to the elegant, from the intimate to the grandiose, Orlando provides a host of unforgettable wedding settings just right for the bride and groom's special day. While the area offers a bouquet of traditional wedding options, Orlando exceeds the extraordinary with a number of unique backdrops to say "I do." Among the stunning venues are the lush Harry P. Leu Gardens, the intimate Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens, the magical Cinderella's Castle at Disney's Magic Kingdom, the Rivership Romance river boat and the creative "Weddings at the Shack" at Orlando Harley-Davidson.</p> <p>Orlando was recently named one of the top ten places to propose this Valentine's Day, according to www.HotelsCombined.com</p>
<p>Family Reunions</p>	<p>For a reunion that's miles apart from last year's gathering in Aunt Edna's backyard, celebrate your special event at one of Orlando's spectacular theme parks. Walt Disney World Resort, Universal Orlando Resort, SeaWorld Orlando and Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex all offer discounted tickets for groups as well as special services such as catering, event and banquet space and assistance in event planning. Some parks even offer exclusive tours for groups. When it comes to planning your Orlando reunion, the possibilities are as limitless as your imagination.</p>

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Seniors	Mature travelers, snowbirds, seniors, grandparents and the young-at-heart - Orlando offers numerous discounts to help you make the most of your visit. Search the offers at http://www.orlandoinfo.com/seniors for great deals on accommodations, attractions, cultural activities, dining and transportation.
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UNIQUES Surprising	Downtown Orlando Orlando's downtown is a thriving residential and business centre that is constantly growing. With Lake Eola as its centerpiece, downtown Orlando offers a variety of dining, shopping and nightlife options for visitors. There are a number of historic neighborhoods to explore including Thornton Park, Orlando's center of new urbanism; College Park, a mix of bungalows and turn-of-the-20th century manses; and Winter Park, full of tree-shaded avenues and unique shops and restaurants.
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History	<p>During the Second Seminole War, the U.S. Army established an outpost at Fort Gatlin, a few miles south of the modern downtown, in 1838. But it was quickly abandoned when the war came to an end.</p> <p>Prior to being known as its current name, Orlando was known as Jernigan, after the first permanent settler, cattleman Aaron Jernigan, who acquired land along Lake Holden by the terms of the Armed Occupation Act of 1842. But most pioneers did not arrive until after the Third Seminole War in the 1850s. Most of the early residents made their living by cattle ranching.</p> <p>Orlando remained a rural backwater during the American Civil War, and suffered greatly during the Federal Blockade. The Reconstruction Era brought a population explosion, which led to the city's incorporation in 1875.</p> <p>The period from 1875 to 1895 is remembered as Orlando's "Gilded Era," when it became the hub of Florida's citrus industry. But a great freeze in 1894-1895 forced many owners to give up their independent groves, thus consolidating holdings in the hands of a few "citrus barons" which shifted operations south, primarily around Lake Wales in Polk County.</p> <p>Perhaps the most critical event for Orlando's economy occurred in 1965 when Walt Disney announced plans to build Walt Disney World.</p> <p>Although Disney had considered the cities of Miami and Tampa for his park, one of the major reasons behind his decision not to locate in those cities was the threat of hurricanes. The famous vacation resort opened in October 1971, ushering in an explosive population and economic growth for the Orlando metropolitan area, which now encompasses Orange, Seminole, Osceola, and Lake counties. As a result, tourism became the centerpiece of the area's economy and Orlando is consistently ranked as one of the top vacation destinations in the world.</p>
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Books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Frommer's Florida 2010 - "Florida, eh?" By Isobel Warren and Milan Chvostek - "Places to go with children in Orlando and Central Florida", by Deborah Ann Johnson and Cheryl Lani Juarez
New Attractions	<p>Universal Orlando's Islands of Adventures "The Wizarding World of Harry Potter" The Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry will open to Muggles for the first time on June 18, 2010. See the special feature above for full details. www.universalorlando.com ; 407-363-8000</p> <p>International Heli-Tours opened on International Drive. The helicopter touring company offers aerial tours of Orlando, Kissimmee, Walt Disney World Resort, Universal Orlando Resort and more; showcasing the city's attractions, lakes and abundant wildlife. Specialty tours include celebrity house sightings, theme park sightings, resort sightings, fireworks viewing and alligator searches. Tours start at \$25. www.internationalhelitours.com ; 407-239-8687</p> <p>WonderWorks unveiled a new exhibit to challenge visitors' minds. "Mindball" is a table top game that goes against the conventional competitive concept and relies on calmness to measure a participant's success. The goal is for participants to be more relaxed than their opponents in order to move a ball away from your opponent's goal. Players and audience can follow the mental process during the game as players' brain wave activity is presented graphically on a 52-inch (1.3-meter) monitor. www.wonderworksonline.com ; 407-351-8800</p>
Must Sees	<p>Universal Orlando's Islands of Adventures "The Wizarding World of Harry Potter" – naturally!</p>

SPORTS ACTIVITIES	<p>Orlando is home to the Orlando Magic, an NBA pro basketball franchise that plays at the TD Waterhouse Centre in downtown Orlando. Sport lovers will enjoy the 176 golf courses, 800 tennis courts and 2,000 lakes for swimming, fishing, boating and water skiing.</p>
Golf	<p>With 176 golf courses in the area - many designed by legendary course architects and pro golfers like Jack Nicklaus, Greg Norman, Arnold Palmer, Tom Watson and Robert Trent Jones - those who love the game will have no problem finding a challenging and enjoyable course immersed in Florida's natural beauty. If one of these championship courses proves a little too intimidating, Orlando also offers several miniature golf options.</p>
Fishing	<p>Anglers recognize the Greater Orlando area's 300 named lakes, rivers and springs as some of the best freshwater fishing in the world, particularly for largemouth bass. Those who prefer saltwater fishing can</p>

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	cast their lines from piers, from the shore or from deep-sea fishing boats in the East Coast waters within an hour's drive, or in the West Coast waters, only two hours away. Several fish camps and guides are available to help visitors navigate the local waters.
Adventure Activities	Orlando is a virtual endless summer of outdoor fun - in the water, on land or in the air. With more than 2,000 lakes, springs and rivers, Orlando offers unlimited boating, canoeing, tubing, jet-skiing and water-skiing opportunities. Numerous ecotours offer an insider's look at natural Florida, from cruises through the headwaters of the Everglades to bird- and gator-spotting excursions. For more adrenaline-pumping activities, visitors can get behind the wheel of a 600-horse-power Nextel Cup race car at the Richard Petty Driving Experience , skydive indoors at SkyVenture Orlando , enjoy a breathtaking sunrise hot air balloon ride, or hang-glide at Wallaby Ranch Hang Gliding Flight Park , the first year-round hang gliding flight park in the world. Adventure enthusiasts can also get up-close and personal with the sea's perfect predators during a Sharks Deep Dive Experience at SeaWorld Orlando.
Hiking	There are 21 fitness trails for biking, walking or blading
Cycling	You can tour Orlando by bike: the West Orange Trail provides 30.5 kilometers of paved trails for biking, in-line skating or walking near beautiful Lake Apopka. Rental skates and bikes are available through West Orange Trail Bikes & Blades Co
Horseback Riding	If you've always had a hankering for the Wild West, try horseback riding through Westgate River Ranch's 1,700 acres (688 hectares) of protected wildlife reserve. Westgate offers an authentic ranch experience with Western-style lodging, nature hikes, fishing, boating, trap and skeet shooting, line dancing at its very own saloon and even a weekly cowboy rodeo.

CULTURE	The Orlando Metropolitan Area is home to a substantial theatre population, as well. Several professional and semi-professional houses and many community theatres dot the area including Orlando-UCF Shakespeare Festival, Orlando Repertory Theatre, Mad Cow Theatre, Theatre Downtown, The Osceola Center for the Arts, Winter Park Playhouse, Theatre Winter Haven, and Seaside Music Theatre. In addition, the Bob Carr Performing Arts Center brings national tours through town on a regular basis. Each spring, local theatres and downtown venues play host to the Orlando International Fringe Festival,
Arts	Orlando Museum of Art: Permanent collections of American, African and ancient American art, as well as prestigious touring exhibitions in a picturesque park setting. Family discovery centers, Museum shop and free parking. Open Tues.-Sat. 10 am-4 pm, Sun. Noon-4 pm.

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Music	The Orlando Opera, Orlando Ballet, Orlando-UCF Shakespeare Festival, Bach Festival Society, The Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra...just some of the wonderful musical options available to visitors in the Orlando area
Museums	Marvel at Tiffany glass at The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art. The Orlando Science Center is now featuring an exhibition called "Frogs", showcasing more than 80 live frogs representing 20 species from around the world. Visitors will learn fascinating facts about frogs and their importance to the Earth's ecosystems. Tickets to the Orlando Science Center are \$17 for adults and \$12 for children ages 3 – 11. Children under 3 enter free. Website: www.osc.org
Festival	19th Annual Orlando International Fringe Festival May 20 – 31 The oldest, non-juried festival in the United States, the Orlando International Fringe Festival is a 12-day celebration of theater, art and music. Fringe encompasses hundreds of shows, the Visual Fringe, outdoor concerts and “The Kids Fringe Tour.” Events are held at various venues in and around downtown Orlando. True to Fringe roots, all acts remain uncensored, exposing patrons to performances from mild to wild. Admission: \$5-10 per show. www.orlandofringe.org 407-648-0077

ATTRACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arboretum of the University of Central Florida • Blue Spring State Park, which is the winter home of large numbers of Florida manatees that come upstream from the St. Johns River to bask in the warm 22 °C waters of the springs. Canoeing, swimming and fishing are popular activities at Blue Springs. • Central Florida Zoological Park, located in Sanford on Lake Monroe. This 100 acre (400,000 m²) zoo is home to a butterfly garden, herpetarium, and numerous tropical animals. The zoo originally started as a collection in the Sanford Fire Department, but grew into a regional zoo in 1975. It is currently in the planning stages of expansion and renaming the facility to "Zoo Orlando at Sanford". • Church Street Station, a multi-level shopping mall and entertainment center that once featured an abundance of specialty shops, restaurants, nightclubs, and bars. Purchased in the late 1990s by TransContinental Talent owner Lou Pearlman, it is now virtually defunct, as the area suffered in post-9/11 tourist-industry slump. The area is being redeveloped with residential condominiums. • Cirque du Soleil: La Nouba, in Downtown Disney West Side, features its renowned blend of acrobatics and special effects with more than 70 artists from around the globe performing in a custom-designed,
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1,671-seat theater.

- **Cornell Fine Arts Museum**, situated on the campus of Rollins College, features significant loans, recent acquisitions, and items from the Cornell's renowned permanent collection. Admission is free.
- **Gatorland** houses thousands of alligators and crocodiles. A few of Gatorland's residents have made wrangling appearances in movies, television shows and commercial spots. The 54 year old park combines a petting zoo, bird sanctuary, mini-water park, eco-tour and outdoor entertainment, including daily alligator wrestling.
- **Hard Rock Café** is the Orlando location of the famed restaurant chain with the typical HRC music memorabilia. There is also Hard Rock Live, a 3,000-capacity live music venue, and the Hard Rock Hotel, a resort hotel with a California-style restaurant called "The Kitchen". It is one of eight worldwide, and one of three in Florida. (Miami and Tampa are the other two.)
- **International Trolley and Train Museum** features 14 model railroad trains with sound and lighting traveling through an indoor garden with 12 foot (4 m) high mountains, waterfalls, and more than 30 trestles and tunnels. Also on display are toy trains from the 1920s to the present. Visitors can catch a ride in a California Victorian-style half open/half closed trolley or the 5/8 replica of an 1880 locomotive (a Mason Bogey) with its passenger cars.
- **Kennedy Space Center** is 45 minutes from Orlando and south of Daytona Beach. Visitors can tour launch areas, see giant rockets, "train" in spaceflight simulators, and much more. Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex is open every day except Christmas Day and certain launch days. Apart from the Astronaut Hall of Fame, Space Center bus tours run every 15 minutes with stops at an observation gantry and the Apollo / Saturn V Center. Other guided tours include NASA Up Close, Cape Canaveral: Then and Now, and Lunch With An Astronaut. Combo tickets offer maximum access admission, plus one guided tour.
- **The Kerouac House**, in the College Park neighborhood of Orlando, is where writer Jack Kerouac lived during the time his novel *On the Road* was published and released, making him a national sensation and Beat Generation icon. He lived in the house with his mother Gabrielle from July 1957 to the spring of 1958, and wrote his three-act play, *The Beat Generation*, a 51-chorus poem called *Orlanda Blues*, and the novel *The Dharma Bums* during his time there. In 1997, the Kerouac Project of Orlando formed, and restored the Kerouac house. It is now a haven for aspiring writers who can live in the house as they create their own work.
- **The Morse Museum of American Art**, located at Rollins College, houses a permanent Tiffany & Co. exhibit featuring the world's "most comprehensive" collection of the works of Louis Comfort Tiffany. It

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includes Tiffany art glass, jewelry, pottery, and the chapel interior designed for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. There is also an exhibit on the Tiffany home, and American paintings from the 19th century. The museum was founded in 1942.

- **Old Town**, in Kissimmee, features eight restaurants, fifteen amusement park rides and 75 shops along its brick-lined streets. Classic car shows every Friday and Saturday feature hundreds of vintage automobiles. Admission and parking are free.
- **The Orange County Regional History Center** Features exhibits and artifacts from the earliest days of the region to the modern day. Includes information on everything from the time of the Seminole Indians to the founding of the city to the Civil Rights era to the Disney period to today.
- **The Orlando Museum of Art**, which has ongoing exhibitions of American portraits and landscapes, American impressionist works, and art of the ancient Americas.
- **The Orlando Science Center**, is a 207,000 square foot (19,000 m²) hands-on learning center with hundreds of interactive exhibits for visitors of all ages. Images surround visitors on the giant screen of the Dr. Phillips CineDome. Other attractions include the Body Zone, teaching health and fitness, as well as an observatory. The center has the largest refracting telescope in Florida.
- **The Ripley's Believe It or Not!** Orlando Odditorium is located in a building artfully constructed to appear as if it were collapsing to one side, which may be a sly reference to central Florida's infamous sinkholes. Visitors can explore bizarre artifacts, strange collections, weird art/hobbies and interactive exhibits in sixteen odd galleries. It is one of 27 Ripley museums in ten countries.
- **Wonder Works** A funhouse located on International Drive. Can be easily identified as an upside down white building.
- **Wekiwa Springs State Park**, which comprises around 7,000 acres (28.3 km²) of wild Florida. The springs pump out 42 million gallons of crystal clear water a day. Popular activities at the park include canoeing, swimming, picnicking and fishing.
- **World of Orchids**, featuring thousands of blooms in an enclosed tropical rainforest. World of Orchids is a working greenhouse shipping orchids and other plants nationwide. A greenhouse covers nearly an acre (4,000 m²), and in this controlled climate of warm, humid air some 1,000 orchids are displayed in a natural jungle setting, with streams, waterfalls, and squawking parrots. World of Orchids also has a 1,000 foot (300 m) long boardwalk meandering off into nearby wetlands. Admission is free.
- **Wet n' Wild** A large waterpark located just minutes from Universal Studios on International Drive

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Beaches	St Petersburg/Clearwater on the Gulf Coast is known as Orlando's Beach and is a two hour drive away. Here you will find some of the finest beaches anywhere in the US and they have been consistently rates as the best in the US
Wildlife	SeaWorld is a wonderful place to see marine life such as whales, dolphins and seals. Disney's Animal Kingdom is great for those who can't go on safari in Africa – it's the next best thing.
Parks	Cypress Gardens Adventure Park , an amusement park opened in 1936 but it is currently closed and may become the site of a new Legoland theme park.
Gardens	Harry P. Leu Gardens , which is an inner city oasis covering 50 acres (20,000 m ²) and features colorful annuals, palms, an orchid house, a floral clock and a butterfly garden.

OTHER ACTIVITIES	
Shopping	Shopping is a thrill ride of its own in Central Florida, where a wealth of fashion-forward stores, boutiques, and outlets are a gold mine for visitors. Considered Central Florida's signature shopping street, Park Avenue in Winter Park offers shoppers several blocks of trendy boutiques and brand-name stores. The exclusive The Mall at Millenia , anchored by Neiman Marcus and Bloomingdale's, is home to such high-end stores as Dior, Jimmy Choo, Louis Vuitton, Chanel, St. John and Cartier. The Florida Mall , Central Florida's largest shopping destination, rounds out the high-end department store offerings with Saks Fifth Avenue and Nordstrom. Orlando Premium Outlets and Prime Outlets Orlando provide even more exposure to designer merchandise, this time at discount prices, with stores like Barney's Outlet and Neiman Marcus Last Call, respectively.
Markets	Great farmers markets and flea markets in the area
Nightlife	Nightlife consists of ultra-hip bars, high-energy dance clubs, happening game spots, multi-venue entertainment complexes, comedy clubs and plenty of venues filled with live music located from Downtown Orlando to the attractions area.
Casinos	A Sterling Casino Cruise aboard the world's largest gaming ship is a sure bet for fun-twice daily free cruises depart from nearby Cape Canaveral. Those without their sea legs can make a two-hour drive to the Seminole Hard Rock Casino in Tampa.

CUISINE	
Food	There are more than 5,300 restaurants in the area with continental and ethnic cuisine in unique settings including upscale and fine dining. You name your dining theme and you can find it in Orlando!
Wine	Lakeridge Winery & Vineyards: Free guided winery tour and wine

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	<p>tasting at Florida's largest award-winning winery. Gift shop, picnic area, festivals and concerts</p> <p>Location: 19239 US 27 North, Clermont, FL 34715; website: www.lakeridgewinery.com Tel: 352-394-8627 · 800-768-9463</p>
Restaurants	<p>It should come as no surprise that Orlando has something for everybody when it comes to pleasing your palate, ranging from fast food to four-star restaurants and everything in between. The city overflows with over 5000 dining options though it's usually noted for its many theme and chain restaurants. Here some suggestions from our friends at Frommer's:</p> <p>Best Spot for a Romantic Dinner: Victoria & Albert's (tel. 407/939-3463) will spoil you with superior service and stylish surroundings. Dinner is an intimate seven-course meal offering some of the finest food around.</p> <p>Best Value: At Romano's Macaroni Grill (tel. 407/239-6676), the casual yet lively ambience and the northern Italian cuisine score very highly, and prices are low, low, low.</p> <p>Best Spot for Celebrating: Emeril's at Universal's CityWalk (tel. 407/224-2424) is a great choice for a high-end special occasion. For the pure party factor, you can't beat Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville (tel. 407/224-2155) at CityWalk.</p> <p>Best for Kids: Kids adore the meals served up with Disney characters bounding about and there are plenty to choose from throughout the Walt Disney World resorts and theme parks. They also love the eclectic atmosphere, sounds and visuals of the jungle-themed Rainforest Cafe at Downtown Disney Marketplace (tel. 407/827-8500) and Animal Kingdom (tel. 407/938-9100). Monkey business is strongly encouraged there. Finally, the world's largest McDonald's can also be found in Orlando, right on 6875 Sand Lake Rd. (tel. 407/351-2185). The location boasts a huge tubular maze with 25,000 feet of twists, turns, sliding, crawling, and jumping space for kids to play in. Another unique feature: You can book hotels, transportation, buy attraction tickets, and get daily park information, all while enjoying your fries and a Coke (or, in this case, maybe a gourmet coffee).</p>

MORE INFO	
Brochures	<p>Order a Planning Kit online or at 1-800-551-2006</p> <p>Vacationers arranging a trip to Orlando also can speak with an Official Travel Counselor, who will provide vacation-planning information and answer questions, by calling 407-363-5872 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST every day of the year except Dec. 25</p>
Websites	<p>www.orlandoinfo.com/canada for everything Orlando</p> <p>www.universalorlando.com for Universal Orlando</p> <p>www.universalorlando.com/vacationpackages for Vacation Packages</p>

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	www.westjet.com for flights from Quebec www.westjetvacations.com for packages from Ontario
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CURRENT DEALS	<p>The Orlando Preferred Visitor Magicard offers great savings on a variety of area attractions, accommodations, restaurants and shops. To get your free card: you can download and print a Magicard at http://www.orlandoinfo.com/magicard/download.cfm or request a Magicard online and they will send you one, along with their comprehensive Destination Guide so you can plan your trip. If you're in town, pay the Official Visitors Center a visit to pick up your free Magicard. The Official Visitors Center will also provide you with all the vacation planning information you need including maps, tickets and more.</p> <p>Also: go to http://www.orlandoinfo.com/canada/listings.cfm for a listing of special deals for Canadian visitors to Orlando</p>
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AIRLINE PRIZE PARTNER	WestJet
Flight details	<p>WestJet offers daily non-stop flights from Toronto to Orlando starting from \$99*. Or book a WestJet Vacations package to the Universal Orlando Resort complete with air, on-site hotel and theme park tickets.</p> <p>Book your family getaway today at www.westjetvacations.com or for air-only visit www.westjet.com .</p> <p><small>*Book by May 29, 2010 (11:59 p.m. MT) for travel on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays until June 30, 2010. Fares on other days may be higher. Taxes, fees and surcharges are extra where applicable. Advance purchase required. Seats at these fares are limited and may not be available on all flights. New bookings only. 100% non-refundable. Offer combinable with other fares. Flights may not operate on certain days. All fares shown are one way. See westjet.com for details</small></p>

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES	<p>I have been to Orlando numerous times and never fail to have a wonderful time and discover new experiences! I have also spent many happy hours at Universal Orlando Resort and look forward to experiencing Universal Orlando's Islands of Adventures "The Wizarding World of Harry Potter" very soon!</p>
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