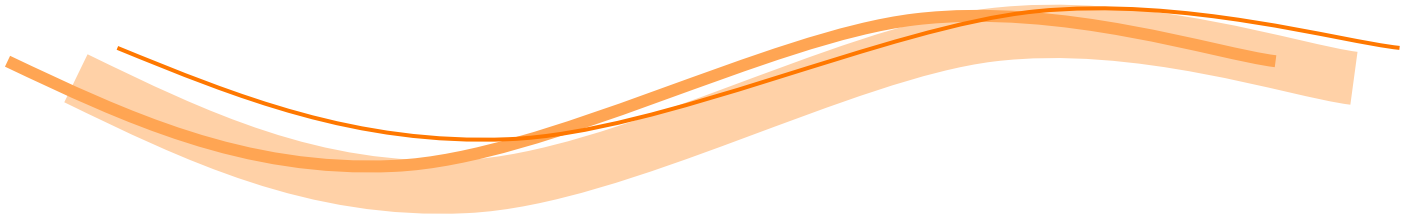




ORLANDO, FLORIDA





ORLANDO	<p>There are thousands of ways that Orlando will make you smile! From the world-famous theme parks and outdoor adventure, to exquisite dining and shopping - unique, smile-filled memories are waiting to be made in Orlando.</p> <p>That's because the adventure, magic, and endless excitement of this sunny destination brings people together and strengthens relationships. Smile with the ones you love, get pampered, get thrilled and get happy. Just make sure you get to Orlando!</p> <p>Ever changing and ever growing – family friendly Orlando has endless possibilities! There's something for every age group, and so much that the generations can enjoy together. It is the ideal place for families to relax, reconnect and have fun. There is so much to do In Orlando that they say it would take 67 days to see it all!</p> <p>There are new rides and innovations at all the theme parks. Enjoy the fabulous year-round weather at hotels, resorts and water parks with over-the-top pools, rides, and water slides. Orlando offers fabulous golf and spa opportunities. The shopping extends from luxury brands to phenomenal bargains and there are new stores offering ever wider choices. Orlando has evolved into a true culinary destination, with everything from fine dining to casual eateries and a diverse array of international cuisines. And you're just a short drive from some of America's very best beaches.</p> <p>Visit www.VisitOrlando.com/Canada to plan your next family vacation. Orlando is great value and very affordable – and you'll also discover offers and packages designed especially for Canadians.</p>
Oct 2011 Update	<p>An Orlando fall-winter tourism promotion geared to Canadians includes hotel discounts, restaurant deals and savings at attractions. The third annual "Made for Canadians" programme, which runs until the end of March 2012. This offers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Savings of up to 30 per cent at some Disney resort hotels.- Canadians get free admission to Aquatica or Busch Gardens with the purchase of a ticket to SeaWorld Orlando.- Participants in a two- or three-day school at the Faldo Golf Institute by Marriott also get free lodging. <p>Details on all discounts are at www.VisitOrlando.com/Canada . About 960,000 Canadians visited Orlando last year (2010), making Canada the city's top international market, now bigger than the former long-time #1 Great Britain.</p>

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	<p>Legoland: Just opened on October 15th 2011 and inspired by the world-famous LEGO® brick, the LEGOLAND Florida theme park features 150 acres of exhilarating rides, must-see attractions, beautiful gardens and entertainment for families with children ages 2 to 12. Search for treasure in Egypt on an all-terrain roadster, ride a dragon through an enchanted castle, make a splash on your very own wave racer and tour the impressive miniature landmarks at Miniland USA. Watch as LEGO comes to life, one brick at a time! Single day admission: adults \$62; children \$52</p>
Location	At the approximate geographic centre 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 240 kms from the Florida/Georgia border to the north, 80 kms from the Atlantic Coast to the east, 120 kms from the Gulf Coast to the west, and 600 kms from the Florida Keys at the southern tip of the state.
Geography	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 .
Name	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 that one of the founders of the city was enamored with Shakespeare, and named the city for the hero of As You 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 October 2011 is 0.98 US Dollars to the Canadian Dollar. This parity of the dollars makes Orlando even better value right now.
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 now required for all Canadian visitors arriving by air or land.

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Time zone	Eastern Standard Time, same as Toronto and Montreal.
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 - 22 C to 27 C Nights - 16 C to 20 C June - September Average Daily Temperatures Days - Upper 27 C to 32 C Nights - 20 C to 25 C
Today's weather	24 degrees Centigrade with sun and showers (29 October 2011)
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 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.

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

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	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 are indicated by a small sign. Returning to the horse-and-buggy days, carriage rides are also available through local vendors in downtown Orlando.
Special Offers	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 a large number of area establishments including attractions, accommodations, restaurants, dinner theatres, 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. Even better news: hotel rates are lower than at any time in the last ten years!
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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>LEGOLAND Florida – Just opened in October 2011 with more than 50 rides, shows and attractions, including spectacular LEGO models, kids can let their imaginations run wild at lands like Castle Hill and LEGO City. Travel back to medieval times in Castle Hill where kids can ride LEGO-themed horses through a number of enchanted scenes or ride The Dragon, a coaster that takes you behind the scenes of the LEGOLAND Castle. In LEGO City, kids can live out their dreams in a scaled-down town where they can even get "real-life" driving experience. www.florida.legoland.com ; 877-350-5346</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>The Kennedy Space Center is approximately an hour's drive east of Orlando, easily accessible via Toll Road 528. Although there is no public transportation available from Orlando, there are several private shuttle companies that provide transportation to and from Kennedy Space Center.</p> <p>There are no less than five major water parks in the area:- -Adventure Island 813-987-5660 www.adventureisland.com 10001 Malcolm McKinley Drive Tampa, FL 33612</p>

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	<p>-Aquatica - SeaWorld's Water Park NEW! 407-363-2280 www.seaworldaquatica.com 10303 International Drive Orlando, FL 32821</p> <p>-Disney's Blizzard Beach Water Park 407-824-4321 www.disneyworld.com Post Office Box 10,000 Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830-1000</p> <p>-Disney's Typhoon Lagoon Water Park 407-824-4321 www.disneyworld.com Post Office Box 10,000 Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830-1000</p> <p>-Wet 'n Wild - Orlando 407-351-1800 www.wetnwildorlando.com 6200 International Drive Orlando, FL 32819</p> <p>And how about a spot of zip-lining? Florida Eco-Safaris at Forever Florida features the first Zipline experience in the state. The Zipline Safari takes guests on a treetop nature tour reaching heights of 55 feet (16.8 meters) and speeds up to 32 kph. The Central Florida ZOOM Air Adventures and Grande Lakes Adventure Course also offer Ziplining opportunities. In summer 2011, Gatorland will open a new Eco Zip Line, carrying riders along 1,200 feet (366 meters) of high-flying adventure up to 56 feet (17 meters) high and near 48 kph.</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</p> <p>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</p>

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	river boat and the creative "Weddings at the Shack" at Orlando Harley-Davidson.
Family Reunions	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.
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.

UNIQUES	
Surprising	The world's most comprehensive collection of works by Louis Comfort Tiffany are on display year-round at The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art in Winter Park.
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. 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. 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</p>

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	<p>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>
<p>Books</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Frommer's Florida 2012 - "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
<p>New Attractions</p>	<p>Orlando is an exciting vacation destination that is ever changing and growing. From exhilarating attractions and gourmet restaurants to fashion-savvy boutiques and unexpected cultural venues, Central Florida is always introducing something new to entertain and amaze visitors.</p> <p>Stroll through Diagon Alley in The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, now open at Islands of Adventure at Universal Orlando Resort.</p> <p>The world's largest Legoland has just opened (15th October 2011) on property previously occupied by Cypress Gardens Adventure Park.</p> <p>Disney's Hollywood Studios opened a 3-D version of "Star Tours," based on the "Star Wars" films in May 2011.</p>
<p>Must Sees</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>

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SeaWorld Orlando: SeaWorld Orlando has opened **Manta**, a roller coaster attraction that transitions riders from air to sea in the summer. Guests will experience underwater animal habitats, soar face-down in a horizontal position to nearly 60 mph, and come within inches of the “ocean.” Visitors can choose not to ride and instead experience the attraction itself, which provides floor-to-ceiling window views of more than 300 rays, including shark rays, spotted eagle rays and leopard rays.

www.SeaWorld.com ; 407-351-3600

Universal Orlando Resort has opened a new roller coaster, **Hollywood Rip Ride Rockit**, this year. The high-tech, multi-sensory experience will include audio and special effects with on-and-off-board LED-screen videos to create a unique experience that allows riders to choose which song they will hear while they are on the roller coaster and take home a music video when the ride is over.

www.universalorlando.com ; 407-363-8000

Walt Disney World Resort

Characters in Flight, a new iconic attraction in the form of a giant tethered helium balloon, opened at Downtown Disney. The 72-foot-diameter (23-meter) balloon, developed by Aerophile, holds up to 30 guests and lifts them 400 feet (122 meters) into the air to experience a 360-degree view of the Walt Disney World Resort. The six-minute flight is \$16 for adults and \$10 for children ages 3 – 9. The experience is open Sunday – Thursday from 10:30 a.m. – 11 p.m. and Friday – Saturday from 10:30 a.m. – midnight, weather permitting.
disneyworld.com; 407-939-6244

Kim Possible World Showcase Adventure opened at Epcot. The high-tech interactive adventure allows guests to team-up with members of Team Possible in Epcot’s Mexico, Norway, China, Germany, Japan, France and United Kingdom pavilions to save the world from villains and their mad inventions.

disneyworld.com; 407-939-6244

Move It, Shake It, Celebrate It! Street Party opened at Magic Kingdom. The 15-minute party takes place three times a day on Main Street, U.S.A. Guests can see stilt walkers and other performers move to the beat of high-energy tunes while floats are decked-out as gift-wrapped packages with Disney characters popping out of the boxes.

www.disneyworld.com ; 407-939-6244

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	<p>Walt Disney World Resort opened Stitch's SuperSonic Celebration, a high-energy, retro-futuristic music video dance party at the Magic Kingdom. The attraction features Stitch, an interactive dance troupe and a DJ celebration host.</p> <p>www.disneyworld.com ; 407-939-6244</p>
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<p>SPORTS ACTIVITIES</p>	<p>Sport lovers will enjoy the 176 golf courses, 800 tennis courts and 2,000 lakes for swimming, fishing, boating and water skiing.</p> <p>Orlando is also home to the Orlando Magic, an NBA pro basketball franchise that plays at the TD Waterhouse Centre in downtown Orlando.</p>
<p>Baseball</p>	<p>MLB's must see pre-season action includes: spring training with the Atlanta Braves at Disney's Wide World of Sports, the Houston Astros at the Osceola County Stadium, the Detroit Lions in Lakeland and the Washington Nationals at the Space Coast Stadium in Brevard County. Nearby, the Tampa Bay Rays play regular season major league baseball.</p>
<p>Golf</p>	<p>A golf getaway can mean different things to different people: a group of hard-core golfers may focus on a competitive program; a couple on a romantic getaway may desire just a touch of golf on the side; a family requires more instruction and flexibility; and a group of friends may just want the opportunity to see their idols up close.</p> <p>With 176 golf courses and golf resorts, 23 golf academies, some of the world's most prestigious tournaments, top-rated professional players and course architects, and even the world's top golf shops, Orlando is one of the few places in the world that can confidently meet the needs of any type of traveling golf group. In fact, Orlando was voted "North American Golf Destination of the Year 2010" by the International Association of Golf Tour Operators (IAGTO).</p> <p>Tough Competitions</p> <p>Well-known for its theme parks, Orlando is also renowned on the golf circuit. Orlando hosts more professional tour competitions than any other city. PGA Tour stars – Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, Ernie Els and many others – compete every March in the Arnold Palmer Invitational Presented by MasterCard at the Bay Hill Club & Lodge, and the top professional players return in the fall as the tour visits Walt Disney World for the Children's Miracle Network Classic. Orlando was also home to the LPGA Tour Championship in 2010 when it was held at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress in December.</p> <p>Golfing in Their Own Backyard</p> <p>With so many pro golf tournaments, it's no surprise that Orlando is also home to more pro tour players than any city in the world. Tiger Woods, Arnold Palmer, Chris DiMarco, Zach Johnson, Ernie Els, Sergio Garcia,</p>

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Retief Goosen, Annika Sorenstam, Se Ri Pak and Mark O'Meara and many others hang their hats in the Orlando area.

Learning from the Best

Looking for high-profile instruction? Look no further than Orlando, which boasts 23 golf academies and places two resident teachers on Golf Digest's Top 50 Instructors list, two on Golf Digest's Top 50 Best Women Instructors list and eight on Golf Magazine's Top 100. They include two top 10 teachers, David Leadbetter at ChampionsGate (No. 3) and Mike Bender at Timacuan Golf Club in Lake Mary (No. 9).

Golf Resorts

Many traveling golfers prefer the all-inclusive, self-contained resort experience and some of the world's best are situated in Orlando.

•**Waldorf Astoria Golf Club** – This Rees Jones-designed 18-hole golf course uses the land's natural contours as a canvas and is conveniently located in the Disney World Resort. The classic layout of this challenging golf resort blends a traditional character with countless subtleties.

•**Grand Cypress Resort** offers grand choices: 45 holes of outstanding Jack Nicklaus-designed golf and either villas or hotel rooms for accommodations. It has hosted the LPGA Tournament of Champions and the World Cup. One of its courses, "The New Course," is a replica of the famed Old Course in St. Andrews.

•**Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Resort** offers 70 guest rooms and one of the best-known golf layouts in the world, designed by the golf legend himself.

•**Mystic Dunes Resort & Golf Club** features the most unique layout in Central Florida, designed by Champions Tour player and NBC golf commentator Gary Koch, along with well-appointed and comfortable fairway villas.

•**Champions Gate and Reunion Resort and Club**, Wyndham Grand Resort are neighbors on the south side of Orlando, and both offer multiple golf courses and great hotels. Reunion features three championship courses by Tom Watson, Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus. The Watson and Palmer designs were listed on Golfweek's "America's Top 40 New Courses for 2005." The Nicklaus-designed Tradition course opened to rave reviews in 2006. The 730-room Omni Orlando Resort at Champions Gate features two Greg Norman-designed courses—the links-style International and the traditional Florida-style National layout.

•**The Ritz-Carlton Golf Club Orlando**, Grande Lakes, is nestled between a pristine nature reserve and a vast luxury resort complex that encompasses the 1,000-room JW Marriott Orlando, Grande Lakes, and

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	<p>the 584-room The Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes. The Greg Norman-designed course features a Caddie Concierge program that provides a knowledgeable professional attendant who offers course strategy and history, places food and beverage orders and even makes dinner reservations for after the round.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The David Harman-designed Shingle Creek Golf Club at Rosen Shingle Creek located just east of Orlando's Orange County Convention Center, was among Golfweek's "Top 40 New Courses for 2005." The course serves as the centerpiece of the 230-acre (93-hectare) resort. •Orange Lake Resort features vacation villas and 36 holes of great golf, including one Palmer design that recently underwent renovation. And, Mission Inn Resort is one of the region's favorites, with two great courses in a tranquil setting. <p>Casual Games For visitors looking to enjoy Orlando's famous theme parks along with a round or two of golf, Walt Disney World Resort awaits with four championship-caliber courses spaced over 775 acres (314 hectares) of the 47-square-mile (122-square-kilometer) property. In addition to scenic course landscapes, Disney's golf program offers a variety of instructional clinics, training opportunities and well-equipped pro shops, including leading-edge rental clubs.</p> <p>Golf Trail A new Orlando "Golf Trail" (www.orlandogolftrail.com) links nine premier golf facilities and six lodging properties along the Interstate 4 corridor, offering golfers a convenient, one-stop booking option for a golf vacation like no other.</p>
Fishing	<p>Anglers discover a sea of choices when it comes to fishing the more than 2,000 named lakes, rivers and springs in the greater Orlando area. Large-mouth bass, monster red fish and spotted sea trout are just a few of the creatures waiting to take the bait. BASS Online, Pro Bass Guide Service and Incentive Fishing Charters are among the area's numerous professional fish camps and guide services. Grande Lakes Outfitters offers an Orvis-endorsed private fly fishing school, full-day fly fishing seminars, fly fishing tours with professional guides and private guided eco-tours on Shingle Creek. Fans of saltwater fishing can cast their lines from piers, from the shore or from deep-sea fishing boats in the East Coast waters located less than an hour from Orlando, or in the West Coast waterways, only two hours away.</p>
Adventure Activities	<p>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 eco-tours offer an insider's look at</p>

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	<p>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.</p>
Hiking	<p>There are 21 fitness trails for biking, walking or blading. For the more energetic, Disney hold a number of running events through their parks: I have run their Wine and Dine Disney Half Marathon in October which is great fun – see my Travel Blog http://christalkstravel.blogspot.com/2010_10_01_archive.html</p>
Cycling	<p>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.</p> <p>Designated a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists, Orlando offers a multitude of paved fitness trails for people who want to put more fun in their exercise program by biking, in-line skating or walking. Many paths surround scenic lakes or are located in recreational parks. A number of shops offer equipment rentals. The West Orange Trail provides 31 paved kms with restroom and picnic facilities.</p> <p>Those looking to discover a new way to see the sights will be intrigued by the Segway tours at Epcot at Walt Disney World Resort offered before the park opens to the general public.</p>
Horseback Riding	<p>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.</p>
Up In The Air	<p>While Orlando may be best known for its world-class attractions, it is also filled with unique adventures that make vacations unforgettable. Where else can adventurous travelers try their hand at hang gliding or skydiving with no prior training or feel the wind in their hair in an open-cockpit 1930s biplane?</p> <p>Hot Air Balloon Rides – Visitors looking for an over-the-top experience should check out a hot air balloon ride – at sunrise, no less – with one of the area's established vendors such as Bob's Balloon Flights, Orlando Balloon Rides or Magic Sunrise Ballooning. After boarding, visitors are</p>

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	<p>carried away by warm breezes and breathtaking views that only a hot air balloon ride can provide. Once back on land, many companies offer a champagne toast, celebration picnic and commemorative photos with the pilot.</p> <p>Helicopter Rides – For a truly unique view of Orlando's famed attractions, visitors can board an air-conditioned helicopter. Several companies including International Heli-Tours provide narrated tours, offering insight into the area and fantastic opportunities for photos and videos.</p> <p>Skydiving –Visitors seeking the ultimate thrill can do so with the help of area skydiving schools that have visitors airborne in just one day. Not quite ready to take the plunge? Consider a company like iFly Orlando on International Drive, which offers an exhilarating indoor experience through a super-charged wind tunnel.</p> <p>Hang Gliding – Wallaby Ranch Hang Gliding Flight Park has visitors airborne within moments of their arrival on a tandem hang glider. Towed to a height of 2,000 feet (610 meters) by a specially designed ultra light tow plane, they will enjoy the view of unspoiled landscape as they glide back down to solid ground.</p> <p>Historical Flight – Aircraft aficionados can step back in time on board a vintage biplane or fighter plane flight over Central Florida. Fantasy of Flight in nearby Polk City, offers open-cockpit biplane rides in a 1930s New Standard D-25 or a 1940s Boeing PT-17 Stearman. Biplane Rides Over Kissimmee also offers biplane rides in a 1940s PT-17 Stearman, while Warbird Adventures provides flights on the World War II T-6 Texan fighter plane.</p>
<p>Underwater</p>	<p>Fun 2 Dive Scuba and Manatee Snorkeling Tours offers full-day manatee snorkeling experiences which include a manatee awareness program and time in the water with these gentle creatures. Florida Dolphin Tours, Inc. also offers sightseeing tours and excursions to see or swim with dolphins and manatees up close.</p>
<p>Soft Adventure</p>	<p>Daytona International Speedway, home of the Daytona 500 and Coke Zero 400 NASCAR races, offers exciting racing; guided Speedway tours; and the Richard Petty Driving Experience. www.daytonainternationalspeedway.com 386-253-7223</p> <p>Indy Racing Experience, located at the Walt Disney World Speedway, gives race fans and thrill seekers the opportunity to drive and ride in actual cars that were used in past Indianapolis 500 events. After suiting up in authentic driver fire suits and being strapped in by a pit crew,</p>

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	<p>guests can feel the speed, g-forces and pressure of true IndyCar racing. Drivers and riders must be 18 years of age or older. www.indyracingexperience.com 888-357-5002/317-243-7171</p> <p>Revolution The Off-Road Experience in Clermont lets visitors take the wheel of an all-terrain vehicle, Hummer, Jeep Dune Buggy or high-speed rally car for a few hours of off-road fun. Or, guests can take to the water for wakeboarding, waterskiing or fishing. www.revolutionoffroad.com 352-400-1322</p> <p>Richard Petty Driving Experience takes motorsports fans out of the grandstands and puts them behind the wheel of a stock car. Ride-and-drive programs on the 1-mile (1.6-kilometer), tri-oval Walt Disney World Speedway and 2.5-mile (4-kilometer) Daytona International Speedway are available. Drivers must be 18 years of age and riders must be at least 14 years of age. www.1800bepetty.com 800-237-3889/407-939-0130</p> <p>Zero-G Corporation provides a full-day experience featuring a weightless flight that only astronauts have had access to prior to now. Flights depart from the Kennedy Space Center. www.gozerog.com 800-ZERO-G-800/954-756-1000</p>
Spas	<p>Whether your goal is pure relaxation, fitness, health or all of the above, a visit to one of Orlando's 19 full-service destination spas surely will soothe away all cares of the world.</p> <p>Orlando's largest spa is the 39,999-square-foot The Ritz-Carlton Spa, Grande Lakes Orlando. In addition to 40 treatment rooms, a few of which are equipped for couple's massages, the spa offers a full-service salon, spa boutique and signature citrus-infused treatments.</p> <p>Orlando's newest retreat, Spa by Guerlain® at the Waldorf Astoria Orlando is a luxurious spa that includes 23 indoor and six outdoor treatment areas. Here, you can enjoy transforming body therapies and soothing massages to enhance overall well-being. And The Spa at Hilton Orlando celebrates the zest of Florida with Neroli based products, treatments and services.</p> <p>The Mandara Spa at the Loews Portofino Bay Hotel, a relaxation center at Universal Orlando® Resort, offers an exotic spa experience rooted in Balinese healing traditions passed from generation to generation. The Mandara Spa at the Walt Disney World Dolphin Hotel is an ancient Asian-inspired retreat featuring 13 treatment rooms, meditation gardens and a sophisticated hair and nail salon.</p> <p>At the Spa at Buena Vista Palace in the Walt Disney World® Resort, you'll enjoy unique treatments such as the Theme Park Leg Relief</p>

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	<p>Wrap, The Golden Door Pineapple Body Scrub or the Fountain of Youth Facial. The Spa at Orlando World Center Marriott Resort offers the Around the World in Eighty Minutes signature massage experience featuring techniques from around the globe, a hydrating Après Soleil After-Sun Treatment and the World of Beauty Signature facial. The Spa at Rosen Shingle Creek harnesses the essence of Florida in a menu of spa services that include citrus and cedar-infused massages and body treatments.</p>
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CULTURE	<p>A new Web site, www.redchairproject.com , offers a one-stop online source for the region's best arts and culture experiences and packages, including arts and culture events; dining and hotel accommodations. Visitors can also get a taste for the arts through the new Loch Haven Pass, which includes admission to the Orlando Science Center, Orlando Museum of Art and the Mennello Museum of American Art for 20 percent off of the regular adult and children admission prices. In addition, American Coach offers a discounted round-trip transportation ticket from International Drive to Loch Haven Park with the purchase of the Loch Haven Cultural Pass.</p>
Theatre	<p>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</p>
Arts	<p>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.</p>
Music	<p>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.</p>
Films	<p>The wide variety of landscapes available across the Orlando area has provided the backdrop for some notable movies, commercials, television shows and music videos. Ace Ventura 3, Bring It On: 4, Monster, Larry The Cable Guy: Health Inspector and The Waterboy are among the many feature films shot in Orlando.</p>
Museums	<p>Marvel at Tiffany glass at The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art.</p>

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	<p>Orlando Science Center offers an observatory, giant screen theater and hundreds of hands-on exhibits on four floors which offer opportunities to explore, experiment and discover. www.osc.org 888-672-4386/407-514-2000</p>
<p>Festivals November and December 2011</p>	<p>NOVEMBER</p> <p>Sunset & Symphony – Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra Nov. 5 Bok Tower Gardens invites guests to enjoy an evening of picnic and pops with the award-winning Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra and the Singing Tower carillon. Experience the drama as the sky transforms from a colorful golden sunset glow into a magical darkened starry night on peninsular Orlando’s highest point. Admission: \$25 for adults, \$10 for children (ages 5-12). www.boktowergardens.org 863-676-1408</p> <p>10th Annual Winter Park Concours d’Elegance Nov. 5 – 6 More than 120 of the world’s most prestigious automobiles will be on display on elegant Park Avenue in one of the most highly-regarded, judged exotic car shows in the United States. Guests won’t want to miss the Tour d’Elegance, an exotic car parade on Saturday, Nov. 5. Admission: Free. www.winterparkconcours.com 407-649-9385</p> <p>Fall Fiesta in the Park Nov. 5 – 6 This event, held at Lake Eola Park in downtown Orlando, features more than 600 juried artisans in all media, including ceramics, glassware, jewelry, photography, wood and clothing. In addition to a fabulous lineup of art and live entertainment, the fiesta offers an array of tasty fare. Admission: Free. www.cityoforlando.net 407-246-2121</p> <p>Mickey’s Very Merry Christmas Party Nov. 8 – Dec. 18, Select Dates The Magic Kingdom plays host to this series of nighttime holiday fun events for the little ones including holiday shows, fireworks and magic treats with Minnie and Mickey. Admission: Regular ticket prices are \$62.95 for adults and \$57.95 for children (ages 3-9). Discounted tickets are available online. www.disneyworld.com 407-824-4321</p> <p>Osborne Family Spectacle of Dancing Lights Nov. 10 – Jan. 3 This dazzling holiday extravaganza electrifies Disney’s Hollywood Studios with millions of sparkling lights. With Jennings Osborne’s lights</p>

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and a little Disney magic, the big city comes alive in glowing color as snow falls overhead. Admission: Included in regular park admission, \$85 for adults and \$79 for children (ages 3-9). www.disneyworld.com

36th Annual Festival of the Masters

Nov. 11 – 13

Held at Downtown Disney West Side, this nationally recognized art show ranks among the top 50 outdoor art festivals in the world year after year. More than 150 award-winning artists display their diverse creations for all to see. Live entertainment, hands-on children's activities and chalk art displays are also on tap at the three-day event. Admission: Free. www.disneyworld.com 407-824-4321

A Celebration of the Harry Potter Films

Nov. 11 – 13

Universal Orlando Resort, home to The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, invites guests to celebrate their favorite memories and stories of Harry Potter with filmmakers, cast members and fellow fans during this special event. Throughout the three-day celebration, guests will have access to exclusive happenings including autograph signings and Q&A sessions with the cast, screenings of all eight Harry Potter films and an evening Gala in The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, located within Universal's Islands of Adventure. Guests will also be able to explore The Wizarding World of Harry Potter during their stay. Admission: Vacation packages including multi-day theme park tickets and accommodations range from \$369-\$699 per person. www.universolorlando.com 407-363-8000

Orlando Calling

NOVEMBER 12-13, 2011

Announced with much fanfare recently by the City of Orlando and Festival Republic, this Fall's newest music Festival Orlando Calling announced today an exciting roster of additional artists including a headline set by Kid Cudi on Stage 2 and a roster of emerging Orlando artists set to play for a national audience. The Festival has previously announced its schedule of Stage 1 artist sets which features full headline sets from The Killers (Saturday) and the only Florida show all year by Bob Seger & The Silver Bullet Band (Sunday) with Kid Rock, their first time ever sharing a major live engagement.

Orlando Calling will be a weekend long action-packed festival set in America's entertainment playground of Orlando, Florida at the world famous Citrus Bowl Park. Featuring four stages of American Artists, Orlando Calling will present platinum-selling marquee acts, icons from the genres of Blues, Country, Rock, Alternative, Nu Folk and R&B. The

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Festival will also showcase exciting young talent emerging from the Central Florida area and across the nation. Tickets and ticket packages are on sale at <http://www.orlandocalling.com/> .

The Festival will feature full sets from its headline artists. The Killers, will perform a rare U.S. show, their first public appearance in over two years, as Saturday night's headline act. Sunday night's headliner, Bob Seger & The Silver Bullet Band, will perform on an outdoor festival bill for the first time in decades, and for a rare and unique Festival appearance, Kid Rock will join the bill. Other artists will include seminal indie rock acts The Raconteurs and Pixies, and the popular folk rock ensemble, The Avett Brothers.

Stage One headliners will be the only live music during their headline set– but during the weekend, Festival fans will be able to experience all the action from multiple stages and performance areas in a way that is accessible, inclusive, and designed as a shared celebration of American music heritage and culture. Additionally, a 'coffee house' venue will spotlight traditional folk, bluegrass, jazz and other legacy artists, and will promote the work of local and regional artisans, visual artists, and craft vendors.

Fans will be able to enjoy a downtown music festival in a major regional hub, utilizing local hotel accommodations and free and frequent shuttle bus service directly from downtown to the festival site at the Florida Citrus Bowl Park. Additional late night shows and other activities are planned throughout the weekend in Downtown Orlando.

Additional information is available at <http://www.orlandocalling.com/>

Admission: Single day tickets are \$87.50 for field access and \$175 for VIP; 2-day tickets are \$160 for field access and \$295 for VIP.

Festival of Trees at Orlando Museum of Art

Nov. 12 – 20

For nine magical days, the Orlando Museum of Art is transformed into a glittering holiday wonderland where trees, wreaths and gingerbread houses ignite holiday spirit. www.omart.org 407-896-4231

Leu's Holiday House

Nov. 14 – Jan. 4, 2012

The beautifully restored late 19th century Leu House Museum is decked out for the holidays by some of Orlando's best interior designers.

Guests can stroll along the garden's meandering paths shaded by ancient oaks, forests of camellias and giant camphor trees.

www.leugardens.org 407-246-2620

ICE! At Gaylord Palms™

Nov. 16 – Jan. 2, 2012

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Who says the holidays in Florida are all about palm trees and sunshine? Visitors should prepare for the coolest winter on record as Gaylord Palms Resort presents ICE! An instant dose of winter, this spectacle is made from over 2 million pounds (907,185 kilograms) of ice. Admission: \$22.99-\$27.99 for adults, \$13.99 for children. www.gaylordhotels.com

Holidays Around the World

Nov. 25 – Dec. 30

This Epcot tradition features storytellers, a daily character tree-lighting ceremony and a stunning display of snow-white lights. The Candlelight Processional, a favorite of all ages, includes celebrity guest narrators, accompanied by a massed choir and orchestra for a retelling of the Christmas story. Admission: Included in regular park admission, \$85 for adults and \$79 for children (ages 3-9). www.disneyworld.com

SeaWorld's Christmas Celebration

Nov. 25 – Dec. 31

Create yuletide memories and celebrate the season during "Christmas at SeaWorld." This holiday event features festive decorations, snowfalls at The Waterfront and live holiday music from classical musicians and carolers. Admission: Included in regular park admission, \$81.99 for adults and \$73.99 for children (ages 3-9). www.SeaWorldOrlando.com

Christmas at Pinewood Holiday Home Tour

Nov. 26 – Jan. 2, 2012

Capture the holiday spirit when you tour the 20-room, Mediterranean-style mansion at Pinewood Estate during the Christmas at Pinewood holiday home tour at Bok Tower Gardens. See what's new and different when Central Florida designers transform the 1930s winter retreat into a glittering holiday showcase. Admission: \$18 for adults, \$9 for children. www.boktowergardens.org 863-676-1408

DECEMBER

The OUC Half Marathon and 5K

Dec. 3

As one of the Southeast's top road race events, the OUC Half Marathon and 5K winds through scenic downtown Orlando and around beautiful Lake Eola alongside live local entertainment. Participants joining more than 3,000 runners for this charitable Florida tradition enjoy sunny Florida skies, moderate temperatures and the Finish Line Fiesta for post-race festivities. Admission: \$25 for the 5K and \$45 for the half-marathon. www.OUChalfmarathonand5k.com 407-423-2476

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Pop Warner Super Bowl

Dec. 3-10

Now in its 82nd year of providing an organizational structure for youth football, Pop Warner Little Scholars, Inc. brings its Pop Warner Super Bowl and National Cheer & Dance Championships to Walt Disney World Resort. More than 60 teams from across the country compete in four age groups from 8-14 on the fields of the 220-acre (80-hectare) ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex. www.Popwarner.com

Champs Sports Bowl

Dec. 29

The Champs Sports Bowl, featuring teams from the ACC & Big Ten conferences, has existed in name since 2004, but the game's history extends for more than 15 years. Attendance to the game has increased steadily every year since. It is played in the Citrus Bowl in downtown Orlando. www.fc sports.com 407-423-2476

Orlando Citrus Parade

Dec. 31

The Orlando Citrus Parade, held in downtown Orlando, features signature citrus floats made from more than 100,000 grapefruit, oranges and tangerines. There are more than 50 entries, including marching bands from across the country. The parade attracts more than 60,000 spectators and an international audience of millions through its television syndication in the United States and Canada in 150 markets. Admission: Free. www.fc sports.com 407-423-2476

New Year's Eve at SeaWorld Orlando

Dec. 31

SeaWorld Orlando is throwing a big New Year's Eve party complete with live music and fireworks. Dance to the beat of a live DJ as the countdown to 2012 begins at The Waterfront, where guests can also enjoy shopping, dining and entertainment venues. At the stroke of midnight, witness the Orlando sky radiate during a brilliant fireworks show that will light up the night. Admission: Included in regular park admission, \$81.99 for adults and \$73.99 for children (ages 3-9). www.SeaWorldOrlando.com 407-363-2259

New Year's Eve 2011 at Universal CityWalk

Dec. 31

Universal CityWalk, a 30-acre (121,406-square-meter) entertainment complex with themed restaurants, nightclubs and shops, hosts one of Orlando's hottest New Year's Eve parties. The evening features live performances by national acts, an expansive gourmet buffet, a

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champagne toast and live entertainment at its nightclubs, including the groove, an electrifying dance club; CityJazz, a hip jazz venue; Jimmy Buffett's Magaritaville and others. www.universalorlando.com

New Year's Eve at the Walt Disney World Resort

Dec. 31

The parks come alive to say farewell to 2011. Epcot celebrates the New Year "around the world" with DJs and evening dance parties located throughout World Showcase and lasting late into the evening, as well as a special presentation of the "Illuminations: Reflections of Earth" lights, lasers and fireworks display. Disney's Hollywood Studios celebrates New Year's Eve not only with multiple presentations of "Fantasmic!" a spectacular of Disney movies and music, but also with a special "Lights! Camera! Happy New Year!" fireworks spectacular, as well as a DJ dance party around the Sorcerer Hat Stage. Magic Kingdom features special presentations of the Main Street Electrical Parade and multiple nighttime fireworks displays. Admission: Included in regular park admission (for each park), \$85 for adults and \$79 for children (ages 3-9). www.disneyworld.com 407-824-4321

Holidays at Universal Orlando Resort

Dec.

Universal celebrates the holidays at both theme parks with the popular annual events Grinchmas at Universal's Islands of Adventure and the Macy's Holiday Parade at Universal Studios. During Grinchmas, Seuss Landing at Islands of Adventure is transformed and colorfully decorated for the season. Guests are invited to enjoy a live, musical stage show based on the beloved Dr. Seuss tale and Universal Pictures' and Imagine Entertainment's Academy Award-winning blockbuster hit, "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas." At Universal Studios, the world's most famous parade, Macy's Holiday Parade, features some of the most popular balloons and floats from the famous Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. Admission: Included in regular park admission, \$85 for adults and \$79 for children (ages 3-9).

www.universalorlando.com 407-363-8000

ATTRACTIONS

- **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

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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, 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.

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- **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 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

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	<p>(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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
Beaches	<p>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 rated as the best in the US</p>
Wildlife	<p>You can have close encounters with manatees and alligators. SeaWorld shows off the many aspects of marine life. Disney's Animal Kingdom is the perfect introduction to the wildlife of the African Plains. Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Gardens showcases hundreds of rare or endangered animals, including cheetahs, elephants, kangaroos, baboons, leopards and some of the most powerful snakes in the world. Newly opened is ZOOM Air Adventures, a zip-line experience. www.centralfloridazoo.org 407-323-4450</p>
Parks	<p>There are over 100 parks in and around Orlando, so no lack of green spaces to enjoy here!</p>
Gardens	<p>Harry P. Leu Gardens, which is an inner city oasis covering 50 acres (20,000 m²) and features colorful annuals, palms, an orchid house, a floral clock and a butterfly garden. The garden boasts the largest camellia collection in eastern North America and includes the Leu House Museum, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. www.leugardens.org 407-246-2620</p>

OTHER ACTIVITIES	
Shopping	<p>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</p>

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	<p>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.</p> <p>Pointe Orlando features a collection of outdoor shopping, dining and entertainment options in the heart of the attractions area. Located on International Drive, guests can shop at more than 40 specialty retail stores, including Artsy Abode and Armani Exchange; dine at restaurants like The Capital Grille or B.B King's Blues Club; and enjoy entertainment venues, such as Regal Cinemas and the Orlando Improv Comedy Club & Dinner Theatre.</p> <p>www.pointeorlando.com 407-248-2838</p>
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	<p>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! It would take nearly five years to eat in all of Orlando's restaurants if you ate in three each day...</p>
Wine	<p>Lakeridge Winery & Vineyards: Free guided winery tour and wine 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>

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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.

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.

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.

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).

And here are **ten new** (as at Oct 2011) restaurants to check out:

- Big Fin Seafood Kitchen for fresh global seafood, steaks, pasta, as well as a sushi and raw bar in a classy, casual restaurant at Pointe Orlando.
- Crave – Orlando for quality, locally sourced food with Mediterranean and Asian influences in a trendy atmosphere, located at The Mall at Millenia.
- Delmonico's Italian Steakhouse for world-famous steak at the first Delmonico's opened outside of New York, located on International Drive.
- Fat Fish Blue for creative Louisiana-French cuisine and traditional American favorites in a relaxed atmosphere at Pointe Orlando.
- Fleming's® Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar for classic steakhouse offerings and tempting wine in a contemporary setting, on Orlando's famous "Restaurant Row."
- Funky Monkey Wine Company for eclectic, modern American fare and famous wine dinners in an upscale, yet relaxed environment in Pointe Orlando.
- Kouzzina by Cat Cora® for Mediterranean fare from celebrity and Iron Chef Cora, at Disney's BoardWalk Entertainment District in the Walt DisneyWorld® Resort.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • La Luce® by Donna Scala for rustic Italian cuisine, Mediterranean-inspired drinks and a Trattoria-style wine program at Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek. • Oceanaire Seafood Room for chic atmosphere reminiscent of 1930s and 1940s supper clubs, with more than 25 types of seafood and shellfish flown in daily. • Treasure Tavern for a new adult dining experience; a Caribbean outpost-themed three-course meal and two-hour show featuring comedians, acrobats and dancers.
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MORE INFO	
Brochures	Order a Planning Kit online or at 1-800-551-2006 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
Websites	www.orlandoinfo.com/canada for information on Orlando and lots more.

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: If you don't live in Orlando, 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 check out their 2011 savings specially for Canadians at: http://www.visitorlando.com/EN-CA/discounts-tickets/deals-made-for-canadians</p>
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PERSONAL EXPERIENCES	<p>I have been to Orlando numerous times and never fail to have a wonderful time and discover new experiences!</p> <p>For the shows in Oct 2010, I was on location at Walt Disney World for their Disney Wine and Dine Half Marathon Weekend – see my travel blog at: http://christalkstravel.blogspot.com/2010/10/disney-wine-dine-half-marathon-weekend.html</p> <p>And for the shows in January 2011, I was on location in SeaWorld Orlando (which included shopping at Prime Outlets Orlando!) – see my travel blog at: http://christalkstravel.blogspot.com/2011/01/kookaburras-otters-and-shopping.html</p>
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itravel2000	itravel 2000 are a call centre / online travel agency founded in 1994 with the purpose of offering superior customer service, travel selection, the best value and the lowest prices guaranteed. Today ittravel2000 has grown into one of Canada's largest independent travel companies. ittravel2000 was, and remains, a pioneer in the online travel industry. The website allows you to shop for and book travel in four easy steps with the best selection and lowest prices guaranteed.
A Brief History	itravel2000 was founded in 1994 with the sole purpose of offering the travel consumer, superior customer service, travel selection, the best value and the lowest prices guaranteed on travel and travel related products. Today ittravel2000 has grown into one of Canada's largest independent travel companies. Their headquarters and Customer Care Call Centre is located at 2350 Matheson Blvd East, Mississauga (Directly across from Pearson International Airport). Their "Lowest Price Guarantee" means you can arrange your travel with confidence. If you find the same product anywhere else for a lower price at the time of booking, they'll beat it. ittravel2000 was and remains a pioneer in the online travel industry. With their first site launch in 1996 to our present site(s) ittravel2000 continues to lead the industry. By creating our own in house proprietary software, it allows you to shop for and book travel in four easy steps with the best selection and lowest prices guaranteed. Try shopping for a flight, package holiday, cruise, hotel or car rental and see how easy it really is. Plus, you can collect or redeem Petro-Points with ittravel2000.
Call Centre	itravel2000's state of the art call centre is there to handle all your travel inquiries seven days a week. Monday to Friday from 7am to midnight, Saturday and Sunday from 8:30am to 8:00pm (EST) a knowledgeable sales agent is ready to help you find the lowest price guaranteed.
Customer Service	itravel2000's success has been built upon customer service. Contact them by phone or by e-mail and they will answer your questions and find travel services that you require in a quick and efficient manner. Phone: (905) 629-5111, Toll Free: 1-800-859-2920 Website: www.ittravel2000.com Ontario Address: 2350 Matheson Blvd East, Mississauga, L4W 5G9 Quebec Address; 1125 Boul de Maisonneuve Ouest, Montreal, Quebec, H3A 1N4
Contact Info	General: 416-695-9999 Facsimile: 905-238-6177 Reservations: 416-695-9999 Toll Free: 1-800-859-2920
Security	All bookings with ittravel2000itravel2000™ customer funds are protected in Ontario by TICO (#50007916) and by the OPC in Quebec (#702761).

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Orlando Deals	For a special section of the itravel2000 website that presents all the latest deals from Toronto and Montreal to Orlando, go to: http://www.itravel2000.com/orlandosuperstore.aspx Currently there are family accommodation deals available from just \$55 per room per night as at October 28 th 2011. Car rental is available from \$42 per day
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