

welcome to the

DW Savers

GuideBook

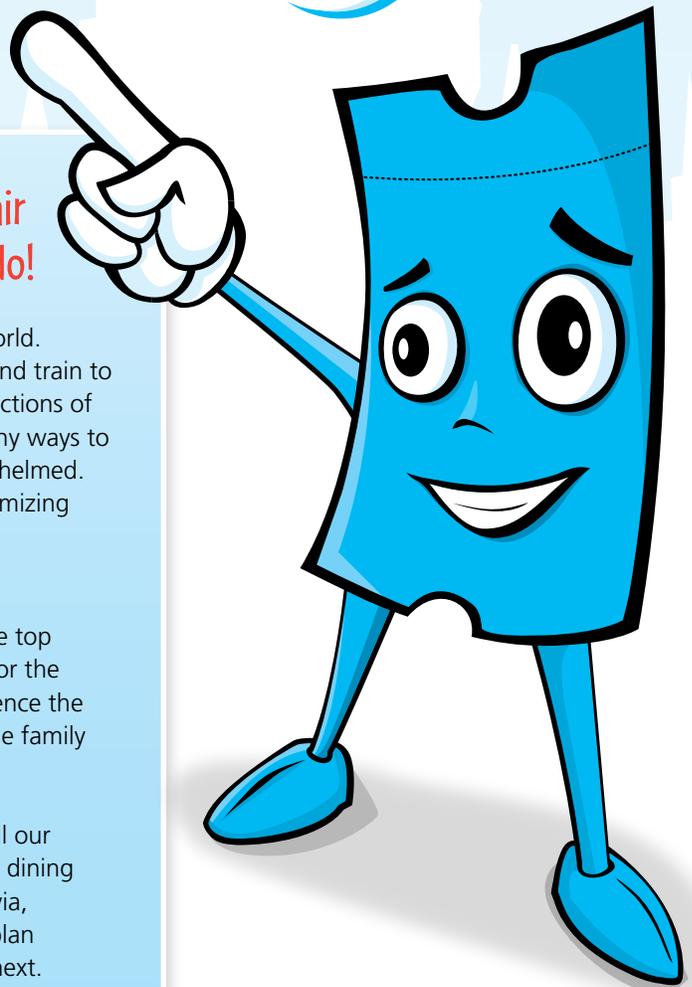


Grab your Mouse Ears, sunscreen, and a pair of comfy shoes - you're headed for Orlando!

Orlando is the most popular vacation destination in the world. Every year, tens of millions of people arrive by plane, car, and train to hit the theme parks, restaurants, and the many other attractions of this once-rural Florida city. With so much to do and so many ways to do it, it can be easy for you, and your wallet, to get overwhelmed. This guide is a great way to minimize problems while maximizing fun. Keep it handy to save both time and money on your Orlando vacation.

The DW Savers GuideBook offers great tips on many of the top destinations, along with helpful and general information for the Orlando area. You'll find all the details you need to experience the major attractions, whether you are traveling with the whole family or just a few fun-loving adults.

Keep an eye out for Tickey! Tickey will happily point out all our great tips, whether they are time-saving, money-saving, or dining suggestions. We've even thrown in some fun facts and trivia, including insider secrets! With our help, it will be easy to plan your vacation and get around from one adventure to the next. Just print this out and slip it in your suitcase or carry-on, and you'll be ready to go!



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**TRIVIA 1:** What are the shops on Main Street U.S.A. named after?

see answers on page 24



## Walt Disney World® Resort

It is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world, bringing visitors by the millions every year. What was once a swampy patch of Florida soil has grown into a massive entertainment mecca, a vacation destination all by itself. The Walt Disney World® Resort offers 4 main theme parks, 2 water parks, 23 hotels, 7 golf courses (5 championship and 2 minis), a racetrack, sports complex, 10 marinas, over 140 places to eat, and more. It's easy to spend an entire vacation just at Walt Disney World (WDW) and still have things to do on your next visit. It's also easy to get completely thrown by the sheer amount of *stuff* that WDW offers. The best way to start is to take one piece at a time and plan from there.

## Magic Kingdom® Park

It's the iconic image that leaps to mind when most people think of WDW – the castle at the end of Main Street USA. It's the opening scene of your very own fairy tale, only at WDW's Magic Kingdom. Main Street USA is just the start. Beyond it, 6 additional worlds await exploration: Adventureland, Fantasyland, Frontierland, Liberty Square, Mickey's Toontown Fair, and Tomorrowland. Each world has its own attractions, restaurants, and shops – here's a breakdown of some of the most popular attractions:

**Adventureland:** Pirates of the Caribbean, The Enchanted Tiki Room, Jungle Cruise, Magic Carpets of Aladdin

**Fantasyland:** Cinderella's Golden Carousel, Dumbo The Flying Elephant, It's a Small World, Mad Tea Party, The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh

**Frontierland:** Big Thunder Mountain Railroad, Splash Mountain, Country Bear Jamboree (show)

**Liberty Square:** The Haunted Mansion, Hall of Presidents, Liberty Square Riverboat

**Mickey's Toontown Fair:** The Barnstormer, Toontown Hall of Fame (character meeting spot), Donald's Boat (water play area)

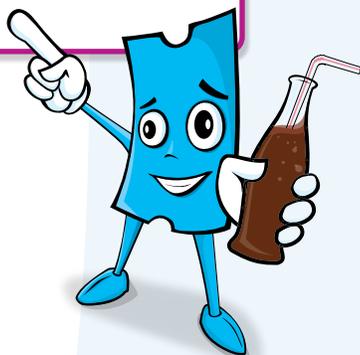
**Tomorrowland:** Space Mountain, Buzz Lightyear's Space Ranger Spin, Stitch's Great Escape, Walt Disney's Carousel of Progress

There are plenty of chances to see your favorite Disney characters. Costumed friends are featured at special reservation-only character meals, as well as places within all 4 parks to meet, greet, and take photos. The Magic Kingdom has several specific areas, including City Hall at Town Square, the Adventureland CongoOasis, and the Toontown Hall of Fame.

**CHARACTER TIP:** Not all characters appear every day. If you've got your heart set on a particular favorite, check with Guest Services for help determining where certain characters will be in the park.

**SOUVENIR TIP:** If you're taking children to WDW, consider a DWTickets Magic Pack. Each Magic Pack comes with a WDW park admission ticket (child) for a specific number of days, a character autograph book, and mouse ears. The Magic Pack means you'll be fully prepared for those magical character encounters and saves you time avoiding long lines at the souvenir shop. For more information on Magic Packs, check page 21, in our Links section.

**DINING TIP:** The Magic Kingdom is home to one of the most popular character dining experiences, Cinderella's Royal Table. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are available by reservation, but the dinner is by far the most popular. It books 4-6 months in advance, so be sure to plan accordingly if you want to enjoy this experience.



Characters are also known to make appearances near the rides associated with them, as well as many random sightings throughout the park. Check with Guest Services to find out when and where your favorite characters will be meeting and greeting!

## Epcot®

Experimental Prototype Community Of Tomorrow – it was Walt’s dream city, but it opened instead as a theme park more commonly known as EPCOT. If you’ve been looking for a place that combines rides, technology, world cultures, and street performers, EPCOT is your place.

While the Magic Kingdom is heaven for little ones, EPCOT is definitely better suited for older kids and adults, especially science and tech-savvy teenagers. The park is also known for having some of the best food on the Disney property, along with many of the hardest reservations to nab; if you’re heading over during a high-capacity time of year, plan accordingly via 407 WDW-DINE.

EPCOT is split into two areas: Future World and the World Showcase.

**Future World:** Rides, interactive exhibits, and technology, including a few thrill rides to keep you screaming. The biggest and best are Spaceship Earth, Test Track, Mission Space, and Imagination!

**World Showcase:** Culture, shows, food, and a few more rides. World Showcase is a way to see some of the most famous destinations in the world without a passport. Each country – or pavilion – features food, goods, and cast members from the country itself. Shows, movies, and the occasional ride round out the experience.

The permanent World Showcase Pavilions are Mexico, Norway, China, Germany, Italy, American Adventure, Japan, Morocco, France, United Kingdom, and Canada.

EPCOT is home to several of the most popular WDW Annual Festivals. Park capacity tends to increase greatly during these times.

## Disney’s Hollywood Studios™

The magic of the movies, WDW-style, Disney’s Hollywood Studios is the tribute to “the Hollywood that never was and always will be.” It’s the place for movie greats, TV favorites, and 2 of the best thrill rides in the world. It’s also where you’ll find most of the “new generation” Disney characters, including Monsters Inc, High School Musical, and even pop-culture phenom American Idol.

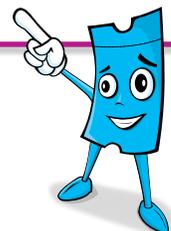


**KID TIP:** If you’re traveling with kids of all ages and you’re wondering what to do with the little ones while the teenagers are riding Test Track for the fourth time, Guest Services is here to help. Ask for a copy of “Magic and Wonder for Kids 5 and Under,” a special guide to attractions and experiences just for young visitors.

**SPECIAL EVENT TIP:** The EPCOT Food and Wine Festival runs in the fall every year. Foodies from all over the state and the country descend upon the theme park for wine and food tastings, specialty meals, and extraordinary dinners featuring celeb chefs. It’s an event best enjoyed by adults.

**ADULT TIP:** World Showcase is the only theme park in WDW that serves alcohol. You can find everything from real British ale to fine wines and top-shelf tequilas.

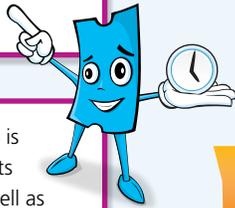
**VACATION TIP:** Disney’s Hollywood Studios is more “golden-age” than the more “modern-age” Universal Studios Orlando. Both parks have their own high points when it comes to rides and shows, but for overall feel, teenagers may prefer Universal for the more “grown up” rides. It’s a tough call, so if you can manage a visit to both parks, do it.



**SPECIAL EVENTS TIP:** Hollywood Studios hosts the immensely-popular Star Wars Weekends every summer, when fans of Lucas' saga descend upon the park. Guest Stars are also featured, as well as Storm Trooper parades, special merchandise, and events. It's a must-do all on its own if you are a fan of the sci-fi movies.

**TIP:** Seating is always at a premium for *Fantasmic!*, so arrive early and grab a comfortable place to wait it out, at least 60 minutes before show time is a good window to allow.

**TODDLER TIP:** *It's Tough To Be A Bug* is considered a park must-see but parents should be warned: younger kids (as well as older bug-haters) might be bothered by some scenes and the darkness of the theater that simulates bugs running past feet and similar experiences.



One of the best things about Hollywood Studios is that it is relatively small compared to the other Disney parks, so careful planning and an early start means you really can see the whole park in one day. Shows are particularly popular at this park and with good reason. They tend to be some of the best staged and best storied. At the very least, make sure you have time for Indiana Jones Stunt Spectacular.

If you can't devote a full day to Hollywood Studios, here's a quick list of the must-sees and the must-dos: Twilight Zone Tower of Terror, Aerosmith Rock 'n' Roller Coaster, The Great Muppet Movie Ride, Toy Story Mania!, Indiana Jones Epic Stunt Spectacular, Muppet Vision 3-D, and Star Tours.

Disney's Hollywood Studios is one of the parks you should try to visit during the later hours, so that you can experience *Fantasmic!* It's arguably the best nighttime show Disney has to offer and the only one, with the exception of the Magic Kingdom's Halloween parade, that features Disney Villains.

## Disney's Animal Kingdom® Park

WDW's newest park is rapidly becoming one of the most popular, and deservedly so. The park has live exotic animals, great restaurants (some of the most diverse found within any theme park), and truly great rides, making the entire place a must-do for any Orlando vacation.

Animal Kingdom opened its doors in 1998 and it's been thrilling park-goers with updates and changes ever since. 2007 saw one of its most ambitious and successful updates yet: a musical version of *Finding Nemo*. The park is a unique addition to WDW, filled with the kind of elaborate architectural touches that have been thrilling visitors since opening day. It's also well laid out and fairly compact, so you can experience the entire marvel, both man-made and natural, in one easy day.

Animal Kingdom is divided into different lands, much like Magic Kingdom. Some lands are based on world regions and have themes and animals indigenous to those areas, while others are more imaginatively named and based on Disney itself. Here's a rundown of what you will see, and where you will see it.

**Oasis:** This is the entry point. However, don't make the mistake of rushing through – Oasis features many animals in individual lush environments. Take your time and look for miniature deer, macaws, sloths, iguanas, and more.

**Discovery Island:** This is the park's center, dominated by the Tree of Life, an artful, architectural wonder that stands 14 stories tall and 50 feet wide. Trails surrounding the tree are definitely worth a walk. Not only do they feature more wildlife (like lemurs, Galapagos Tortoise, flamingos, and Red Kangaroos), they are the only way to see the 325 animals carved into the trunk like a bark tapestry. At the center of the Tree of Life is a theatre where *It's Tough to Be a Bug*, a top Animal Kingdom attraction, can be found.

**TRIVIA 2:** What happened to the Discovery Island Attraction?

see answers on page 24



**Camp Minnie Mickey:** It's the most little kid-friendly portion of the park and also the main area for character meet and greets. It features the Festival of the Lion King show, considered by many to be the absolute best show WDW has to offer. A smaller show, Pocahontas and Her Forest Friends, includes live animals and helps children understand the importance of nature conservation.

**Africa:** Take a wander through Harambe, a beautifully recreated African village, and head straight for Kilimanjaro Safaris for a ride through African animal territory. Then it's off the truck for a wander through Pangani Forest Exploration Trail for a look at lowland gorillas, including a 500-lb silverback male and his family. Take your time through these trails. The gorillas are magnificent and there aren't a lot of places to observe them. Take the little ones to Rafiki's Planet Watch after, as a reward for their patience—they'll love the Affection Section petting zoo.

**Asia:** You've discovered the kingdom of Anandapur, which means "Place of Delight." The Imagineers did an amazing job of creating the feeling of a crumbling, archeological wonder, so be sure to keep an eye open for intricate details. Of course, that might be hard to do since your whole party will be running to get to Expedition Everest—Legend of the Forbidden Mountain, Disney's newest thrill ride. FASTPASS it for sure—this coaster is worth your entire visit. On a hot day, head next to Kali River Rapids, where the churning water guarantees a soaking good time will be had by all. More up-close animal viewing can be had at Maharajah Jungle trek, including the large and graceful Bengal Tigers.

**Dinoland U.S.A.:** It might not be the best dinosaur attraction in the world, but it's still great Disney fun. The Boneyard is a place for kids to dig, climb and slide while parents finally get some time to sit and relax. From there, take the whole family to Dinosaur, a fun fast-paced race against time. Less thrilling, but still loads of fun, is the Primeval Whirl mini-coaster. Finally, grab a seat for Finding Nemo - The Musical. It is a gorgeous, visually-stunning reimagining of the popular family favorite.



**VACATION TIP:** Animal Kingdom prides itself on being environmentally friendly and very concerned with conservation. Recycling tips and bins are everywhere, so get your green on and remember to dispose of your plastic bottles the right way.

**RIDE TIP:** Kilimanjaro Safaris often has long lines, and while FASTPASS is available, it's best to ride early in the day or just before the park closes for the best viewing, before the animals hide from the hot Florida sun.

**ANIMAL TIP:** Big cats tend to hide from the heat—get here early or late for the best viewing.

**TODDLER TIP:** Little kids love The Boneyard and it's tempting to just let them run themselves ragged, but make sure you keep a close eye. The play area is widespread and it's easy to lose track of them.

## Quick Tips for the Big Four

*FASTPASS is like making a reservation for your favorite WDW attraction. Most of the "biggies" have FASTPASS machines. Just insert your admission ticket, annual pass, or resort ID, and the machine will print out a pass that designates what time you should return to the ride. You can't choose your time, and you can only have one active FASTPASS at a time. But if you use FASTPASS, you can save up to 2 hours on busy days.*

*A FASTPASS Tip: If you miss your scheduled time, don't worry. Your FASTPASS is good for any time after the time on your ticket.*

*During high capacity hours, even the FASTPASS line may have a short wait.*

**TRIVIA 3:** Who are the Disney World "Imagineers"?

*see answers on page 24*

**TRIVIA 4:** What are "E-Ticket Rides"?

*see answers on page 24*



**TRIVIA 5:** Which Walt Disney World employees are referred to as “cast members”?

see answers on page 24



*Parades and fireworks often mean shorter lines at major attractions. Try to ride the biggest attractions while everyone else is distracted by the show.*

*Disney has water fountains throughout the park. Bring your own water bottles (the park allows them) and refill throughout the day.*

*Snack stands offer quick, light options for meals on the go—remember that a heavy meal is likely to slow you down, especially in hot weather. Light snacks are a great way to maintain your energy without losing your stride!*

## Beyond the Big Four Parks

WDW is more than just the 4 main parks. A host of smaller attractions also beckons attention. See which ones appeal to you so that you are able to fit them into your Orlando vacation.

### The Water Parks

WDW has 2 water parks, Blizzard Beach and Typhoon Lagoon. When Orlando gets hot, the water parks get crowded, and the Disney Water parks can sometimes be the most packed of them all. Here are some good basic tips for getting the most out of the experience:

Go early or go late: If you're able to arrive early, use that time wisely. Stake out your lounge chairs and hit the most popular rides and slides. Alternately, visit after 2pm—it's usually the hottest part of the day, but a lot of people will be tired of swimming or will have moved on to a different park by that time.

Earlier in the week is better: Weekends are always going to be packed, but weekdays in the early part of the week can mean low crowds, since most people on week-long vacations will have chosen to go straight for the major parks.

Don't wait for the sun: Those wave pools and waterslides can feel just as good on a cloudy day as they do on a sunny one. Clouds often chase people away, so that can mean shorter lines.



**HEALTH TIP:** You might be apt to forget your sunscreen on a cloudy or overcast day, but don't – you're actually more likely to burn on a day like this. Apply and reapply just as if the sun were shining!

## Disney's Blizzard Beach

Like all things Disney, there's a tale behind the theme at this water park. Blizzard Beach is the 66-acre ski resort of Mount Gushmore, featuring a white sand beach and a tropical lagoon. This is the youngest of the Disney water parks, but it's also the most popular. In fact, it's the most popular water park in the country! It has great rides for all ages, from thrills and speed to lazy and relaxing. Here are a few highlights:

**Cross Country Creek:** 2900-foot tube ride that circles the park and includes the occasional drip of icy water, in keeping with the ski and snow theme.

**Melt Away Bay:** one-acre wave pool that's a good bet for keeping calm and cool.

**Tike's Peak:** It's a small version of the park for your little ones, with mini-versions of popular rides sized just for them.

**Ski Patrol Training Camp:** Extreme teens will enjoy "training" on rope swings, icebergs, and long-distance drops into the water below.

**Teamboat Springs:** The world's longest white-water raft ride, this is perfect for the whole family to twist their way down 1200 feet of rushing water.

**Summit Plummet:** The thrilling, fast, occasionally terrifying centerpiece of the park, and the world's fastest body slide. You'll test your courage and the strength of your bathing suit itself as you plunge straight down at speeds up to 60 mph.

**TIP FOR THE LADIES:** If you plan to take on the Summit Plummet, a one-piece bathing suit is highly recommended!

**TIP:** Don't let chilly temps freeze out your fun. Typhoon Lagoon's waters are kept at 75-80F degrees all year round, making this water park a great choice even during Orlando's short winter.

**TIP:** Call 407-WDW-PLAY to learn about surf lessons and other great Disney extras.

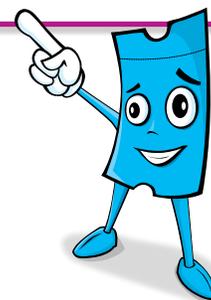
## Disney's Typhoon Lagoon

Slightly smaller and a bit more relaxed than Blizzard Beach, Typhoon Lagoon is Disney's second water park. Crowds tend to be less, since it is the older of the two parks, but you can still expect long waits and crowded pools during high attendance times of the year. The story of Typhoon Lagoon centers around Miss Tilly, a shrimp boat that ended up stuck atop the volcano Mount Mayday after "the storm of storms." On the half hour, Miss Tilly still blows her whistle and Mount Mayday tries to dislodge the ship by sending a geyser of water straight through her and up into the air.

The most well-known attraction at Typhoon Lagoon is the Shark Reef. Here, you can snorkel and even scuba with live sharks (leopards and bonnetheads), as well as stingrays and assorted tropical fish. Those visitors not quite brave enough to get in the water (the sharks are not dangerous!) can view the fish via the portholes of a "sunken tanker."

There are 9 waterslides, running the gamut from thrills to pure laziness. Here's a rundown of the crowd favorites:

**Castaway Creek:** A lovely lazy river that surrounds the park. You can lounge in a tube and ride the creek all day, or use the river as a transport to get from one part of the park to another via the 5 entrances and exits.



**Crush 'n' Gusher:** A water roller coaster where you can ride solo or with up to 2 additional guests. Choose from 3 different slide routes that take you on a wild ride into Hideaway Bay.

**Gang Plank Falls:** A family-style ride, where four people can get into one inner tube and ride 300 feet of crazy curves. There are great effects and rock formations all the way down, so try to pay attention as you spin and slide.

**Humunga Kowabunga:** Plummet 5 stories at top speeds in a fully-enclosed water slide. This is a thrill for sure—the drop is near-vertical and in the dark!

There is also a Surf Pool that is open all day for visitors of all ages. Surf lessons are offered in the pre-opening hours. If you are an experienced surfer, you can book a private Surf Session.

Or, you can just relax on the Sandy White Beach. There are lounge chairs and hammocks available for your comfort.

## Disney's Wide World of Sports® Complex

Disney's Sports Complex pays homage to sports and the people who play and love them. It's a 220-acre mega complex with a baseball stadium, 10 baseball and softball fields, 6 basketball courts, 12 tennis courts (fully lighted), 6 volleyball courts (sand, of course), a track and field complex, driving range for golfers, and even 2 indoor roller hockey rinks. 2008 saw the opening of the Jostens® Center, a multisport auxiliary complex with another 6 basketball courts, 12 more volleyball courts, and 2 more roller hockey rinks.

Lots of big names make appearances at the Complex. The Atlanta Braves use it for Spring Training every March, and the NBA, PGA, NCAA, and Harlem Globetrotters all host events and games. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers also use the Sports Complex as the base for their training camp in July and August.

Big sports fan? Make sure to attend on a day the Multi-Sports Experience is happening. It's included in the price of admission and offers guests sports challenges and activities, including football, baseball, basketball, hockey, soccer, and volleyball.

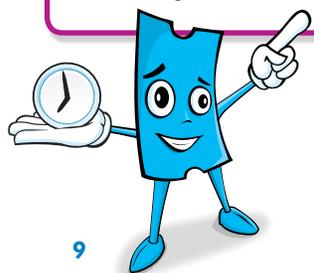
## DisneyQuest

DisneyQuest is an interactive, indoor theme park that is a perfect choice for the tech-heads in your group or for the whole family on a rainy day. There are 5 levels of cutting-edge games, all blending virtual reality with adventure. Teenagers will certainly love it, but really there is something for everyone. Don't miss the DisneyQuest versions of popular Magic Kingdom rides, including Pirates of the Caribbean: Battle for Buccaneer Gold, Virtual Jungle Cruise, CyberSpace Mountain, and Aladdin's Magic Carpets.

**EVENTS TIP:** Call 407-WDW-GAME for more information and to hear their calendar of events.



**TIME TIP:** Get here at opening for the most action with the least wait times; afternoons and evenings can become more crowded.



CyberSpace Mountain is a particular favorite, where Bill Nye the Science Guy helps you create the ultimate coaster and then lets you ride it in an amazing simulator experience.

Artful guests should check out Animation Station to enjoy a crash-course in Disney-style animation.

## Disney's Oak Trail Golf Course

Walt Disney World features 99 total holes of golf, spread over 6 courses. There are also 2 mini-golf complexes, competing with similar sites all over Orlando. While big-time golfers may choose to plan full-day outings with their buddies (tee times can be booked 60-90 days in advance), Oak Trail is the best place to get in a quick nine holes. It's a lovely and quiet walking course suitable for beginners, expert links men, or even families. The course offers a few great challenges, notably holes 5, 6, and 7.

## Downtown Disney®

If shopping, dining, and a state-of-the-art multiplex are part of your dream vacation, this is where you'll want to go. There are 3 areas: West Side, Pleasure Island, and The Marketplace.

**West Side** has DisneyQuest, which was previously explained above. It also has amazing dining experiences, such as Bongos Cuban Café, the House of Blues, Wolfgang Puck's, and Planet Hollywood. There is a 24-screen AMC movie theater, featuring all your first-run needs in a beautiful art deco setting. West Side also features Cirque du Soleil La Nouba, a Disney-exclusive show by the world-famous avant-garde troupe. Buy your tickets early if you want to see the show, as sold-out nights are very common. Check Links within the ticket section for information on obtaining Cirque tickets.

**Pleasure Island** is located in the center of Downtown Disney. What was originally a nighttime adult playground of clubs and bars, it has been "reimagined" into a family destination. Raglan Road Irish restaurant has remained open and is worth a visit for Disney's take on traditional pub grub. There is also a hot air balloon ride, a Harley Davidson Store, and other shops, with more to come. It's open to everyone, no additional fee or special pass needed.

**Disney Marketplace** contains great restaurants as well, most notably Fulton's Crab House, known for serving succulent seafood on a beautiful riverboat. Captain Jack's (no connection to the Johnny Depp character) is the place for oysters and cold beer, situated in a casual waterfront restaurant that also has great children menu choices. Kids will also love the Rainforest Café, where there are often live animals (mostly parrots) on display outside.

**ATTIRE TIP:** Spike-free golf shoes only! Sneakers or similar athletic shoes are also permitted.

**DINING TIP:** The House of Blues Sunday Gospel Brunch has become a local favorite. Spectacular southern cuisine is paired with incredible gospel singers, making for a truly inspiring performance. Make reservations early for this one!

**SHOPPING TIP:** The marketplace is home to the world's largest Disney store, World of Disney®. No trip is complete without a visit here, though parents trying to stick to a budget might want to corral the kids once they get through the door!



**TRIVIA 6:** Fulton's Crab House was once known as The Empress Lily Riverboat. Can you guess whose wife this popular restaurant was named after?

see answers on page 24

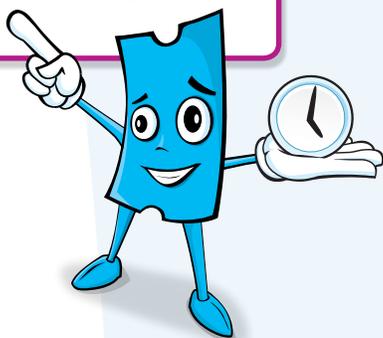
**TRIVIA 7:** How many people use the monorail system each day?

see answers on page 24



**TIP:** Ask a Cast Member if you can wait to ride in the very front of the monorail, with the driver. It's free, fun, and you'll even get a special souvenir pin!

**TIME TIP:** If you are taking the Disney Buses, pay attention! If you miss your stop, you might have to go back to the beginning before you can reach your destination. If you are concerned, ask the driver, a Guest Relations person prior to boarding, or even other guests!



## Transportation at the Walt Disney World® Resort

It's easy to get around the Mouse. Visitors should try to find the transportation option that works best for them.

**Monorail:** The Walt Disney Monorail system has been in place since the park opened in 1971. It originally ran around the circumference of the Seven Seas Lagoon, but was expanded in 1982 to offer monorail transport to EPCOT Center. If you are staying in one of the Magic Kingdom hotels "The Contemporary, The Polynesian, or the Grand Floridian", the monorail goes right through your hotel. Everyone else picks up the monorail at the Magic Kingdom, EPCOT, or the Transportation and Ticket Center, known colloquially as the TTC.

The TTC is the central point for Disney transportation. In addition to monorails, the TTC is also where you can find resort buses (Disney and others), ferry boats, water taxis, a massive parking lot, and even taxis.

Disney buses run to all the Disney hotels, the main parks, water parks, Downtown Disney, and the Wide World of Sports Complex. There are dozens of buses for each location, but the routes are not always the most direct. Also, the buses can be extremely crowded at peak periods, such as opening, closing, and meal times. Be aware of the time, because if you are in a hurry to get somewhere, the buses may not be your best option.

The monorails, ferry boats, water taxis and Disney buses are complimentary for guests. If you have your own car, the daily fee for parking is \$12, unless you are a Disney Resort Guest. You can park at the park of your choice or the TTC. Your parking pass is good for the entire day, no matter how often you move your car.

## Fun for Each Age Group: Kids, Teens or Adults

The WDW attracts everyone from families and retirees to honeymooners and spring breakers. While it's very easy to find your own favorites, here are a few great options targeted towards different age groups that others in your party might enjoy.

Please be advised of the following abbreviations we use for the different parks:

MK = Magic Kingdom® Park

EP = Epcot®

HS = Disney's Hollywood Studios™

AP = Disney's Animal Kingdom® Park

## **Best for Younger Kids**

Attractions: Voyage of the Little Mermaid (HS), Monsters Inc Laugh Floor (MK), Finding Nemo: The Musical (AK), Primeval Whirl (AK), Buzz Lightyear (MK)

Events: Pirate and Princess Party (MK), Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween (MK)

Eats: 50 Prime Time Café (HS), Cosmic Ray's (MK), Coral Reef Restaurant (E), McDonalds (the old standby, at Downtown Disney®), Toy Story Pizza Planet (HS)

## **Best for Teens**

Attractions: Indiana Jones Epic Stunt Spectacular (HS), PhilharMagic (MK), Phantasmic (HS), Rock n Roller Coaster (HS), Haunted Mansion (MK), Space Mountain (MK), Splash Mountain (MK), Mission: Space (E), Expedition Everest (AK)

Events: Star Wars Weekends (HS)

Restaurants: Casey's Corner (MK), Lotus Blossom Café (E), Sci-Fi Dine-In Theater (HS)

## **Best for Adults**

Attractions: Muppet Vision 3-D (HS), Twilight Zone Tower of Terror (HS), Test Track (E), Soarin' (E)

Events: EPCOT Food and Wine Festival (E), ABC Super Soap Weekend (HS), Flower and Garden Festival (E)

Restaurants: Victoria and Albert's (Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa), California Grill (Disney's Contemporary Resort), Narcoossee's (Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa), Chefs du France (E), Jiko (Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge), Rose and Crown (E), Artist's Point (Disney's Wilderness Lodge Resort).

## Universal Orlando®

Move over Disney! Universal Orlando® is making a serious play for all-the-resort-your-vacation-can-handle. They're not the giant that Disney is, not yet, but with 3 beautiful hotels, 2 massive theme parks filled with incredible rides, and a great shopping/movie/restaurant/club complex, they are definitely giving the Mouse a run for his money.

Universal Studios Florida® opened in the summer of 1990 and has been pulling crowds away from WDW ever since. Distancing it from Disney's more child friendly atmosphere, Universal is filled with rides and attractions that tend to cater towards the teens and adult crowd.

Universal Orlando has another strong advantage over Disney's similarly themed Hollywood Studios, being that Universal is a real, working television and film studio. Visitors can even sit in the studio audience for some shows! Stop by the Studio Audience Center to the right of the main entrance at Universal Studios or call 407-224-4233 to learn what's currently filming.

In 1999 Universal Orlando introduced a massive expansion, becoming the Universal Orlando Resort. They unveiled CityWalk, a food and drink, retail, and entertainment complex; the Portofino Bay Hotel and the Hard Rock Hotel (later joined by The Loews Royal Pacific); and the thrill-ride mecca, Islands of Adventure (IOA). IOA's many thrill rides have done a wonderful job for Universal by grabbing the early 20's demographic.

For a while, there was a clear separation among vacationers, with families flowing into Disney and everyone else heading to Universal. Since then, both resort giants have added and subtracted rides for all ages, creating a much more diverse age base in each park.

**SPECIAL EVENTS TIP:** Halloween Horror Nights, Universal's INCREDIBLY popular Halloween event, is the best example of Universal Studios' teen and adult draw. Make no mistake. This is NOT for children or skittish adults, but fans of the horror genre will absolutely love it. If you're visiting during this time of year, check our ticket section for more information.

**TIP:** Production schedules can change at a moment's notice. If you want to include this in your Orlando vacation, be flexible. Prepare for same-day participation with little or no notice.

**VACATION TIP:** This park is massively popular during Spring Break. Expect capacity crowds and long lines.



**TIP:** Rip Ride Rockit is Universal Studios' newest, high-tech coaster. Expect long lines to experience this high-tech, customizable, multi-sensory experience.

**SHOW TIP:** The Blues Brothers show is simply one of the best! It happens 5 times a day and is well worth catching. Get ready to sing and dance with the bad boys of blues!

## Universal Studios Florida®

"Ride The Movies™" was the tagline when the park first opened in 1990, and it's still a great way to sum up the many attractions this park has to offer. While there aren't quite as many thrill rides as in its sister park, IOA, Universal Studios has enough to keep extreme teens entertained. There are also shows and attractions just for the younger set and enough nostalgic, pre-1990s Hollywood to satisfy parents and grandparents.

Universal Studios is split into 6 main areas: Production Central, Hollywood, New York, World Expo, San Francisco/Amity, and Woody Woodpecker's KidZone. Each area has its own theme and its own share of attractions. Overall, the entire park is reasonably compact, so if you get an early start and the lines aren't too long, you should be able to see everything each area has to offer. Here is a run down of the best:

**Production Central:** Shrek 4-D, Jimmy Neutron's Nicktoon Blast, Rip Ride Rockit.

**New York:** Revenge of the Mummy the Ride, TWISTER, Ride It Out, The Blues Brothers

**RIDE WARNING:** *TWISTER* is a very realistic simulation of a 5-story funnel cloud. Water and wind whips in your faces as you observe from a distance of a mere 20 feet. This attraction may be too intense for youngsters and older guests. It has also been known to be too much for anyone who has endured the real thing.

**Hollywood: Terminator 2:** 3-D, Universal Horror Makeup Show, Lucy – A Tribute

**World Expo:** The Simpsons Ride, MEN IN BLACK: Alien Attack

**San Francisco/Amity:** JAWS, FEAR FACTOR Live, Beetlejuice's Graveyard Revue, Disaster

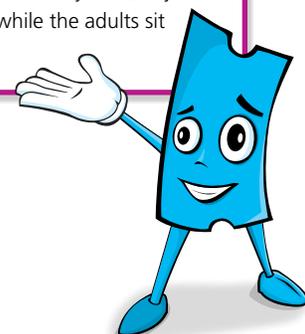
**Woody Woodpecker's KidZone:** Animal Actors On Location, ET Adventure, A Day In the Park With Barney, Curious George Goes to Town, Woody Woodpecker's Nuthouse Coaster, Fievel's Playground

Another great thing about Universal Studios is the restaurants. Adults are often pleased to note that most serve alcohol, and everyone else is bound to enjoy the variety of foods available. Peak times mean peak crowds, though, so be sure to stop by guest services at the beginning of the day to see about reservations for your hungry travelers.

**TIME TIP:** World Expo has only 2 attractions, but they are two of the most popular in the park. Go early to avoid long lines.

**TIP:** Most people automatically head to the right when they enter a park. When entering, go left and possibly avoid the longer lines.

**KID TIP:** If you've got younger kids with you, this is a perfect area to take a break. Let them explore the interactive discovery area, or just play at Camp Jurassic while the adults sit and watch.



## Universal's Islands of Adventure®

While there are certainly attractions here for guests of all ages, IOA's biggest draw is its thrill rides. Six Islands await your visit, offering everything from serious coaster action, to a classic Merry-go-round with a Suessian twist. And there's more to come – 2010 will see the opening of the first ever theme park based on JK Rowling's magical world of Harry Potter.

Like the name suggests, IOA is composed of five islands and a Port of Entry. The port is the main entrance and contains shops and restaurants. All of the attractions are to the left and right of the port, surrounding a manmade lagoon.

Here are all of the Islands and their best attractions:

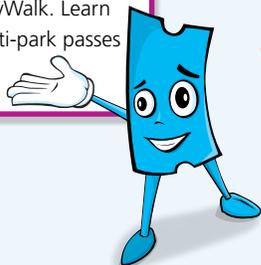
**Marvel Superhero Island:** The rides here are some of the best in the world, including The Amazing Adventures of Spiderman, Incredible Hulk Coaster, and Dr. Doom's Fear Fall.

**Toon Lagoon:** This is the place for rides with a lot of splash, such as Dudley Do-Right's Ripsaw Falls, Popeye and Bluto's Bilge Rat Barges, and Me Ship, The Olive. Bring a change of clothes – you'll need it.

**Jurassic Park:** Jurassic Park River Adventure, Jurassic Park Discovery Center, Pteranodon Flyers, and Camp Jurassic.

**RIDE TIP:** Coaster aficionados have a lot to say about Dueling Dragons, which features two tracks. Some say Fire is best, while others opt for Ice. If you have the time, ride both sides and decide for yourself.

**VACATION TIP:** Universal and SeaWorld have been working together for a while now, offering great vacation deals that include a Flex Ticket, which provides admission to 6 unique parks: Universal's Islands of Adventure, Universal Studios Florida, SeaWorld Orlando, Aquatica, Wet 'n Wild, and Busch Gardens Tampa Bay, plus 14 consecutive nights all-club access to Universal Orlando's CityWalk. Learn more about Flex Tickets and Multi-park passes within our ticket section.



**The Lost Continent:** Large portions of this park are currently closed to prepare for Harry Potter. But the remaining attractions are worth finding, such as Dueling Dragons, Poseidon's Fury, and The Eighth Voyage of Sinbad.

**Seuss Landing:** Don't let the kiddie theme fool you; adults have a lot of fun in this whimsical island. Get a great view while riding the High in the Sky Seuss Trolley Train Ride, spin on the Caro-Seuss-el, and relive the beloved kid-lit classic with the Cat in the Hat ride. Finally, stop off for some green eggs and ham at the café of the same name. You might like them, Sam-I-Am!

IOA is an incredibly popular park, and lines are out of control during peak times. Both Universal Studios and IOA offer an Express Pass for an additional fee, which allows you to jump the regular lines, cutting waiting times significantly. If you can budget for it, it's well worth the cost. Express pass can be used all day, over and over again, so get in early and get your money's worth.

## SeaWorld® Orlando

What was once considered the quiet and educational park, SeaWorld® Orlando has recently decided to stake its own claim in the world of thrills and spills. SeaWorld Adventure Park (SeaWorld) now boasts coasters and simulators alongside its many outstanding oceanographic attractions. 2008 also saw the opening of Aquatica, a spectacular water park filled with thousands of gallons of sopping wet fun. Add to that the exclusive, expensive, once-in-a-lifetime dream park, Discovery Cove, and you've got a triple threat against the bigger Orlando resorts.

## SeaWorld® Adventure Park

It may not have as many rides as other theme parks. It may encourage education and conservation. SeaWorld Orlando is still a beloved and much-visited theme park and has been since opening in 1973.

SeaWorld is not divided into particular areas. Rather, the park is meant to be enjoyed at your leisure, as you wander the paths among all the attractions and beautiful animals. However, there are a few named areas worth noting:

**Key West:** Stingray and dolphin habitats, including feeding stations.

**Shamu's Happy Harbor:** A kid-friendly play area.

**The Waterfront:** A shopping and dining area, with the Sky Tower ride offering incredible birds-eye views of the park and the surrounding areas of Orlando.

**Clydesdale Hamlet:** The habitat of the iconic Anheuser-Busch Budweiser Clydesdales.

SeaWorld is jammed with loads of attractions throughout the park. Here is a brief list of some of the best rides, shows, and animal exhibits.

**Rides:** Kraken (roller coaster), Manta (roller coaster), Wild Arctic (simulator), Journey to Atlantis (combination coaster and fume ride)

**Shows:** Believe (the premiere show, featuring the iconic Shamu), Clyde and Seamore Take Pirate Island (a comedy favorite featuring sea lions), Blue Horizons (dolphins and humans doing amazing water and air acrobatics), Pets Ahoy (animal athletes featuring dogs and cats rescued from shelters and animal pounds), A'Lure (astonishing feats by human acrobats, dancers, and tumblers)

**Animal Exhibits:** Shark Encounter (sharks, rays, moray eels, and other "scary denizens of the deep"), Wild Arctic (beluga whales, polar bears), Penguin Encounter (aquatic birds), Dolphin Cove, Shamu: Close Up (killer whales), Manatee Rescue (rescued and rehabilitated manatees from all over Florida), Pacific Point Preserve (sea lions), Turtle Point (rescued and rehabilitated sea turtles).

**TIP:** Pets Ahoy features a great meet and greet afterwards, so you can meet both trainers and animals. This makes for wonderful picture opportunities.

## Aquatica®

The perfect place to spend a hot Orlando day, Aquatica is a compact, well-designed water park with great rides and plenty of space to relax, including a lazy river that will tempt you to float until you prune.

Thanks to a state-of-the-art system that adjusts water temperature (up to 84 degrees F) based on the temperature of the air itself, Aquatica is open all year long, even during Orlando's short but still chilly winter.

Aquatica's 59 acres contain 12 water rides (for a total of 36 slides) that cover every range of age and swimming ability. Little ones will love Kata's Kookaburra Cove and Walkabout Waters. Those in search of thrills can get on line at HooRoo Run or the Taumata Racer. Other rides include:

**Dolphin Plunge:** Aquatica's signature slide featuring an enclosed tube that passes through a dolphin habitat

**Tassie's Twister:** Visitors are shot from a tube into a bowl, where they will swirl and spin until they get "sucked" back into the lazy river.

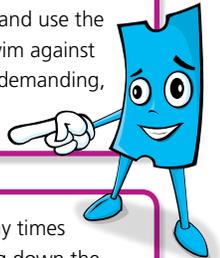
**Roar's Rapids:** a not-so-lazy river featuring high tides, geysers, and even a whirlpool or two.

**Big Surf Shores:** the constant wave pool, featuring endless rolling waves.

**Cutback Cove:** the more relaxed wave pool, with waves that range from smooth to high.

**Walhalla Wave:** ride family-style down six stories of twists and turns.

**TIP:** Afraid you haven't worked out enough on your vacation? Some Orlando residents buy an annual pass to Aquatica and use the lazy river as a lap pool! Try to swim against the current for a refreshing, yet demanding, vacation workout.



**FUN TIP:** Take bets on how many times you make it around before going down the plughole... loser buys the sodas!

Aquatica also features one of the best meal deals of any theme park: the Banana Beach Cookout All-Day Pass. For just under \$20/adult and \$12/child (age 3-9), you can get unlimited visits to this restaurant. Food choices include burgers (meat and veggie), hot dogs, BBQ, macaroni and cheese, salads, desserts, and drinks. Individual meals can be purchased at Banana Beach, Mango Market, and the Waterstone Grill.

## General Theme Park Tips

Go left! Most rides at the theme parks allow visitors to choose between two lines, either at the entrance or at a split later on. The majority of people automatically head to right, so try to keep left for a shorter wait.

Vacation time means long lines. If kids are out of school, it's a good bet a lot of them are headed to Orlando. Summer vacations, spring break, and weekends leading up to holidays are high capacity times in the theme parks, where waits for the big rides can sometimes exceed two hours. If you want to avoid those long lines, try to avoid the big family travel periods.

Money-Saving and Time-Saving Tip: If you want to see fireworks, parades or other special events, you'll need to grab a seat early. This is a perfect opportunity to enjoy snacks and drinks that you pre-packed in your backpack, rather than pay theme park prices for dinner!

Book early! If you know you MUST see a particular show or eat at a particular restaurant or stay in a particular hotel with a particular view, make your reservation early—sometimes 6 months in advance or more if you're going during a truly high-capacity time of year (like the winter holidays or 4th of July)

Plan for special events! Always check the calendars of the parks you plan to attend—sometimes, special events can affect things like opening and closing times, and it's not always to your advantage.

Eat Smart! Most theme parks allow you to bring in your own bottled water and small snacks. This can save you both time and money.

Theme park restaurants are not what they used to be—you can find great, even gourmet meals in the parks themselves. Lunch is often less expensive than dinner, so you might get a bargain at that special EPCOT restaurant you always wanted to try. But remember any heavy meal will slow you down, so plan accordingly.

Cool off in the hot afternoon! If you are staying on property at either Universal or Disney, why not pop back to the hotel in the middle of the day (when crowds are often heaviest) for a dip in the pool or even a nice cat nap? You can always return later, when the crowds are at dinner.

## Tickets: Information, Discounts, and Links

### Magic Your Way Tickets

To enter the theme parks at the Walt Disney World® Resort, visitors must have a **Magic Your Way** ticket. Although it may seem a bit confusing at first, Disney has put together a fairly efficient system that allows visitors to plan out their vacation and buy the ticket option that works best for them. Here's a quick guide to understanding your options.

**Magic Your Way** tickets provide admission to any one of the four major theme parks (Magic Kingdom® Park, Epcot®, Disney's Hollywood Studios™, and Disney's Animal Kingdom® Park) per day for the number of days on a ticket. **Magic Your Way** tickets can be purchased for a single day or up to as many as 10 days. Once a ticket is purchased, it will not expire until it is used for the first time. Once used, the ticket will expire 14 days later. So, for example, if you purchase a 5-day ticket and use it for admission, you will then have 13 days to use the remaining 4 admissions.

Beyond general admission, there are 3 additional "options" that can be added on to a ticket at the time of purchase.

Add the **Park Hopper**® option and gain the freedom to move among the different parks all day long. This is a great addition for vacationers who like to be more spontaneous, taking advantage of certain parks at different times of day, and based on weather conditions. For guests of a Disney Resort Hotel, this option adds even more flexibility since they can take advantage of the **Extra Magic Hours** - [http://www.dwtickets.com/Extra\\_Magic\\_Hours\\_s/228.htm](http://www.dwtickets.com/Extra_Magic_Hours_s/228.htm), which allow them time inside the parks before and/or after they are open to the general public.

Add the **Water Park Fun & More** option to gain admission to many other WDW attractions. The number of days on a ticket relates to how many of these extra admissions are received. As an example, a 7-day Magic Your Way ticket with the Water Park Fun & More option will receive 7 extra admissions. Those extra admissions DO NOT have to be used on the same days as you visit the regular parks. So, that ticket can be used on 14 different days... for 14 days of fun! Here are the attractions where the extra admissions can be used:

- Downtown Disney®
- Disney's Typhoon Lagoon Water Park
- Disney's Blizzard Beach Water Park
- Disney's Wide World of Sports® Complex
- DisneyQuest® Indoor Interactive Theme Park
- Disney's Oak Trail Golf Course (a relaxed nine-hole walking course)

Add the **No Expiration** option and your ticket will never expire. It will not expire when you leave Orlando, and it will not expire after 14 days. Whenever you return, you can enter the parks using your unused days.

**TIP:** The "No Expiration" option has created an eBay cottage industry, where people try to sell their unused days to vacationers. This DOES NOT work! A Magic Your Way ticket is specific to the person who books it. It cannot be transferred and you must show the correct identification, i.e. that of the original ticket holder, in order to use it. Don't be fooled by what looks like a great bargain!



Of course, you can do any combination of these three options, including all of them. There are additional charges for each.

The **Magic Your Way** tickets are priced so that the more days you spend in the parks, the less you spend per day. For example, buying a 7 day ticket reduces the cost per day to less than half of what it costs to simply buy a 1 day ticket!

To purchase discount **Magic Your Way** tickets, click this link – **Magic Your Way Tickets** - [http://www.dwtickets.com/Discount\\_Disney\\_World\\_Tickets\\_s/1.htm](http://www.dwtickets.com/Discount_Disney_World_Tickets_s/1.htm)

### **Universal Orlando® Tickets**

There are several different options when visitors are looking to purchase tickets to Universal Orlando and SeaWorld Orlando. It simply comes down to which parks they want to see, and how many days they want to spend in them.

Universal Orlando has the following ticket options:

- 1 Day / 2 Park Ticket – Provides admission to both Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure all day long.
- Unlimited 2 Park / 7 Day Tickets – Provides unlimited admissions to both Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure for a full 7 days.
- 1 Day / 1 Park Eat and Play Combo Ticket - Provides a one day admission to either Universal Studios or Islands of Adventure, plus unlimited food and soft drinks.
- 1 Day / 2 Park Eat and Play Combo Ticket – Provides a one day admission to both parks, allowing you to go from park to park, plus unlimited food and soft drinks.
- Halloween Horror Nights – A seasonal event held at Universal Studios Florida®.
- 5 Day Flex Ticket (see below)
- 6 Day Flex Ticket (see below)

To purchase discount Universal Orlando tickets, click this link – **Universal Tickets** - [http://www.dwtickets.com/Universal\\_Orlando\\_Tickets\\_s/159.htm](http://www.dwtickets.com/Universal_Orlando_Tickets_s/159.htm)

## SeaWorld® Orlando Tickets

SeaWorld Orlando has the following ticket options:

- 1 Day admission ticket
- SeaWorld / Busch Gardens Combo ticket - Provides admission to SeaWorld for 1 day, and Busch Gardens Tampa Bay for a 2nd day
- SeaWorld / Aquatica Combo ticket - Provides admission to SeaWorld for 1 Day, and SeaWorld's water park Aquatica for a 2nd day
- 5 Day Flex Ticket (see below)
- 6 Day Flex Ticket (see below)

To purchase discount SeaWorld Orlando tickets, click this link –

**SeaWorld Tickets -**

[http://www.dwtickets.com/Discount\\_SeaWorld\\_Tickets\\_s/56.htm](http://www.dwtickets.com/Discount_SeaWorld_Tickets_s/56.htm)

## Flex Tickets™

A Flex Ticket™ bundles together some of Florida's best theme parks, making it affordable to visit them all on a single vacation. If you were to purchase single admissions from each of these parks, it would end up costing a considerable amount more than the Flex ticket price. And even greater, the ticket provides unlimited admission for a 14 day period. There is a 5 Park Flex Ticket, as well as a 6 Park Flex Ticket that adds on Busch Gardens in Tampa Bay, Florida. Here are the 6 parks:

- Universal Studios Florida®
- Universal's Islands of Adventure®
- SeaWorld® Orlando
- Wet 'n Wild®
- Aquatica®
- Busch Gardens® Tampa Bay (with the 6 Park Flex Ticket only)

To purchase discount Flex Tickets, click this link – **Flex Tickets -**

[http://www.dwtickets.com/Discount\\_Flex\\_Tickets\\_s/8.htm](http://www.dwtickets.com/Discount_Flex_Tickets_s/8.htm)



## DWTickets

DWTickets is your discount ticket source for the Walt Disney World® Resort, Florida theme parks, and all other central Florida attractions. DWTickets.com is a trusted and established brand that for many years has been successfully fulfilling their customers' ticket needs. The company has been accredited by the Better Business Bureau since 2007 with an A- rating. Tickets can be purchased online, over the phone, or by visiting

### [DWTickets.com](http://www.dwtickets.com)

(877) 219 - 9328



## Orlando Hotels

If you need to make hotel reservations in the Orlando area, please check out the current rates at ZipTrips.com. The website offers a huge selection, from small hotels to larger resorts, and all at discount pricing.

**Orlando Hotels** - <http://www.ziptrips.com>

## Links

### **Magic Pack Tickets** -

[http://www.dwtickets.com/Magic\\_Pack\\_Disney\\_Merchandise\\_s/102.htm](http://www.dwtickets.com/Magic_Pack_Disney_Merchandise_s/102.htm)

### **Cirque du Soleil Tickets** -

[http://www.dwtickets.com/Discount\\_Cirque\\_du\\_Soleil\\_Tickets\\_s/59.htm](http://www.dwtickets.com/Discount_Cirque_du_Soleil_Tickets_s/59.htm)

**Orlando Dinner Shows** - Arabian Nights, Pirates Dinner Adventure, Medieval Times, Polynesian Luau, Sleuth's Mystery Dinner Show

[http://www.dwtickets.com/Discount\\_Dinner\\_Show\\_Tickets\\_s/92.htm](http://www.dwtickets.com/Discount_Dinner_Show_Tickets_s/92.htm)

# NOTES

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NOTES

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## Trivia Answers

- 1 All the shops on Main Street are named for original architects and designers of Disney World, including Walt himself.
- 2 WDW used to have a nature preserve in the middle of the Seven Seas Lagoon known as Discovery Island. The island still exists, but is now closed to the public, functioning solely as a wild bird protected habitat.
- 3 Disney World doesn't have "engineers." They have Imagineers who are responsible for planning and building all the dreamy, fantastic architecture of the empire.
- 4 The most popular WDW attractions, like the Haunted Mansion and Space Mountain, are sometimes called "E-Ticket Rides." Back in the days when Disney World issued paper ticket books, rides were designated by letters A through E. The best rides used E tickets. The name stuck, even though that ticket system is now a thing of the past.
- 5 All Walt Disney World employees are called Cast Members.
- 6 It was named after Walt Disney's wife, Lillian Disney.
- 7 The monorail system covers 13 miles and is comprised of a fleet of 12 Mark VI monorails. More than 150,000 people use the monorail on an average Disney day.

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