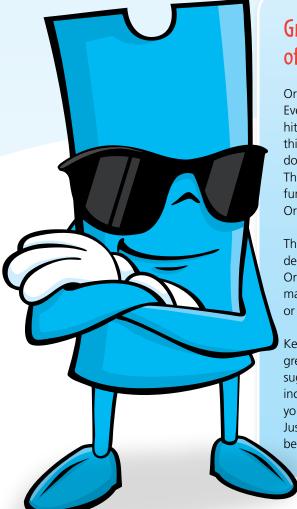


Divers GuideBook



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 25



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: Cinderella's Castle is also home to one of the most popular character dining experiences, Cinderella's Royal Table. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are available by reservations, but the dinner is by far the most popular. It books four to six months in advance, so be sure to plan accordingly if you want to enjoy this character meal.

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 vacation and entertainment mecca. The Walt Disney World Resort (WDW) is its own vacation destination, with four main theme parks, two water parks, 23 hotels, seven golf courses (five championship and two mini), a racetrack, sports complex, ten marinas, more than 140 places to eat, and a whole lot more than that. It's easy to spend an entire two-week vacation just at Walt Disney World and not run out of things to do or places to see.

It's also easy to get completely overwhelmed by the sheer amount of *stuff* that WDW offers. Let's take the resort one world at a time so you can plan your trip, your way.

Magic Kingdom® Park

It's the image that leaps to mind when most people think of Disney World – Cinderella's Castle at the end of Main Street USA, like the opening scene of your very own fairy tale and the heart of WDW's Magic Kingdom.

Main Street USA is just the start. Beyond, six 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 Jamboreee (show)

Liberty Square: 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

Throughout the Magic Kingdom are also plenty of chances to meet and greet your favorite Disney characters. While there are reservations-only places for guaranteed meetings — such as character meals — there are

also locations throughout the resort where you can stand on line to shake hands or get a photo. The Magic Kingdom has several specific areas set up for character greetings, including **City Hall at Town Square**, the **Adventureland Congoasis**, and the **Toontown Hall of Fame**. Characters are also known to make appearances near the rides associated with them, as well as other places throughout the park. Check with guest services to find out when and where your favorites will be meeting and greeting!

Epcot®

Experimental Prototype Community Of Tomorrow — it was Walt's dream city, but it opened instead as the theme park known as EPCOT. If you want your vacation to include rides, technology, world cultures, and street performers, you've come to the right place.

While the Magic Kingdom is heaven for little ones, EPCOT is better suited for older kids and adults, though science and tech-savvy 'tweens will find a lot to enjoy. It's also known for having some of the best food on Disney property, along with some 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: This is the place for most of the rides, interactive exhibits, and technology. There are even a few thrill rides to keep you screaming. Here's a quick list of the biggest and best:

Spaceship Earth
Test Track
Mission Space
Imagination! (featuring Captain Eo)

World Showcase: This is the place for culture, shows, food, and even a few rides. The 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 often employees from the country itself. Shows and movies round out the experience. The permanent World Showcase Pavilions are Mexico, Norway, China, Germany, Italy, American Adventure, Japan, Morocco, France, United Kingdom, and Canada.

Disney's Hollywood Studios™

The magic of the movies, Mouse House-style, Disney's Hollywood Studios is the WDW tribute to Tinseltown. Known as "the Hollywood that never was and always will be," this is the place for movie greats, TV faves, and two 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*.

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 thing in one day. Shows are particularly popular at this park and with good reason — they really are some of the best staged and best storied. Make time for **Indiana Jones Stunt Spectacular**, at the very least.



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 special dinners featuring celeb chefs from near and far. It's an event best enjoyed by adults.



RIDE TIP: Mexico and Norway both feature boat rides that are not to be missed — Gran Fiesta Tour featuring The Three Cabelleros and Maelstrom.

SPECIAL EVENTS TIP: Hollywood Studios hosts the immensely-popular *Star Wars* Weekends every summer, when fans of Lucas' saga descend on 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 series.

TIP: Plan to grab a seat at least 60 minutes early for this event or make reservations for a special end-of-day dinner at either Hollywood Brown Derby, Mama Melrose's Ristorante Italiano, or Hollywood & Vine.

Call 407-WDW-DINE and ask for the Fantasmic! Package for more details.

If you can't devote a day just 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 Movie Ride Toy Story Mania! Indiana Jones Epic Stunt Spectacular Muppet Vision 3-D Star Tours

Stay late at this park too so 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-only parade event — see Special Events for more information) that features Disney Villains. Seating is always at a premium for this, though, so arrive early and grab a comfortable place to wait it out — 60 minutes before show time is a good window to allow.

Disney's Animal Kingdom® Park

Walt Disney World's newest park is rapidly becoming one of the most popular, and deservedly so. It's got real live exotic animals, good food (some of the most diverse in any theme park), and some truly great rides, making the entire place a must-do for any Disney or Orlando vacation.

Animal Kingdom opened its doors in 1998 and it has been thrilling parkgoers 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 the Mouse Kingdom, filled with the kind of elaborate architectural touches that have been thrilling visitors since opening day. It's also well laid out and pretty compact, so you can experience all the marvel — both man-made and natural — in one easy day.

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

Oasis: This is the entry point. Don't make the mistake of rushing through, like most people. Oasis features many animals in individual lush environments. So 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. There is also a theatre at its center where **It's Tough To Be A Bug**, a top AK attraction, is located.

TRIVIA 2: What happened to the Discovery Island Attraction?

see answers on page 25



is considered a park must-see but parents should be warned — littler 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.

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 also features the **Festival of the Lion King** show, considered by many to be the absolute best show Walt Disney World has to offer. A smaller show, **Pocahontas and Her Forest Friends**, includes live animals to help show children the importance of nature conservation.

Africa: Take a wander through Harambe, a beautifully recreated African village, then 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 guarantee 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 good Disney fun. **The Boneyard** is a place for kids to dig, climb and slide while parents get some time to sit and watch. Then take the whole family to **Dinosaur**, a fun, fast-paced race against time that is AK's other thrill ride. Slightly less thrilling but still fun is the **Primeval Whirl** mini-coaster. Finally, grab a seat for **Finding Nemo** — **The Musical**. This gorgeous, visually-stunning reimagining of the popular film is considered THE must-see show of the entire Walt Disney World Resort.

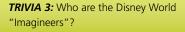
Quick Tips for the Big Four

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 two 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.

RIDE TIP: Ride **Kilimanjaro Safaris** early in the day or just before the park closes for the best viewing, before the animals hide from the hot Florida sun.



see answers on page 25

TRIVIA 4: What are "E-Ticket Rides"? see answers on page 25



TRIVIA 5: Which Walt Disney World employees are referred to as "cast members"?

see answers on page 25

HEALTH TIP: Never forget your sunscreen! Even on cloudy or overcast days, you're likely to get a sunburn. Always reapply after water rides and swimming.

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

The Walt Disney World's massive resort complex is more than just the four main parks. A host of smaller attractions beckon and they are all worth their own visit. See which ones appeal to you so you fit them into your Orlando vacation.

The Water Parks

Walt Disney World has two 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've got a ticket that allows you to get into the water parks an hour before they open for everyone else, use that time wisely. Hit the most popular rides and stake out your lounge chairs. Alternately, try to hit the park after 2pm — it's usually the hottest part of the day, but a lot of people will have given up or moved on to a regular 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 gone straight for the parks.

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

Disney's Blizzard Beach

Like all things Disney, there's a tale behind the theme — it's the 66-acre ski resort of Mount Gushmore! Blizzard Beach features 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's got 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 'tweens 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: this is the thrilling, fast, occasionally terrifying centerpiece of the park, the word's fastest body slide. You'll test your courage on this one, as you plunge straight down at speeds that top out at 60 mph. Be sure to hold on to your bathing suit, too!

Disney's Typhoon Lagoon

Slightly smaller and a bit more relaxed in both theme and thrills than Blizzard Beach, Typhoon Lagoon is Disney's second water park. Crowds tend to be a bit smaller here, since it is the older of the two parks, but you can still expect long waits and crowded pools during high attendance times of year. Typhoon Lagoon's waters are kept at a warm — but still refreshing — 75-80° F all year round, making this a water park of choice even in Orlando's short winter.

The story of Typhoon Lagoon centers around Miss Tilly, a shrimp boat that ended up stuck atop volcano Mount Mayday after "the storm of storms." On the half hour, Miss Tilly still blows her whistle, as 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 probably 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 nine waterslides as well, running the gamut from thrills to pure laziness. Here's the rundown on some of the favorites:

Castaway Creek: A lovely lazy river that surround the park. You can lounge in a tube and ride all day or use the river as a way to get from one part of the park to another via the five entrances and exits.

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

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.

Gang Plank Falls: This is the 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 five stories at top speeds in a fully-enclosed water slide. This is a thrill for sure — the drop is nearvertical and in the dark!

There is also a Surf Pool that is open all day for all ages. You can also opt for surf lessons in the pre-opening hours or, 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.

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

Disney's Wide World of Sports® Complex

This is Disney's homage to sports and the people who both play and love them. It's a 220-acre megacomplex with a baseball stadium, ten baseball and softball fields, six basketball courts, 12 tennis courts (fully lighted), six volleyball courts (sand, of course), a track and field complex, driving range for golfers, and even two indoor roller hockey rinks. 2008 saw the opening of the Josten Center, a multisport aixilary with another six basketball courts, 12 more volleyball courts, and two more roller hockey rinks.

Sports fans should know that big names have been known to make appearances here, too. The Atlanta Braves come for Spring Training every March, and the NBA, PGA, NCAA, and Harlem Globetrotters all host events and games here. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers also use the Sports Complex as their training camp in July and August.

For the biggest of sports fans, attend on a day the Multi-Sports Experience is happening. It's including in the price of admission and offers guests sports challenges and activities, including football, baseball, basketball, hockey, soccer, and volleyball.

Call 407-WDW-GAME for more information, including a calendar of events and also ticket information.

DisneyQuest

This interactive, indoor theme park is the perfect choice for the techheads in your group or for the whole family on a rainy day. It features five levels of cutting-edge games, where virtual reality meets adventure, all with a touch of that special Disney pixie dust. Teens will LOVE it, but there is something for everyone. Don't miss virtual 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**. CyberSpace Mountain is a particular fave, where Bill Nye the Science Guy helps you create the coaster and then lets you ride it – it's truly a customized ride experience.

TIME TIP: Get here at opening for the most action with least wait—afternoons and evenings here can become unbearably crowded.



Artistically-inclined guests should check out Animation Station for a crash-course in Disney-style animation.

Disney's Oak Trail Golf Course

Walt Disney World features 99 total holes of golf, spread over six courses. There are also two mini-golf complexes, competing with similar sites all over Orlando. While big golfers in your party might want to plan big 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 linksmen, or even families. There are some great challenges, notably at holes 5, 6, and 7.

Just remember, spikeless golf shoes only! Sneakers or similar athletic shoes are also permitted.

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 spend some time. It's split into three areas: West Side, Pleasure Island (soon to be Hyperion Wharf), and The Marketplace

West Side has DisneyQuest, which was 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 Solei *La Nouba*, a Disney-exclusive show by the world-famous avant-garde troupe. Buy your tickets early if you want to see the show –its popularity is nearly unrivaled.

Pleasure Island was once the over-18 center of Downtown Disney, with clubs and restaurants catering to an all-adult crowd. That ended in 2008, and the area has been partially unused since. But things are changing – Disney announced in late 2010 that the next three years would see big changes, culminating in the opening of a brand-new shopping and dining area in 2013, Hyperion Wharf. But some shops and restaurants will remain open during the long renovation, including Raglan Road Irish Pub & Bar, Fuego by Sosa Cigars, Paradiso 37, Curl by Sammy Duval, and Orlando Harley-Davidson.

Disney Marketplace has great restaurants, too, notably Fulton's Crab House for succulent seafood on a beautiful riverboat. Captain Jack's (no connection to the Johnny Depp character) is the place for oysters and cold beer, in a casual waterfront restaurant that also has great childrens menu choices. Kids will also love the Rainforest Café, where there are often live animals (mostly parrots) on display outside. The marketplace is also home to the Disneyana megastore, 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!

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

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 25

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

see answers on page 25



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, as the driver, a Guest Relations person prior to boarding, or even other guests!

PARKING TIP: Disney Resort Hotel Guests and Annual Pass Holders do not have to pay for parking anywhere in the Walt Disney complex. It is always complimentary.



Transportation at the Walt Disney World® Resort

It's easy to get around the Mouse. Here are the basic transportation options available to guests of the Walt Disney World Resort.

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 either the Magic Kingdom, EPCOT, or the Transportation and Ticket Center, known as the TTC.

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

Disney resort buses run to all the Disney hotels, the main parks, water parks, Downtown Disney, and the Wide World of Sports. 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 time — 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 prefer to use your own car, the daily parking fee is \$14 for cars and motorcycles, and \$15 for trailers and campers. 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

WDW attracts guests of very ages, form families with young children to retirees and spring breakers. Everyone has their own favorites, but if you're looking for some planning help, here are our picks for the best options for the most common age groups: Kids, Teens and Adults.

Please note the following abbreviations for each park:

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), Buzz Lightyear (MK)

Eats: 50 Prime Time Café (HS), Cosmic Ray's (MK), Coral Reef Restaurant (EP), 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 (EP), Expedition Everest (AK)

Restaurants: Pecos Bills (MK), Via Napoli (EP), Sci-Fi Dine-In Theater (HS)

Best for Adults

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

Restaurants: Victoria and Albert's (Grand Floridian Resort), California Grill (Contemporary Resort), Narcoosees (Grand Floridian Resort), Chefs du France (EP), Jiko (AK Lodge), Rose and Crown (EP), Le Cellier (EP)

DINING TIP: Please aware that children under the age of 10 are not permitted to dine at Victoria and Albert's. Please call 407-WDW-DINE for alternatives

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



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

Universal Orlando®

Move over, Disney — The Universal Orlando Resort 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 three beautiful hotels, two 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 tourism money.

Universal Studios Florida (Uni) opened in the summer of 1990 and it has been pulling crowds ever since. The park is incredibly popular with teens and adults, with rides and attractions that are much more suited to an older crowd than Disney's very young kid-friendly atmosphere. Universal Orlando also has another strong advantage over Disney's similarly themed Hollywood Studios — Universal is a real, working television and film studio. You 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 see what's filming and when.

In 1999, Universal Orlando introduced a massive expansion to become the Universal Orlando Resort. They introduced CityWalk, a drinks, food, 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 thrills rides grabbed a demographic that much of Orlando had never really attracted before-teens and early 20s singles. For a while, there was a clear separation among vacationers — let the families go to Disney; everyone else is heading to IOA. Since then, both resort giants have added and subtracted rides for all ages, making things a little more even.

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 attractions this park has to offer. While there aren't quite as many thrill rides as in its sister park, IOA, Uni 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.

Uni is split into six main areas: Production Central, Hollywood, New York, World Expo, San Francisco/Amity, and Woody Woodpecker's KidZone. Each has its own theming and its own share of attractions. Uni is a reasonably compact park, so if you get an early start and the lines aren't too long, it's a good bet you'll be able to see everything each area has to offer.

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. This attraction may be too intense for youngsters and older guests.

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 Uni is the restaurants. Adults are often pleased to note that most serve alcohol, while everyone is bound to be happy with 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.

Universal's Islands of Adventure®

While there are certainly attractions here for guests of all ages, IOA's biggest draw is its thrill rides. Seven Islands filled await your visit, offering everything from a classic Merry-go-round with a Suessian twist to serious coasters and, as of 2010, the incredible world of Harry Potter himself.

Like the name suggests, IOA is arranged as a series of islands around a Port of Entry. The port is the main entrance and contains shops and restaurants. The other islands and all the attractions are to the left and right of the port, all surrounding a manmade lagoon. Here are all the Islands and their best attractions:

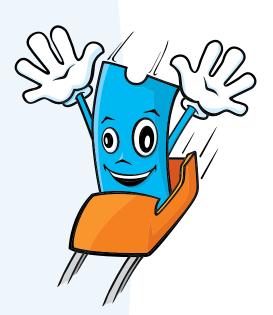
Marvel Superhero Island: The rides here are known for some of the best thrills in the world, including The Amazing Adventures of Spiderman, Incredible Hulk Coaster, and Storm Force Acceletron

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

Jurassic Park: Dinosaurs rule once again on this island, which includes the amazing **Jurassic Park River Adventure**, plus the **Jurassic Park Discovery Center**, **Pterodon Flyers**, and **Camp Jurassic** for younger visitors

The Lost Continent: This island is much smaller, thanks to the opening of **The Wizarding World of Harry Potter**. Remaining attractions worth seeing include **Poseidon's Fury**, and **The Eighth Voyage of Sinbad**. Have a drink and a bite at Mythos Restaurant, widely considered the best theme park restaurant in the country.

TIP: There is very little for kids over the age of 10 at **Woody Woodpecker's KidZone**, and even that may be a stretch. If you've got children of various ages in your party and more than one adult, this is a good place to split up for an hour or so—send the teens and 'tweens to nearby Hollywood or World Expo so they can hit thrill rides without worrying about youngsters.



The Wizarding World of Harry Potter: Perhaps the most hotly anticipated theme park opening of the 21st century, this island opened to massive fanfare in late 2010. From the imposing structure of Hogwart's Castle to the delicious treat of butter beer, it simply cannot be missed. Attractions include Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey (featuring characters from the acclaimed film series, including Harry, Ron and Hermione), Dragon Challenge (previously known as Dueling Dragons), and Flight of the Hippogriff.

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

IOA is an incredibly popular park and lines can get out of control during peak times. Both Universal and Islands of Adventure offer an Express Plus for an additional fee, which allows you to jump the regular lines and cut waiting times significantly — if you can budget for it, it's well worth the cost. Express Plus can once per allowed attraction. Guests of Universal Orlando resorts can use their room keys as Express Plus; those keys allow unlimited use, all day long. After 4 pm, Universal Orlando Premier Annual Pass holders are also allowed unlimited Express Plus access.

SeaWorld® Orlando

What was once considered the quiet, educational park has recently decided to stake its own claim in the world of thrills and spills. Sea World Adventure Park 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 dreampark, Discovery Cove, and you've got a triple threat to the bigger Orlando resorts.

SeaWorld® Adventure Park

It doesn't have as many rides as most other theme parks. It encourages education and conservation. Most of the attractions rely on the activities of animals that can't be entirely trained or scheduled. And yet Sea World Orlando (SWO) has been a beloved and much-visited theme park since its opening in 1973.

SWO is not divided into particular areas, like most other theme parks. The park is really meant to be enjoyed at your leisure, as you wander the paths past all the attractions and animals. But there are a few named areas, with special attractions in each:

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 for incredible birds-eye views of the park and the surrounding area of Orlando

SWO offers loads of other 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), Shamu Express (coaster for kids), Sky Tower (the park's iconic attraction, a 400 foot observation tower)

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).

Aquatica®

This is a perfect place to spend those hot Orlando days. Aquatica is a compact, well-designed waterpark with great rides, plenty of space to relax, and a lazy river that will tempt you to float until you prune. And thanks to a state-of-the-art system that adjusts water temperature (up to 84° F) based on the temperature of the air itself, Aquatica is open all year long, even during Orlando's short — but occasionally chilly — winter.

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

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

Tassie's Twister: you'll be shot from a tube into a bowl, where you will swirl and spin until you get "sucked" back into the lazy river.

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



FUN TIP: Take bets on how many times you make it around **Tassie's Twister** before going down the plughole — loser buys the sodas!

Roa'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 endlessly 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.

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 also be purchased at Banana Beach Cookout, Mango Market, and the Waterstone Grill.

For private, guaranteed relaxation and a place to park your stuff all day long, consider opting for a private cabana, available at an additional fee. Prices change seasonally – **call 800-327-2424** for more information.

General Theme Park Tips

Go left! Most rides at theme parks have two lines, either from the beginning or at a split later on. Most 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 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 six 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 money and time.

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.

Dinner Shows

Long days in the parks can leave even the most ride-happy family exhausted. Sure, there are hundreds of places to go for dinner, but when you're beat and the kids are still raring to go, it's not always easy to figure out your best option. Dinner shows are the ideal choice. Someone brings the food and drink to you, just like in most traditional restaurants, but here they also supply all the entertainment. Try these picks for a unique night out.

Arabian Nights

Delve into a magical story filled with fantasy, romance, and adventure at Arabian Nights. Voted the #1 dinner show in Orlando, Florida, Arabian Nights unfolds a fairy tale right before your eyes in a 140,000 square-foot indoor climate-controlled equestrian arena, the largest in the world. Watch as the expert riders perform incredible feats atop magnificent stallions, all while you enjoy a sumptuous feast fit for an Arabian prince.

In Arabian Nights, the entire audience is invited to celebrate the birthday of the beautiful Princess Scheherezade. However, the party is threatened when an unexpected guest arrives. In order to save the day, the princess' genie must summon the power of the Black Stallion Will true love overcome evil? Come to Arabian Nights and find out!

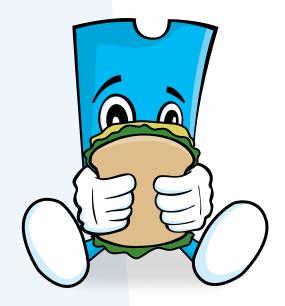
Medieval Times

Take a real blast to the past, a past filled with knights on horseback, maidens in need of rescue, and a king overseeing it all. Medieval Times Dinner Show is well into its second decade entertaining families throughout North America, and their Orlando location maintains the excitement.

Inspired by the true medieval tradition of royal families inviting guests to feast and watch knights compete on horseback, you are cordially invited as a guest of the king. You can enjoy the horseback jousting competition from the comfort of your stadium seating view. There is never a bad seat in the house! Divided up in to sections, you will be assigned to a knight. Cheer on your knight, loud and proud, as they battle it out for the heart of the princess. Will your champion rule the day? Raise your glass, give a mighty "Huzzah," and experience pageantry at its best!

Pirates Dinner Adventure

Ahoy, mateys! Put on your finest eye patch and give a hearty, ARRRRRR – it's time for Pirates Dinner Adventure. Come aboard for a swashbuckling adventure on the high seas.



At this dinner show, you're not just an observer – you're IN the show, part of the action itself. Enter the lagoon and board your ship, where your captain awaits. Then, set sail and cheer your team of scallywag in an epic battle of good and evil. There's one goal in mind for everyone – pirate booty! It's an evening filled with pirate games, songs, and challenges at "the world's most unique interactive dinner show." This is the perfect show for all ages; even the littlest sailors can get in on the action!

Sleuths Mystery Dinner

Whether you solve the mystery or not, you're in for an outrageous time at Sleuths. In one of three intimate and climate-controlled theaters, you'll mingle with outrageous characters as they set out to uncover who the culprit is. Each show provides 2 and a half hours of scripted mystery, improvisation, and audience participation. Guests will keep watch for anything suspicious, interrogate the suspects, and even help solve the crime! But watch out – you just might be chosen for a cameo role in the show.

Different mystery shows are rotated throughout the week, making Sleuths a favorite show to attend more than once. Dinner takes place after the crime in every show, so you can discuss and analyze the evidence while enjoying your delicious meal. When dinner's over, guests have a chance to pose their questions to the suspects during an interrogation, and they can even make an accusation. Prizes are awarded to successful sleuths. Have you got what it takes to solve Sleuths?

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

Tickets: Information, Discounts, and Links

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 four admissions.

Beyond general admission, there are three 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

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!



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, 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 seven 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. Whenever you return, you can enter the parks using your unused days.

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

Universal Orlando® Tickets

For vacationers familiar with Universal Orlando's ticket options, they're in for a big surprise this year. The theme park completely scrapped their mildly confusing old options, and released their new "Universal's Select Ticket Program". In addition, visitors can still purchase Flex Tickets to gain admission.

Universal Orlando has the following ticket options:

Universal Orlando Base Tickets – Base tickets can be purchased for 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7 days. They allow park admission to either Universal Studios

or Islands of Adventure, and can be used over a 14 day period. The ticket also allows unlimited admission to CityWalk during that 14 day period.

Universal Orlando Park-to-Park Tickets – The Park-to-Park tickets carry all the benefits of the Base tickets, with the addition that this ticket allows visitors to move back and forth (park hop) between Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure during the same day.

- 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

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

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

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 **DWTickets** 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

(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

OrlandoTastic

OrlandoTastic is one of Orlando's top vacation blogs, written by our very own Dawn Nikithser. Daily posts include Orlando news stories, travel tips, theme parks rumors, and much more. If you're planning an upcoming trip to the Orlando area, check out recent blog postings for useful information. **OrlandoTastic** - http://blog.dwtickets.com



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Join our Facebook fan page! (click here to view page) http://www.facebook.com/dwtickets

Magic Pack Tickets -

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

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





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Trivia Answers

- All the shops on Main Street are named for some of the original architects and designers of Disney World, including Walt himself.
- 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 wild bird habitat.
- Joinney doesn't have "engineers." They have Imagineers who are responsible for planning and building all the dreamy, fantastic architecture of the empire.
- 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.
- All Walt Disney World employees are called Cast Members.
- **6** Fulton's Crab House was once known as The Empress Lily Riverboat, named for Walt's wife, Lillian Disney.
- 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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