

welcome
to the **2013**

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 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. But don't worry! We are here to help.

The *DW Savers GuideBook* is the perfect way to minimize problems and maximize fun. In here, you'll find great tips on many of the top destinations; from theme parks to shopping, this is your source for vacation information for the whole family.

Plus, there's **Tickey**, the DWSavers information mascot. Tickey points out great tips that can save you time and money, and even shares fun trivia and insider secrets. So what are you waiting for? Let's get started!

Disclaimer: Orlando is a constantly-changing, dynamic destination. Attractions, restaurants, rides, and more close and open throughout the year, sometimes with little to no notice. This travel guide was accurate at the time of publication and may be subject to updates throughout the year. If you have questions or concerns about any information in this guide, please feel free to email us or call the theme parks directly.

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Walt Disney World® Resort (WDW)

It is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world, visited by millions every year. What was once a swampy patch of Florida soil is now the Walt Disney World Resort (WDW)—a massive vacation and entertainment wonderland 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 more.

It's easy to get 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.

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 24, in our Links section.

The Magic Kingdom® (MK)

You walk through the gates and there it is, like the opening scene of your very own fairy tale—a beautiful castle at the end of a picturesque village street. Welcome to **Main Street USA**, the beginning of your Magic Kingdom (MK) experience.

Main Street USA is where it all begins, a perfect shop- and restaurant-lined thoroughfare that leads you to the five worlds beyond. Along the Street, you will find delightful shops featuring all the Disney merchandise you can handle, plus specialty items like hand-blown glass ornaments (with working artisans who you can watch). **Guest Services** is also on Main Street USA; remember to stop there for dining reservations (always a good idea) and information on attractions that may be down for maintenance, parade times, special events, and anything else you might need. This is also the place for stroller and wheelchair rental.

While Main Street USA is primarily thought of as the gateway to the “real” attractions, there are some great things to do here, especially for those times when you need a break from the crowds and the heat. Here are our main picks for Main Street:

Get a haircut! No, seriously—for just under \$20, you can say you got your haircut at a real, old-fashioned **Barber Shop**. You can even include some “magical” touches, like highlights.

Send a postcard! Stop by **City Hall** and mail a postcard to the folks back home. It will be stamped as coming from **The Magic Kingdom**; mail it to yourself for an inexpensive souvenir.

Grab your ears! The **Le Chapeau** shop is the best place to get those iconic ears. Now you can customize the design and build your own hat, so everyone can have their own personal set.

Ride the rails! This is a great way to relax. Use the **Walt Disney World Railroad** to wind your way around the park or take a trip to **Frontierland**. It's a particularly great way to end the day, especially if you can time it for sunset.

Main Street USA is also the place for parades. Check with Guest Services for parade times and types; they change throughout the year and for special events. Remember that the best viewing spots get taken early, so stake your concrete claim and use the time to relax.

Beyond Main Street USA, five additional worlds await: **Adventureland**, **Fantasyland**, **Frontierland**, **Liberty Square**, and **Tomorrowland**. Each world has its own attractions, restaurants, and shops; let's take them one at a time so you can plan your stops.

Adventureland: Pirates and jungle adventures are the order of the day! Explorers and swashbucklers of all ages come here for exotic entertainment, including street performers and the pirate training camp (ask a cast member where the next "class" will be). Here's what you shouldn't miss:

- Pirates of the Caribbean**
- The Enchanted Tiki Room**
- Jungle Cruise**
- Magic Carpets of Aladdin**

Frontierland: This Old West land is where you will want to grab your first FASTPASS tickets—send one member of your party over as soon as you arrive and get your reservation for either **Big Thunder Mountain Railroad** or **Splash Mountain**. If it's getting near lunchtime, hit Peco Bill's for reasonably-priced (for a theme park) burgers. Then saddle up for these must-do's:

- Big Thunder Mountain Railroad**
- Splash Mountain**
- Country Bear Jamboree**

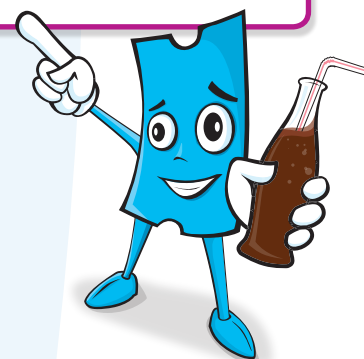
Liberty Square: This is one of the smaller lands but it's also one of the most loved. There are only three attractions here, and every one of them is a definite do:

- Haunted Mansion (including the great interactive queue)**
- The Hall of Presidents**
- Liberty Square Riverboat**

Fantasyland: Currently undergoing a massive expansion that will double its size, plenty of Fantasyland is still open for fun and more will debut throughout the year. The entire place is due to be ready by 2014, so don't be surprised by all the walls and scaffolding you may see until then. Families with younger kids will find themselves spending a lot of time here, but older visitors can still find plenty to love. For many visitors, this land is the very essence of MK; here are a few reasons why:

- Mad Tea Party**
- The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh**
- It's A Small World**
- Prince Charming Regal Carrousel**
- Under The Sea: Journey of the Little Mermaid**
- Ariel's Grotto**
- Enchanted Tales with Belle**

DINING TIP: Cinderella's Castle is home to one of the most popular character dining experiences, Cinderella's Royal Table. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are available by reservations. 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.



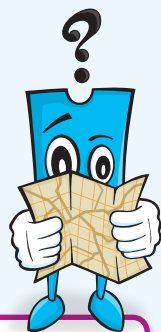
Tomorrowland: Take a nostalgic visit to what we once thought the future would look like, with great rides and a very fun atmosphere. Blast off to these attractions:

Stitch's Great Escape!
Buzz Lightyear's Space Ranger Spin
Space Mountain

What a Character!

Throughout the entire WDW Resort are 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. For example, MK has several specific areas set up for character greetings, including **City Hall at Town Square**, the **Adventureland Congoosis**, and **Ariel's Grotto**.

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.



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.

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 MK is heaven for little ones, EPCOT is ideal for older kids and adults, especially tech-savvy teens and 'tweens. This park is 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 by calling 1-407-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 constantly-changing technology. Things are nice and organized here, so it's easy to see everything in one day. But if you want to know just the must-do's, here is the list:

Spaceship Earth
Soarin'
Test Track
Mission: SPACE
Journey Into Imagination with Figment
Living with the Land

World Showcase: This is the place for culture, shows, food, and 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 cast members 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, the United Kingdom, and Canada. Mexico and Norway both feature boat rides—**Gran Fiesta Tour featuring The Three Caballeros** and **Maelstrom**.

Disney's Hollywood Studios™ (DHS)

It's time for the magic of the movies, Mouse-style. Disney's Hollywood Studios (DHS) is the WDW tribute to "the Hollywood that never was, and always will be." This is the place for movie faves, TV greats, and three of the best thrill rides anywhere. DHS is also where you will find most of the newer Disney characters, including *Monsters Inc* and both new and classic Muppets.

DHS is a well-organized, compact park, which makes it easy to do in one great day. If you find yourself with time to spare, though, see as many shows as possible; DHS is known for some of the best. And stay late for **Fantasmic!** It's considered the best of the nighttime shows, and it's the only regular park event that features the Disney Villains. Grab seats early, no matter what time of year, or enjoy dinner and a show by making reservations for the Fantasmic! Package at either The Hollywood Brown Derby, Mama Mellrose's Ristorante Italiano, or Hollywood & Vine.

Here is your list of absolute musts for DHS:

- Twilight Zone Tower of Terror**
- Aerosmith Rock n Roller coaster**
- The Great Movie Ride**
- Toy Story Mania**
- Indiana Jones Stunt Spectacular Show**
- Muppet Vision 3D**
- Star Tours**

Disney's Animal Kingdom Park

Animal Kingdom (AK) may be the youngest of the WDW parks, but it's popularity is right up there with its siblings. This "Natazu" (say it out loud and you'll get it) features live animals, good food, great rides, and some truly stunning architectural touches, even by Disney standards.

AK is divided into lands (like MK). Some are based on world regions, with theming and animals native to the region, and others are more imaginative. Here's the rundown of what's where:

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. Contact WDW Guest Services at 407-WDISNEY for more information on these and other special events throughout the year.



Oasis: Many people make the mistake of rushing through this entry point; don't be one of them. Take your time and see miniature deer, sloths, macaws, iguanas, and more.

Discovery Island: The park's center is dominated by artistic wonder **The Tree of Life**. The Tree stands 14 stories tall, is 50 feet wide, and has a carved "bark" tapestry featuring 325 different animal likenesses. Wildlife trails surround the tree as well, with viewing areas for lemurs, flamingos, red kangaroos, and massive Galapagos tortoises. Inside the Tree is a theater where you can experience **It's Tough To Be A Bug**, a creepy crawly interactive movie show—it's a park fave!

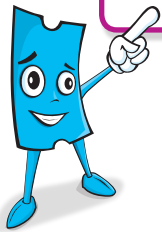
Camp Minnie Mickey: Take the little ones here for small-size fun and most of AK's character meet and greets. This is also the home for **The Festival of the Lion King** show, which inspired the award-winning Broadway musical.

Africa: Welcome to Harambe, a beautiful African village that is your path to **Kilimanjaro Safari** and a ride through African animal territory. Once you descend from your safari vehicle, you exit to the **Paganini Forest Exploration Trail** for a look at lowland gorillas, including a magnificent 500-lb silverback male and his family. Take your time through these trails—this is one of the few places in the world where you can observe these amazing primates. After, take the little ones to **Rafiki's Planet Watch** 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 waters guarantee a soaking good time for all. More up-close animal viewing can be had at **Maharajah Jungle Trek**, including 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. 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.

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



Our Tips for the WDW Parks

FASTPASS: It's like making a reservation for your favorite WDW attraction. Just insert your admission ticket, annual pass, or resort ID, and the machine prints out a pass with the 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 that doesn't matter—on a busy day, it can save you hours of waiting on lines.

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.

Ride while other guests are busy: Mealtimes, parades, and fireworks often take people away from the major attractions. Ride while everyone else is distracted and you may experience far shorter wait times.

Don't rebuy—refill! WDW has water fountains throughout the park. Bring your own water bottles (the park allows them) and refill throughout the day.

Snack to save time: 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.

The WDW Water Parks

Disney's Blizzard Beach

Welcome to the 66-acre ski resort of Mount Gushmore! Blizzard Beach features a white sand beach and a tropical lagoon. This youngest of the Disney water parks is 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
Melt Away Bay
Tike's Peak
Steamboat Springs
Summit Plummet

Disney's Typhoon Lagoon

Slightly smaller and a bit more relaxed in both theme and thrills than Blizzard Beach, Typhoon Lagoon is WDW's second water park. Crowds tend to be a bit smaller here, since it is the older of the two parks, but 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 are some of the favorites:

Castaway Creek
Crush ‘n’ Gusher
Gang Plank Falls
Humunga Kowabunga
Surf Pool

Sports, Shopping, and More!

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. The multisport auxiliary Josten Center offers another six basketball courts, 12 more volleyball courts, and two more roller hockey rinks.

Sports fans should know that big names often 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.

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

DisneyQuest

This interactive, indoor theme park is the perfect choice for the tech-heads 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 MK 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 experience. Artistically-inclined guests should check out **Animation Station** for a crash-course in Disney-style animation. Get here at opening for the most action with least wait—afternoons and evenings can become unbearably crowded.

Golf Disney

WDW 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. Other courses and mini-golf include:

Magnolia
Palm
Osprey Ridge
Lake Buena Vista
Fantasia Gardens (mini)
Fantasia Fairways (mini)
Winter Summerland (two mini courses: Winter and Summer)

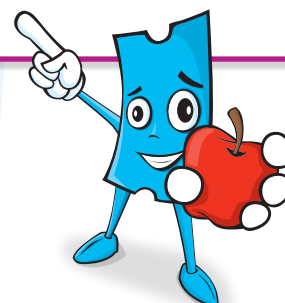
And remember, spikeless golf shoes only! Sneakers or similar athletic shoes are also permitted.

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** and 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 tickets early if you want to see the show — its popularity is nearly unrivaled. And new for 2013 is **Splitsville**, a two-floor, 30 lane bowling and entertainment complex featuring live music and great dining.

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!



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 plans in late 2010 to transform Pleasure Island into a brand-new shopping and dining area, **Hyperion Wharf**. Construction is expected to take three years; some shops and restaurants will remain open during the long renovation, including **Raglan Road Irish Pub & Bar**, **Fuego by Sosa Cigars**, **Paradiso 37**, 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 a great childrens menu. Kids will also love the **Rainforest Café**, where there are often live animals (mostly parrots) on display outside. Marketplace is also home to the **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!

Getting Around The Mouse: Transportation at the Walt Disney World® Resort

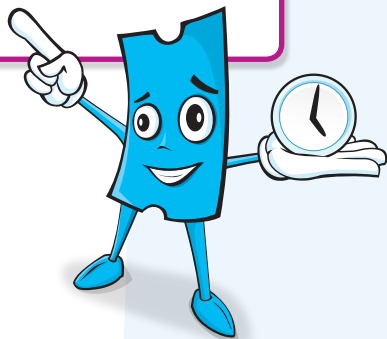
Monorail: The Walt Disney Monorail system has been in place since the park opened in 1971. It originally ran around the circumference of the Seven Seas Lagoon but was expanded in 1982 to offer monorail transport to **EPCOT**. If you are staying in one of the Magic Kingdom hotels—The Contemporary, The 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.

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.

Parking: While the monorails, ferry boats, water taxis, and Disney buses are complimentary, 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. 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.

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!



Fun for all ages

WDW attracts guests of every age, from 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®

DHS = Disney's Hollywood Studios™

AK = Disney's Animal Kingdom® Park

Best for Younger Kids

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

Restaurants: 50s Prime Time Café (DHS), Cosmic Ray's (MK), Coral Reef Restaurant (EP), Toy Story Pizza Planet (DHS)

Best for Teens

Attractions: Indiana Jones Epic Stunt Spectacular (DHS), Philharmagic (MK), Phantasmic (DHS), Rock n Roller Coaster (DHS), 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 (DHS)

Best for Adults

Attractions: Muppet Vision 3-D (DHS), Twilight Zone Tower of Terror (DHS), 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)



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 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 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 paradise, **Islands of Adventure** (IOA). IOA's many thrill 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® (Uni)

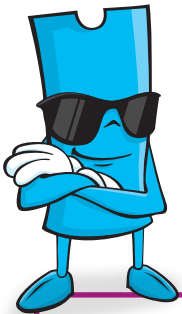
"Ride The Movies" was the tagline when the park first opened in 1990 and it's still a great way to sum up the attractions this park has to offer. While there aren't quite as many thrill rides as sister park IOA, Uni has enough to keep extreme teens entertained. There are also shows and attractions just 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, 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, Rip Ride Rockit, Minion Mayhem**

New York: **Revenge of the Mummy the Ride, TWISTER: Ride It Out; The Blues Brothers; Transformers 3D (coming summer 2013!)**

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.



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!

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

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

San Francisco: **FEAR FACTOR Live, Beetlejuice's Graveyard Revue, Disaster: A Major Motion Picture Ride Starring YOU!**

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**

And don't forget to gather by the Lagoon every night for the **Cinematic Spectacular—100 Years of Movie Magic**. This show, which debuted in 2012, celebrates Universal's most iconic movies and characters with a special narration by none other than Morgan Freeman. The film clips are projected onto screens made of water and are accompanied by pyrotechnics, synchronized colored water effects, and—of course—a stirring soundtrack.

Universal's Islands of Adventure® (IOA)

While there are attractions here for guests of all ages, IOA's biggest draw is thrills. Different Islands await your visit, offering everything from a classic merry-go-round with a Suessian twist to coasters and the incredible world of Harry Potter.

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. Here are all the Islands and their best attractions:

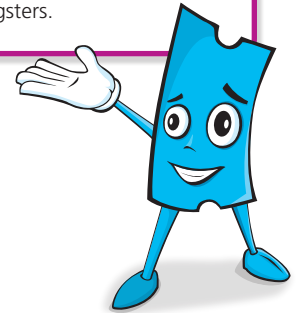
Marvel Superhero Island: The rides here are known for some of the best thrills in the world, including newly-refurbished **The Amazing Adventures of Spiderman**, the **Incredible Hulk Coaster**, and **Storm Force Acceletron**.

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 smaller than it used to be, 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 Hogwarts Castle to the delicious treat of butterbeer, 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. Try some green eggs and ham at the café of the same name—you might like them, Sam-I-Am!

IOA is a 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 be used 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 4pm, Universal Orlando Premier Annual Pass holders are also allowed unlimited Express Plus access.

CityWalk

Even Orlando locals can't stay away from what is being touted at the Entertainment Capital of OrlandoSM. This 30-acre entertainment complex has dining (from names like Jimmy Buffet and Emeril Lagasse), dancing, shopping, miniature golf, a massive theater (which often hosts special showings and classic revivals), live music venues (including Velvet Sessions at the Hard Rock), and The Blue Man Group. You can even get a tattoo, which is one thing you definitely can't say about Disney!

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 **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 opening in 1973.

SWO is not divided into particular areas, like most other theme parks. The park is 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: Kraken (roller coaster), Manta (roller coaster), Wild Arctic (simulator), Journey to Atlantis (combination coaster and flume ride), Sky Tower (the park's iconic attraction, a 400 foot observation tower)

Shows: One Ocean (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), Dolphin Cove, Shamu Close Up (killer whales), Pacific Point Preserve (sea lions), Turtle Trek (rescued and rehabilitated sea turtles and manatees), Antarctica -- Empire of the Penguin (**coming Spring 2013!**)

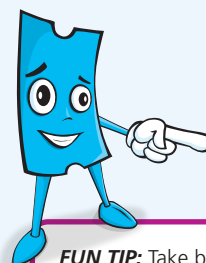
Aquatica®

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.

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
Tassie's Twister
Roa's Rapids

Big Surf Shores
Cutback Cove
Walhalla Wave

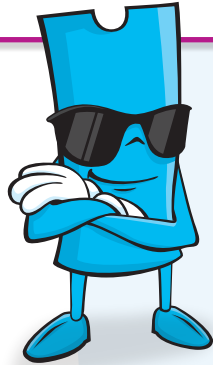


FUN TIP: Take bets on how many times you make it around **Tassie's Twister** before going down the plughole — last one down buys the sodas!

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

Discovery Cove (DC)

TIP: 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.



It's possibly the most exclusive theme park in the world, with daily admission limited to a mere thousand guests per day. **Discovery Cove** is like no other theme park in Orlando. Here, you can snorkel with tropical fish in a living coral reef, swim with dolphins, interact with rare birds in a free-flight aviary, relax on a stunning white-sand beach, or float all day in a lazy river. And now there is the incredible **Freshwater Oasis Expansion**, where you can come face to face with otters, marmosets, and more, all under a lush rainforest canopy.

DC is located across the street from Sea World Orlando. The park highly recommends reservations; in fact, during high-capacity times of year, reservations are all but required and book many months in advance. The cost is not cheap. Basic admission (no dolphin swim) starts at \$129 in the off-season and can go as high as \$199. **Dolphin Swim Experience** starts at \$199 and goes to \$319, depending on the time of year.* Plus there are add-ons and "signature experiences." Fancy a deeper look at the reef? A **Sea Venture** underwater walking tour (no SCUBA certification required) can give you that, for another \$59. Other special packages can get as high as \$500 (Trainer for a Day). But you do get a LOT of bang for your many bucks; in addition everything above, all packages include:

Freshly prepared breakfast and lunch and unlimited snacks, soft drinks, and select alcoholic beverages

Lockers, sunscreen, snorkel gear, showers with amenities and changing facilities

All day self parking at Discovery Cove

Unlimited admission to **SeaWorld Orlando** and **Aquatica** for 14 consecutive days around the date of your DC reservation

DISCLAIMER: Prices correct at time of publication and are subject to change. Call **Discovery Cove for current pricing information and reservations.*

LEGOLAND®

Just a half hour ride from WDW lies a 150-acre building block extravaganza—**LEGOLAND® Florida**. This interactive theme park is advertised as the perfect destination for families with children aged 2 to 12, LEGO aficionados of all ages are flocking to the park for building fun. Plus, now there is a water park—more than enough reason to visit.

LEGOLAND itself features 11 different sections. You enter at **The Beginning** and make your way through the rest of the park areas:

- Fun Town**
- Miniland USA**
- DUPLO Village**
- LEGO Kingdoms**
- Land of Adventure**
- LEGO City**
- Imagination Zone**
- LEGO Technic**
- Pirate's Cove**
- Cypress Gardens**

The waterpark, which opened in Spring 2012, has six sections, including one just for toddlers:

- LEGO Wave Pool**
- Twin Chasers**
- Splash Out**
- Joker Soaker**
- BuildARaft River**
- DUPLO Splash Safari**

BuildARaft is also a lazy river, so you can chill out in your creation and float while you come up with your next LEGO engineering marvel.

Other Orlando-Area Theme Parks

Gatorland

Gatorland and its iconic gator jaw entrance have been enticing and educating Orlando visitors for more than half a century. The park is unique in many ways, and celebrates the natural beauty of Florida while helping people learn more about the fascinating and often misunderstood world of alligators and other Florida wildlife.

Visitors can explore a bird rookery; take a **Swamp Walk** through a real, unspoiled cypress swamp; visit **Jungle Crocs and Alligator Island**; get up close and personal with less toothy creatures in a barnyard-style petting zoo; enjoy shows and demonstrations; and more. It's the "Alligator Capital of the World," right in Orlando!

Ripley's Believe It Or Not® Odditorium

It's easily the weirdest museum in Florida, and it's a contender for one of the weirdest in the world. You can't miss the lopsided building standing proud—if slanted—in the midst of International Drive. Enter and be amazed at the collection of oddities that await, including a seven-legged sheep, a real human shrunken head, optical illusions, strange artifacts, and just plain old weird things that are hard to believe! Sixteen galleries feature displays from all over the world, including many interactive exhibits so you can really experience the extraordinary.

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.

Offseason is on! Vacation times 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.

Claim space! 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. 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! If you are staying on property at any of the parks, pop back to the hotel after lunch (when crowds tend to be heaviest) and enjoy a cooling swim or even a cat nap. Return to the parks during dinner, when crowds tend to thin.

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 they also supply all the entertainment.

Arabian Nights

Delve into a magical story filled with fantasy, romance, and adventure at Arabian Nights. Voted the #1 dinner show in Orlando, 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. Can 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. 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, matesy! 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 scallywags 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!

To purchase Tickets for all of the Orlando Dinner Shows, visit:
http://www.dwtickets.com/Discount_Dinner_Show_Tickets_s/92.htm



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 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 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**, which allow them time inside the parks before and/or after they are open to the general public.

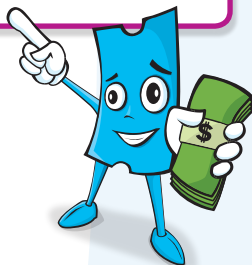
Add the **Water Park Fun & More** option to gain admission to many other WDW attractions. The number of days on a ticket relates to how many of these extra admissions are received. As an example, a 7-day Magic Your Way ticket with the Water Park Fun & More option will receive seven extra admissions. 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.

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!



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, visit:

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".

Universal Orlando has the following ticket options:

Base Tickets: Base tickets can be purchased for 1-7 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.

To purchase discount Universal Orlando tickets, visit:

Universal Tickets -

http://www.dwtickets.com/Universal_Orlando_Tickets_s/159.htm

SeaWorld® and Aquatica Tickets

SeaWorld and Aquatica have 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 Aquatica for a 2nd day

To purchase discount SeaWorld and Aquatica tickets, visit:

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 five Park Flex Ticket, as well as a six Park Flex Ticket that adds on Busch Gardens in Tampa Bay, Florida. Here are the six 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, visit: **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 been accredited by the Better Business Bureau since 2007 with an A- rating. Tickets can be purchased online and over the phone.

DWTickets - <http://www.dwtickets.com>
(877) 219 - 9328

Links

OrlandoTastic

OrlandoTastic! is one of Orlando's top vacation blogs. Daily posts include Orlando news, travel tips, restaurant reviews, theme park rumors, and much more. If you're planning a trip to the Orlando area, it's a great online resource. Visit OrlandoTastic at - <http://blog.dwtickets.com> and follow us on Twitter at - <http://twitter.com/OrlandoTastic>

Facebook

Join our Facebook fan page!
<http://www.facebook.com/DWTicketsOrlando>

Pinterest

Follow us on Pinterest
<http://www.pinterest.com/dwtickets>

Magic Pack Tickets -

http://www.dwtickets.com/Magic_Pack_Disney_Merchandise_s/102.htm



Test Your Disney Knowledge

TRIVIA 1: What are the shops on Main Street U.S.A. named after?
see answers on page 27



TRIVIA 2: What happened to the Discovery Island Attraction?
see answers on page 27



TRIVIA 3: Who are the Disney World "Imagineers"?
see answers on page 27



TRIVIA 4: What are "E-Ticket Rides"?
see answers on page 27

TRIVIA 5: Which Walt Disney World employees are referred to as "cast members"?
see answers on page 27



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 27



TRIVIA 7: How many people use the monorail system each day?
see answers on page 27



Trivia Answers

- 1** All the shops on Main Street are named for some of the 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 protected wild bird habitat.
- 3** Disney 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** Fulton's Crab House was once known as The Empress Lily Riverboat, named for Walt'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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