



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Thomas Jung

Business Travel to Orlando: Around the corner from the Convention Center

Orlando, 7 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Just a stone's throw from the Orange County Convention Center, International Drive beckons with a myriad of fun distractions worthy of a meeting hiatus. Pointe Orlando, an entertainment complex, houses several great restaurants from high-end steak and seafood spots to casual and zany restaurants such as Taverna Opa and BB Kings. Wander down I-Drive and you'll find a bevy of bars ready to serve of a swanky martini or a bucket of beer. And don't forget that SeaWorld and Universal Studios are less than a ten-minute cab ride away.

My List

contact:

tel: 1 407 370-4392
<http://www.thecapitalgrille.com>

location:

9101 International Drive,
Suite 1000 Pointe Orlando
Orlando FL 32819

hours:

Lunch: Monday – Friday:
11:30am – 4:00pm; Dinner:
Monday– Thursday: 4:00pm
– 10:00pm, Friday: 4:00pm -
11:00pm, Saturday: 5:00pm –
10:00pm Lounge: Open Daily

1 The Capital Grille

DESCRIPTION: The Capital Grille wants to be "your place." The spot you most want to come to, whether for a special occasion or just the perfect dinner out. They strive to make every occasion special. They serve dry-aged steaks that have earned high praise from the nation's toughest food critics, and have an award-winning wine list. Mouth-watering appetizers, fresh seafood, chops. Irresistible desserts. They match the food with out-of-this-world service and a comfortable, relaxed ambiance that's a world away from the routine.



citysearch

contact:

tel: 4073518660
fax: +1 407 351 8661
<http://http://www.opaorlando.com>

location:

9101 International Drive
Orlando FL 32819

hours:

Lunch: 11:00am-3:00pm
Dinner: 3:00pm-until the ouzo
runs out! Happy Hour at Bar:
3:00pm-6:00pm

2 Taverna Opa - Orlando

DESCRIPTION: Taverna Opa is the place for breaking plates, dodging confetti-style napkins and sampling tasty dishes like the smash-it-yourself garbanzo beans appetizer. Just as impressive: the garlic-marinated chicken kabobs and Santorini shrimp. Better yet, the energy of this eatery will have you dancing in your seat or — for the more adventurous — on the table. Afterward, hit B.B. King's Blues Club for funky jazz, just a few steps away. © OpenTable



wcities

contact:

tel: 1 407 363-4801
<http://www.theoceanaire.com>

location:

9101 International Drive
Orlando FL 32819

hours:

Dinner: Sunday - Thursday:
5:00pm -10:00pm Friday -
Saturday: 5:00pm -11:00pm

3 The Oceanaire Seafood Room

DESCRIPTION: From the moment you enter the Oceanaire on International Drive you feel a sense of place and time akin to a classic 1930s ocean liner. No detail is left to chance. From cocktails in the lounge, to the raw oyster bar, to a main course of ultra-fresh fish, a rendezvous at the Oceanaire is the perfect occasion to indulge your unfettered senses. The seafood is flown in daily from around the world. They source only top-of-the-catch fish from the world's most reputable suppliers. Since the menu is based entirely on market availability, selections change by the day - in some cases, even by the hour. Choose your fancy prepared to your liking: simply grilled or broiled, sauteed, steamed or even fried. Served with the famous fresh-baked sourdough bread, and offered with a wine list as deep



citysearch

as the sea, it's no wonder people come here to be spoiled. © NileGuide

contact:

tel: 407 354 5999
fax: 407 354 5992
http://www.howlatthemoon.com/orlando_tonight.html

location:

8815 International Drive
Orlando FL 32819

hours:

M-Th 7p-2a, F 5p-2a, Sa
6p-2a, Su 7p-2a

4 Howl at the Moon

DESCRIPTION: After creating waves in Cincinnati, this nightclub has been doing the same in Orlando. A regular haunt for locals since its inception, it's the tunes played on the two centerstage pianos that keep guests highly entertained. A 'Showtime' special is announced every hour, in which employees and guests alike dance to the tunes of popular television shows and commercial jingles. Take your pick from the very innovative drinks menu - while the Sour Apple Martini will make you "pucker up and howl", the Electric Lemonade is "the most ELECTRIFYING cocktail in nightlife entertainment". So come on down and get ready to howl! © wcities.com



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contact:

tel: 407-426-7555
fax: +1 407 426 7333
<http://www.icebarorlando.com>

location:

8967 International Drive
Orlando FL 32819

hours:

Open Daily From 7:00pm

5 Ice Bar

DESCRIPTION: Cool cats can flock to the newest and coolest (literally) club on I-Drive, ICEBAR, which just opened October '08. Designers took 50 tons of solid ice and transformed it into a sparkling bar that's sure to become Orlando's newest hot spot... errrr, cold spot. Furniture is draped with fur throws and designer thermal capes are provided to keep you cozy in these 27 degree temperatures. Of course, frosty libations are the recommended cocktail. © wcities.com



citysearch

contact:

tel: 407 248 2222
fax: 407 352 3696
<http://www.cafetututango.com>

location:

8625 International Drive
Orlando FL 32819

hours:

Su-Th 11:30a-11p, F-Sa
11:30a-2a

6 Cafe Tu Tu Tango

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

This is a hot spot for food and entertainment so to eliminate a wait call ahead to book a table. Make a reservation through OpenTable.com or call 407-248-2222.

DESCRIPTION: Cafe Tu Tu Tango is a definite must if you are looking for delicious cuisine and a lively atmosphere. From the moment you pull up you will notice that this is no ordinary restaurant. The restaurant is set in a Mediterranean artist' loft and features artist stations scattered throughout the dining room. So do not be surprised when you see an artist working with clay or painting while you enjoy your tapas. The menu offers an assorted variety of plates intended to be shared including oriental steak skewers, stir-fried shrimp and roasted pears on pecan crisps. The staff is knowledgeable about the food and are happy to make suggestions based on your taste buds. Only downfall comes in the form of a wait to get a table, so make a reservation if you can through OpenTable.com or call 407-248-2222. If you do get stuck with a wait head over to the bar for one of their signature drinks.



wcities

© NileGuide

contact:

tel: +1 407 351 3600
http://www.seaworld.com/

location:

7007 Sea World Drive
Orlando FL 32821

7 SeaWorld Orlando

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Lots of places to have a picnic if you want to bring in your own lunch

DESCRIPTION: One of the first theme parks to open in Orlando, SeaWorld has been operating here for more than 30 years. The 200 acres of attractions and animal shows make this a perennial favorite with Florida visitors. Many new attractions and rides have been added to the original fun including a laser-fireworks-water extravaganza and high-tech thrill rides. © wcities.com



by Kristen Manieri

contact:

tel: +1 407 206 2300
fax: +1 407 206 2301
http://www.dpbolvw.net/click-2
005797-10406976

location:

4040 Central Florida Pkwy
Orlando FL 32837

8 JW Marriott Orlando, Grande Lakes (The)

DESCRIPTION: JW Marriott Orlando Grande Lakes is located in Orlando, Florida within one mile of SeaWorld. The hotel offers a number of family-friendly amenities, including a babysitting service, game room and in-room video games. Those with families rave about the enormous pool and its lazy river, while others note the quality golfing available just steps from the hotel. The sushi at the Lobby Lounge particularly impresses guests, though some lament that it is not available later in the evening. Guests warn, however, that the pool area is open to non-customers and often becomes crowded. Others, especially those with families, dislike that the hotel allows drinking in the pool. © Raveable



Hotels.com

contact:

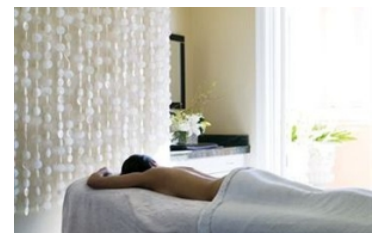
tel: +1 407 206 2400
fax: +1 407 206 2401
http://www.ritzcarlton.com/resorts/orlando_grande_lakes/

location:

4012 Central Florida Parkway
Orlando FL 32837

9 Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes (The)

DESCRIPTION: Just off the International Drive, lies the 500-acre Grande Lakes Orlando, at the Florida Everglades. The resort comprises of two magnificent hotels, the JW Marriott and the Ritz-Carlton. Panoramic lake views stretch before the rooms, each decorated with Italian furniture and topped with the group's quality amenities. Fine dining comes in the form of a poolside restaurant and a steakhouse, among others. Health nuts can partake of the offerings at the Café after a workout at the 40,000 square foot spa. © wcities.com



Hotels.com

contact:

tel: 800/732-2639

fax: 407/354-1424

www.peabodyorlando.com

location:

9801 International Dr
Orlando FL 32819

10 **The Peabody Orlando**

DESCRIPTION: The five mallards that march into a lobby fountain every morning at 11am and then back out at 5pm, accompanied by John Philip Sousa's King Cotton March, are just part of the appeal of this luxury hotel, famous for its friendly (and not stuffy) service. Primarily a business and convention destination, the Peabody also appeals to adults looking for a classy hotel that provides top-of-the-line service, amenities, and atmosphere. If your budget allows the splurge, you won't be disappointed. Rooms sleep up to five and are tastefully decorated and very well appointed. Those on the west side (sixth floor and higher) offer a distant view of Disney and its fireworks displays. **Tip:** Your best chance at getting bargain rates is in July and August; that's when the convention trade falls flat, and occupancy drops to as little as 20%. **Note:** At press time, a long awaited expansion was starting to take shape as a second tower (with 750 guest rooms, a full service spa, and grotto-style pool) was in the midst of construction. **Facilities:** 3 restaurants; deli; 3 lounges; outdoor heated pool; kids' pool; 4 lighted tennis courts, instruction available (fee); fitness center; spa; Jacuzzi; game room; concierge; guest-services desk; shuttle to Disney and other parks for a fee; business center; shopping arcade; 24-hr. room service; valet; concierge-level rooms © Frommer's



Hotels.com

contact:

tel: +1 407 352 1400

fax: +1 407 363 1120

<http://www.embassysuitesorlando.com/intl/amenities.htm#accommodations>

location:

8978 International Dr
Orlando FL 32819

11 **Embassy Suites Orlando International Drive Convention Center**

DESCRIPTION: Located near Disney parks and the Orange County Convention Center, this eight-storey, 244-unit hotel proves popular with business travelers and families alike. Each suite boasts a bedroom and bath, and a living area complete with microwave, small refrigerator and coffeemaker. Guests love the atrium common area, which features a plethora of tropical plants surrounding a waterfall and where a complimentary breakfast is served every morning. The casual, Fisheye Grill serves other meals. There are also large indoor and outdoor swimming pools and whirlpools. Transportation to Disney parks is complimentary. © wcities.com



Hotels.com

contact:

tel: +1 407 363 8000

<http://www.universalorlando.com>

location:

1000 Universal Studios Plaza
Orlando FL 32809

12 **Universal Studios Florida**

DESCRIPTION: The world's favorite films and film stars come to life here, and 40 amazing and amusing rides, shows and attractions await. A virtual interactive Terminator 2:3-D adventure has its own set of thrills, as does an encounter with Jaws, a trip Back to the Future, and a voyage beyond the stars in an E.T. Adventure. Special VIP tours are available by pre-arrangement. © wcities.com



by Kristen Manieri

contact:

tel: 407-224-2189

<http://www.universalorlando.com/>

location:

6000 Universal Blvd.
Orlando FL

hours:

Nightly from 8pm – 2am

13 **Rising Star**

DESCRIPTION: Closet singers and aspiring stars get their chance at stardom at Universal's Rising Star, a karaoke club where you become the lead singer in a live band. Open nightly from 8pm to 2am, Rising Star is located at CityWalk, a mecca for evening excitement and sundown shenanigans. Expect a bevy of signature cocktails and gourmet snacks. © wcities.com



Rising Star

Orlando Snapshot

Local Info

Think of Orlando and the picture of an iconic, cheerful mouse is sure to come to mind. Disney World not only sprawls across hundreds of acres of land in Lake Buena Vista, located in Orlando's southwest, its impact on Orlando tourism has been even more sweeping. If not for the explosion of Disney World, perhaps neighboring megaparks like Universal Studios and SeaWorld may never have been born.

No doubt, most vacationers come to Orlando for the theme parks, and for good reason. There is more family fun packed into every square inch of Orlando than possibly anywhere else on the planet. From heart-dropping roller coasters to unforgettable live shows, Orlando's expansive parks are worth every penny of their admission price. Orlando offers an easy vacation for families- it's easy to get around, easy to find something to do, and easy to fly in and out of.

The standard week-long vacation is not even close to enough time to truly experience Orlando. A family could spend their entire stay within Disney World and still would only uncover a fraction of the delightful diversions available. Besides days spent inside Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Animal Kingdom, and the recently renamed Hollywood Studios (formerly MGM Studios), visitors can also book themed dinners with beloved characters, rent watercraft for

traversing Disney's inner waterways, visit two Disney water parks, and take behind-the-scene tours... and this still would only scratch Disney's surface. You wouldn't want to miss shopping and dining at Downtown Disney, as well as shows like Cirque du Soleil's La Nouba and the House of Blues's Gospel Brunch.

Those who manage to break from Disney's tender grip are quickly swallowed up at Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure. These two parks are packed with spectacular rides as well as a huge entertainment, shopping and dining complex known as CityWalk. And the fun doesn't stop there.

Yet, there is life beyond the theme parks. While it's difficult to compete with the color and gusto of Disney and its neighbors, there's actually a lot happening outside of the theme park zone. Downtown's walkable streets offer a robust dining and nightlife scene as well as some unique boutiques and a handful of theaters and museums.

When the locals grow weary of the theme parks, which they quickly do, they're more likely to be found strolling around Lake Eola Park that boasts the famed fountain and amphitheater. Here you'll find a few popular eateries hugging its shores, a place to rent swan boats, and an awesome Sunday farmer's market crowded with downtown hipsters enjoying its beer garden and live bands.

Winter Park, with its posh boutiques, million-dollar homes, and chic cafes and restaurants is also a superb spot for an afternoon of strolling, shopping and snacking. Even non-shoppers love Winter Park thanks to its museums, scenic boat tours, and well-manicured park spaces.

Wherever you spend your time during your Orlando visit, you'll likely describe Orlando locals as friendly and unpretentious. Orlando isn't a big city like New York or LA, and it knows it. Sure, Orlando people glam it up at nightclubs and can spend wads of cash like any big city slicker, but they're not a snobby bunch. They're used to sharing their space with visitors and can be amiable and obliging if you're ever in need of a local tip.

Besides theme parks, I-Drive, and a handful of quaint urban corridors, the beach is just over an hour away. Cocoa and New Smyrna are closest and both are great for families, couples, and singles. Drive an extra hour west and you'll be at the Gulf. In fact, Orlando is one of the best starting off points for any Florida-exploring vacation. The airport is a direct flight from every major city in North America and there is so much more to see within a two to three hour drive of this great city.

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