



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Thomas Jung

Orlando on a Shoestring

Orlando, 4 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: While theme parks are definitely packed with loads of fun, it's easy to drop hundreds of dollars in a single day. Veer off the beaten path just slightly and you'll find a bevy of delightful distractions that are much easier on the wallet. From Kissimmee to Longwood, Downtown to Winter Park, Orlando's varied neighborhoods have something for every traveler on any budget.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Orlando

DAY NOTE: Few picnic spots compare to the Albion Polasek. Perched on one of Winter Park's picturesque lakes lined with million-dollar estates, this tranquil spot houses a variety of original works inside the gallery and on the well-manicured grounds. Best of all, access to the outdoor sculpture garden is completely free. Guests are encouraged to bring a picnic basket filled with their favorite provisions, perhaps purchased from local cafes on nearby Park Avenue. A casual dinner will be had at Fiddler's Green, consistently named Orlando's best pub, before heading downtown to Latitudes on Orlando's infamous Church Street. An outdoor rooftop patio, buckets of cheap beer, and blaring Top 40 tunes make this a favorite nightlife spot.



Best Western Movieland Orlando

Across the street from Wet n' Wild Water Park



Latitudes

Bar with a view

Day 2 - Orlando

DAY NOTE: Young or old, the Orlando's Science Center never ceases to captivate and amaze. For under \$20, the OSC offers heart stopping IMAX shows and an endless array of stimulating exhibits that will keep you busy throughout the day. The Orlando Museum of Art and Loch Haven Park are all within a short drive should you care to tackle these while you're in the area. For lunch or dinner, head over to Orlando's Antique District where eclectic boutiques mesh with zany cafes like White Wolf Café. Try the lasagna... it's delish. Afterwards, The Social is just a short drive downtown and stacks a line-up of live bands from near and far.



Orlando Science Center

Hands-On Exhibits



White Wolf Cafe

Delicious American cuisine in a vintage atmosphere



Social (The)

Musical moments



Best Western Movieland Orlando

Across the street from Wet n' Wild Water Park

Day 3 - Orlando

DAY NOTE: Only about twenty minutes north of downtown Orlando, Wekiwa Springs State Park is a tranquil destination for outdoor lovers. Admission to the park is only \$5 per car load and kayak rentals are only \$20 for a two-person kayak. You can find more information about canoe and kayak rentals as well as guided yours at www.canoevekiva.com. Pack a picnic lunch for even more saving. You'll pass a Publix grocery store along the way (corner of Wekiva and SR 434). After a day of hiking, paddling and swimming, plan on spending the evening at Universal's CityWalk where the MEAL & MOVIE DEAL will get you dinner and a movie for only \$21.95 at eight participating restaurants. Stay all night and enjoy live entertainment at many of CityWalk's venues or head over to the new Rising Star to take the karaoke stage with a live band.



Wekiwa Springs State Park

Hike, kayak, or simply snorkel in the warm spring



Hot Dog Heaven

Hot dogs, 36 ways



Bob Marley - A Tribute to Freedom

Jammin' music for dining



Best Western Movieland Orlando

Across the street from Wet n' Wild Water Park

Day 4 - Orlando

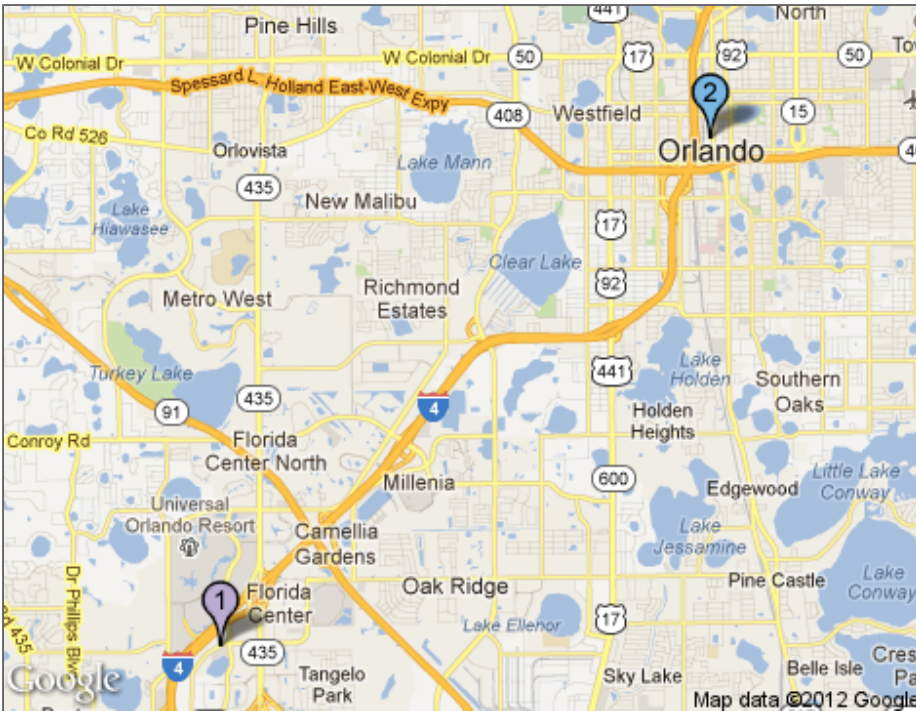
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Joe's Crab Shack

Crabs, clams, oysters, and other treats

Day 1 - Orlando



QUICK NOTE

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contact:
tel: +1 407 351-3900
www.BestWestern.com

location:
6233 International Dr
Orlando FL 32819

1 Best Western Movieland Orlando

DESCRIPTION: Across the street from Wet n' Wild Water Park, this hotel is also 4 miles from SeaWorld Orlando and the Holy Land Experience. Best Western Movieland Orlando's guestrooms offer free wireless Internet access, cable TV, coffee/tea makers, and hair dryers. This family-friendly hotel's facilities include a fitness center, restaurant, outdoor swimming pool, game room, and gift shop.



Hotels.com

contact:

tel: 407 649 4270

<http://www.churchstreetbars.com/Latitudes-Orlando-Bar.htm>

location:

33 West Church Street
Orlando FL 32801-3301

hours:

Daily 4p-2a

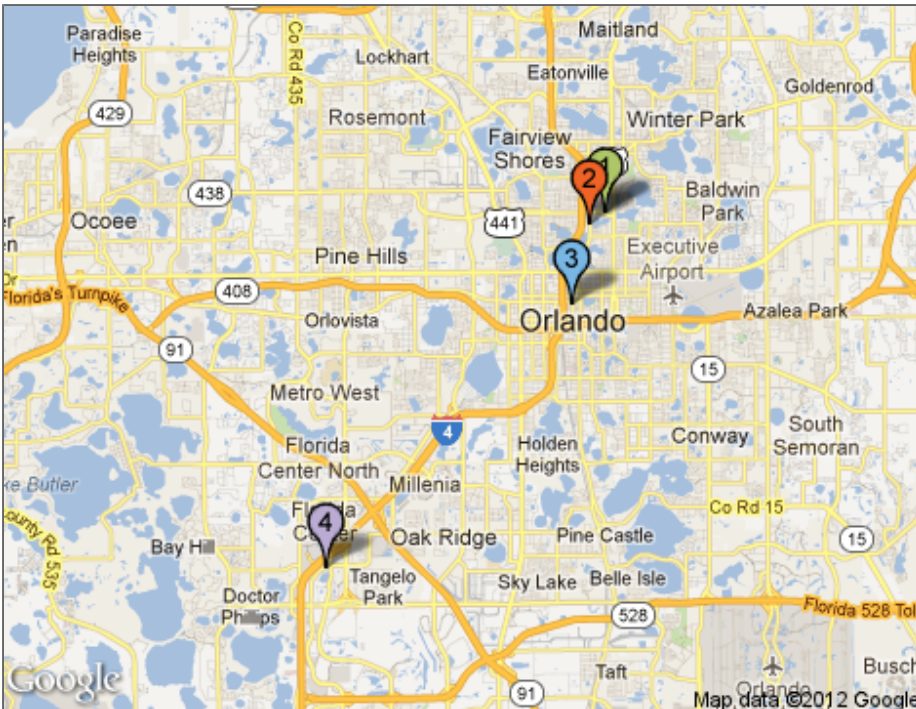
2 Latitudes

DESCRIPTION: Nestled on a rooftop, this neighborhood bar is a favorite hangout of the locals. The outdoor ambience is completely dependent on the weather conditions, although the spectacular views of the SunTrust tower and Church Street below make the visit worthwhile. The décor is done up in wood, with tiki torches lighting up corners. The age limit is 21 and above and the dress code casual, attracting both college goers and the business crowd alike. The music is average, though. A full liquor service and a selection of imported and domestic beers are on offer. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Latitudes

Day 2 - Orlando



QUICK NOTE

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contact:

tel: 888/672-4386

fax: +1 407 514 2277

<http://www.osc.org>

location:

777 E. Princeton St
Orlando FL 32803

hours:

Sun-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat
10am-9pm

1 Orlando Science Center

DESCRIPTION: The Orlando Science Center is four floors of fascinating fun. The innovative center, the largest of its kind in the Southeast, provides 10 exhibit halls that allow visitors to explore everything from Florida swamps to the arid plains of Mars to the human body. One of the big attractions is the **Dr. Phillips CineDome**, a 310-seat theater that presents large-format films, planetarium shows, and laser-light extravaganzas. Just a small sampling of what you can expect includes exhibits such as **KidsTown**, where little folks wander in exhibits representing a miniature version of the big world around them. In one section, there's a pint-size community that includes a construction site, park, and wellness center. **Dr. Dare's Laboratory** is a "classroom of tomorrow" that includes interactive computer displays, and **NatureWorks** uses replicated Florida ecosystems to teach kids about the environment. Dino Digs, TechW.orks, Xperience Factory, and Cool Science are some of the other exhibits that await you. Look for the Super Service Center, a Construction Site just for



Photo courtesy of Orlando Science Center

kids, and the Kids Kitchen all coming soon. Allow 3 to 4 hours, more if you have an inquiring mind © Frommer's

contact:
tel: 1 407 895 9911
<http://www.whitewolfcafe.com>

location:
1829 North Orange Avenue
Orlando FL 32804

hours:
M 11a-9p, Tu-Th 11a-10p, F-Sa 11a-11p

2 White Wolf Cafe

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

The majority of the parking is on the street so keep your eyes peeled and obey the parking signs.

DESCRIPTION: White Wolf Cafe has been a favorite local restaurant and entertainment spot since opening its doors back in August 1991 for its exceptional food, friendly atmosphere and unique environment. The menu offers a wide selection of fresh soups of the day, intricate salad choices and hearty entrees. If you do not spot a typical favorite right away, try the insanely delicious garlic seafood medley or the Tuscan flatbread pizza. If a lighter option is desired, check out the White Wolf Waldorf salad with chicken, apple, celery and walnuts over romaine lettuce with a creamy house Waldorf dressing. It is sure to please!

The surroundings are a quaint mixture of vintage items like stained-glass windows, Tiffany-style lamps and old-fashioned oil painting. Although these items are for sale they certainly create a warm and inviting ambiance. Only one trip to the White Wolf Cafe will leave you wanting more.

© NileGuide



Photo courtesy of (insert name of point of interest)

contact:
tel: +1 407 246 1419
fax: +1 407 246 1380
<http://www.thesocial.org/>

location:
54 North Orange Avenue
Orlando FL 32801

hours:
Daily 8p-2a

3 Social (The)

DESCRIPTION: Lauded as Orlando's best entertainment venue for over a decade, The Social hosts a number of musical events that keep it almost always packed. The club is also known as 'the pit', but only in the best sense of the word. Patrons sit or dance in a pit, while musicians play jazz, rock and other types of music on a stage above. The food, which is served with a Southwestern flare, is good, but the martinis, all 27 varieties, are the club's claim to fame. And if you are planning to throw a party or even a corporate event, there could be no better place than The Social. Let the good times roll! © wcities.com



Social (The)

contact:
tel: +1 407 351-3900
www.BestWestern.com

location:
6233 International Dr
Orlando FL 32819

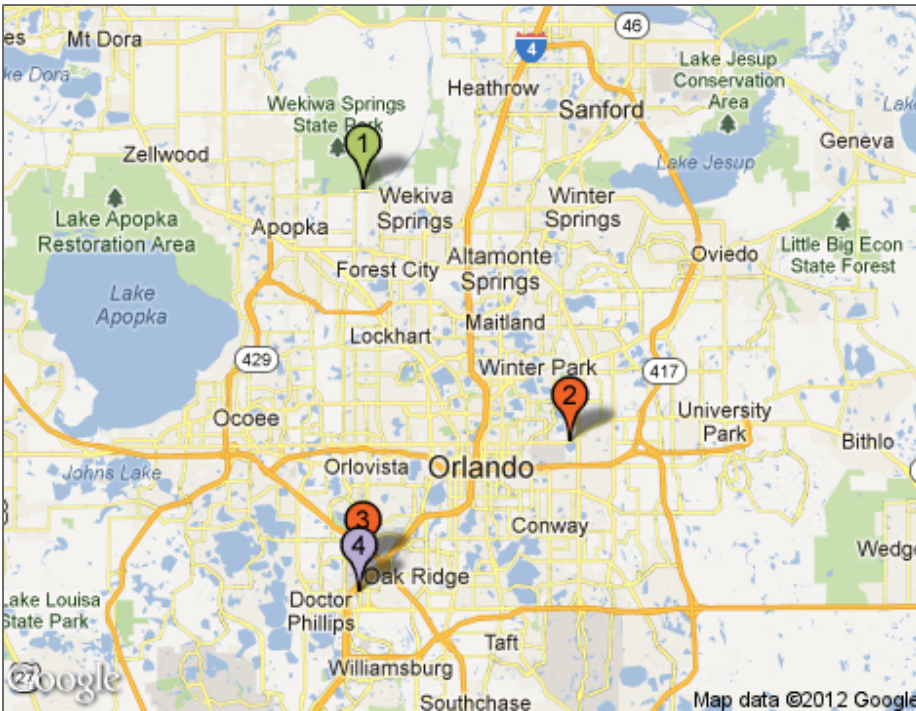
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Hotels.com

Day 3 - Orlando



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contact:

tel: +1 407 884 2008

fax: +1 407 884 2039

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/wekiwasprings/default.cfm>

location:

1800 Wekiwa Circle
Apopka FL 32712

1 Wekiwa Springs State Park

DESCRIPTION: Florida's fresh water comes from underground springs that rush through the state's underlying limestone base, known as an aquifer. Often, those springs bubble to the surface. You can see how that works at this 7,000-acre park where the waters are crystal - clear and stay at a comfortable 72 degrees all year. At this scenic spot, the headwaters of the Wekiwa (pronounced Wahk-EYE-vah) River, you can hike, camp, fish, go canoeing and, if you're lucky, spot some wildlife.
© wcities.com



contact:
tel: 1 407 282 5746
<http://www.hotdogheaven.com>

location:
5355 East Colonial Drive
Orlando FL 32807

hours:
M-F 11a-6p, Sa 11a-4p

2 Hot Dog Heaven

DESCRIPTION: An old-fashioned indoor-outdoor eatery with a neon frankfurter-shaped sign, this spot serves 36 kinds of hot dogs, in both regular and jumbo sizes. In operation for 10 years, it is a huge hit with the local lunch crowd. Favorites include the jumbo Chili Cheese Dog and the jumbo Reuben, a hot dog slathered in Thousand Island dressing. All hot dogs are served with French fries. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:
tel: 407 224 3663
fax: 407 224 8290
<http://www.bobmarley.com>

location:
6000 Universal Blvd
Orlando FL 32819

hours:
Dinner: Sunday - Thursday:
4:00pm - 10:00pm, Friday -
Saturday: 4:00pm - 11:00pm

3 Bob Marley - A Tribute to Freedom

DESCRIPTION: Bob Marley, the revered father of Jamaican reggae music, provided the inspiration for this dining spot that's become a popular part of Universal Studios. By night, this place is jamming with Marley's and fellow reggae artists' music, keeping the steel drum beat going strong for dancing. There's a variety of appetizing offerings, such as whitefish dip with toast points, salsa served with unusual dipping chips that include dried yucca and plantain chips, and yucca fries, much loved in the Caribbean. © wcities.com



wcities

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www.BestWestern.com

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6233 International Dr
Orlando FL 32819

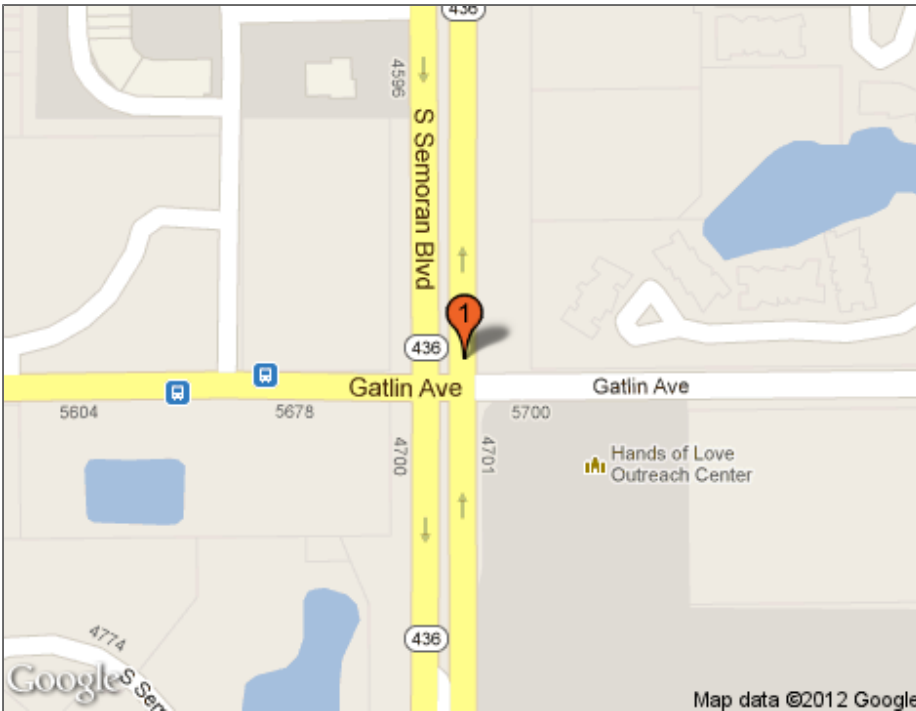
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Hotels.com

Day 4 - Orlando



QUICK NOTE

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contact:

tel: 1 407 658 9299
<http://www.joescrabshack.com>

location:

4601 South Semoran
Boulevard
Orlando FL 32822-2409

hours:

Su to Th from 11:00 AM to
10:00 PM, Fr to Sa from 11:00
AM to 11:00 PM

1 Joe's Crab Shack

DESCRIPTION: At Joe's Crab Shack, you'll find cozy hardwood floors, plenty of kitschy decorations and enough crabs to fill the Atlantic (well, almost). Located just off busy Semoran Boulevard, not far from the airport, Joe's Crab Shack is a fun getaway for singles, couples or families, brimming with good cheer and simple, good cooking. Energetic servers dance and boogie around the room every ten minutes to keep things lively, but don't despair; they never let that get in the way of serving you a delightful array of fresh seafood, perfectly steamed crabs, clams and oysters, or a hearty round of scrumptious appetizers. Come for the food, stay for the fun! © wcities.com



citysearch

contact:

tel: 1 407 903-1100
<http://www.meltingpot.com>

location:

7549 West Sand Lake Rd
Orlando FL 32819

hours:

Mon-Thu 5pm-10pm Fri
5pm-11pm Sat 4pm-11pm
Sun 4pm-10pm

1 The Melting Pot

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

It takes about 2 hours to enjoy the full 4-course fondue dining experience so plan to stick around!

DESCRIPTION: The Melting Pot is just perfect for a first date, or an alternative to the stuffy after-business dinner. Roll up your sleeves, order a glass of wine or a bottle of beer and prepare to work for your dinner. Start off with a pot of cheese fondue mixed to perfection right at your table. Next opt for one of their delicious salads or move onto the main course. The protein offerings are vast including salmon, filet, chicken, shrimp, pork tenderloin and so much more. Each entree is presented with a slew of dipping sauces allowing each guest to create their own combinations to amp up the flavor. Sizzling oil cooks proteins to perfection, and for the health conscious, the restaurant offers a just-as-tasty boiling broth. If you can find room after an extravagant meal, make sure to try the chocolate fondue. There's nothing like hot melted chocolate on fresh fruits to cap off a wonderful meal!
© NileGuide



citysearch

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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