



**nileGUIDE**

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Thomas Jung

# Orlando's Heart Pounding Experiences

## Lakeland, Orlando, 3 Days

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# Guide Description




**AUTHOR NOTE:** Orlando vacations aren't just about catching some extra zzzz's, perfecting your tan, and wandering through theme parks. There are a ton of heart-pounding experiences to be had in the City Beautiful. These thrilling moments might get your pulse racing and your palms sweating... but you'll never, ever forget them.


# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife

## Day 1 - Orlando

 **iFly Orlando**  
Indoor sky diving without the jump from the plane


 **Monkey Trunks**  
A high rope and zipline park

 **Richard Petty Driving Experience**  
Drive your dreams


## Day 2 - Lakeland, Orlando

 **Bi-plane Flight at Fantasy of Flight**  
Specialty Plane Tour

 **Walt Disney World Speedway**  
Need for Speed

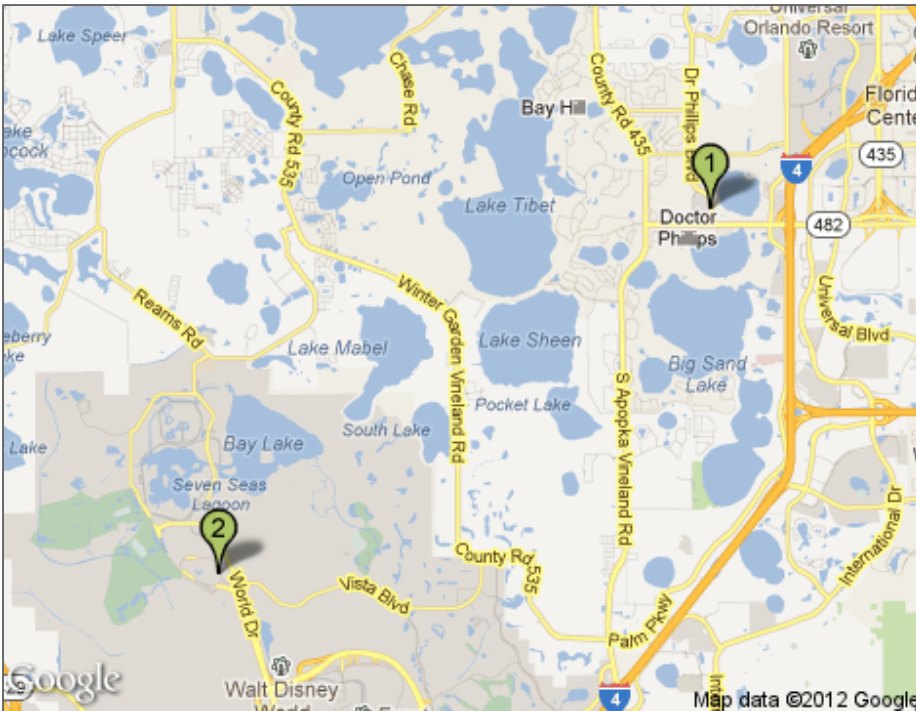
 **Revolution The Off-Road Experience**  
Chills and Thrills!

## Day 3 - Orlando

 **Bob's Balloon**  
Unsurpassed Views

 **Florida Airboat Adventure at Night**  
Night Cruise

# Day 1 - Orlando



## QUICK NOTE

### contact:

tel: +1 407 903 1150  
fax: +1 407 903 1906  
<http://www.iflyorlando.com/>

### location:

6805 Visitors Circle  
Orlando FL 32819

## 1 iFly Orlando

**DESCRIPTION:** This is the closest you can get to skydiving while still on the ground. Inside a huge simulator that looks more like a spacecraft than a building, visitors of all ages can experience skydiving in a wind tunnel or opt for the free-fall simulator. Either way, there's an experienced staff on hand to help calm your nerves, and there's plenty of padding in case you take a fall during your free-fall! © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of SkyVenture Orlando

### contact:

tel: (407) 355-9299  
<http://www.monkeytrunks.com>

### location:

11706 South John Young  
Parkway  
Orlando FL 32837

## Monkey Trunks

### OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Be ready to work those muscles and make sure to wear closed toe shoes

**DESCRIPTION:** Monkey Trunks is a vertical adventure park featuring two high-flying courses filled with aerial walkways, bridges, ladders, zip lines and more. Described as an "up-and-down-and-all-around environment", this outdoor aerial park consists of three levels that tower fifty feet above the ground. Admission includes two hours of heart-stopping fun with features like 600-foot zip lines and a forty-foot mega swing that's not for the faint of heart.



editor

**contact:**

tel: +1 407 939 0130  
fax: +1 407 939 0137  
<http://www.1800bepetty.com>

**location:**

3450 North World Drive  
Orlando FL 32830

**hours:**

Call for details

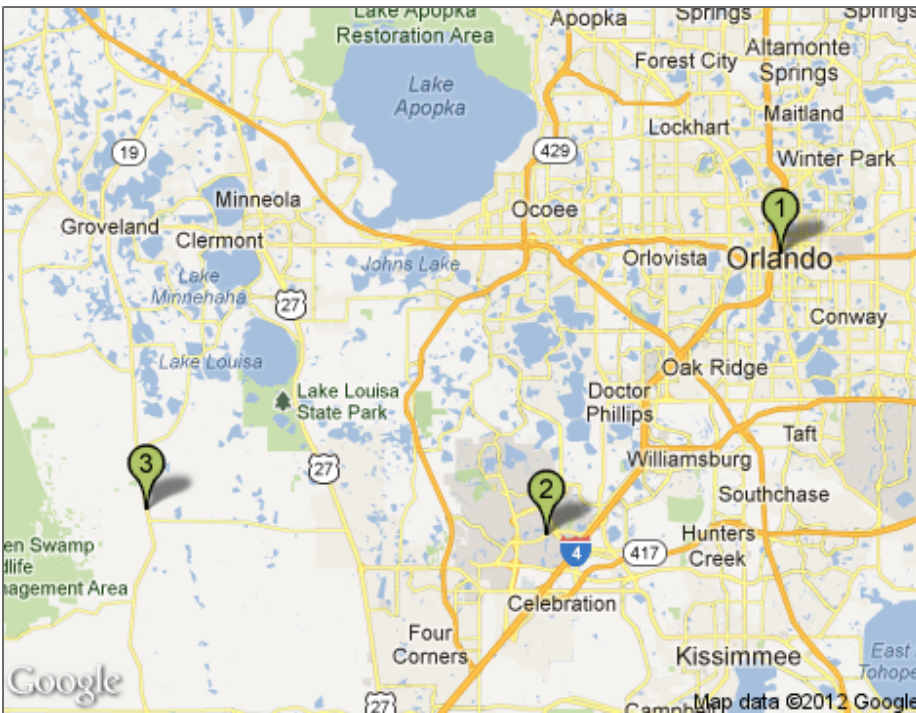
**2 Richard Petty Driving Experience**

**DESCRIPTION:** If car racing is on your agenda, this is the place to be. Founded by ex-Nascar champ, Richard Petty along with his Australian friend Barry Graham, Richard Petty Driving Experience (RPDE), designed to simulate Nascar racing provides high end sports entertainment. With 20 locations in the US, RPDE is the first choice for many who would love to hit high speeds - the safe way. RPDE has many individual and group programs. With 4 choices of Ride-along, Rookie Experience, Kings Experience and Experience of a Lifetime, it covers all skill levels. Do reserve in advance! © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Richard Petty Driving Experience

# Day 2 - Lakeland, Orlando



## QUICK NOTE

### contact:

<http://www.partner.viator.com/en/6793/tours/Orlando/Bi-plane-Flight-at-Fantasy-of-Flight/663-2686FANTASYBI>

### location:

Lakeland Florida 32801

## 1 Bi-plane Flight at Fantasy of Flight

**DESCRIPTION:** At Fantasy of Flight near Orlando you can feel the rush of flying in an open cockpit with the wind in your face just as they did in the Golden Era of Flight. This is a unique opportunity to fly in a rare New Standard D-25 over the lush fields and orange groves of Central Florida's Lake Country. Begin your Bi-plane Flight at Fantasy of Flight hearing a few barnstorming tales, donning your helmet, goggles and white flying scarf, while your pilot takes off into the sky for a 15 minute scenic flight in a rare New Standard D-25 over Central Florida's Lake Country. Carrying 4 passengers in a large front open cockpit, the New Standard D-25 was instrumental in introducing tens of thousands of people to their first airplane ride, back when aviation was in its infancy. Maneuvers include lazy-eights, steep and shallow 360 degree turns, and maybe even a few "whoopy-do's" while flying over the lush fields and orange groves in Central Florida's Lake Country. Fantasy of Flight near Orlando, located west of Walt Disney World, is Florida's premier aircraft and flight attraction set in a stunning 1940's era "airport" layout. Featuring unique exhibits, behind the scenes tours and "Fun with Flight" - a hands on interactive area for kids of all ages. Test your flying skills on virtual reality hang glider and hot-air balloon simulators, or climb aboard a Corsair fighter simulator and challenge other flyers. Experience the history of aviation at Fantasy of Flight from early flight through to World War II, including a walk through on an authentic B-17 bomber. A collection of over 40 beautifully restored aircraft are on display in two art-deco hangars. Featured in the collection are planes



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used in the movies Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom, The Great Waldo Pepper and most recently Flyboys. © Viator

**contact:**  
tel: +1 407 939 6244  
<http://disneyworld.disney.go.com>

**location:**  
West Buena Vista Drive  
Orlando FL 32830

## 2 Walt Disney World Speedway

**DESCRIPTION:** If you're a lover of speed and are looking for some thrills, head to the Walt Disney World Speedway. This 1 mile tri-oval racing facility is located inside Walt Disney World and is currently playing host to the extremely popular 'Richard Petty Driving Experience'. If the checkered flag is your final aim, then the Walt Disney World Speedway should be your destination! © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Walt Disney World Speedway

**contact:**  
tel: +1 352 400 1322  
<http://www.revolutionoffroad.com/>

**location:**  
4000 State Road 33  
Clermont FL 34714

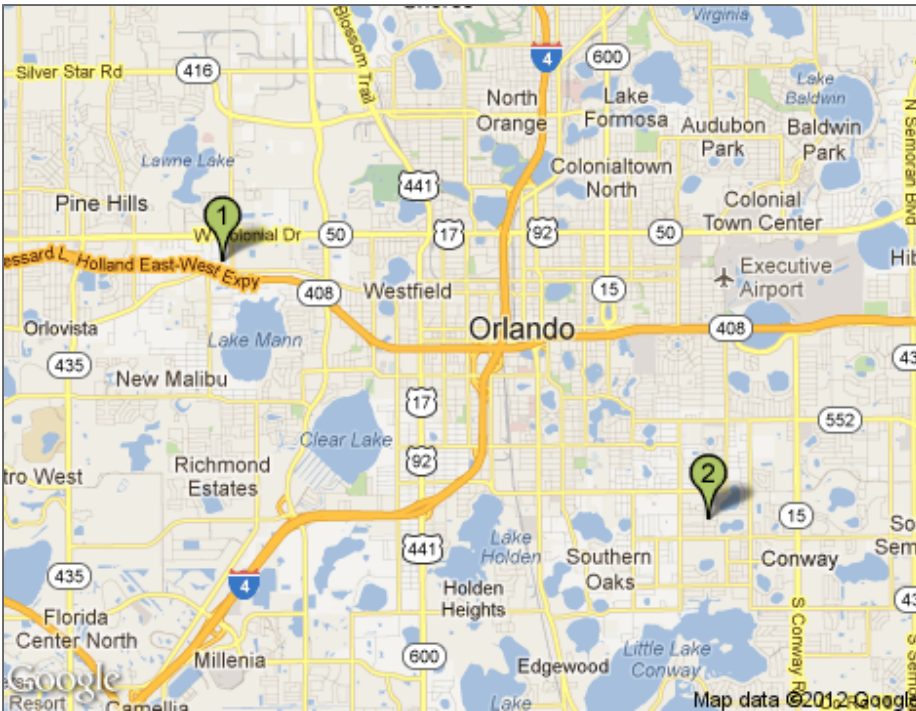
## 3 Revolution The Off-Road Experience

**DESCRIPTION:** Its the ultimate adrenaline rush for those always on the look out for adventures. Revolution The Off-Road Experience is where driving takes a back seat and the thrills are the front runners. Whiz past in a 4x4, or jump over rocky terrains in an ATV; whichever gives you the kicks, the combination of driving them all is simply a heady feeling altogether. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Revolution The Off-Road Experience

# Day 3 - Orlando



## QUICK NOTE

**contact:**  
tel: +1 407 466 6380  
<http://www.bobsballoons.com/>

**location:**  
425 Fairvilla Road  
Orlando FL 32808

### 1 Bob's Balloon

**DESCRIPTION:** Bob's Balloon offers peaceful and exhilarating hot-air balloon rides all over the central Florida region and has more than 100 customary takeoff and land locations to choose from. Areas viewable from high above during the trips include Davenport, Orlando, Walt Disney World, Kissimmee and the surrounding natural areas in Polk, Orange, Lake and Osceola counties. Flights include witnessing the amazing inflation of the massive balloon, a one-hour flight ranging in heights from treetop to 1,000 feet up, and then a champagne brunch upon landing—plus a trip back to the start location. Bob's Balloon offers its passengers unforgettable sites and memories of the Orlando area. - Diane Dilov-Schultheis © wcities.com



photo courtesy of bobs balloons

**contact:**  
<http://www.partner.viator.com/en/6793/tours/Orlando/Florida-Airboat-Adventure-at-Night/d>  
663-5039NAB

**location:**  
Orlando Florida 32802

### 2 Florida Airboat Adventure at Night

**DESCRIPTION:** The ever popular Florida Airboat Adventure at Night is for those in search of adventure and thrills. Your captain will wear a miners cap that will help seek out the most revered reptiles seeking out their prey. This tour is your best chance of seeing the most alligators within the one hour ride. Search for the red eyes of the Florida Alligators gliding into the dark swamp on this Florida Airboat Adventure at Night. The 17 seater airboats are all regularly inspected and certified with life vests, safety equipment, hearing protection and radios on board.



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**One of the Top Attractions of the Year in The Orlando  
Business Journal 2002-2007 © Viator**

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# 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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