

Contents at a Glance

Introduction	1
Part I: Introducing Walt Disney World and Orlando	7
Chapter 1: Discovering the Best of Walt Disney World and Orlando	9
Chapter 2: Digging Deeper into Orlando	19
Chapter 3: Deciding When to Go	26
Part II: Planning Your Trip to Walt Disney World and Orlando	37
Chapter 4: Managing Your Money	39
Chapter 5: Getting to Orlando	47
Chapter 6: Catering to Special Travel Needs or Interests	55
Chapter 7: Taking Care of the Remaining Details	66
Part III: Settling into Orlando	75
Chapter 8: Arriving and Getting Oriented	77
Chapter 9: Checking In at Orlando's Best Hotels	88
Chapter 10: Dining and Snacking in Orlando	128
Part IV: Exploring Walt Disney World	169
Chapter 11: Getting Acquainted with Walt Disney World	171
Chapter 12: The Magic Kingdom	182
Chapter 13: Epcot	201
Chapter 14: Disney's Hollywood Studios.....	217
Chapter 15: Disney's Animal Kingdom.....	230
Chapter 16: Enjoying the Rest of Walt Disney World	243
Chapter 17: Shopping in Walt Disney World	254
Part V: Exploring the Rest of Orlando	261
Chapter 18: Universal Studios Florida	263
Chapter 19: Islands of Adventure	278
Chapter 20: SeaWorld and Discovery Cove.....	294
Chapter 21: Discovering Orlando's Other Attractions	307
Chapter 22: Shopping in Orlando	315
Chapter 23: Going Beyond Orlando: Two Day Trips	323
Part VI: Living It Up after Dark: Orlando Nightlife	331
Chapter 24: Taking In the Dinner Shows	333
Chapter 25: Hitting the Clubs and Bars	340

<i>Part VII: The Part of Tens</i>	351
Chapter 26: (Not Quite) Ten Cheap Alternatives to the Theme Parks	353
Chapter 27: Ten Recreational Activities in Orlando.....	357
Appendix: Quick Concierge.....	362
<i>Index</i>	371

Maps at a Glance

Walt Disney World and Orlando	10
Orlando Neighborhoods	81
Walt Disney World and Lake Buena Vista Accommodations	98
U.S. 192/Kissimmee Accommodations.....	113
International Drive Area Accommodations.....	117
Walt Disney World and Lake Buena Vista Restaurants	136
Epcot Restaurants	141
International Drive and Dr. Phillips Area Restaurants.....	143
Walt Disney World Parks and Attractions	173
The Magic Kingdom	184
Epcot	203
Disney's Hollywood Studios	219
Animal Kingdom	231
Universal Studios Florida	266
Islands of Adventure	281
SeaWorld	297
Orlando Area Attractions	309
Orlando Area Shopping	317
Downtown Disney.....	341
Walt Disney World Nightlife.....	344
CityWalk.....	347
Downtown Orlando	349

Table of Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	1
About This Book.....	1
Conventions Used in This Book	2
Foolish Assumptions	3
How This Book Is Organized.....	3
Part I: Introducing Walt Disney World and Orlando	4
Part II: Planning Your Trip to Walt Disney World and Orlando	4
Part III: Settling into Orlando.....	4
Part IV: Exploring Walt Disney World	4
Part V: Exploring the Rest of Orlando	5
Part VI: Living It Up After Dark: Orlando Nightlife.....	5
Part VII: The Part of Tens.....	5
Icons Used in This Book.....	5
Where to Go from Here.....	6
<i>Part 1: Introducing Walt Disney World and Orlando</i>	7
Chapter 1: Discovering the Best of Walt Disney World and Orlando	9
The Best Orlando Experiences	9
The Best Hotels	13
The Best Restaurants	14
The Best Thrill Rides	15
The Best of the Rest.....	16
Chapter 2: Digging Deeper into Orlando	19
History 101: The Main Events.....	19
Orlando B.D. (Before Disney)	19
Orlando A.D. (After Disney).....	20
Taste of Orlando: Local Cuisine	22
Words to the Wise: The Local Lingo	23
Background Check: Recommended Books and Movies ...	24
Chapter 3: Deciding When to Go	26
The Secrets of the Seasons	26
Spring: Excitement blooms in Orlando	27
Summer: Have fun in the Orlando sun	28
Fall: Harvest good times in Orlando.....	28

Winter: You'll be warm and welcome in Orlando ...	29
Weather warnings	29
Keeping cool, hydrated, and burn-free	30
Orlando's Calendar: Attractions in Review.....	30
January.....	31
February.....	31
March	32
April.....	32
May	33
June.....	33
July.....	33
September.....	34
October	34
November	35
December.....	35

Part II: Planning Your Trip to Walt Disney World and Orlando.....37

Chapter 4: Managing Your Money39

Planning Your Budget	39
Cutting Costs — but Not the Fun	42
Handling Money	44
Using ATMs and carrying cash.....	44
Charging ahead with credit cards.....	45
Toting traveler's checks.....	45
Dealing with a lost or stolen wallet	45

Chapter 5: Getting to Orlando47

Flying to Orlando	47
Finding out which airlines fly there.....	47
Getting the best deal on your airfare	48
Booking your flight online	49
Driving to Orlando	50
Arriving by Train	51
Choosing a Package Tour	51
Where can I find travel packages?	52

Chapter 6: Catering to Special Travel Needs or Interests55

Traveling with the Brood: Advice for Families	55
Traveling with tots.....	56
Finding kid-friendly tours	58
Making Age Work for You: Tips for Seniors	60

Accessing Orlando: Advice for Travelers
with Disabilities60
 Finding accommodating lodgings61
 Getting around61
 Maneuvering through theme parks62
Advice for Gay and Lesbian Travelers64

Chapter 7: Taking Care of the Remaining Details.....66

Renting a Car — Or Not66
 Getting a good rate67
 Adding up extra rental costs68
Playing It Safe with Travel and Medical Insurance69
Staying Healthy When You Travel.....70
 Preventing the easily preventable70
 Knowing what to do if you get sick71
Staying Connected by Cellphone or E-mail.....72
 Using a cellphone across the United States72
 Accessing the Internet away from home72
Keeping Up with Airline Security73

Part III: Settling into Orlando..... 75

Chapter 8: Arriving and Getting Oriented.....77

Arriving in Orlando77
 Navigating the airport77
 Finding your way to your hotel.....78
Figuring Out the Neighborhoods80
 Walt Disney World.....80
 Lake Buena Vista.....80
 Celebration80
 Kissimmee.....82
 International Drive.....82
 Dr. Phillips.....82
 Downtown Orlando.....82
 Winter Park.....83
Finding Information after You Arrive.....83
Getting Around Orlando.....84
 By the Disney Transportation system84
 By car85
 By taxi.....86
 By shuttle.....86
 By trolley.....87
 By motorcycle87
 By bus.....87
 On foot.....87

Chapter 9: Checking In at Orlando's Best Hotels.....88

Getting to Know Your Options	88
Walt Disney World.....	89
Universal Orlando.....	91
Finding the Best Room at the Best Rate.....	92
Surfing the Web for Hotel Deals	94
Arriving without a Reservation	95
Orlando's Best Hotels	96
Index of Accommodations by Neighborhood	125
Index of Accommodations by Price	126

Chapter 10: Dining and Snacking in Orlando128

Getting the Dish on the Local Scene.....	128
Dressing down.....	129
Lighting up.....	129
Making reservations	129
Tipping and taxes in Orlando.....	131
Trimming the Fat from Your Dining Budget.....	131
Orlando's Best Restaurants	133
Dining with Disney Characters.....	159
The cost of catching characters	160
The most characters money can buy.....	160
Index of Restaurants by Neighborhood	163
Index of Restaurants by Cuisine	165
Index of Restaurants by Price	166

Part IV: Exploring Walt Disney World..... 169**Chapter 11: Getting Acquainted
with Walt Disney World.....171**

Introducing Walt's World.....	171
Have time for more?	173
Want to go behind the scenes?	174
Finding Your Way to the Fun.....	176
Traveling within the World	176
Preparing for Park Admission Costs.....	177
Getting the Most out of Your Trip to the World	179
Beating the lines.....	179
Taking advantage of Extra Magic Hours	180
Avoiding the Crowds	180

Chapter 12: The Magic Kingdom.....182

Managing Magic Kingdom Logistics	182
Buying tickets and making reservations.....	182
Arriving early and staying late	183
Locating special services and facilities	183

Making the Rounds: The Magic Kingdom's Top
 Attractions186
 Main Street U.S.A.....186
 Tomorrowland.....187
 Mickey's Toontown Fair189
 Fantasyland190
 Liberty Square.....193
 Frontierland.....194
 Adventureland.....196
 Parades and fireworks.....198
 Index of Attractions by Land.....199

Chapter 13: Epcot.....201

 Discovering Epcot's Essentials.....201
 Buying tickets and making reservations.....202
 Locating special services and facilities202
 Touring Epcot's Top Attractions204
 Experiencing Future World204
 Traveling through the World Showcase.....211
 Ending your day at Epcot216
 Index of Attractions by Land.....216

Chapter 14: Disney's Hollywood Studios.....217

 Acquainting Yourself with Disney's Hollywood
 Studios.....218
 Buying tickets and making reservations.....218
 Locating special services and facilities218
 Pitting Disney's Hollywood Studios against Universal
 Studios Florida.....220
 Entertaining the Whole Family: G-Rated Attractions
 and Rides.....221
 Beauty and the Beast—Live on Stage221
 “Honey, I Shrunk the Kids” Movie Set
 Adventure221
 Indiana Jones Epic Stunt Spectacular!221
 Journey Into Narnia: Creating The Lion,
 The Witch and The Wardrobe222
 Lights, Motors, Action! Extreme Stunt Show.....222
 The Magic of Disney Animation223
 Muppet Vision 3-D.....223
 Playhouse Disney—Live on Stage!.....223
 Sounds Dangerous—Starring Drew Carey223
 Toy Story Mania224
 Voyage of The Little Mermaid224
 Exploring PG-Rated Attractions and Rides224
 The American Film Institute Showcase.....224
 Disney's Hollywood Studios Backlot Tour.....225
 The Great Movie Ride.....225

Rock 'n' Roller Coaster Starring Aerosmith.....	226
Star Tours—the ultimate Star Wars thrill ride	226
The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror	227
Taking Time Out for Fantastic Parades and Fireworks	227
Fantasmic!.....	228
Block Party Bash.....	228
Index of Attractions and Rides.....	229

Chapter 15: Disney's Animal Kingdom230

Finding Helpful Services in Animal Kingdom	230
Buying tickets and making reservations.....	232
Locating special services and facilities	232
Deciding between Animal Kingdom and Busch Gardens.....	233
Checking Out Animal Kingdom's Top Attractions	234
Oasis	235
Discovery Island	235
Camp Minnie-Mickey	236
Africa	237
Rafiki's Planet Watch	238
Asia	238
DinoLand U.S.A.....	240
Index of Attractions by Land.....	242

**Chapter 16: Enjoying the Rest of Walt Disney
World243**

Playing It Up at DisneyQuest	243
Fielding the Fun at Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex.....	245
Gearing Up at the Richard Petty Driving Experience	245
Preparing for the PGA at Disney Golf	246
Puttering Around at Disney Miniature Golf	247
Disney's Winter Summerland Miniature Golf Course	247
Fantasia Gardens Miniature Golf Course	247
Making a Splash at Disney's Water Parks.....	247
Blizzard Beach.....	248
Typhoon Lagoon	249
Enjoying the Holiday Season at Disney	251
Sailing the Seas with Disney	252

Chapter 17: Shopping in Walt Disney World254

Money-Saving Tips for Top-Notch Take-Homes	254
Loading Up Your Cart at Walt Disney World.....	255
Magic Kingdom.....	255
Epcot	256

Disney's Hollywood Studios	259
Animal Kingdom.....	259
Disney Shopping outside the Theme Parks	259
Disney's West Side	260
Downtown Disney Marketplace	260

Part V: Exploring the Rest of Orlando261

Chapter 18: Universal Studios Florida263

Finding Out Important Park Information	263
Buying tickets and making reservations.....	264
Locating special services and facilities	265
Exploring the Top Attractions	269
Hollywood.....	269
New York.....	270
Production Central	271
San Francisco	272
Woody Woodpecker's KidZone	273
World Expo	274
Grabbing a Bite to Eat.....	276
Shopping at Universal Studios Florida	276
Index of Top Attractions by Area.....	277

Chapter 19: Islands of Adventure278

Knowing Essential Park Information	279
Buying tickets and making reservations.....	279
Locating special services and facilities	280
Practical Advice for Island Adventurers	283
Exploring the Top Attractions at Islands of Adventure	284
Port of Entry.....	284
Seuss Landing.....	284
Marvel Super Hero Island	286
Toon Lagoon.....	288
Jurassic Park	289
The Lost Continent.....	290
Dining at Islands of Adventure	291
Shopping at Islands of Adventure.....	292
Index of Attractions by Area	293

Chapter 20: SeaWorld and Discovery Cove294

Gathering Important SeaWorld Information	295
Buying tickets and making reservations.....	295
Locating special services and facilities	296
Exploring the Top Attractions at SeaWorld	298
Believe.....	298
Blue Horizons	299

Clyde and Seamore Take Pirate Island	299
Clydesdale Hamlet	299
Journey to Atlantis	299
Key West at SeaWorld.....	300
Kraken	300
Manatee Rescue	300
Marine Mammal Keeper Experience	300
Odyssey.....	301
Penguin Encounter	301
Pets Ahoy!.....	301
Shamu's Happy Harbor	301
Shark Encounter.....	302
Wild Arctic	302
More SeaWorld fun	303
Dining and Shopping at SeaWorld.....	303
Checking Out Discovery Cove.....	304
Index of SeaWorld Main Attractions.....	306

Chapter 21: Discovering Orlando's

Other Attractions.....307

Checking Out the City's Best Attractions.....	307
Getting Wet at Orlando's Water Parks	313

Chapter 22: Shopping in Orlando315

Surveying the Scene	315
Exploring Great Shopping Neighborhoods	316
Checking Out the Big Names	318
Factory outlets.....	319
The Malls.....	320
Antiquing Downtown.....	321

Chapter 23: Going Beyond Orlando:

Two Day Trips.....323

Trekking to Busch Gardens.....	323
Getting there.....	323
Visitor information	324
Admission options.....	324
Seeing the park.....	325
Special tours and options	327
Blasting Off to John F. Kennedy Space Center.....	327
Getting there.....	327
Visitor information	328
Admission options.....	328
Touring the center	328
Special tours and options.....	329

***Part VI: Living It Up after Dark:
Orlando Nightlife331***

Chapter 24: Taking In the Dinner Shows333

- Getting the Inside Scoop on Orlando Dinner Theater.....333
- Getting Information and Tickets for Other Events338

Chapter 25: Hitting the Clubs and Bars.....340

- Enjoying the Pleasures of Pleasure Island340
- Exploring Downtown Disney’s West Side342
- Strolling along Disney’s BoardWalk346
- Dancing the Night Away at CityWalk346
- Locating the Best Hotel Lounges348
- Exploring Orlando’s Other Hot Spots.....350

Part VII: The Part of Tens351

**Chapter 26: (Not Quite) Ten Cheap Alternatives
to the Theme Parks353**

- Audubon Center for Birds of Prey.....353
- Central Florida Zoo354
- Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art354
- Cornell Fine Arts Museum354
- Eatonville and the Zora Neale Hurston National
Museum of Fine Arts355
- Lake Eola Park355
- Lakeridge Winery and Vineyards356
- The Peabody Ducks356
- Winter Park Scenic Boat Tour.....356

**Chapter 27: Ten Recreational Activities
in Orlando357**

- Biking357
- Boating357
- Fishing358
- Golf.....358
- Horseback Riding359
- Jogging.....359
- Surfing.....360
- Swimming360
- Tennis360
- Water-skiing and Wakeboarding.....361

***Appendix: Quick Concierge*362**

- Fact Facts362
- Toll-Free Numbers and Web Sites366
- Where to Get More Information368
 - Orlando tourist information offices368
 - Newspapers and magazines369
 - Other sources of information369

***Index*371**