



Contents

A Note from Pauline	1
1 America's Playground	2
The Sights You <i>Must</i> See	3
The True Character of the Place.	5
Lodging to Make It Possible	5
Food, Beyond the Chains	5
The Best "Other" Experiences	6
2 The Lay of the Land	7
Getting Around Orlando	8
Getting to Know Orlando's Layout	13
3 Where to Stay, in or out of the Parks	20
Home Rentals	20
Orlando's Hotels	28
4 Dining Options Around Town	60
Walt Disney World	61
Universal Orlando	67
U.S. 192 & Lake Buena Vista.	70
International Drive & Convention Center.	74
Downtown Orlando	79
Winter Park	85
Dinnertainment.	86
Character Meals.	90

5 Walt Disney World	93
Ticketing	94
Eating on Site	98
Navigating the Parks	100
Optional Park Services	101
The Magic Kingdom	102
Epcot.	129
Disney–MGM Studios	147
Disney’s Animal Kingdom	158
The Water Parks	166
Downtown Disney	169
Disney’s Wide World of Sports	171
6 Universal, SeaWorld & Busch Gardens	172
Universal Orlando	172
SeaWorld Orlando	201
Discovery Cove	213
Busch Gardens Africa	215
7 Beyond the Major Parks	221
International Drive Area	221
U.S. 192 Area	225
Downtown Orlando.	226
South of Orlando.	231
East of Orlando	237
8 The Other Orlando	242
How Orlando Works	242
How Orlando Plays.	253
How Orlando Learns	256
How Orlando Lives.	257

How Orlando Prays 260

How Orlando Helps 261

9 Outdoor Orlando 263

Gardens 263

Natural Springs 264

Nature Reserves 266

Golf 271

Horseback Riding 274

Hot Air Ballooning and Hang Gliding 275

10 Orlando After Dark—and in the Dark. 276

The Theme Parks’ Entertainment Districts 278

Professional Sports 285

The Performing Arts 285

Dance Clubs, Bars & Live Music Venues 289

**11 Shopping: The Good, the Bad
& the Discounted. 295**

Retail Malls 295

Outlet Malls 297

Flea Markets 298

Antiques 299

Other Interesting Stores 300

12 The Essentials of Planning 302

Where to Find Tourist Information 302

When to Visit 304

Entry Requirements for Non-American Citizens 310

Customs Regulations for International Visitors 311

Getting to Orlando 312

Travel Insurance—Do You Need It? 316

Contents

Traveling from Orlando to Other Parts of America 316

Money Matters 317

Health & Safety. 318

Packing 321

Getting Attraction Discounts 321

Specialized Travel Resources 323

Staying Wired 326

Recommended Books & Films 327

Index 331

Accommodations 340

Restaurants 341



List of Maps

Orlando Neighborhoods	15	Epcot	131
Walt Disney World Area		Disney-MGM Studios	149
Accommodations	34	Animal Kingdom	159
U.S. 192 Area Accommodations.	45	Universal Studios Florida	178
International Drive Area		Islands of Adventure	191
Accommodations	53	SeaWorld Orlando	203
Walt Disney World Area		International Drive Area	
Dining	62	Attractions	223
International Drive Area		Orlando Area Attractions	227
Dining	75	Downtown Disney	279
Downtown Orlando Dining	81	CityWalk.	283
The Magic Kingdom	104		