



Orlando, Florida

## Relocation Guide

[www.iorworld.com](http://www.iorworld.com)

*IOR makes every effort to ensure the information contained in this guide is as current as possible. If you notice errors, or information which is no longer accurate, please contact us immediately so we may correct the issue.*

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## WELCOME AND OVERVIEW



Photo courtesy of [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Orlando's history dates back to 1838 and the height of the Seminole Wars. The U.S. Army built Fort Gatlin south of the present day Orlando City limits to protect settlers from attacks by Indians. By 1840, a small community had grown up around the Fort. It was known as Jernigan, named after the Jernigan family, who had established the first permanent settlement in the area. Jernigan had a post office, established May 30th, 1850.

Six years later with the settlement expanding northward, the community officially changed its name to Orlando. In 1857, the U.S. Post Office adopted the name change. The Town of Orlando was incorporated in 1875 with 85 inhabitants, 22 of whom were qualified voters.

The period from 1875 to 1895 is remembered as Orlando's "Gilded Era," when it became the hub of Florida's citrus industry. But a great freeze in 1894-1895 forced many owners to give up their independent groves, thus consolidating holdings in the hands of a few "citrus barons" which shifted operations south, primarily around Lake Wales in Polk County.

During World War II, a number of Army personnel were stationed at the Pine Castle AAF. Some of these servicemen stayed in Orlando to settle and raise families. In 1956 the aerospace/defense company Martin Marietta (now Lockheed Martin) established a plant in Orlando. In 1958, Pine Castle AAF was renamed McCoy Air Force Base after Colonel Michael N.W. McCoy.

Perhaps the most critical event for Orlando's economy occurred in 1965 when Walt Disney announced plans to build Walt Disney World. Although Disney had considered the cities of Miami and Tampa for his park, one of the major reasons behind his decision not to locate in those cities was the threat of hurricanes. As a result, tourism became the centerpiece of the area's economy and Orlando is consistently ranked as one of the top vacation destinations in the world.

Another major factor in Orlando's growth occurred in 1970, when the new Orlando International Airport was built from a portion of the McCoy Air Force Base. Four airlines began providing scheduled flights in 1970. The military base officially closed in 1974, and most of it is now part of the airport. The airport still retains the former Air Force Base airport code (MCO). It is considered a world-class facility, and it is one of the most heavily traveled airports in the world.

#### **City of Orlando Overview**

- [Official Website of the City of Orlando](#)
- [Mayor of the City Orlando](#)

#### **History of Orlando**

- [Orlando's Origin](#)
- [Orlando Public Library](#)
- [Orange County Regional History Center](#)

#### **Recommended Reading (in print)**

- Day Trips from Orlando Bay: Getaway Ideas for the Local Traveler – [Purchase on Amazon](#)
- Orlando, FL: Cool Stuff Every Kid Should (Arcadia Kids) – [Purchase on Amazon](#)
- [For architecture](#)

#### **What to See, Sightseeing Tours, Value Packages and Passes, Tourist Information**

- [Best of Orlando- TripAdvisor](#)
- [Visit Orlando](#)
- [Visit Orlando's official visitor center](#)
- [Check out Disneyworld Orlando!](#)

#### **Where to Find Arts & Entertainment**

- [Official Orlando Calendar of Events](#)
- [Orlando Tourist Calendar of Events](#)
- [Theatre Productions in Orlando](#)
- [Movie Theatres in Orlando](#)

#### **Where to Eat**

- [List of Restaurants in Orlando area](#)
- [Orlando Food and Wine Festival – Annual Festival of Food](#)
- [Orlando Magazine Dining Awards](#)

**EMERGENCY**

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY  
DIAL 911  
FOR FIRE, POLICE & AMBULANCE**

Emergency Personnel will ask for the following information so keep this page close to your phone:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**If you accidentally call 911, please do not hang up.** The police will automatically be dispatched to your home to make sure there are no problems. Explain to the Operator the call was an accident.

- [POISON CONTROL](#) (800) 222-1222
- [ANIMAL POISON CONTROL](#) (888) 426-4435

Other Important Numbers:

PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN \_\_\_\_\_  
WORK PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

[More Important Orlando Metro Numbers](#)

**Hospital & Clinics**

[Comprehensive list and details of all local hospitals](#) (ER wait times, phone numbers, etc.)

- [Florida Hospital Orlando](#)
- [Central Florida Regional Hospital](#)
- [Walt Disney Pavilion at Florida Hospital for Children](#)
- [Winter Park Memorial Hospital](#)
- [Florida Hospital East Orlando](#)
- [Florida Hospital Altamonte](#)
- [Florida Hospital Apopka](#)
- [Florida Hospital Kissimmee](#)
- [Florida Hospital Celebration Health](#)

### **Veterinary Clinics**

- [Orlando Veterinarians](#)
- [Emergency Pet Hospital](#)
- [Pet Adoption](#)

### **Pharmacies**

There are several major pharmacy chains in Orlando, found on nearly every block on commercial streets. Click on “Store Locator” and enter your zip (postal) code to find the pharmacy near you. Several pharmacies are open 24 hours. Check for hours of operation. Also the main grocery stores like Publix, Target, and Wal-Mart have full service pharmacies.

- [Walgreens](#)
- [CVS](#)

### **US Leasing/Housing Guide**

A lease is an agreement that outlines the obligations of the owner and the tenants of a house or apartment. It is a legally binding document, so it is important for you to know the exact terms of the lease agreement before you sign it. Please do not sign a lease without reviewing it with your IOR DS Consultant.

### **Rental Agents**

In most situations, your IOR DS consultant will partner with a local realtor to have access to the most current and extensive property listings as well as the realtor's expertise in preparing and negotiating leases. This agent receives a commission for their assistance, and in most locations this commission is paid by the Landlord, not the tenant. Your IOR DS Consultant will discuss this with you.

### **Renter's Rights**

Tenants who lease or rent property are protected against discrimination by [The Fair Housing Act](#). If you think your rights have been violated, you may write a letter or telephone the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) office nearest you. You have one year after the alleged violation to file a complaint with HUD, but you should file as soon as possible.

While you can generally expect the same service from landlords, it's important to know your state's laws. Each state and most major cities have their own tenant rights, laws and protections. Here are [Florida's](#).

You can also visit the [HUD website here for a full guide to renters' rights by states](#).

If your rental property ever suffers any defects that make your place uninhabitable, your landlord has a duty to fix it. While some apartments let you make online requests for repairs, as well as provide a phone number for "emergencies," always make sure you document your request in writing. The landlord will then have a certain amount of time to make those repairs.

### **Privacy**

You have the right to privacy. While the landlord owns the property, they can't access it anytime they want. All states have laws stating renters have a right to privacy while renting. Pretty much the only time the landlord can come into your rental without permission or notice is when they're responding to an emergency that threatens injury or property damage. Any other time the landlord wants to enter your apartment, they need to have your permission and in most cases give you 24-hours' notice before entering.

### **What to expect from the landlord:**

In most states, you are legally entitled to:

- Safe structural elements including floors, walls, roofs and secure doors and windows.
- Privacy as described above.

- All electrical, plumbing, heating and air conditioning systems function.
- Working hot and cold water.
- Exterminating infestations of rodents and other insects.
- Access to trash receptacles.
- Landlords cannot discriminate based on race, gender, sexual orientation or disabilities.
- Apartment buildings sometimes come with laundry and dryer machines in the basement.
- Water, electricity and gas bills are up to you to pay. Your IOR DS Consultant will assist you with this process.

**Utilities and Appliances**

Your IOR DS Consultant will assist you or provide information on connecting your utilities. It is possible some will be included in your rent, but typically most are not.

**Recycling**

Orlando provides curbside [recycling services for accepted products](#) to residents.

**The Rental Process**

**Review your housing budget with your IOR DS Consultant**

Your IOR DS Consultant can help you understand what kind of property you can afford. You also need to take into account that you may be responsible for some of the utility costs of your rental.

**Know what you want**

What are you looking for in a property? Do you want a studio or a single bedroom? Maybe you want to rent a single family home? Do you need the property to come with appliances, including washer and dryer? Do want it to be close to school or your work? Do you want it to be within walking distance of retail, like groceries or coffee shops? Are you looking for a child friendly area?

Keep in mind that outside of the city center in major cities, there is not much public transportation and most locals drive everywhere.

**Identify potential apartments**

IOR offers home finding services to aid you with this process. Your consultant may work with a local broker who will help to organize appointments and visit properties. They will also assist in the rental application and the leasing process.

**Common Abbreviations and Acronyms used in rental housing listings**

<u>Acronym</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
<b>24-hr mtn</b>	24-hour emergency maintenance
<b>AC or A/C</b>	Air conditioning

<u>Acronym</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
<b>LA</b>	Living area
<b>LR</b>	Living room



<b>Appls</b>	Appliances
<b>Apt</b>	Apartment
<b>BA</b>	Bathroom
<b>BR</b>	Bedroom
<b>Bsmt</b>	Basement
<b>CAC</b>	Central air conditioning
<b>DA</b>	Dining area
<b>Det</b>	Detached
<b>Dk</b>	Deck
<b>DR</b>	Dining room
<b>Dw (D/w)</b>	Dishwasher
<b>Eff</b>	Efficiency
<b>EiK</b>	Eat-in kitchen
<b>Fin bsmt</b>	Finished basement
<b>FDR</b>	Formal dining room
<b>FHA</b>	Fair Housing Act
<b>FMR</b>	Fair market rent
<b>FP</b>	Floorplan
<b>Gar</b>	Garage
<b>H/A</b>	Handicapped accessible
<b>H/W</b>	Hardwood floors
<b>Hi ceil</b>	High ceilings
<b>HVAC</b>	Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning

<b>MBR</b>	Master bedroom
<b>MBTH</b>	Master bathroom
<b>Neg</b>	Negotiable
<b>Ofc</b>	Office
<b>OSP</b>	Off-street parking
<b>Pkg</b>	Parking
<b>PM</b>	Property manager (management)
<b>Pvt</b>	Private
<b>Pwdr rm</b>	Powder room (1/2 bath)
<b>RE</b>	Real estate
<b>Renov</b>	Renovated
<b>Rf</b>	Roof
<b>Rm</b>	Room
<b>SF</b>	Single-family
<b>SFA</b>	Single-family attached
<b>SFD</b>	Single-family detached
<b>Sp, Pl (S/p)</b>	Swimming pool
<b>Sq. ft</b>	Square feet
<b>Th (T/H)</b>	Townhouse
<b>Vw (vu)</b>	View
<b>W/A</b>	Wheelchair accessible
<b>W/W</b>	Wall-to-wall carpeting

## **Visit**

Make this process as efficient as possible by visiting as many potential properties as you can in one or two days. Try to go sometime during the week if possible. Your IOR DS Consultant will work with you to set an appropriate schedule and to ensure that the properties you visit meet your needs as closely as possible.

## **What to do once you're there**

As you look at the rental unit, be sure to ask a lot of questions. While you should keep small concerns to yourself about the unit while looking at it, feel free to ask the landlord or apartment manager any questions you might have that will help in your decision. Here are some possible questions you may consider asking:

- What's the monthly rent?
- Are any utilities included with the rent?
- How much is the security deposit?
- When is rent due? Do you have auto-pay?
- What's the make-up of the other tenants? Are they mainly younger students? Married couples with families? Older folks?
- What's the parking situation like? Do you pay for a parking spot?
- Do you take care of small maintenance issues or am I responsible for some of the repairs in the property?
- Am I able to re-paint the walls or make other modifications?

Again, be friendly and polite when you ask these questions.

## **The Application**

The next step in the leasing process for an apartment is to submit a rental application for the location you want. The manager or landlord will be able to give you the application as well as anything else that they may need to have filled out. Your IOR DS Consultant will assist with this process. For a single family home there will likely be a rental application.

You will need your Social Security number, Driver's License and proof of employment. Some landlords may charge you an application fee which could be between \$20 to \$400 dollars, depending on the landlord. This could be a combination of an application fee and move-in fee.

Once you've done this, it can take up to a few days to hear back from the property manager. Once your application has been approved IOR will assist with the lease approval process.

## Signing the lease

### **DO NOT SIGN THE LEASE until it has been reviewed by IOR.**

The lease is a binding contract, so it is very important to pay attention as a leasing agent goes over it with you. It is perfectly normal for you to take your time and read all the fine print for yourself. If you are working with your IOR DS Consultant, make sure to talk with them and ask questions before signing. You will also be given a copy of the lease to take with you and keep for your records, but it is very important to know everything included in your lease from the start.

Some things to look for in a lease:

- Term of the lease and any important dates such as when the rent is due.
- Extra fees for parking spaces or storage, garbage collection and pets.
- Information regarding utility providers and whether you or the landlord is responsible for those bills.
- Notification requirements in case of renewal.
- Requirements/responsibilities of the tenants to do routine repairs such as lawn maintenance, cleaning or notification of repairs.
- Clauses that allow the landlord to change the terms of the lease after it is signed.
- Restrictions that would prevent you from living normally or comfortably in the home.

Sometimes landlords will ask for a security deposit before you sign the lease. This is normal, but you shouldn't pay in cash. Make sure all payments are made out as a check or money order just in case.

### **What to expect from the lease**

Most leases include the following or a variation thereof:

- Your employer requires that all leases include a Break Clause in case you are transferred for work or personal needs.
- Contracts will often be for periods of a year or more.
- Minimum stay. Typically three fourths of your lease contract time. If you choose to move out before this date, you will lose your security deposit. If you move out afterwards, you are still required to give a specified number of days notice.
- Security Deposit. Landlords will expect you to leave them with a deposit (usually about one to two month's rent) that they will hold for the duration of your lease. You will receive your security deposit back at the end of the lease provided you don't break any specific clauses in your lease, such as moving out without proper notice, not paying rent, causing damages to the property, etc.
- Landlords should not be given unchecked access to your apartment. If there isn't anything in your lease about landlord's rights to enter the leased premises, suggest the following clause:

*Entry by the Landlord. Landlord or his agent will not enter Tenant's home except to deal with an emergency; to make necessary or agreed repairs; to supply necessary or agreed services; or to show the unit to potential purchasers, tenants, or repair persons. Unless there is an emergency, Landlord will give Tenant at least 24 hours' written notice of the date, time, and purpose of the intended entry and will schedule entries during normal business hours, Monday–Friday.*

Most landlords will be hard-pressed to say no to such a reasonable clause. If the landlord refuses, it's a sure sign that he won't be reasonable in other respects, too. Continue on in your housing search.

### **Moving In**

On your selected move-in date, after the lease has been signed, and deposits have been paid...you should be given your keys and more than likely a move-in form to fill out. Your IOR DS Consultant will assist you with an initial walk through of your apartment. Look for dings in the walls, cracked windows or other irregularities and report them on this form. This will indicate that these things were there before you moved in and you will not be held responsible for them at the end of the lease term.

### **Get Renter's Insurance**

Renter's insurance covers any loss to your personal property due to robbery or accidents. It also covers any damage you might cause to other tenant's property. For example, let's say your washing machine springs a leak and water seeps through the floor and ruins your neighbor's antique dresser. Renter's insurance would cover that.

Renter's insurance will cost approximately about \$15-125 a month, less if you tack it onto another policy (like auto) you have with an insurance company. A few popular options are [Allstate](#) and [StateFarm](#).

### **Obtaining a Driver's License/State ID Card**

The Division of Driver Licenses, Bureau of Field Operations, has [driver license offices](#) located throughout the state. Appointments are provided at all full service offices. The [Driver License Office Directory](#) has addresses, telephone numbers, days and operating hours. Appointments are recommended. A new resident exchanging a valid out-of-state license for a Florida license will be required to pass the vision and hearing tests only. Requirements listed [here](#).

Driver license handbooks, motorcycle handbooks and commercial driver license handbooks are available for your use from your local driver license offices. There is no charge for the handbooks and may be returned for re-use. These handbooks can be viewed [online](#).

### **New Resident of Florida**

- United States Citizen [requirements](#).
- Other pertinent [information](#) regarding vehicle registration, tags, and titles.

For more information on how to obtain a driver's license, see the website of [Florida's DMV](#).

**Your Destination Services Consultant can also assist you with the proper procedures.**

### Checking and Savings Accounts

To open a local checking or savings account you will need the following information:

- Two forms of picture identification including but not limited to your passport, driver's license or work ID.
- Social security number.
- Local mailing address. You may use your office address as your mailing address, but be prepared to call your bank branch as soon as you have your permanent address.
- Letter of Employment
- Cash for the initial deposit can range from \$25-\$150 dollars.

### Major U.S. Banks

Below is a list of links to some of the larger U.S. banks located in the area. In some cases you may find that the local bank is a better option for you than some of the larger banks. Your IOR DS Consultant can help you in selecting a bank by sharing the various options available locally.

- [Bank of America](#)
- [Chase](#)
- [Citibank](#)
- [HSBC](#)
- [TD Bank](#)
- [US Bank](#)
- [Orlando area banks](#)

### By Car

The car is omnipresent in Orlando and is a very easy and convenient way to get to your destination. Orlando is a sprawling, sometimes congested, city with most attractions lying far to the south of downtown and into adjacent cities like Kissimmee and Lake Buena Vista. The roads are all wide and easy to drive on with all major attractions well signed, but traffic jams around downtown are common in the afternoons, and around the touristy areas on Friday nights and all day Saturday.

Orlando ranks 8th in the nation in terms of traffic congestion, and there are numerous ongoing construction projects on area expressways (all aimed at alleviating this, but only causing congestion in the meanwhile). Traffic information is available from new Dynamic Message Signs, most local radio stations, and also by calling 511 (a free, automated service which provides current traffic info collected from hundreds of traffic cameras, as well as police reports.)

Aggressive drivers are abundant in the Greater Orlando area not only on major highway, but also on surface streets in the downtown district. Speed limits are for the most part ignored in and around the city, even though on I-4 the speed limit is only 50 mph (80 km/h) in the downtown area and ranges between 55 and 65 mph (90-105 km/h) near the attractions, it is not uncommon to be tailgated if you travel less than 80 mph (129 km/h) in the left lane. If you are unfamiliar with the area, it is much easier and safer to drive in the far right lane, as road signs will direct.

**Caution:** Open road tolling is used along Orlando's toll roads. A driver with a [Sun Pass](#) or E-Pass transponder and a prepaid account continues straight along the road at the speed limit, with the toll accounted for electronically; drivers paying cash must follow signage that diverts them to toll booths constructed off the right of the highway. Drivers who do not have transponders and continue going straight past the toll booth are photographed and ticketed.

### By Bus

Orlando's public transportation is the LYNX bus service. Approximately 60 routes serve the metro Orlando area and costs \$2 per ride (transfers included) except for the free [Lymmo](#) bus service downtown.

Check out [GO LYNX](#) for more information.

### By Trolley

The [I-Ride Trolley](#), +1 407-248-9590, primarily serves tourists in the attractions area, operating daily from 8am to 10:30pm. While the service is advertised as a trolley, the trolleys are in fact modified buses traveling in traffic with many stops, which makes for a slow ride. There are 85 stops along the main (Red) route on International Drive and 22 stops on the (Green) route that serve less congested Universal Blvd.

However, because of the very limited route coverage of I-Ride — it goes nowhere near Disney -- the better choice for many visitors is to use LYNX buses (e.g., bus 8, 42, 50, or 111).

### **By Taxi**

Orlando is visited by millions of tourists each year and there are dozens of taxi companies that are operational in the region. It will not be a problem to find transportation from The Orlando Airport to your hotel or from the hotel to a theme park, restaurant or mall. Unfortunately, some of those companies do not have any license or insurance, and operate illegally.

### **Transportation “App” Options**

Several web based phone applications to secure a driver are available throughout the area. The driver knows your approximate location based on your phone GPS. Payment is automatic through the app and fares may be cheaper than a taxi.

- [Uber](#)
- [Lyft](#)

### **By Sun Rail**

The [Sun Rail](#) is a full service rail line that has 12 stations starting in DeBary, FL and heads south ending in Orlando, Florida. This is an affordable, safe and easy way to get around central Florida. The Sun Rail is equipped with restroom facilities, free Wifi, power outlets and bicycle accommodations.

**Note:** The Sun Rail aims to accommodate more of central Florida. Starting in 2016, Sun Rail’s [phase 2](#) is extending the line.

### **Map Websites**

- [Expedia](#)
- [MapQuest](#)

### **AAA Travel Protection**

[AAA](#) is a membership organization that offers benefits such as roadside service and towing, discounts on car products and services, maps, reference materials, etc.

Call 1-800-352-5382 for additional information and cost.



## LIVING AND SHOPPING

### TV, Cable, Telephone, and Internet

The main service providers in Orlando for TV cable, landline telephone and internet all offer combination packages. They are in stiff competition with each other, so special offers change monthly, sometimes even weekly.

- [Brighthouse](#) is the main provider in Central Florida and has 75% of the market share.
- [Xfinity](#)
- [Cox Communications](#)
- [AT&T U-verse](#)

Ten digit dialing is in effect in the Orlando area.

### Housewares and Furniture

- [Bed Bath & Beyond](#)
- [Cort](#)
- [Ikea](#)
- [Home Depot](#)
- [Crate and Barrel](#)
- [Furniture Envy](#)
- [Pottery Barn](#)
- [Williams-Sonoma](#)
- [Rooms to Go](#)
- [The Container Store](#)

### Food Shopping

Orlando's biggest grocery chain is [Publix](#), and you'll find them in almost all the neighborhoods. Other options consist of [Whole Foods](#), [Home Grown Coop](#) and many others.

A wide variety of restaurants can be found in [CityWalk](#) at Universal Orlando. See cost for parking [here](#). You can also find many restaurants in [Downtown Disney](#), including Rainforest Cafe, Planet Hollywood, and Wolfgang Puck Cafe.

Orlando also has a massive [Food Truck](#) culture which many locals frequent. They are often used as a dining experience for meet-ups and social purposes as well.

### Orlando Public Schools

[Orange County Public School District](#) won the Broad Prize for Urban Education in October 2014 for strong academic performance and for closing achievement gaps. The Broad Prize is described as the "Nobel Prize" for urban school districts across the country. OCPS was presented the Florida Governor's Sterling Award in May 2014 and again in June 2015 for exceptional management efficiency in its Operations and Human Resources divisions respectively. The district is successful in large part because of strong community support from volunteers, philanthropists, business partners and voters.

School assignments in Orange County are generally determined by the address of the student's parent or legal guardian; however, the public school system offers [choice options](#), which means parents have the opportunity to be involved in selecting the school their child will attend. The district's [Magnet School Options](#), include IB programmes, International Studies, Advanced Engineering Options and more.

### Private Schools in the Orlando area

- [Montessori School of Orlando](#)
- [Diocese of Orlando Catholic Schools](#)
- [Reviews](#) of Private schools in Orlando
- [List](#) of all Orlando Schools

## RECREATION

### Gardens & Parks

- [Arboretum](#)

University of Central Florida, 4000 Central Florida Blvd  
Its cultivated areas currently include a Conservatory Compound, a Bromeliad Sanctuary, Cycad Garden, Fern Garden, Palm Collection, Rose Garden, Swamp Habitat, and Wetland Plants Display. It is also free.

- [Harry P. Leu Gardens](#)

1920 N Forest Ave

Beautiful landscaped gardens and lakes set in nearly 50 acres of land, featuring flora gathered from around the globe since 1936, including the largest rose garden in Florida and America's largest camellia collection outside of California. Admission is \$7 (free Mondays, 9AM-noon).

- [Bok Tower Gardens](#)

1151 Tower Blvd, Lake Wales

The Bok Sanctuary features acres of intricately landscaped gardens filled with an exotic array of flowers and trees. Admission is \$10.



Photo courtesy of [Exploring](#)

### Museums

- [Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art](#) — Houses the world's most comprehensive collection of the works of Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848-1933) including Tiffany art glass, leaded-glass windows, lamps, jewelry, pottery, paintings, and the chapel interior he designed for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

- [Cornell Fine Arts Museum](#)

1000 Holt Ave, Winter Park

This museum features items from Cornell's renowned permanent collection.

- [The Orlando Museum of Art](#)

Ongoing exhibitions of American portraits and landscapes, American impressionist works, and art of the ancient Americas.

- [The Orlando Science Center](#)

Attractions include the Body Zone, teaching health and fitness, as well as an observatory. The center has the largest refracting telescope in Florida.

- [International Trolley and Train Museum](#)

Features 14 model railroad trains with sound and lighting traveling through an indoor garden with 12 ft (4 m) high mountains, waterfalls, and more than 30 trestles and tunnels.

- [Ripley's Believe It or Not! Orlando Odditorium](#)

Located in a building artfully constructed to appear as if it were collapsing to one side. Visitors can explore bizarre artifacts, strange collections, weird art/hobbies (for example, check out the

3/4-scale model of a 1907 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost automobile made entirely of matchsticks and glue), and interactive exhibits in sixteen odd galleries.

## Activities

- [Revolution: The Off Road Experience](#). Offers 4-wheeling, 4x4, dune bugging and more
- [Enzian Theater](#). A cinema for the indie/alternative crowd. The theater also offers food and alcoholic beverages.
- [Discovery Cove](#). A 30-acre tropical retreat with beaches, snorkeling and relaxation.
- [Universal Orlando Resort](#) includes two theme parks, three hotels and a large shopping district. SeaWorld Orlando is a marine theme park featuring Kraken, the biggest rollercoaster in the Orlando area, as well as Believe, the new Shamu adventure. About 35 minutes southwest of downtown Orlando is Walt Disney World. Comprising four theme parks, two water parks, dozens of hotels, two shopping and dining districts, five golf courses, and much more, it is the largest privately managed tourist destination on the planet.
- [Walt Disney World](#): the acclaimed gold standard of theme parks on the planet.
- [Universal Studios Orlando](#): a theme park owned largely by NBCUniversal .
- [SeaWorld Adventure Park Orlando](#) is a more laid-back alternative to Disney and Universal, including beautifully landscaped 200-acre marine theme park featuring fantastic shows, thrilling rides, and fun exhibits. Variety of discounts may be available by purchasing tickets online.
- [Aquatica](#), a water park by Sea World.
- [Holy Land](#), is a biblical-themed park is designed to look like Jerusalem. Discount on tickets purchased online.
- [Gatorland](#) is a small alligator and reptile themed park.
- [Wet 'N Wild](#) is another water park.
- [Basilica of Mary, Queen of the Universe](#) is an extravagant Catholic church which has become a tourist attraction in itself, thanks in part to the millions of Catholics from around the world who visit it and the rest of Orlando every year.
- [Florida EcoSafaris at Forever Florida \(Zipline Safari\)](#). Reservations required. Journey deep into Forever Florida, a 4700 acre eco-ranch and wildlife conservation area, preserved just as nature intended. This beautiful site boasts 9 distinct Florida ecosystems and an endless array of natural flora and fauna including alligators, black bears, nearly two hundred species of birds and the endangered Florida panther. Choose your own fully-guided adventure: Coach Safari, Horseback Safari, or soar through the treetops on the Zipline Safari.



Photo courtesy of [iClarified](#)

- [Orlando Watersports Complex](#) is a cable park for water sports. Offers lessons and two separate cable systems, a beginner and an advanced. A perfect way to experience Orlando's reputation as the water sport capital of the world.

### **Sports**

- [Orlando Magic](#) (NBA Basketball)
- [Orlando Predators](#) are an Arena Football League team based in Orlando.
- [Orlando City Soccer](#)
- [Daytona International Speedway](#)

MAP OF ORLANDO AREA



Photo courtesy of [LonelyPlanet Travel Guide](#)

### Volunteer Opportunities

- [Volunteer Match](#)
- [United Way](#)

### Parent & Children Resources

- [Mom's Clubs](#) - social groups offering events and outings with mothers and their young children.

### Smart Phone Apps for Travel:

- [Uber](#) : Similar to a taxi service but all web based. Payment also handled online, do not pay or tip driver directly. Uber driver knows your approximate location based on your phone GPS.
- [Lyft](#) : Wherever you're headed, count on Lyft for rides in minutes. The Lyft app matches you with local drivers at the tap of a button. Just request and go.
- [Apple Maps](#) : Map by direction
- [Map Quest](#) : Map by direction
- [Waze](#) : Community based traffic & navigation with alternate route suggestions
- [CityMaps2Go](#) : The #1 travel app lets you discover exciting new places. Beautiful photos and insider tips at the touch of a button. You will receive stories about places you like and can instantly save and find them on your maps and in your lists.

### Smart Phone Apps for Communication:

- [WhatsApp](#) : Free local & international Real Time messaging
- [Line](#) : Exchange free instant messages with friends whenever and wherever with one-on-one and group chats. LINE is available on all smartphone devices (iPhone, Android, Windows Phone, Blackberry, Nokia) and even on your PC.
- [Viber](#) : Free text, calling, photo messages and location-sharing with Viber users. No registration, alias or invitations required. Instantly integrates with your own contact list. Best-quality mobile calls using 3G or Wi-Fi.
- [Skype](#) : Stay in touch with your family and friends for free on Skype. Download Skype today to chat and call on desktop and mobile.

### Smart Phone Apps for Local Information/Reviews:

- [Angie's List](#) : Referrals for doctor, dentist, child care, maid, mechanic, painter, plumber, etc.
- [Yelp!](#) : Find local businesses, restaurants, bars, clubs, events, etc. with map, lists, and reviews
- [Next Door](#) : Neighbors share community events, items for sale, recommendations for babysitters, doctors and handymen, crime reports, ideas about how to improve their neighborhood and more.
- [Meet Ups](#) : Meetups are neighbors getting together to learn something, do something or share something. Cultural groups advertise gatherings here as well.

**Smart Phone Apps for Weather:**

- [WTHR13](#) : Local weather and closings; includes radar and forecast
- [Weather Channel](#) : National and international time, temperature & weather
- [Tornado](#) : Set up tornado alerts & siren



## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

[Federal Holiday list](#)

[Florida Holiday list](#)

The following are legal holidays in Florida and need to be treated as such by employers:

- New Year's Day January 1\*
- Martin Luther King Day Third Monday in January
- Memorial Day Last Monday in May
- Independence Day July 4\*
- Labor Day First Monday in September
- Columbus Day Second Monday in October
- Veterans' Day November 11\*
- Thanksgiving Day Fourth Thursday in November
- Christmas Day December 25\*

\*If a holiday falls on a Sunday, the day following is observed as the legal holiday.