

Florida Travel

Life STYLES



Orange & Osceola Counties

Those relocating to Central Florida find themselves surrounded by more than just world-famous tourist attractions. Locals know the "ins and outs" of their communities and tend to spend any free time enjoying diversity unlike any other area of Florida. Distinctive, brick streets and tree lined neighborhoods; year-round outdoor recreation; proximity to beaches, lakes, springs, parks and trails; world-class entertainment options; closets free of winter coats, scarves and gloves...all contribute to an environment that most never want to leave once they've called it their home.

FLORIDA TRAVEL LIFESTYLES

ORANGE COUNTY

POPULATION 1,066,113 (courtesy of eflorida.com 2007) MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME: \$40,143
AVG. ANNUAL TEMPERATURE 82 DEGREES



COURTESY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA CVB



People who live in Central Florida and more specifically Orlando know that most of its magic has little to do with the theme parks. It was nicknamed the City Beautiful long before Mickey's arrival and with good reason.

Central Florida is a natural paradise with **Orlando** at its very heart. The magic is everywhere, in the climate, the lakes and rivers, the birds and animals. It's in the diverse yet friendly people from all over the world who now call Orlando home. People from Cuba and Vietnam, from England and Canada, and from every state in the union have joined forces and futures with countless native Floridians who are still here and not about to move. Yet as the city becomes more cosmopolitan, with lots of help from a first-class airport, it retains many small-town characteristics such as picturesque parks and livable downtown neighborhoods.

From 9-5...

Few places in the nation have experienced the quality growth found in Orange County, which is anticipated to gain more jobs than any other county in Florida through 2010. Much of this explosion has come in the high tech sector. Orange County is home to the sixth largest research university in the nation, one of the top 10 research parks in the country, one of only two National Entrepreneur Centers, a world-class international airport and an all new UCF College of Medicine, scheduled to open in 2009. Mitsubishi and Siemens are recognizable companies with a division located in Metro Orlando. In addition, over 120 other foreign based companies are also here from countries such as the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, Germany and more. Florida's international trade topped \$100 billion last year with nearly \$110 billion in total import-export volume. Among the leading, targeted trade industries: aviation, biotech and telecom. The top countries Florida is exporting to: Brazil, Canada, Venezuela, Mexico and Columbia.

The Off Hours...

From rolling hills and orange groves to a downtown core that boasts \$1.8 billion in current development - Metro Orlando truly offers a variety of lifestyle options that meet just about everyone's needs. Long called "The City Beautiful" - Metro Orlando's namesake city is known for its brick-lined streets, green space and eclectic housing options. Further west and south are Lake and Osceola counties respectively, which still offer "elbow room." Heading north - Seminole County is a thriving suburban area offering beautiful communities like Heathrow and Colonial Town Park. All of this comes with Orlando's well-known sunshine, nearby beaches, no state income tax, affordable cost of living, growing list of cultural options, and world-class entertainment industry.

Newcomers - especially those from New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and California, are absolutely astonished by Central Florida housing values. "They think they've died and gone to heaven," says the Orlando Regional Realtor Association. Single-family homes account for 90 percent of sales. Choices range from modest bungalows to magnificent mansions; locations from urban to rural and from lakefront to fairway, from historic neighborhoods with brick streets to new, gated communities, some with their own golf courses.



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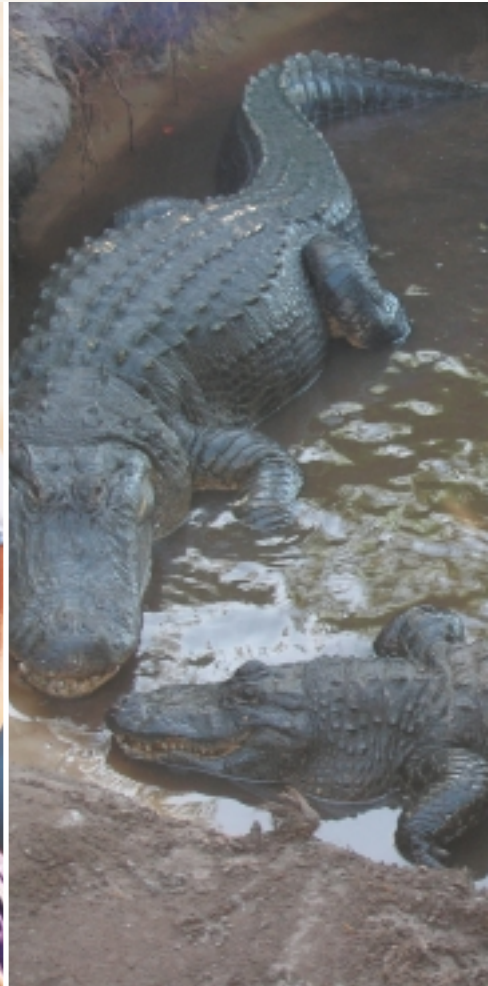
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OSCEOLA COUNTY

Population 255,815 (courtesy of eflorida.com - 2007)

LARGEST CITY: KISSIMMEE, ST. CLOUD



COURTESY OF KISSIMMEE CVB

Kissimmee / Osceola County offers the best of all worlds. Blessed with a rich heritage and bountiful landscape in the heartland of Central Florida, Osceola County has attracted visitors and new residents for centuries.

Well known for its year-round desirable climate and abundant recreational opportunities, Kissimmee has become the fourth fastest growing county in the United States.

From 9-5...

In Osceola County, visionary government and business leaders have paved the way for diversification of an economy that has long been rooted in tourism. Signs of success include a thriving 1,200-acre industrial park at Poinciana and cutting-edge commercial development at Celebration, an Osceola community conceived and

built by the Walt Disney World Company, which encompasses office, retail and residential sites. Rapid permitting and aggressive incentive packages further enhance this county's attractiveness for relocation and expansion.

Future development will center around the 12.5-mile Osceola Parkway, which connects Orlando International Airport with local attractions and numerous major thoroughfares. Accessible and affordable property is available for development along the parkway. Also on the drawing board for Osceola County is a world-class exposition center, which will even further enhance the region's interna-



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tional identity.

At home...

Residents of Osceola treat every day as a vacation! Before Walt Disney came to town and changed the face of Central Florida forever, Osceola County was best known for its cattle industry and the Silver Spurs Rodeo. Today, that heritage is still evident in the preserved downtown areas of Kissimmee and St. Cloud.

Kissimmee has carefully preserved its natural environment, and various attractions offer both visitors and locals a chance to get away from the bustle of modern life and reconnect with nature. Forever Florida, Green Meadows Petting Farm, Horse World, The Nature Conservancy's Disney Wilderness Preserve are just some of those. Boggy Creek Airboat Rides and Scenic Lake Tours provide spectacular tours of Lake Tohopekaliga. The Kissimmee Chain of Lakes also provides anglers with world-class fishing year-round, and Kissimmee is also a short drive from beautiful sandy beaches along Florida's coasts, where travelers can soak up the sun.

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Orange/Osceola Counties. . . .

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DID YOU KNOW?

>> Orlando is one of only three U.S. cities (the others are Seattle and Kansas City) named to Fast Company magazine's list of 12 "Fast Cities". The magazine identifies these locations as "nodes of creativity and innovation," notable among places around the globe that are thriving. (Fast Company, June 2008) *



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