

ATTRACTIONS



COURTESY OF WALT DISNEY WORLD

WHERE KIDS COME FIRST!

Florida provides kids the destination of their dreams. In addition to world famous theme parks and the ability to make their fantasies come true, a number of smaller, less crowded attractions, are equally as popular and geared specifically towards kids...and kids at heart!

>>Preschool Play

[Melbourne] The [Brevard Zoo's Wildlife Detective Training Academy](#) makes for a precious photo opportunity as kids play veterinarian to a variety of ailing stuffed friends. Interactions with real animals such as turtles and lizards, and a sand play area with submerged "bones" add an exciting hands-on element. Highlights to any visit include feeding the zoo's family of friendly giraffes and kayaking

around the zoo's wetlands. A new children's play area with water features and forts premiered in 2009.
321-254-9453 | www.brevardzoo.com

[Sanford] Hundreds of rare and endangered animals including cheetahs, elephants, leopards, baboons and 800 species of plants and flowers are on display at the [Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Gardens](#). Kids enjoy seeing animals they've only been able to read about and explore hands-on

black and
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activities. A miniature train circles the zoo providing for a fun way to tour the park.
 407-323-4450 | www.centralfloridazoo.com

[Disney] **Tike's Peak**, situated within Blizzard Beach, is the perfect oasis for tots and preschoolers. This "snowy" water park is outfitted with gentle body slides, an inner tube slide, interactive fountains and a wading pool.
www.disneyworld.com

[Orlando] **Gatorland's** gator wranglers and snake handlers fascinate young ones. In addition to the reptiles, the park features Gator Gully Splash Park that cools kids off with a host of animal-themed interactive water toys and splash areas. The kids will also love Allie's Barnyard, where they can pet goats, llamas and other friendly critters and the Very Merry Aviary, where kids can hand feed lorikeets. The Express Railroad train ride is another high point.
 407-855-5496 | www.gatorland.com

[Kissimmee] The people friendly **Green Meadows Petting Farm** is where piglets, chicks, ponies and other critters share their scenic, sprawling home with all who enter. A guided tour includes fun in the pigpen; a chance to milk a cow; pony rides, hayrides and train rides; chick cuddling and more one-on-one with farm animals. In October, guests can visit the pumpkin patch.
 407-846-0770 | www.greenmeadows.com

>>For Kids 5-8

[Plant City] **Dinosaur World** is home to more than 150 life sized dinosaurs located throughout its grounds. Kids can dig for fossils, explore caves, tour the Skeleton Garden and learn why dinosaur remains are not found in Florida.
 813-717-9865 | www.dinoworld.com

[Downtown Disney's Marketplace] The **LEGO Imagination Center** at Downtown Disney Marketplace is perfect kid play. This outdoor LEGO playground gives children buckets of colorful bricks to get started on building. Guarded by friendly dinosaurs and a huge sea serpent built of LEGO bricks, this play area lets kids explore their creativity at no cost to parents.
www.disneyworld.com

[Orlando] Science was never as fun as it is at **WonderWorks**. Families are encouraged to sit through an earthquake, ride a virtual glider above the grand canyon and play a keyboard with their feet. LazerWorks on the third floor offers super-sized laser-tag fun.
 407-351-8800 | www.wonderworks.com

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[DeLeon Springs] Children can make their own pancakes and add chocolate-nut and fruit toppings at DeLeon Springs State Park's **Old Spanish Sugar Mill & Griddle House**. Afterward, outdoor fun includes a dip in the natural spring, canoe ride or nature walk through a floodplain forest.
386-985-5644 | www.floridastateparks.com

[Pensacola] Taking a trip to Pensacola with children can easily begin by taking in a few sites of interest. Among the choices that will delight adults and children alike is **Historic Pensacola Village**. Giving a glimpse into 19th century life in the area, the Village has over 20 preserved sites that include a general store, horse stable, examples of city houses and country homes, houses of worship and a one room community school. All of the properties are decorated with furnishings that are from the era, and a number of the buildings have some interesting stories to tell. Pensacola Village is a great way for the kids to learn a little about history, as well as get a glimpse of how kids lived and played in a bygone era.
850-595-5985 | www.historicpensacola.org

[Daytona] If you can tear your kids away from the fun at the beach, Daytona's **Charles and Linda Williams Children's Museum at the Museum of Arts & Sciences**, has ideally combined learning through fun! Opened in November 2008, the children's museum is the first hands-on science center in the region. The 9,300-square-foot-wing houses 15 professionally designed interactive exhibits that demonstrate various principles of science, engineering and physics.
386-255-0285 | www.moas.org

We Recommend>>>

[Sarasota] **Circus Sarasota Presents Nik Wallenda** "The Legend Lives On". Circus producer Pedro Reis is thrilled to announce that The World Famous Wallendas, featuring the amazing Nik Wallenda will be among the highlighted attractions during the 2010 season of Circus Sarasota. "Each year brings new surprises and thrills for our audiences many of whom return season after season to see some of the greatest circus acts currently performing throughout the world," says Pedro Reis, Founder and CEO of Circus Sarasota. "We continually receive rave reviews for excellence in presenting the finest of the circus arts. Our 2010 season will be no different with the signing of Nik Wallenda and members of the Wallenda Troupe." The Wallendas will perform unparalleled feats of daring on the high wire that includes the, heart-Stopping "Seven Person Pyramid".
Circus Sarasota performs in Sarasota February 12 - 28, 2010 and at the Gulf Coast Town Center in Fort Myers March 12 - 28, 2010. For more information or tickets visit www.CircusSarasota.org.

[Tampa] Come see why **The Florida Aquarium**, home to more than 20,000 aquatic animals from around the world, is one of the top 10 aquariums in the country! See sharks, alligators, stingrays and penguins! Immerse yourself in interactive programs like 'Swim With The Fishes' or take a Wild Dolphin Ecotour on the brand new boat, Bay Spirit II. The special Behind the Scenes experiences like "Penguins: Backstage Pass" or "Shark Feeding" are unique and exciting!
www.flaquarium.org *

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