

Central Florida



COURTESY, WINDSOR/ARANCE CVB

beyond the mouse. . .

Although the theme parks put Central Florida on the map for millions of visitors, attractions outside theme park gates provide an equally memorable escape.

A Central Florida vacation is everything a holiday should be, with a range of accommodations, attractions, dining, shopping and recreation activities to turn an ordinary vacation into an experience of a lifetime.

The weather cools down, the lines are shorter and the festivals and special events are numerous, perfect for couples and mature travelers to take that long-awaited escape to the heart of Florida.

The appeal of Kissimmee's close proximity to Orlando's world famous theme parks takes on a whole new luster when the entertainment giants roll out the welcome mat with themed events and new attractions. But it's Kissimmee's accessibility to the state's authentic charms and natural diversions that really shine in the fall.

In Kissimmee, hiking and paddling have earned coveted designation in Florida's statewide system of Greenway and

Trails. For a natural thrill ride, travelers may visit Horse World Riding Stables. Here, they can enjoy a trail ride at an appropriate skill level set on 750 acres of peaceful Florida countryside. For high-speed thrills on Lake Toho, visit Boggy Creek Airboat Rides. Here, visitors embark on wind-in-your-face nature cruises, gliding across the water for close encounters with native wildlife, including regular alligator sightings!

In addition to outdoor adventure, the Downtown Arts District in Orlando recently announced the launch of OrlandoSlice.com, a fresh and innovative, user-friendly social networking portal, providing the ultimate in current events in and around Downtown Orlando.

The new site, optimized for both web and mobile interaction, provides visitors with juicy tidbits when planning a trip to Orlando, including exploring and expressing their interests, discovering new passions, and meeting new people around common pursuits.

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ACCOMMODATIONS.

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100 properties in Palm Key Village, provides their guests with only the best in vacation home rentals during their travels. Conveniently located within minutes of all the excitement that Central Florida offers, each fully-equipped home features conveniences and thoughtful amenities, including some homes with hot tubs.

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Boasting an impressive \$35 million makeover, the **Doubletree Resort Orlando - International Drive**, formerly the International Plaza Resort & Spa, has been transformed to a warm and tranquil travel oasis redefining the meeting and vacation experience. Conveniently located adjacent from SeaWorld® and its new water park Aquatica, this Orlando resort, is also just minutes away from Universal Orlando® Resort, Walt Disney World® and the Orange County Convention Center. Guests can enjoy 28 lush acres of native palm trees and tropical fountains, sparkling pools and select amenities including complimentary transportation to the major attractions, fitness center, onsite restaurants and the resort's L'Esprit Day Spa set to the highest standard of personal comfort.

The Doubletree Resort Orlando - International Drive features 60,000 square feet of flexible meeting and banquet facilities, both indoors and out, including two grand ballrooms.



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With its \$35 million dollar makeover, the new Doubletree Resort Orlando – International Drive has transformed into a premier Orlando vacation resort. From an enhanced sense of arrival, newly renovated guest rooms and meeting facilities, new restaurant and superior location, experience our oasis located in the middle of Orlando's world famous attractions.



Doubletree Resort Orlando – International Drive
 (Formerly International Plaza Resort and Spa)
 10100 International Drive Orlando, FL 32821

Phone | 407.352.1100
www.internationalplazaresort.com
 800.327.0363

Resort amenities include three heated swimming pools--one with a rock waterfall children's pool and a 12-person spa tub. Other complimentary recreational facilities include miniature golf and putting green. **407-352-1100** | www.doubletreeorlandoidrive.com

Central Florida visitors wanting to stretch their vacation dollar can rely on the affordable and convenient **Econo Lodge Inn & Suites, Howard Johnson Maingate East** and **Rodeway Inn Main Gate**.

The Econo Lodge Inn & Suites, situated along International Drive, features a large outdoor heated pool, scheduled theme park shuttle service and a variety of recreational activity, shopping and dining situated nearby.

Located within two miles of the Walt Disney World Resort, the Howard Johnson Maingate East hotel offers 367 standard or deluxe double guestrooms at a rate guaranteed to make you smile! Onsite guests can enjoy a convenient gift shop with snack items, Kids Eat Free program, outdoor swimming pool, and scheduled shuttle service to Walt Disney World.

Just two miles from Walt Disney World, the Rodeway Inn Main Gate is a convenient and economical accommodation choice. Guests of the hotel can enjoy a complimentary continental breakfast served daily, scheduled shuttle service to Walt Disney World, and Kids Eat Free Program. The hotel is pet-friendly. **800-288-4678** | www.orlandobesthotelrates.com

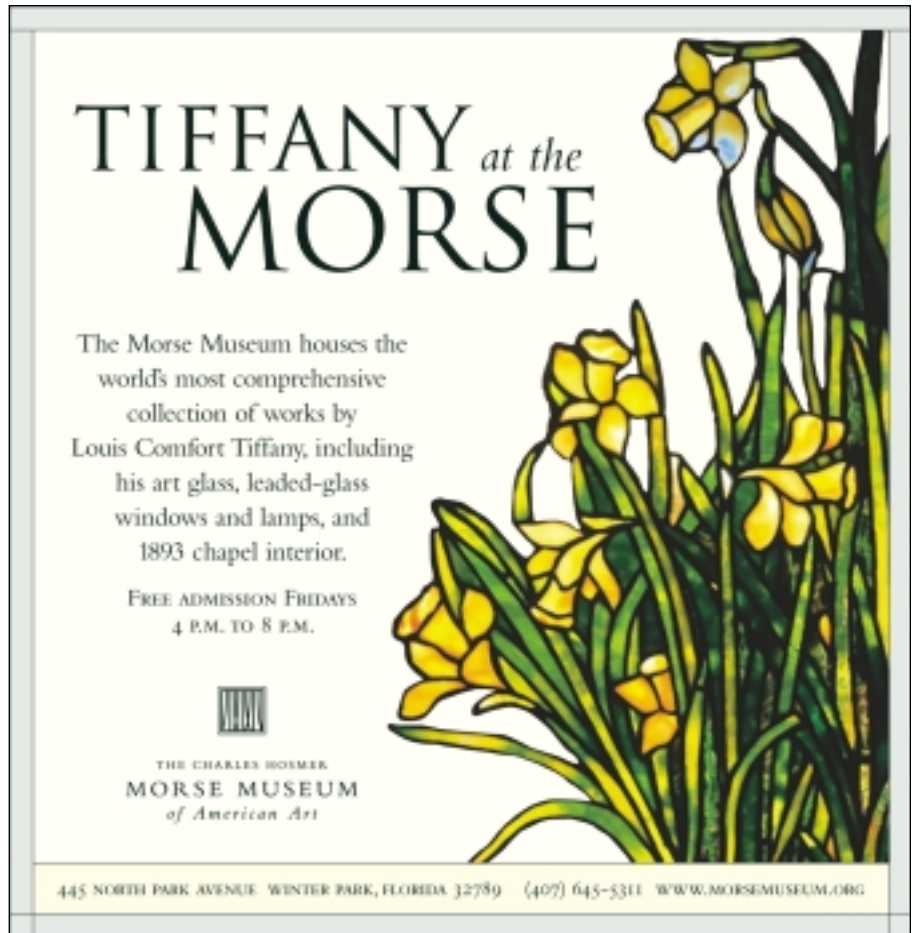
must see & do > > >

Featuring two championship 18-hole golf courses, The Oaks, designed by Ron Garl, and The Cypress, an original Robert Von Hagge and Bruce Devlin layout, redesigned in 2006 by George Clifton, **Stonegate Golf Club at Solivita**, encourages challenging play for golfers at all levels.

Situated within the master-planned community of Solivita, these semi-private courses feature onsite dining, a well-stocked pro shop and men's and women's locker room facilities. Outdoors, players can enjoy a full swing aquatic driving range and practice greens.

863-427-7150 | www.stonegategolf.com


The **Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art** is home to the world's most comprehensive collection of works by Louis Comfort Tiffany. Located at 445 North Park Avenue in Winter Park, the Tiffany collection includes the designer's celebrated 1893 chapel interior as well as American art pottery, Arts and Crafts furnishings and late-19th and early-20th



TIFFANY *at the* MORSE

The Morse Museum houses the world's most comprehensive collection of works by Louis Comfort Tiffany, including his art glass, leaded-glass windows and lamps, and 1893 chapel interior.

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407-645-5311 | www.morsemuseum.org

The **Mennello Museum** is housed in an old yellow mansion, once a private residence of Howard Phillips, in the heart of downtown Orlando. Converted in 1998 to show off the work of a single Folk artist, Earl Cunningham (1893-1977), a "primitive genius", the museum showcases the St. Augustine native and his attempts to capture the haunting landscapes of the Sunshine State. The museum's permanent 50-piece Cunningham collection was a bequest to the City of Orlando by collectors Marilyn and Michael Mennello. In addition to showing Cunningham's work, the museum offers a series of rotating American art exhibits.

Upcoming exhibits include **Auspicious Vision** - Edward Wales Root and **American Modernism** (February 26 - May 23, 2010). Edward Wales Root acquired more than 227 paintings and works on paper that provide a valuable record of the artist who emerged during the "American Century". The works range from 1896-97 to circa 1955 and were donated to the Institute in 1957.

They provide a visual record of how radically the artists vision was altered as a response to the many changes that were taking place in society. Drawn from the collection of Edward Wales Root, the exhibit will feature paintings created by Edward Hopper, Stuart Davis, Arthur Dove, and Jackson Pollock.

407-246-4278 | www.mennellomuseum.org

Enjoy a full day of fun for your entire family at **Orlando Science Center**. When the museum first opened in a small building that was the original cultural facility in Loch Haven Park - is today an exciting 207,000-square-foot facility that is architecturally distinctive and built for the future with spacious exhibit halls, nature habitats, classrooms, a theatre, an observatory and visitor amenities such as a science store and cafe.

With four floors of exciting exhibits, amazing giant screen movies and engaging live programming, the Science Center is truly a place to explore and discover - together.

407-514-2000 | www.osc.org

At the **Osceola County Pioneer Village and Museum** visitors are encouraged to relax on the front porch of their 1889 "Cracker" house and hear the tales of the long-gone pioneer days of Kissimmee. Wander through the pioneer general store, citrus packing house, and one-room school house to see what life was like for early settlers.

www.osceolahistory.org *

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