



FOCUS ON Orlando

COURTESY OF WALT DISNEY WORLD

An Orlando 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.**

Art in Orlando? Of course! While visitors are often shocked to learn about the multitude of arts and culture offerings in Orlando, to insiders, it makes perfect sense. The same ideals of creativity and innovation, not to mention raw talent and showmanship, that rank Orlando's theme parks among the best in the world overflow to the surrounding community, making the area a haven for artists and performers. Many of Orlando's most acclaimed arts offerings can be found along the "Cultural Corridor," a 7-mile (11-kilometer) stretch along Interstate 4 (I-4), spanning from Downtown Orlando to historic Winter Park.

Unleash the daredevil in you. Every day, daring moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas, teens and tots embark on a new adventure and prove to themselves just how brave they really are. In Orlando, adventure can mean learning an exciting new skill including: riding in the open-air

cockpit of a World War II fighter plane at Fantasy of Flight; learning to skydive, or doing the next best thing indoors at Skyventure Orlando; Play in the mud in an ATV or Hummer at Revolution: The Off-Road Experience; Get towed into the sky and released by an ultra light plane, hang-gliding back down to Earth at Wallaby Ranch Hang Gliding Flight Park; Soar above the treetops on the Zipline Safari at Forever Florida.

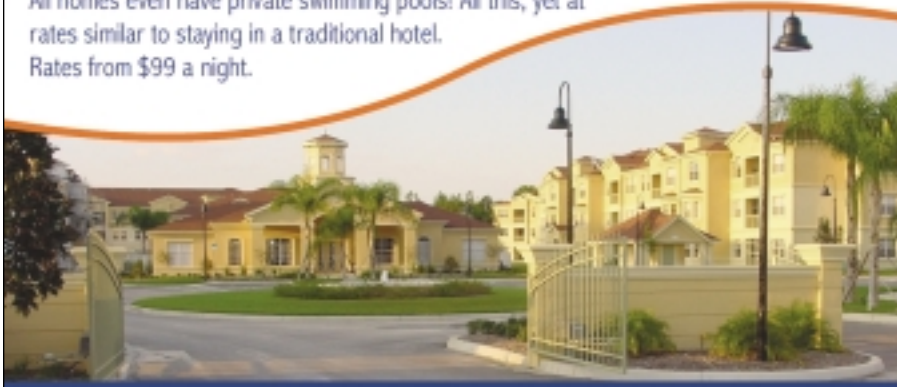
Often the best way to learn is by doing. In Orlando, immersive, hands-on experiences trump textbook learning everyday as visitors hone new skills and hobbies, learn about animals and animal care, and discover a lot about themselves in the process. In Orlando, animal lovers can make discoveries about creatures they might never otherwise encounter: Learn about Atlantic bottlenose dolphin behaviors at Discovery Cove and enjoy a playful swim with them in a

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tropical lagoon, then snorkel with rays and tropical fish. The park's Trainer for a Day program offers guests an even more in-depth experience, including an enhanced deep-water dolphin interaction, behind-the-scenes tour and an exciting ride in front of two dolphins in a "double-foot push" behavior. At SeaWorld Orlando, see what it's like to be a marine mammal keeper for a day, caring for animals including manatees, dolphins, walruses, beluga whales and sea lions. Visit with gentle manatees that migrate to the warm waters at Blue Spring State Park each winter.

Perhaps the most delicious journey of discovery is discovering a new taste. Explore Orlando's international dining scene, with restaurants from all over the globe including: Africa, Morocco, Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, South America, England, Ireland, Italy, Greece, France, China, Japan, Vietnam and India, to name a few. Start out at Epcot's World Showcase and some of the restaurants at the Walt Disney Resort hotels, including Jiko-The Cooking Place at Disney's Animal Kingdom. Discover how great low-calorie entrees and desserts can taste at Seasons 52 on Sand Lake Road, where every item on the menu is 475 calories or less. Dine with the stars at the restaurants of celebrity chef including Emeril Lagasse of Emeril's Orlando and Emeril's Tchoup Chop; Todd English's bluezoo; Norman Van Aken of Norman's; Melissa Kelly of Primo; and Roy Yamaguchi of Roy's.

Dance the night away. .to reggae, jazz or dance tunes at Universal CityWalk, sip martinis at the ultra lounge, Red Coconut Club, sing to your heart's content at CityWalk's Rising Star karaoke club, or party New Orleans-style at Universal Mardi Gras, which normally runs February through April each year. Chill out at ICEBAR, a new concept in nightlife on International Drive, where everything is made of ice, and capes and gloves are provided.

For more information on visiting Orlando and its surrounding communities visit www.orlandoinfo.com or call toll free 407-363-5872.

WHILE VISITING CENTRAL FLORIDA.....
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Within minutes of Central Florida's theme parks is one of the area's most prominent cultural spots - the historic winter home of acclaimed sculptor Albin Polasek, otherwise referred to as **The Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens.**

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Polasek retreated to Winter Park in 1950 and opened his three acre estate to the public in 1961. Approximately 200 of the 400 works attributed to the Czech-born artist are on the museum property, including his signature, award-winning sculpture, Man Carving His Own Destiny. Polasek's best known sculpture depicts a man carving himself from a block of stone; he created various versions of the piece over more than 50 years, and his last rendering is found at the museum. After his death in 1965, his studio, home and galleries were opened to the public and the museum was created. This breathtaking property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Call for directions and hours.
[407-647-6294](tel:407-647-6294) | www.polasek.org

accommodations > > >

Central Florida visitors wanting to further 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.

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