

FREE DESTINATION GUIDE

ORLANDO

United States



Theme park capital of the world, with a slower Florida hiding between the parks.

SAFETY: US Domestic: no State Dept advisory

Travelling with ActorTonyB & Nala The Shih Tzu

Powered by Expedia.com

Top Sights

- **Magic Kingdom, Walt Disney World.** Rope drop matters: arrive before opening, ride the headliners first, and rest midday when lines peak.
- **Universal Islands of Adventure and Epic Universe.** Hogsmeade and the newest park in town; park to park tickets unlock the Hogwarts Express.
- **Kennedy Space Center.** An hour east: real rockets, the Atlantis shuttle, and a bus tour past launch pads. Book ahead.
- **ICON Park and International Drive.** The Wheel at sunset, dinner, and people watching in the heart of the tourist corridor.
- **Winter Park.** Orlando's elegant escape: Scenic Boat Tours through the lakes, museums, and Park Avenue dining.
- **Gatorland.** Old Florida fun since 1949: thousands of gators, a zip line over the breeding marsh, pure roadside joy.
- **Lake Eola Park, Downtown.** Swan boats and skyline views; the Sunday farmers market is the local weekend ritual.
- **SeaWorld Orlando.** Big coasters and marine shows; pairs well with its water park, Aquatica, next door.

Local Tips

- Reserve park days and dining in the official apps as soon as your dates are set; popular restaurants book out 60 days ahead.
- Plan around the 3 pm thunderstorm in summer: ride outdoor coasters in the morning, shows and lunch during the storm.
- Stay on site or on International Drive if you skip a car; park parking and I-4 traffic eat vacation hours.
- Tolls are everywhere: use the Visitor Toll Pass or set your rental's toll plan before you leave the airport lot.
- Build a non park day into every three: Winter Park, the space coast, or a springs swim resets everyone.
- Florida's natural springs (Wekiwa, Kelly Park) are the locals' theme park: 72 F water, all year, a few dollars in.

Customs & Etiquette

Do

- Hydrate like it is a ride requirement; Florida heat plus park miles sneaks up on everyone.
- Tip 18 to 22 percent in restaurants and for your housekeeping team.
- Book lightning lanes and express passes strategically on your biggest park day only; they add up fast.
- Say yes to the poncho purchase before the storm, not during it.

Please Don't

- Do not feed or approach alligators, ever; assume any fresh water in Florida has one.
- Do not leave kids or pets in a parked car for any length of time; Florida heat turns dangerous in minutes, and it is the law.
- Do not buy park tickets from roadside discount booths; scams and expired tickets are a local industry.
- Do not underestimate I-4 at rush hour; theme park exits stack up, so travel off peak.

Things to Know Before You Go

Currency. US dollar (USD). Cards everywhere; the parks are close to cashless, so keep a card or phone pay ready.

Language. English, with Spanish spoken widely across the city and resort areas.

Best time to visit. January to May for warm, drier days. September has the thinnest crowds but sits in hurricane season; summer is hot, stormy, and packed.

Getting around. A rental car is the default, tolls included. Resort shuttles and the I-Ride Trolley cover the I-Drive corridor without one.

Five phrases that open doors

The parks	How everyone refers to Disney and Universal
I-Drive	International Drive, the tourist corridor
Rope drop	Being inside at opening to beat the lines
The 407 / The 417	Local toll roads; your GPS will love them
Florida rain	A 20 minute afternoon downpour, then sunshine

What to Bring

- Ponchos or packable rain jackets for every park day; the 3 pm storm is a schedule, not a surprise.
- Refillable water bottles and electrolyte packets; the parks have free water refill stations.
- Broken in sneakers plus a second pair; wet shoes on day two end trips early.
- Sunscreen you apply before the park and reapply at lunch; Florida sun is relentless.
- A portable charger: park apps for lines, mobile food orders, and photos eat batteries.
- Swimsuits packed in the carry on, so a delayed bag never delays the pool.

What to Expect

Weather: heat and humidity rule most of the year, with a daily summer thunderstorm. Winters are mild with the odd cold snap.

Pace: park days are marathons with fireworks. Rope drop energy in the morning, shade and shows at midday, second wind at night.

Costs in practice: tickets are the headline, but food, parking, and line skipping passes are the plot twist. Budget them up front.

How tourists are received: Orlando is built for visitors and proud of it. Staff everywhere run on hospitality, and locals will happily debate the best park like sports.

What NOT to Bring

- Selfie sticks and loose gear for rides; parks restrict or ban them on attractions.
- A plan to wing the big parks in peak season; reservations and app bookings are the trip now.
- Anything valuable left visible in the rental car at beach or trailhead parking.
- Heavy winter gear in summer; one light layer for over air conditioned restaurants is plenty.

Safety Rating

US State Dept advisory level: US domestic destination (no State Department advisory applies)

State Department advisory levels rate foreign countries, so no level applies to Orlando. The practical risks here are environmental and automotive: intense heat and sun, daily summer lightning, hurricane season, and heavy tourist corridor traffic. The parks themselves are tightly run and heavily staffed.

Three practical safety moves

- Treat lightning seriously: when thunder roars, get indoors; Florida is the lightning capital of the US.
- Keep valuables out of sight in rental cars at trailheads and beaches; break ins target tourist cars.
- During hurricane season (June to November), book flexible rates and watch the forecast in the days before you fly.

Advisory levels change. Check the current rating for your destination at travel.state.gov before you book and again before you fly. Summary reflects the advisory in effect in October 2026.

Budget Snapshot

Rough per person daily ranges in US dollars, including lodging, food, local transport, and activities. Airfare not included. Treat these as planning estimates, not quotes.

Tier	Per day (USD)	What it looks like
Budget traveler	\$120 to \$180 per day	I-Drive hotel, one park focus per trip, grocery breakfasts, springs day.
Mid range	\$230 to \$340 per day	On site or near park hotel, park hopper days, character dining, toll pass sorted.
Comfort	\$420 plus per day	Deluxe resort, express passes, VIP tour day, signature dining.

Ready to Go?

You have the sights, the tips, the customs, and the budget. Now put dates on it. Compare flights, stays, cars, and activities for Orlando in one place, with live prices and traveler reviews.

BOOK THIS TRIP ON EXPEDIA

www.expedia.com

Booking link: <https://www.expedia.com> (we may earn a commission when you book through links in this guide, at no extra cost to you).



JOIN R&R; WITH TONY B: the community where all of this lives.

Start FREE for 7 days, then \$49/month. Sign up at <https://rrwithtonyb.com>

Inside you get every course: 90 Days (Success, Wealth, Time), You, The Walking Brand, Home Buyer & Seller HQ, the agent success courses, Kids & Creators, and acting courses.

You also get the Actor & Creator Resource Library: 35 brand deals free on your trial; members unlock the full 100 plus 10 new brands every week.

Plus Hired From Home remote job listings, the DIY Help Desk (send in a repair and get a detailed fix-it PDF back), weekly brand drops, buyer programs, and member requests for state-specific resources.

Watch the videos, then come inside and put it to work. Your first 7 days are free.