IV. POS 2025 Reunion Orlando and Central Florida Attractions

SeaWorld

Link: <u>SeaWorld.com</u>



SeaWorld Orlando is an animal theme park located in southwest Orlando. Although separately gated, it is often promoted with neighboring parks Discovery Cove and Aquatica as well as Busch Gardens Tampa Bay. In 2022, SeaWorld Orlando hosted an estimated 4.45 million guests, ranking it the 10th most visited amusement park in the United States.

When it comes to aquatic attractions, SeaWorld Orlando stands out among Florida theme parks. It features world-class marine exhibits,

water-themed rides, and live shows with sea animals, offering an immersive and entertaining water-themed experience.

- Single Day Tickets (Age 3 +) typically cost \$99.99/person;
- Military discounts for up to 5 family members can be purchased through the SeaWorld website, Military ID required by the sponsor at admission;
- Park Hours are 10:00 am 6 pm Weekdays and 9:00 am 10:00 pm Weekends, however, recommend check on-line as these can change depending on events;
- Accessibility questions, call (407) 545-5550;
- The Park has several restaurants and dining options.

Universal Studios

Link: <u>universalorlando.com</u>

Universal Orlando Resort is a 1,291acre theme park and entertainment complex in Orlando, Florida. It includes:

Universal Studios Florida - A theme park with rides, shows, and attractions based on movies, TV, and other entertainment. It features areas like The Wizarding World of Harry Potter - Diagon Alley, Krustyland, and Despicable Me Minion Mayhem.



Universal's Islands of Adventure - A theme park with attractions based on childhood heroes, comic book stars, and cartoon characters. It features areas like Dark Arts at Hogwarts Castle, Hagrid's Magical Creatures Motorbike Adventure, and Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey.

Universal Volcano Bay - A water park.

Universal CityWalk - A shopping, dining, and nightlife complex with themed hotels and restaurants.

- Park Tickets start at \$117.00/person for one day, one park;
- Military discounts are available at any participating Authorized Military Ticket & Travel office (Office locations provided at <u>universalorlando.com</u>);
- Park Hours are 9:00 am 7:00 pm;
- Accessibility questions, contact guestservices@universalorlando.com;
- The Park has several restaurants and dining options.

Disney Parks

Link: disneyworld.disney.go.com

Magic Kingdom

Explore six lands of enchantment, one-of-a-kind attractions and magic here at the place where storybook fantasy becomes everyday reality.

Experience Seven Dwarfs Mine Train, and race through the diamond mine on a swaying family coaster ride. Launch through the darkest reaches of the cosmos on Space Mountain or float through a lively bayou of singing critters toward a five-story splashdown on Splash Mountain, and swoop through a haunted gold-mining town on a runaway train while aboard Big Thunder Mountain Railroad.

Animal Kingdom

Explore Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park throughout the day and into the night. on an adventure into a world alive with magic. A new exploration will take you to Pandora—The World of Avatar, a distant world where you can float down a mystical bioluminescent river and fly on the back of banshees that soar past floating mountains. Back on Earth, at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park view thousands of

animals in their natural habitats. Spot them while trekking Gorilla Falls Exploration Trail, Kilimanjaro Safaris and at the base of the Tree of Life. And behold theTree of Life, commemorating Earth and its creatures. By day, it's a visual exploration of animals big and small; by night, animal spirits awaken to tell colorful tales of nature's harmony.

Epcot

Stroll through the scenic World Showcase and experience the architecture, culture and people of 11



countries. Enjoy sample-sized food, musical performances, and special events

throughout the year at Epcot's four different festivals. Hop aboard Soarin' Around the World to fly high on a hang-gliding adventure to famous places across the globe. Voyage to Arendelle aboard an ancient Nordic vessel as you take a musical tour of the wintery world of Frozen on Frozen Ever After. Feel as if you've shrunk to the size of a rat on a 4D culinary adventure when you take a spin around Gustaeu's kitchen at Remy's Ratatouille Adventure.Busch Gardens

Disney's Hollywood Studios

At Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge, you'll experience the smells and tastes of a cantina set in a galaxy far, far away. And, you can feel the rush of taking over control of the Millennium Falcon. In Mickey & Minnie's Runaway Railway, burst into a crazy colorful cartoon world and join Mickey and Minnie on a runaway adventure. Become the size of a toy with Buzz and Woody and take a ride on Slinky Dog as he careens through Andy's backyard in Toy Story Land.

Disney's Blizzard Beach and Disney's Typhoon Lagoon Water Parks

Guests can plunge into a world of themed water fun at Challenge Summit Plummet. Snorkel with sharks in Shark Reef. Zoom down side-by-side racing slides. Or, float leisurely down a meandering river. For thrills or just chilling out, a day in a Walt Disney World Water Park is watery fun for one of the most popular theme parks in Florida.

Disney Springs

Shop, dine and be entertained, at hundreds of incredible venues. For shoppers, you can discover well-known brands, unusual finds and keepsakes along with the world's largest collection of Disney merchandise at more than 100 shops.



Choose from more than 60 eateries, from quick bites to special meals – with a an unprecedented number of restaurants inspired by celebrity and award-winning chefs. Entertainment includes bowling, movies. and more.

- Disney Park Tickets start at \$119.00/person for one day datebased ticket (Reservations are required);
- •Military discounts only available for 4, 5 and 6 day reservations;
- •Park Hours typically 9:00 am -
- 9:00 pm, but vary for each park so check the website;
- Accessibility: Go to https://disneyworld-web.app.link/eWDW GWD Planning Guide;
- Disney Parks each have several restaurants and dining options.

Museums

Orlando Museum of Art

Where: 2416 N. Mills Ave., Orlando, FL 32803

Hours: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Tickets: \$29.99 (Adult)/\$27.99 (Senior)

Located in downtown the Orlando Museum of Art, which is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, offers a wide array of both permanent and temporary exhibits featuring works in all mediums such as painting, sculpture, photography and more.

With more than 900 works of art that includes polychrome pottery, carved jade and stone, intricately worked gold and silver and skillfully woven textiles, the Art of the Ancient Americas Collection includes objects created for ceremony, adornment and use in the afterlife by more than 35 ancient cultures.

Their American Art Collection includes works of art from the Colonial period to 1945 and provides you an opportunity to learn about the achievements of American artists throughout the nation's history.

The Contemporary Art Collection is the largest section of the Museum's permanent collection and includes outstanding works of art from 1945 to the present moment.

Orlando Science Center

Where: 777 E. Princeton St., Orlando, FL 32803

Hours: 10:00AM - 4:00 PM

Tickets: \$27.99 (Adults)/\$25.99 (Seniors)



Orlando Science Center is Central Florida's award-winning, hands-on science museum. For more than 60 years, our exhibits and programming have brought science to life for not just residents of Central Florida, but also visitors from around the world.

Experiences offer wonder and discovery for all ages like 11,000 square feet of fun, hands-on learning for ages 7 and under in KidsTown or the chance to turn

your creative ideas into a reality in The Hive: A Makerspace. Additionally, Orlando Science Center continues to host events such as Otronicon, Orlando's favorite interactive tech expo, adults-only Science Night Live events.

Museum of Illusions

Where: 8375 International Dr. ICON Park, Suite 250, Orlando, FL 32819

Hours: 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Tickets: \$26.61 (Adults)/\$22.35 (Military)

Come and explore the world of illusions and experience the impossible. Located in the heart of International Drive Orlando at ICON Park, this mind-bending indoor museum

invites you to enter the fascinating world of illusions. Confuse your senses and question your own perception of reality, all while educating yourself in the art of optical, photographic, and interactive illusions.

With over 50 exhibits to challenge the senses, you will learn about vision, perception, and science as you move around the different areas. Find out why your eyes see things that your brain cannot understand. Let your imagination run free in the vast expanse of the Infinity Room, defy the laws of gravity in the Reverse Room, and shrink to miniature size in the Ames Room. Capture seemingly impossible photos as you go. Aquariums

The Orange County Regional History Center

Where: 65 E. Central Blvd. • Orlando Florida 32801Space Coast

Hours: 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Tickets: \$10.00 Adults/\$8.00 (Military)

The Orange County Regional History Center's historical collection houses thousands of items documenting Central Florida's rich heritage. From objects to archives and photographs to born digital media, the collection spans more than 14,000 years of history across seven counties including Brevard, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole, and Volusia. While we welcome you to visit the museum or our research center in-person, we encourage you to explore and enjoy our online access to the collection from anywhere.

Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition

Where: 7324 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819-8232

Hours: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Tickets: \$26.00 (Adults)/\$22.00 (Seniors and Military)

When you visit the amazing Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition, you embark on a journey back in time to April 1912, when the ship embarked on its maiden voyage! You receive

a replica boarding pass, assume the role of a passenger, and follow a chronological journey through life on Titanic. The Exhibition features more than 300 artifacts and historical items as well as full-scale room recreations.

Learn about the world's most infamous ship and its passengers while strolling through galleries featuring the Grand Staircase, First Class Parlor Suite. Verandah Café, and



more. Walk out onto the Promenade Deck and feel the chill of the cold Atlantic air. Touch an iceberg that is the same temperature as the water on that fateful night. See the second largest piece of Titanic ever recovered, the "Little Big Piece," a 2-ton section of the original ship's hull!

Ripley's Believe It or Not, Orlando

Where: 8201 International Dr., Orlando, FL 32819

Hours: 10:00 AM - 11:00 PM

Tickets: \$27.99

Ripley's Believe It or Not! where truth is always stranger than fiction and the unbelievable comes alive right before your very eyes! Our 10,0000-square foot International Drive location actually looks like it's falling into a Florida sinkhole! Explore the unusual and fascinating exhibits collected by the world-famous traveler Robert Ripley to be amazed, astounded, and—most of all—entertained! Marvel at the curiosities Ripley's started collecting more than 100 years ago. Stop at our wax hands exhibit to create one truly unique souvenir. Come face-to-face with a genuine shrunken head, encounter extraordinary people, and do a double take of animal oddities.



Madame Tussauds, Orlando

Where:8387 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819

Hours: 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Tickets: \$29.99 On-Line/\$39.99 at-the-door

Meet all your favorite celebrities in one place at the world's most incredible wax museum in Orlando. Get ready to walk on the moon's surface with Neil Armstrong, party on a yacht with Mr. 305, and flaunt your dance moves in Ariana Grande's new music video.

Gatorland

Where: 14501 S, Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando, Fl 32837

Hours: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Tickets: \$34.99 (Adults)/\$27.99 (Seniors)

Get ready for down-home family fun at "The Alligator Capital of the World®" – Gatorland! There isn't a better place to see alligators and crocodiles of all sizes, from babies, also known as grunts, to the 14-foot monsters that call our Breeding Marsh home. We even have the largest collection of extremely rare white leucistic alligators. But, Gatorland is more than just a gator park! Our free-flight aviary, petting zoo, one-of-a-kind animal shows, thrilling Screamin' Gator Zip Line and new Stompin' Gator Off-Road Adventure ensure your day will be chock-full of fun, smiles, and special memories

Orlando Shopping - Florida boasts some of the best shopping in the nation, ranging from prestigious luxury shopping centers to colossal discount outlets, with both indoor and outdoor settings. But they all have one thing in common: great shopping. Here's a list of must-shop Orlando malls and outlets.

Florida Mall - The Florida Mall contains over 250 stores, making it the largest mall in Central Florida. The mall is one level and is anchored by Dillard's, Macy's, JCPenney, Sears, Dick's Sporting Goods, and the Crayola Experience. The mall contains

numerous smaller stores and entertainment venues including the only American Girl and Disney Store locations in the Orlando area. The mall offers various dining options including 25 quick-service restaurants and 8 sit-down restaurants. The Florida Mall attracts over 20 million visitors annually. Travel from our hotel is 10 miles and about 22 minutes.



The Mall at Millenia - Explore Orlando's luxury shopping and dining destination with

more than 150 shops and restaurants plus world-class guest amenities. As central Florida's leading upscale retail shopping center and one of the top 10 performing malls in the United States, this shopping destination offers a wide selection of international retailers including Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Gucci and Emporio Armani, as well as some of the most in-demand U.S. brands such as Apple, Tiffany & Co. and Abercrombie & Fitch. The mall also offers more than 70 stores that are unduplicated in the market, as well as three major department stores – central Florida's only Neiman Marcus and Bloomingdale's, as well as perennial crowd-pleaser Macy's. The trip from our hotel to The Mall at Millenia is 12 miles and 22 minutes.

Winter Park, Park Avenue - Bordered by a central park that plays host to concerts and art festivals, Park Avenue in downtown Winter Park is a vibrant cosmopolitan shopping district. This walkable 10-block area boasts 100 one-of-a-kind boutiques and



well-known luxury brands. Park Avenue is known for its dining scene, which features charming sidewalk cafes, coffee and wine bars and award-winning cuisine. Culture and heritage can be found at every turn, including four museums which display works from antiquity to contemporary art, local history, sculpture and the world's most comprehensive collection of Louis Comfort Tiffany, in addition to theatrical productions, cabarets and orchestra concerts. This venue is located 20 miles, 30 minutes,

from our hotel.

Orlando Vineland Premium Outlets - Located just 2 miles, 8 minutes, from our hotel, Orlando Vineland Premium Outlets®, a Mediterranean inspired outdoor village, is one of the country's most upscale outlet centers. A true shopping destination, the center is a must do for tourists and locals. Shop more than 160 outlet designer and name-brand outlet stores including name-brand outlet stores including Bottega Veneta, Burberry, Ermenegildo Zegna, Kate Spade New York, Levi's Outlet, MCM,Tod's, and Tory Burch. Enjoy exceptional brands at extraordinary savings.

Lake Buena Vista Factory Stores - Lake Buena Vista Factory Stores boasts 40 of the world's best-known and sought-after outlet stores, including several one-of-a-kind retailers that cannot be found anywhere else in Orlando. This shopping gem is located just minutes from the entrance to Walt Disney World Resort and area theme parks and

features spacious stores with an abundance of merchandise at savings up to 70% off throughout the mall. Travel from the hotel is 4 miles and 13 minutes.

Orlando International Premium Outlets -

Florida's largest outlet shopping destination with more than 773,586 square feet of designer brands at discount prices. Located minutes from Universal Orlando Resort in the heart of Orlando's tourism district, it attracts more than 20 million visitors each year, and for good reason! Here, you'll find more than 180 outlet designer and brand-name stores. Trip should be about 7.5 miles and 18 minutes from the hotel.

Disney Springs Shopping - From intimate boutiques to stunning flagship locations, Disney Springs is home to over 150 offerings ranging from Disney-themed shops to noteworthy brands.

St. Augustine, Florida: The Nation's Oldest City

Where: 104 Miles NE of Orlando (1 hour 50 min.)

Transportation: Gray Line operates a 12 hour tour from Orlando

a 12 hour four from Orlando
St. Augustine, known as The Ancient
City, is located between Northeast
and East Central Florida and is
convenient to Jacksonville, Orlando,
and Daytona airports. North Florida
boasts a year-round mild climate
perfect for strolling St. Augustine's



delightful historic district, with its cobblestone streets, quaint cafes, bars, unique shops, and bed and breakfast inns. Experience the beauty of an early morning that slowly comes alive with locals and tourists setting out on foot to explore significant landmarks including the Castillo de San Marcos, Lightner Museum, Flagler College, and Fort Matanzas.

Beaches

Cocoa Beach

Cocoa Beach is on the east coast of Florida, just a 45-minute drive from Downtown Orlando. The beach is famous for its surf, laidback lifestyle, and beautiful natural landscape. There are stunning waves to ride, and if you want to try surfing for the first time you can take surf lessons.

The well-maintained shores around Cocoa Beach are wonderful for relaxing as well as taking nature walks around the coastline. This quintessential beach town is great for leisure time, with watersports and deep-sea fishing both popular. Plus, if you want to venture slightly further you can also head to the nearby Kennedy Space Center.

Clearwater Beach

A resort area on the Gulf of Mexico, Clearwater Beach is an immaculate white sandy beach with beautiful, calm, blue waters that are excellent for swimming. Clearwater

Beach is a popular spot for watersports, snorkeling, parasailing, and jet skiing, and the beach is only 2 hours from downtown Orlando.

Regularly rated as one of the best beaches in the United States, the climate at Clearwater Beach is mild and warm throughout the year. With beautiful tropical plants and palms lining the beach, it really is a paradise for those who love the sun, sea, and sand. If you're a seafood fan, try the freshest catch at one of the beachside restaurants.

Canaveral National Seashore

One of the most secluded and pristine beaches near Orlando is the Canaveral National Seashore. It's home to many endangered species, including sea turtles that come to the beach to lay their eggs in the sand.

Like many seaside cities, the area is ideal for visitors who enjoy outdoor activities. You'll find horseback riding, canoeing, kayaking, surfing, swimming, fishing, and boating. If you enjoy hiking, there is a trail near the



Visitor's Center that will take you through some gorgeous scenery. For everyone's security and peace of mind, police patrols are frequent in these areas. Be aware that you need to purchase a pass to enter this protected beach.

New Smyrna Beach

The 13-mile stretch of white sand that makes New Smyrna Beach so wonderful is just an hour's drive from downtown Orlando. Located on the stunning Atlantic coast, the beach is popular among surfers and sunbathers alike, as well as anyone looking for a picture-perfect day out close to downtown Orlando. Adventurous visitors can attempt to surf on the famous eastern waves, which have been listed among the world's best. Quiet and residential, the town of New Smyrna also has some important sites that should be visited during your time at the beach, including the New Smyrna Beach Sugar Mill Ruins and the historic downtown region with its quaint cafés and restaurants.

Golf

There are 23 golf courses in Orlando, Florida, including 17 public, 1 municipal, and 5 private courses. There are also another 35 golf courses within 20 miles of Orlando, including 20 public, 6 municipal, and 9 private courses. Three courses are described below that are near the Embassy Suites hotel. Recommend that member(s) that would like to organize a foursome for golf check with the reunion team for a list of other members indicating interest. Course selection, tee time, etc. is up to the member(s) and can be reserved at the individual websites. Prices shown below are seasonal and

vary significantly based on the day of the week and time of day. Club rentals are available at all major courses.

Shingle Creek Golf Club

Fees: \$109 (includes Cart and Range Balls)

Open to daily fee and resort play, Shingle Creek Golf Club tops our list of **Best Golf Courses in Orlando**. Shingle Creek has it all...course design, tournament quality conditions, first-class service,



and an ideal location. Located just one mile from the Orange County Convention Center, Shingle Creek Golf Club and Resort merges the modern resort experience with the natural feel of the historic "Shingle Creek"...surrounded by nature and wildlife.

Shingle Creek Golf Club is also a Greens of Excellence award winner. Shingle Creek, Falcon's Fire Golf Club, and Celebration Golf Club topped the list for Best Greens in Orlando. If you had just one round to play golf in Orlando, it would be difficult to bypass Shingle Creek for another venue. Congratulations to Shingle Creek Golf Club for being the **2023 Best Golf Course in Orlando**.

Orange County National

Fees: \$59.00 (includes Cart)

Orange County National features the Panther Lake and Crooked Cat courses for 36 holes of championship golf surrounded by nature in a tranquil setting. Orlando County National Golf Club has played host to the 2003, 2005, 2007, and 2010 PGA TOUR Qualifying School Finals. In addition to 36 holes of championship golf, OCN has a 9-hole short course, 360-degree driving range, and a 46-room lodge to accommodate the stay-and-play package. Orange County National is a "Must Play Orlando golf course." Orange County National is consistently rated as one of the best Orlando golf courses and 2023 is no different. Orange County National has earned recognition as the Best Public Golf Course in Orlando 2023.

Grand Cypress Golf Club

Fee: \$100+

Featuring 36 holes of Jack Nicklaus-designed championship golf, Grand Cypress is consistently rated as one of the Top 10 Orlando golf courses. The Links course, formerly the 'New Course' features recently renovated greens. The Links course is currently open for public play. Grand Cypress' The Florida course is a newly designed championship course developed on the previous three 9s of the North/South/East courses.

The cost of Grand Cypress is a little higher than other Orlando golf courses on this list, which bumps it down slightly in our rankings. Grand Cypress Golf Club continues to be one of the better Orlando golf courses since opening in

1984. Grand Cypress was named the Best Resort Golf Course in Orlando 2015 and 2017.