### CENTRAL FLORIDA'S AWARD-WINNING VISITOR PUBLICATION



Spring 2008



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**DISNEY'S YEAR OF A MILLION DREAMS** Even Bigger and Better Dreams to Come

**AQUATICA** SeaWorld's Whimsical New Water Park is Here!

### LOVE AND THE CITY

BEYOND ORLANDO Day Trippin' to Tampa SHOPPING, DINING, GOLF



By Liza Keller

OT HISTORY

A judge, a traveler or a soldier– who was responsible for how Orlando got its name? You decide.

n 1838, at the height of the Seminole Wars, the U.S. Army built Fort Gatlin south of present-day Orlando, and a small community grew up around the safety of

fort. The settlement was called "Jernigan" after cattleman Aaron Jernigan, one of the area's first permanent settlers.

By 1856, the expanding community changed its name to Orlando. No one really knows why poor Jernigan's name got the boot, but historians have posed several theories as to how the settlement got its new name.

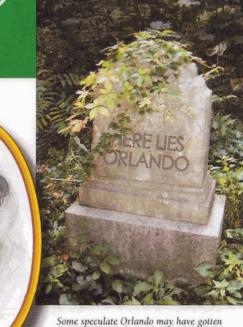
One theory involves a judge named James Speer, who was working hard at the time to make Orlando the county seat. Some say Speer named the town after a man who had once worked for him while others believe that he named the town after the character, Orlando, from Shakespeare's "As You Like It" (perhaps in an attempt to give the town a touch of class).

Another theory suggests that a man named Orlando was on his way to Tampa with a caravan of oxen when he became ill and died and was later buried in the area. After his death, people walked by his grave and said, "There lies Orlando." Eventually, people came to believe that Orlando was, in fact, the town's name.

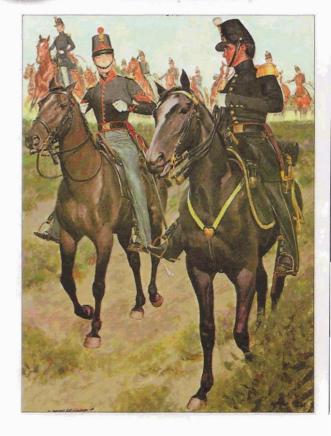
The most common theory involves a company of soldiers on duty during the Seminole Wars. After battling American Indians in the swamps one day, the troops settled down for the night.

Sentinel Orlando Reeves was guarding the camp when he noticed a log floating toward him in the river. When he realized that the log was actually an American Indian in disguise, he fired his gun to warn his fellow soldiers. As the camp was ambushed, he was killed and laterburied near Lake Eola in downtown Orlando.

Regardless of the reason,  $\bigcirc$ rlando has had its name for over a hundred years—and is still known to locals and visitors alike as "The City Beautiful."



Some speculate Orlando may have gotten its name from Army Sentinel Orlando Reeves, while others claim it came from a Shakespearean character. Or did a tombstone cause a case of mistaken identity?







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Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association

February 2008

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### ENJOY YOUR ORLANDO VISIT!

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Richard J. Maladecki, CAE President

PS—I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the great team at Orlando Today magazine for winning the 2006 Charlie Award for **Best Visitor Publication** from the Florida Magazine Association.

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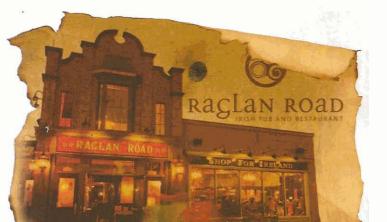
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Michael Bellman

Mary Perry

Kevin Worcester

Don McDonald

Mike Stile

Ronald DeGuzman

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Denise Bates Enos

Nicole Naser

Chris Lomas

Liza Keller

Vicki Slingluff-Andrews

ADVERTISING & EDITORIAL INQUIRIES

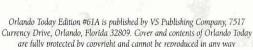
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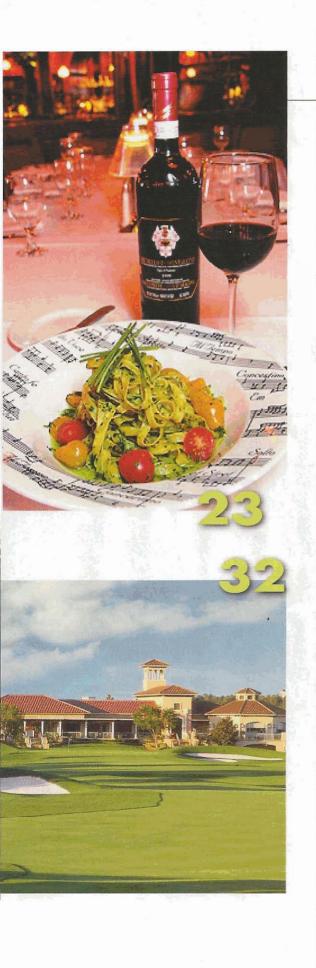
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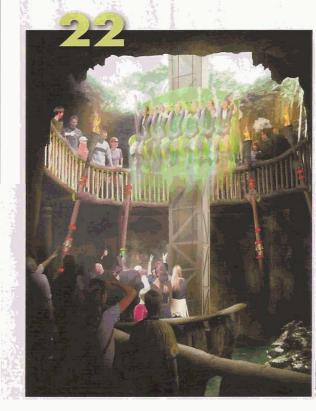
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Falcon's Fire sets the standards for Central Florida golf facilities









Winner of the 2006 Charlie Award for **Best Visitor Publication** by the Florida Magazine Association



### Take a vacation high from prices

Enjoy the thrill of finding the world's finest designer labels for less at Orlando Premium Outlets. Located only one mile from Walt Disney World®, this



beautiful, Mediterranean inspired village is the area's only true upscale outlet center.

Driving along Interstate 4, you'll see the center's large towers and buildings lined with names of the finest designer brands. Orlando Premium Outlets offers visitors a distinctive collection of 110 name-brand outlet stores offering everyday savings of 25% to 65%. The impressive list of outlet store names includes Adidas, Banana Republic Factory Store, Barneys New York Outlet, BCBG Max Azria, Brooks Brothers Factory Store, Burberry, Coach, Cole Haan, Diesel, Dior, Donald J Pliner, Dooney & Bourke, Ecko, Fendi, French Connection, Gap Outlet, Giorgio Armani, Guess, Hugo Boss, Jones New York, Kenneth Cole, La Perla, Max Mara, Max Studio, Nautica, Nike Factory Store, Polo Ralph Lauren Factory Store, Puma, Reebok, Salvatore Ferragamo. Skechers, Tag Heuer, Timberland, Tod's, Tommy Hilfiger, Zegna Outlet and much more. Moms and dads will enjoy the savings and selection at Hartstrings, JM Originals, K\*B Toy Outlet, Little Me, Oilily, OshKosh, Strasburg Children, Stride Rite Keds Sperry and more.

Orlando Premium Outlets has a large Food Court and many customer services including stroller and wheelchair rentals. The shopping center, located on Vineland Avenue, can be reached by taking Interstate 4 to exit 68 or by an entrance on International Drive.

Take advantage of the center's customer-friendly hours. Stores are open Monday-Saturday 10am-11pm; Sunday 10am-9pm. Call for Holiday & Seasonal hours at 407-238-7787.

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Million More Dreams to Øme...

When Disney's magic-makers asked how they could possibly outdo *"The Year of a Million Dreams"* in 2008, there was only one answer. More dreams, bigger dreams, dreams that money can't buy and that only Disney can make come true! And just like magic, Disney is continuing the excitement, where being in the right place at the right time at Disney's theme parks could make your biggest wishes come true.

To announce the 2008 extension of "The Year of a Million Dreams," Disney released the first-ever Disney Dreams Catalog to showcase the unbelievable experiences that you might be chosen to win during the Disney Dreams Giveaway. When you browse the catalog, you might find something missing—price tags. That's because these are dreams that can't be bought.

So now you're wondering what exactly these over-the-top dreams could be. To start with, close your eyes and imagine yourself in a tropical island paradise. Now imagine that the island is Castaway Cay, Disney's *private* island in the Bahamas. One winner and three guests will get to sail on a Disney Wonder cruise ship and stay for a day filled with beachfront cabana massages, gourmet surfside meals, water sports, and an overnight stay on a luxurious private yacht.

As if that weren't enough, you could become the Grand Marshal in Disney parades around the world. The winner will visit four Disney destinations on three continents in Paris, Hong Kong, California, and Florida on a 15-day, 14-night VIP vacation By Nikki Naser

Or how about having breakfast with Mickey, Minnie, and all the favorite Disney characters at the largest Disney character breakfast ever? You could be the guest of honor as you dine right in the middle of Main Street U.S.A. in this never-been-done-before ultimate Disney experience.

Two lucky winners will be seeing stars as they attend the "High School Musical 3" world premiere. One of these winners will also be taking a VIP vacation to Walt Disney World Resort, where they can catch "Wildcat Fever" at the high-energy musical shows.

Don't wait for these dreams to pass you by—get online and browse the Disney Dream Catalog (DisneyParks.com/DreamCatalog) before planning your Disney vacation. Who knows—you might be walking through the park and feel that magical tap on the shoulder...

# "HOLLYWOOD" is their middle name!

By Nikki Naser

Disney-MGM Studios has reinvented itself as Disney's Hollywood Studios as it unveils new attractions and breakthrough experiences. According to Walt Disney World Resort's president, Meg Crofton, the new name "reflects how the park has grown from representing the golden age of movies to a celebration of the new entertainment that today's Hollywood has to offer—in music, television, movies and theater."

So what's new in Hollywood? Disney Channel's original movie, "High School Musical 2," comes to life in the interactive show, "High School Musical 2: School's Out!" You'll catch Wildcat fever as you sing and dance to the movie's hit songs alongside the show's high-energy performers. The dance finale features one of the soundtrack's hits, "All for One," and a reprise of "We're All in This Together."

The party doesn't stop there. Now you can play and dance with characters from your favorite animated films like "Toy Story," "The Incredibles," "A Bug's Life," "Cars," "Finding Nemo," "Ratatouille," and "Monsters, Inc." in the all new Disney-Pixar parade, "Block Party Bash." Let yourself go wild as you rock to retro tunes and enjoy high-flying acrobatics.

Are you looking for a chance to perfect your Jedi skills? "Star Wars" combines with the magic of Disney to create an intergalactic entertainment experience at the "Jedi Training Academy." As a Jedi hopeful, or "Padawan," you'll learn lightsaber strategy before you meet your ultimate test against Darth Vader himself.

The kids will have their own fun singing, clapping and dancing to a whole new cast of performing stars in "Playhouse Disney-Live on Stage!" After the show, newcomer Handy Mandy will join JoJo and Goliath and Little Einsteins for meet and greets with their fans.

> At Disney's Hollywood Studios, you'll experience all things Hollywood, from the Rock 'n' Roller Coaster starring Aerosmith to the "Lights, Motors, Action! Extreme Stunt Show." The classic Hollywood architecture sets the stage for the entertainment of contemporary Hollywood for a transformation you have to see to believe. So what are you waiting for? And that's a wrap.

Gilde through a lagoon on a dolphin, soar 40 feet over the California coast, cleanse your mind in a gigantic watery funnel, and take the world's tallest dive coaster straight down... In Orlando and Central Florida, you can do all this and more. Fill your vacation days with adventures for the whole family in a place where the amusements never end.

#### Aquatica

Be the first to visit SeaWorld's new whimsical, one-of-a-kind water park! Shoot down an awesome enclosed tube ride that sends you speeding through a lively lagoon filled with playful Commerson's dolphins. On International Drive across from SeaWorld. 407.351.3600

### **Busch Gardens Tampa Bay**

Take a ride on the world's tallest dive coaster, SheiKra—200 feet up, 90 degrees straight down, and now floorless! Discover exotic creatures, explore a hidden jungle village, ride a zip line above the treetops or get launched above a towering waterfall at *Jungala*, Bush Gardens' newest land. Off I-4 at exit 7, in Tampa. 888.800.5447

### Cirque du Soleil – La Nouba

Flying trapeze and high wire acts are only the beginning. With dynamic music and stimulating choreography, your imagination will take you where anything is possible. At Downtown Disney. 407.939.7600

### **Discovery Cove**

Discovery Cove is where you can immerse yourself in adventure everywhere you turn and forget about your cares for the day. All you need to focus on is discovery—interacting with dolphins, birds, fish and rays in an all-inclusive setting. Attendance is limited to 1,000 guests per day at this reservations-only adventure, setting it apart from the other Orlando attractions. You deserve to be at Discovery Cove. Come explore. Make a day of it. 407.370.1280

#### Fun Spot Action Park

"Drive the Ride" with 4 unique action-packed go-kart tracks, a 100-fthigh ferris wheel, and over 120 games at Central Florida's largest video arcade, including some of the best virtual reality games. Off International Drive at Kirkman Rd. 407.363.3867. Or visit their new location at 5720 West Hwy. 192, Kissimmee. 407.397.2509

### Gatorland

Internationally known as the "Alligator Capital of the World," Gatorland's 110-acre theme park and nature conservatory is located in Central Florida at the head of the Florida Everglades. *Gator Gully Splash Park* features over a quarter-acre of the most unique splash zone in the area. Come take a walk on the wild side! On Hwy. 441 (Orange Blossom Trail) in south Orlando. 800.393.JAWS

#### **The Holy Land Experience**

Visit Jerusalem in Orlando! It is an inspiring, full day of discovery that takes you 2000 years back in time to the world of the Bible. It brings to life ancient Israel as a unique, thriving world filled with fascinating exhibits and venues. Off I-4 at exit 78, at Vineland & Conroy. 407.872.2272

### **Kennedy Space Center**

You can be an Astronaut at the new Shuttle Launch Experience, the most realistic launch simulation ever created! Visit NASA Central where you can get the latest info on what's going on in space right now or take photos with the resident Astronaut. Explore the exciting past, present and future of America's space program at the Visitor Complex. Off the Beachline in Cape Canaveral. 321.449.4444

### **Old Town**

Ride the thrilling, new coaster, The Super Shot, as it slowly creeps its way up to 150 feet in the air and then shoots you down in one full drop! Cruise over to Central Florida's largest weekly car cruises, or come down to Fun Town for the kids. Enjoy specialty shopping, dining, free nightly entertainment, and rides for the whole family. In Kissimmee on Hwy. 192. 407.396.4888



### **Ripley's Believe it or Not!**

Visit this "Orlando Odditorium" before it falls into a Florida sinkhole! You'll marvel at a shrunken head, the world's tallest man, a matchstick Rolls Royce, and other oddities. On International Drive. 407.363.4418

### SeaWorld Adventure Park

Ride coasters, feed sea lions, and see Believe, a killer whale ballet matched to the beat of an original music score. Enjoy a line-up of new experiences from Sesame Street characters turned pirates to three new sea-themed family rides and an expanded Shamu's Happy Harbor playground. Located at I-4 & the Beachline, 407.351.3600

### **SkyVenture**

Do you want to know what it's like to fly? This high-energy, indoor skydiving adventure lets you float on a 120mph column of air in a vertical wind tunnel. Off International Drive on Visitor's Circle. 407.903.1150

### Universal Studios Florida

Join the Simpsons on the new mega-attraction, a fantasy amusement park dreamed up by Krusty the Clown! Catch the wordwide phenomenon Blue Man Group as they combine music, comedy, and multi-media theatrics. Experience Ogrevision at Shrek 4D, try to escape the Revenge of the Mummy, compete to zap aliens, and feel what its like to ride the movies! Off I-4 near International Drive: 407.363.8000

### Universal's Islands of Adventure

Journey through five islands of non-stop adventure as you help Spiderman battle evil, get soaking wet at Toon Lagoon, see Dr. Suess's characters come off the page, and defy gravity with the Hulk! Off I-4 near International Drive. 407.363.8000

### Walt Disney World Theme Parks

Celebrate 50 years of Disney Theme Parks with attractions from all around the globe...

### **Animal Kingdom**

Transformed into an enchanted undersea world, Disney's newly enclosed Theater in the Wild is home to the beloved characters of "Finding Nemo." Be a part of this amazing onstage experience—the first time Disney has created a musical from a non-musical feature. With its live actors, larger-than-life puppets and original music and lyrics, this 30-minute performance is sure to delight your whole family!

### **Disney's Hollywood Studios**

Disney-MGM Studios has a new name, and they're rolling out brand new attractions! Come immerse yourself in the excitement of the new Block Party Bash, an interactive parade featuring over 20 Disney-Pixar characters! From the Extreme Stunt Show to Aerosmith's Rock 'n' Roller Coaster, celebrate the world of entertainment and star in your own adventure.

### **EPCOT**

Fly 40 feet over the California coast in Soarin'! Cruise out to sea in the Clamobile on "The Seas with Nemo & Friends." Explore the world in a day, and enjoy incredible cuisine and a nighttime spectacular on the shores of 11 nations.

### **Magic Kingdom**

Join Captain Jack's motley crew of pirates on a boisterous journey at the newly-renovated Pirates of the Caribbean. Report for duty as a new security recruit at Stitch's Great Escape, or experience Disney characters in a whole new dimension at Mickey's PhilharMagic. 407.W.DISNEY (939.6244)

### Wet 'n Wild

Plunge into the all-new Brain Wash ride and cleanse your mind as you climb the walls of its mind-numbing tunnels. Flashback to the '70s in an enclosed disco nightclub, face 500 feet of twisting darkness, or take a break under a waterfall. On International Drive. 407.351.1800

### WonderWorks

Put yourself inside a giant bubble in Central Florida's only upside-down attraction! You can land a space shuttle, play laser tag, pilot a fighter jet, and more at this high-tech playground for the whole family. On International Drive. 407.351.8800



**DINNER SHOWS** 

Orlando Dinner Shows are action packed, musical adventures that include spectacular stunts, dazzling special effects, enchanting singing, and amazing aerial acts. Enjoy the ambiance of great food and entertainment at these locations.

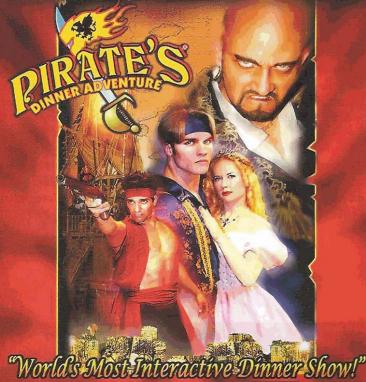
### Arabian Nights

Experience an evening of enchantment as a fairy tale comes to life on horseback. This romantic adventure features breathtaking horses, colorful costumes, and a magical feast. In Kissimmee on Hwy. 192. 407.239.9223

### Capone's Dinner & Show

Journey back in time to 1930 Gangland Chicago at this legendary speakeasy and cabaret extravaganza. Enjoy Mama Capone's real Italian feast plus a few American favorites. In Kissimmee on Hwy. 192. 407.397.2378

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### Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament

Experience an unforgettable feast inside an 11<sup>th</sup> century castle as knights on horse-back compete in a jousting tournament that brings the adventure and romance of the Middle Ages to life. In Kissimmee on Hwy. 192. 1.888.WE.JOUST

### The Outta Control Magic Show

This hilarious show combines comedy improv, magic, and audience participation to tickle your funny bone while you enjoy fresh hand-tossed pizza, salad, popcorn, beer, wine, and soda. Inside WonderWorks on International Drive. 407.351.8800

### Pirate's Dinner Adventure

Become a pirate's hostage in a swashbuckling adventure! This musical has daring stunts, romance, comedy, and a feast, all presented on a fully-rigged 18<sup>th</sup> century pirate's galleon. On Carrier Drive, just off of International Drive. 407.248.0590

### SeaWorld's Makahiki Luau

Celebrate an exotic feast for the senses! Pacific Island dancers transport you to an authentic Polynesian festival with fantastic fire dances, spectacular live Hawaiian music, and savory island cuisine. Learn to hula at this reservation-only event presented nightly at SeaWorld. Park admission not required. 800.327.2424



### Sleuths Mystery Dinner Shows

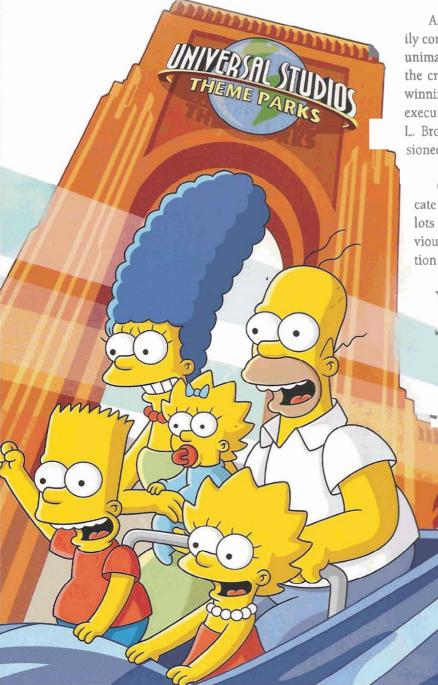
Bring your investigative skills, your appetite, and be prepared to laugh your way through the evening. You'll be kept on the edge of your seat as you enjoy a delicious dinner and dessert with unlimited beer, wine and soft drinks. Located in the Gooding's Plaza on International Drive. 407.363.1985

# "The Simpsons"

# <u>Ride into Universal</u>

By Vicki Slingluff-Andrews

If inviting them into your living room isn't enough, now fans of the amazingly popular TV series can get up close and personal with "The Simpsons" at Universal Orlando Resort. Homer, Marge, Bart, Lisa and Maggie, stars of TV's longest running series, will ride along with guests in the new mega-attraction opening this spring.



# Orlando Resort

Replacing the long-standing "Back to the Future" ride, the Simpsons experience comes complete with a Kwik-E-Mart selling Duff and Flaming Moe energy drinks; Squishees are also expected to be available. Actors dressed like Simpson characters can already be seen roaming the Universal grounds.

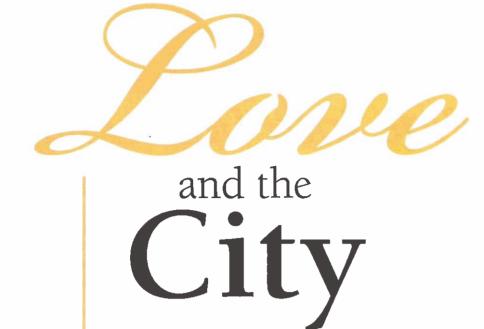
As the blockbuster hit series and members of the Simpson family come to life, participants will be rocketed on a hysterical, almost unimaginable adventure of animated fun and excitement that only the creators if the original series could design. Universal's awardwinning creative team collaborated with Simpsons originator and executive producer, Matt Groening, and executive producer, James L. Brooks, to create a fantasy amusement park supposedly envisioned by the show's cantankerous Krusty the Clown.

Groening described the ride as one that is designed to duplicate the home-viewing experience, only at high speed and with lots of screaming. Riders will encounter a side of Springfield previously unexplored as they enjoy the new attraction's interpretation of thrill rides, dark rides and live shows.

You'll instantly recognize all the favorite characters, which will be voiced by the original actors: Dan Castellaneta, Harry Shearer, Hank Azaria, Nancy Cartwright, Julie Kavner, Yeardley Smith, Marcia Wallace and Pamela Hayden.

> The critically acclaimed series features Homer, Marge, Bart, Lisa and Maggie Simpson, who take traditional family life and turn it into daily catastrophes. First entering the lives of television audiences in 1990, "The Simpsons" remains incredibly popular today. The prominence of the show helped it receive a star on The Hollywood Walk of Fame in January of 2000.

> If you want to see "The Simpsons" at their best (or is that worst?) don't turn on the telly grab your doughnuts and head to Universal Orlando Resort. Do'h!



By Denise Bates Enos

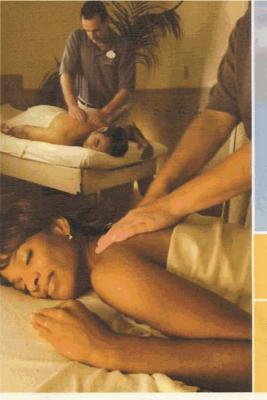
### Orlando offers several venues for romantic pursuits of amoré

you're in the mood for love, take your partner by the hand and start exploring the City Beautiful. For enchanted evenings and daytime delights, Orlando has plenty to offer. It's easy to add a dash of romance to your visit with a stop at one of these enjoyable escapes.

### A Walk in the Park

Some say the best things in life are free—and when it comes to Lake Eola Park in downtown Orlando, that's absolutely true. Day or evening, a stroll around the lake and its dramatic fountain is a priceless experience. To make the most of your visit, arrive at the end of the day to take in the sunset's natural light show before the fountain comes alive with lights of its own after dusk.

Or, come during the day and pilot a swanshaped paddleboat on the lake with your loved one. For a more relaxing ride, you can also rent one of the new electric swan boats or gondola boats. The park's shell-shaped Walt Disney Amphitheater frequently hosts alfresco concerts, film showings and plays. Nearby eateries provide plenty of choices for lunch or dinner after your visit to the park.





Let your passion soar as you fly high above the city.

Get in the mood for romance with a couples' massage at Disney's Grand Floridian.



Take a stroll with your sweetheart around Lake Eola's breathtaking fountain.

> Enjoy the simple beauty of Leu Gardens.



For additional information on these romantic spots, log on or call:

> Lake Eola Park CityofOrlando.net 407.246.2827

Harry P. Leu Gardens LeuGardens.org

> 407.246.2620 Orange Blossom

Balloons OrangeBlossomBalloons.com 407.894.5040

> Orlando Science Center OSC.org 407.514.2000

Grand Floridian Spa & Health Club DisneyWorld.com 407.824.2332

Disney's Fort Wilderness Resort & Campground DisneyWorld.com 407.939.7529

### **Garden of Earthly Delights**

Your love will bloom all over again in the petal-perfect Harry P. Leu Gardens. Here, a gracious, 19th century lakefront estate is surrounded by more than 50 acres of botanic gardens, including the largest Camellia garden outside of California and Florida's largest rose garden. Enjoy a guided tour, or hike along the winding paths on your own as you explore the grounds. The Gardens also boast a fragrant herb and vegetable kitchen garden, a tropical stream garden, a palm and bamboo garden, and a butterfly garden aflutter with brightly colored winged creatures.

### High flying Adventure

Take your romance to new heights with a hot air balloon ride. Orange Blossom Balloons offers soaring sunrise flights of fancy (each route is dictated by air currents, but unpredictability is part of the fun) above Orlando and its environs. After an hour-long flight, you're treated to a champagne toast and breakfast buffet back on terra firma.

### Star-crossed Lovers

Twinkle, twinkle—promise your loved one the moon and the stars. Every Friday and Saturday evening, weather permitting, you can gaze at the heavens via Florida's largest publicly accessible refractor telescope. Housed in the aluminum-domed Crosby Observatory atop the Orlando Science Center, this oneof-a-kind, custom-built telescope, along with several smaller scopes, are available for night sky viewing. On a clear night you can view the planets, the four moons of Jupiter, the rings of Saturn and deep-sky objects such as galaxies, nebulas and double stars. The third Friday of every month adds an extra romantic touch with "Cocktails & Cosmos."

### **A Touch of Class**

The "Grand" in Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa says it all—this resort treats guests in grand style. The resort's full-service, Victorian-themed spa and health club features an atmosphere steeped in the Sunshine State's refreshing citrus scents, including therapies and treatments that incorporate the aromatic essential oils of Florida grapefruit, orange, tangerine and lemon. Best of all, you and your soul mate won't be relegated to separate areas of the spa for your session—couples can enjoy treatments and massages together in a candlelit couple's room. Isn't it romantic?

### A Fairy-tale Inding

If old-fashioned and traditional are your style, take a relaxing ride in a wagon or horsedrawn carriage at Disney's Fort Wilderness Resort. For a true fairy-tale adventure, saddle up and ride horseback through the backwoods of the Magic Kingdom.

### By Vicki Slingluff-Andrews

Aquatica

SeaWorld set the standard for water-themed parks by putting animals in water for people to watch, meet Sand enjoy. Then, they raised the bar with Discovery Cover where animals and people swim together. Now, they have again redefined water parks with the opening of Aquatica.

Expert in wa mattractions and known for immersing guests in the mystery of the sea and its animals, SeaWorld uses Aquatica to take this to a new level by inviting guests to play in, over, and under the water.

blash with

SeaWorld

makes a

The new park offers 36 water slides, six rivers and lagoons, and more than 80,000 square feet of beach area. The unique style and design of the park allows guests to float and splash through animal habitats and undersea adventures.

Aquatica's visitors will lose themselves in nearly 60 acres of lush landscape inspired by the vivid colors, stunning flora and carefree lifestyle of the South Sea Islands. Reminiscent of the rugged beauty of New Zealand, Australia, and New Guinea, Aquatica's landscape is striking. Crystal-blue rivers wind through house protos and refreshing waterfalls, while rich greenery and bright flowers adorn towering rock formations.

Peeking through this verdant landscape, colorful, quirky buildings topped with swooping, pitched roofs create an uplifting, carefree setting. Carved totem poles and interactive fountains are adorned with colorful, whimsical animals in patterns taken from New Zealand's Maori culture.

Aquatica's playful, high-energy nature is brought to life by live animals from all over the world, including brilliant macaws and colorful fish. The park's signature attraction plunges riders in clear tubes through a crystal-blue lagoon with black and white Commerson's dolphins. Guests will feel as if they are flying beneath the sea among the exquisite animals.

Aquatica places an equal emphasis on high-energy thrill rides and immersive swimming experiences. A colorful mix of racing tunnels, raft rides, and raging rivers offer crashing surf and high-speed excitement while pools, lagoons, and lazy rivers invite guests to enjoy a slower pace.

Some of the water park's attractions offer dual experiences within the same ride. Two immense lagoons create the world's only side-by-side wave pools that can be operated independently or together. The matching lagoons bring distinctively different experiences. One offers crashing waves and five-foot swells while the other has gently rolling surf. Nine different wave patterns can be created between the two pools, with the ability to generate one immense wave, or the competition of dueling waves.

Winding rivers present varied journeys from serene to extreme. One river carries guests through gentle waterfalls, past exotic birds, and into an undersea grotto with thousands of colorful birds. Another nearby river offers endless thrills, jetting riders through rolling rapids, rushing geysers, and racing waters. Colorful eight-lane racing slides, triple-drop raft rides, double inner tubes, and a six-story family ride complete the mix of delights. Guests of Aquatica will find the experience they are looking for, whether it is action or relaxation.

Aquatica has even planned for little swimmers. The park boasts one of the world's largest interactive water play areas that includes a rain fortress towering 60 feet above a 15,000-square-foot pool. The entire family can zoom together on slides and blast water cannons. A separate children's pool allows even those not old enough to walk to slide down tubes with Mom and Dad in specially built rafts.

Guests wanting to just relax will enjoy wide, sandy beaches, refreshing lagoons and cool shade from towering oaks and exotic trees. Personal cabanas are available for those looking for a private retreat.

The entire park is designed to limit wait times and provide easy access to rides, attractions and restaurants. Guests who don't want to leave the comfort of their lounge chairs can enjoy beachside waiter service.

Whether old, young, adventurous or laid-back, Aquatica has something for everyone.

AUN AS ENDLESS AS THE SEA ITSELF

# IT'S A JUNGALA OUT THERE!

### By Nikki Naser

For nearly 50 years, Busch Gardens has cared for animals and the environment while giving us an adventure park filled with thrills and endless exploration. Now they've created a whole new adventure—*Jungala*—an exotic jungle where you can connect with the animals and the world around you.

This 4-acre attraction is set in the Congo area and invites you to discover exotic creatures, explore a hidden jungle village, and interact with animals up-close. As soon as you enter the lush landscape of towering trees and cascading waterfalls, you'll see the centerpiece 35-foot rock formation and be transported to a mythical place where both humans and animals live in harmony with nature.

Two of the world's most endangered species—Bengal tigers and orangutans—will be inches away as you sit in treetop viewing platforms or subterranean caves, or watch from behind natural bamboo screens or from above on a suspension bridge. At the Kulu Canopy, you'll discover acrobatic gibbons, flying foxes, and mysterious tomistomas—a reclusive crocodilian native to Indonesia and Malaysia.

Of course, you can't forget the rides! The Wild Surge, a 4-story pneumatic ride, will launch you and 13 other passengers out of a mountain crater and over a breathtaking waterfall. At the Tree Top Trails, kids can climb nets, walk over bridges, and slide through crawl tubes. Big kids can try to find their way through a multi-level maze, while the younger children will splash their way through a water-play area. On the zip-lines at Jungle Flyers, they'll soar above the treetops on three different flight patterns.

With the creation of *Jungala*, Busch Gardens not only creates harmony between their guests and nature, but they have also kept a balance with the environment by using eco-friendly building practices. Live Oak trees and smaller trees were relocated, pressure treated lumber was sent to the re-use market, and scrap steel from the Python coaster as well as 9,000 tons of concrete was recycled to create *Jungala*. Any lumber for new-wood construction on-site was also taken from reforested areas.

So take a day, or two, out of your busy vacation schedule to unite with nature as you never have before. Experience the serenity, thrills, and adventure of *Jungala*!

# Dip into the EXTRAORDINARY By Nikki Naser

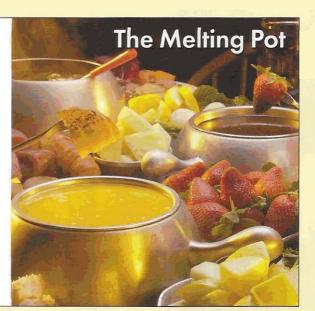
There comes a point in every vacation where you just get tired of dining in the lackluster ambiance of tacky tourist traps, standing forever at endless buffet lines (while pondering the reliability of the heat lamps), and then stabbing away at a plateful of unidentified bland, ordinary food. Lucky for you, there's a flavorful alternative—The Melting Pot of Orlando—a fondue restaurant where you can "dip into something different"." Here, you can enjoy four savory fondue-cooking styles, creamy cheese fondues, fresh salads, a large variety of fine wines, and unimaginable chocolate fondue desserts.

The Melting Pot concept began in 1975 as a meager four tables and 3-item menu of cheese, beef, and chocolate fondues at its first location in Maitland, just outside of Orlando. The Orlando Melting Pot, the second to open, now boasts many more dipping options on its enticing menu. Choose from four different cooking styles, including Coq au Vin and a Caribbean Mojo style. From there, you can go it alone with an individual entrée, or share an entrée for two. Servers get the fire started, then it's up to you to cook to your desire-dipping anything from beef, boneless chicken breast, duck, lobster, shrimp, scallops, veggies, or even tofu. Then, sink some bread into the tasty cheese fondues-cheddar, fiesta, traditional Swiss, or a Wisconsin trio. The chocolate dessert fondues, which have their own menu, range from Amaretto Meltdown to Cookies 'n Cream Marshmallow Dream to Chocolate S'mores. You can plunge an assortment of delights into these—fruit, cheesecake, pound cake, brownies, and marshmallows.

As you can see, this is not your average tourist destination. And it's perfect for friendly gatherings, romantic evenings, or make it a family affair. So get out of that buffet line and forget the heat lamps—at The Melting Pot, you can melt the plain away.

Your fondue experience that includes attentive service, the highest quality fresh ingredients, a variety of cooking styles, unique sauces, and your favorite chocolate fondue. It can be found here. At The Melting Pot, great fondue begins with the finest quality cheeses, carefully aged to our demanding specifications. Our cheese fondues are rich in flavor with a creamy texture; season it to your taste. Call 407.903.1100.





## Fine Dining & A Show-

Who Could Ask For Anything More?

By Chris Lomas Photos by Jeff Chase, Offero Studios

Bergamo's Italian Restaurant provides the best of Central Florida fine dining in an elegant and exotic atmosphere. You'd think that would be enough...

You may think as you approach Bergamo's Italian Restaurant that you are entering an ordinary mall restaurant-but you'd be wrong. Through the doors, you are transformed to another world. Located at the Festival Bay mall on International Drive, Bergamo's takes you back to the days of supper clubs, where images of men in white jackets and women in flowing gowns come to mind.

You're greeted at the door by the general manager himself, who quickly escorts you to the best seats in the house. With Bergamo's rounded architecture and elaborate design, every seat is the best. Then friendly and attentive wait stall not only provide excellent service while you dine-they also provide the entertainment!

### First-the Food

Bergamo's offers the best in authentic Italian cuisine, which includes the finest pasta, seafood, veal and certified Angus steaks. For starters try the meaty Seared Scallops with Cannellini, Radicchio and Saffron Citronette. As a main course, you can't go wrong with the Filet Mignon with Rosemary-Gorgonzola Butter. The combination of the flavorful filet with the sharpness of the Gorgonzola simply melts in your mouth. Paired with mashed mascarpone potatoes, and a Madiera reduction, this dish is sure to please any palette.





Bergamo's also offers the largest selection of Italian wines in Orlando, and is the proud recipient of numerous awards from Wine Spectator magazine. Oh, and the dessert menu is more than your typical Italian fare. Ŧ

### Let the Show Begin!

. . . .

Every evening, promptly at 7:00, this elegant, fine-dining establishment rivals any dinner theater in musical entertainment for the whole family. Singing Broadway show-tunes, classical opera, authentic Neapolitan folk songs and more-these are not your typical singing waiters.

Bergamo's provides an excellent venue for birthdays, anniversaries and other special occasions. You may have had "Happy Birthday"

sung to you in a restaurant before-but never like this! The sensational serenades of these talented musical professionals will surely make it a night to remember. Ordinary? Bergamo's is anything but.

# **BERGAMOS** ITALIAN RESTAURANT a Unique Dining & Entertainment Experience

ALC: NO

A magical combination of excellent cuisine and musical entertainment. The most talented singing waitersanywhere serve the finest pasta, seafood, veal chops and prime steaks.

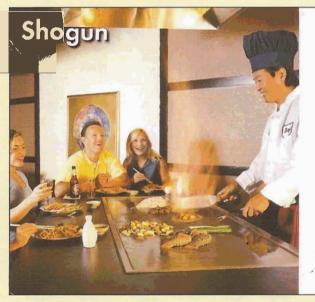
Located at Festival Bay Mall 5250 International Drive Suite 54

CALL 407.352.3805 FOR RESERVATIONS www.bergamos.com

Dinners from 5pm; Entertainment from 7pm



Upscale or relaxed, themed or eclectic, Central Florida restaurants offer enough award-winning cuisine to satisfy gourmets and delight vacationing families. From Italian to Japanese, seafood to aged steaks, and everything in between, there are plenty of dining options to suit all tastes. In a city with a flair for all things magical, it's only fitting that great food is on the menu to cast its delectable spell.

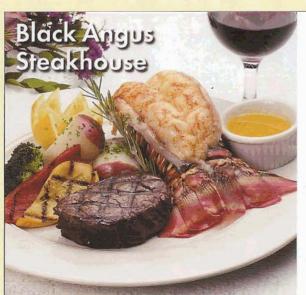


DINING

The perfect dining choice for small groups. Feast on the entertaining art of Japanese cooking performed at your table by our master chefs. Cocktails and children's menu available. Sun.-Thurs. 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 6:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. In the Rodeway Inn International, 6327 International Drive, two lights south of Wet 'n Wild.

Reservations: 407.352.1607.





Black Angus Steakhouse is an affordable family restaurant that serves only USDA prime or choice government-graded Midwestern beef. Steaks are aged to perfection and cut daily. Famous for ribs, fresh seafood, and vast chicken variety. Conveniently open to serve you for lunch and dinner, with banquet facilities available for all functions.

Two locations: Overabundant salad bar at 7516 W. Irlo Bronson Mem. Hwy. Kissimmee, (Hwy. 192) 407.390.4548.

12399 Apopka-Vineland Rd. (SR 535) in Lake Buena Vista, 407.239.4414.



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DINING

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A signature fine-dining Italian Bistro, where culinary artisans create delights like fresh seafood and perfect pasta accompanied by an extensive pairing of regional Italian wines in a private dining room or kitchen-presentation bar. Conveniently located one mile from the Convention Center.

Nightly from 5:00 p.m. Reservations Recommended 407-996-FOOD (3663) CALA www.calabellarestaurant.com SHING

CALA BELLA SHINGLE CREE-K

SHINGLE CREEK Located in Rosen Shingle Creek

9939 Universal Blvd. Off the Beachline Expy. (SR 528) exit #2.

### Savor the flavor of Florida

Let your good run wild at the Everglades Restaurant. Thick prime steaks, fresh Florida seafood and the incredible flavors of gator chowder, marinated buffalo, venison pepper steak and other unique regional specialties. Graciously served in an enchanting setting dedicated to Florida's Everglades. Cocktails served beside a 12-foot tropical aquarium. Nightly from 5:30pm. On International Drive, in the Rosen Centre, adjacent to the Convention Center.

Complimentary valet parking. Reservations are suggested.



Call 407-996-2385 | www.EvergladesRestaurant.com

Enjoy truly tantalizing cuisine in an intimate setting adorned with the world's largest collection of autographed celebrity caricatures. Open nightly at 5:30 p.m. Reservations suggested. In the Rosen Plaza, on International Drive, across from Pointe Orlando. Voted "Best Restaurant on I-Drive" by Orlando Magazine.

Complimentary valet parking. Call 407.996.1787 for reservations. www.jacksplacerestaurant.com









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### OT) SHOPPING

With millions of square feet in retail space and hundreds of designer outlet stores, Orlando is the premier shopping destination in the country. In our high-energy atmosphere, you will discover hundreds of unique chain and specialty stores that offer a variety of casual and upscale retail experiences. You will also feel the thrill of finding fabulous fashions and gifts at prices you can't resist! Orlando just might be the biggest shopping extravaganza on the planet, and you won't want to miss a bargain.

### **Downtown Disney®**

Buena Vista Drive, Lake Buena Vista, 407.828.3800 Hours: 9:30am – 11pm, Sun.-Thurs. 9:30am-11:30pm, Fri.-Sat.

Discover the biggest Disney shopping extravaganza on the planet! The biggest Disney character store in the world, World of Disney, is an adventure all its own, with the all-new Bibbidi Bobbidi Boutique for princess makeovers. Combined with unique and imaginative specialty stores—Virgin™ Megastore, Once Upon a Toy, and LEGO Imagination Center<sup>®</sup>—this is Disney shopping paradise. In the Walt Disney World Resort.

### Festival Bay at International Drive

5250 International Drive, Orlando, 407.351.7718

Hours: 10am - 9pm Mon - Sat., 11am - 7pm Sun.

With 1,000,000 square feet of space and one-of-a-kind retailers to the Orlando market, there is no time to waste! Don't miss the extraordinary shopping at Bass Pro Shops, Vans Skatepark, Sheplers Western Wear, Steve & Barry's University Sportswear, and Ron Jon Surf Shop. Off I-4 on north International Drive, near Universal Studios.

### Florida Mall

8001 S. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando, 407.851.6255 Hours: 10am – 9pm Mon – Sat., 12pm – 6pm Sun. Find fabulous fashion, exceptional eateries, and delightful diversions at Orlando's largest indoor mall. Macy's, Dillard's, Nordstrom, Saks Fifth Avenue, and over 250 specialty stores provide an unparalleled shopping experience. At the intersection of South Orange Blossom Trail and Sand Lake Road.

### Lake Buena Vista Factory Stores

15657 Apopka Vineland Road, Orlando, 407.238.9301 Hours: 10am – 9pm Mon – Sat., 10am – 6pm Sun. Enjoy shopping at one of Orlando's favorite outlet shopping centers! Favorites include: Old Navy, Eddie Bauer Outlet, Nike Factory Store, Gap Outlet, Aeropostale, Carter's, Izod, Oshkosh, Liz Claiborne Outlet, Vanity Fair, Character Outlet, Rawlings, and many more. Check with your hotel guest service desk for information on our FREE SCHEDULED SHOPPING SHUTTLE. I-4, Exit 68, 2 miles south.

### Mall at Millenia

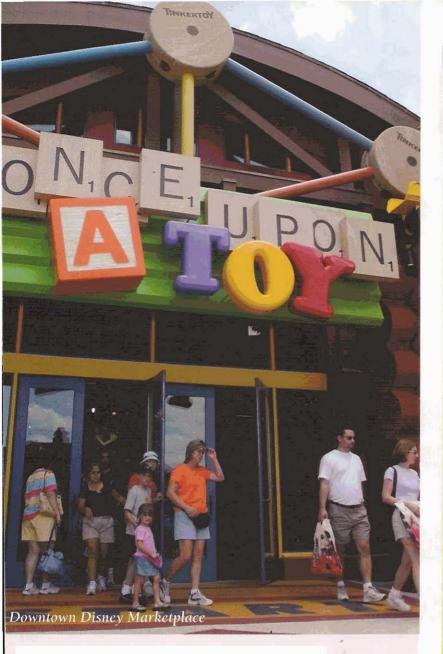
4200 Conroy Road, Orlando, 407.363.3555 Hours: 10am – 9pm Mon – Sat., 12pm – 7pm Sun. Experience the epitome of upscale shopping with anchors Neiman Marcus, Bloomingdale's, and Macy's. This world-class shopping center caters to guests' every need with international stores like Cartier, Gucci, Chanel, Burberry, Louis Vutton, Zara, Lacoste, and L'Occitane as well as retailers Tiffany & Co., Apple and Tommy Bahama's. Off I-4 at exit 78 on Conroy Road.

### Town

5770 W. Highway 192, Kissimmee, 407.396.4888 Hours: Open 10am – 11pm, Daily.

Down these brick-lined streets, you'll find the funky, groovy, and truly unique. Shop for electronics, movie memorabilia, leather, jewelry, gemstones, and the coolest surf gear. Also check out Old Town's General Store and Portrait Gallery along with over 75 specialty shops. On Hwy. 192, 1 mile east of I-4.





### **Orlando Premium Outlets**

8200 Vineland Avenue, Orlando, 407.238.7787

Hours: 10am –11pm Mon – Sat., 10am – 9pm Sun.

Experience Orlando's only true upscale outlet center and feel the thrill of finding the world's finest designer labels for less. This beautiful Mediterranean-inspired village offers a collection of 110 outlets including Burberry, Fendi, Gap, Giorgio Armani, Kenneth Cole, Nike, Polo Ralph Lauren, and Tommy Hilfiger. Off I-4 at exit 68, 1 mile from Disney.

### **Prime Outlets Orlando**

4951 International Drive, Orlando, 407.352.9600 Hours: 10am – 9pm, Mon – Sun.

You'll find over 170 of your favorite designers at Central Florida's largest outlet mall including Hugo Boss Factory Store, Tourneau, Tumi, Converse, Esprit, Neiman Marcus Last Call, Coach Factory, Gap Outlet, Tommy Hilfiger, and Nike Factory Store. With this

savings up to Severy day!

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1-4: Exit 68, 2 miles South on SR 535 \* Kissimmee: Hwy. 192 to SR 535, 1 mile North or • South 417 GreeneWay: Exit 6 to World Center Drive, left SR 535 1/2 mile or • Osceola Parkway: Exit SR 535, 1/2 mile North or • Hotel Plaza Blvd to State Road (SR) 535, right on SR 535-stay on SR 535 for 2 miles.

premier outlet space, shopping in Orlando is about to change forever! Off I-4 at exit 75A, at the north end of International Drive, minutes from Universal Studios.

### Universal CityWalk

in alimes

1000 Universal Studios Plaza, Orlando, 407.363.8000 Hours: Open at 11am Daily

Citywalk has everything from The Universal Studio's Store<sup>®</sup>, with an incredible array of memorabilia and souveniers, to specialty stores like Cigarz at Citywalk. You'll find that special gift that you can't get anywhere else in this high-energy shopping atmosphere. Off I-4 at Universal Orlando Resort.



Falcon's Fire is a Rees Jones signature masterpiece, par-72 championship golf course that has established the standards by which all golf facilities are evaluated. With 18 holes of the most meticulously manicured tees, fairways, and greens, Falcon's Fire truly stands alone at the top of the list of public daily fee facilities. Boasting tournament playing conditions throughout the year, Falcon's Fire is arguably the finest maintained golf facility in Central Florida. The course creates an atmosphere and a level of service and satisfaction that is unparalleled, which earned Falcon's Fire the 4-Star Award by "Golf Digest" magazine.

The 13<sup>th</sup> hole, the signature hole at Falcon's Fire, is a par-4 with over a dozen **bunkers lining one side** of the fairway, and a lake on the other. This hole makes amateurs and pros alike hesitate before selecting a club. The balance of playability with the abundance of challenging holes makes Falcon's Fire a must-play and a favorite **course for players of all calibe**rs.

All guests enjoy complimentary valet parking, club cleaning, and golf carts equipped with GPS navigation. Falcon's Nest offers a relaxing place to tally scores and unwind with appetizers, breakfast, or lunch. Their menu is available from the GPS monitor on every cart, so guests can order during their round and have food delivered to them on the course.

**1993-1997 & 1999-2001, 2003** Host Course – Oldsmobile Scramble National Finals

### 1994-1998

Host Course – Senior PGA Tour Regional Finals

### 1995-1997

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**1996, 1998, 1999, 2004, 2005** "100 Best Golf Shops" "Golf World Business"

### 1997-2005

4-Star Award, Places to Play "Golf Digest"

### 1999

Recognized as one of North America's "Top Ten Golf Tournament Facilities"

### 2000

"Florida's 50 Finest Golf Courses" "Golf and Travel"

### 2001

Voted "Best Public Golf Course in Orlando" by readers of "Orlando Magazine"

### 2006

"Best Public Golf Course in Florida" "Florida Monthly" Located one mile east of Interstate 4 at exit 65, Falcon's Fire is only five minutes from the Walt Disney World Resort® and ten minutes from the Orlando Convention Center. Falcon's Fire is within close proximity to all of Orlando's major hotels, attractions, and the International Airport. Because of its proximity and year-round superior course conditions, Falcon's Fire has become a favorite tournament course for conventions, and has been rated one of the top two courses in Orlando by locals. Falcon's Fire is truly the golf experience you just can't stop talking about!

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OT GOLF

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### Falcon's Fire Golf Club

3200 Seralago Boulevard, Kissimmee www.falconsfire.com 407.239.5445 YBT: 6901 • Par: 72 • Holes: 18 •



**Grande Pines Golf Club** 6351 International Golf Club Road, Orlando www.grandepinesgolfclub.com 407.239.6909 YBT: 7012 • Par: 72 • Holes: 18

### Harmony Golf Preserve

7251 Five Oaks Drive, Harmony www.harmonygolfpreserve.com 407.891.8525 YBT: 7428 • Par: 72 • Holes: 18 Hawk's Landing Golf Club 8701 World Center Drive, Orlando www.golfhawkslanding.com 407.238.8660 YBT: 6602 • Par: 72 • Holes: 18

### Hunter's Creek Golf Course

14401 Sport Club Way, Orlando www.golfhunterscreek.com 407.240.GOLF (4653) YBT: 7432 • Par: 72 • Holes: 18

### **Kissimmee Bay Country Club**

2801 Kissimmee Bay Boulevard, Kissimmee www.kissimmeebaycc.com 407.348.GOLF (4653) YBT: 6846 • Par: 71 • Holes:18

### **Kissimmee Oaks Golf Club**

1500 Oaks Boulevard, Kissimmee www.kissimmeeoaksgolf.com 407.933.4055 YBT: 6886 • Par: 72 • Holes: 18

### MetroWest Golf Club

2100 South Hiawassee Road, Orlando www.metrowestgolf.com 407.299.1099 YB1: 7051 • Par: 72 • Holes:18



Mystic Dunes Golf Club 7850 Shadow Tree Lane, Celebration www.mysticdunesgolf.com 407.787.5678

YBT: 7012 • Par: 71 • Holes: 18

Orange County National Golf Center & Lodge 16301 Phil Ritson Way, Winter Garden www.ocngolf.com 407.656.2626 Panther Lake YBT: 7175 • Par: 72 • Holes: 18 Crooked Cat YBT: 7277 • Par: 72 • Holes: 18

### **Remington Golf Club**

2995 Remington Boulevard Kissimmee www.remington-gc.com 407.344.4004 YBT: 7111 • Par: 72 • Holes: 18

### Ritz-Carlton Golf Club at

**Grande Lakes Orlando** 4040 Central Florida Parkway, Orlando www.grandelakes.com 407.206.2400 YBT: 7122 • Par: 72 • Holes: 18



**Shingle Creek Golf Club** 9939 Universal Boulevard, Orlando www.shinglecreekgolf.com 407.996.9933 YBT: 7228 • Par: 72 • Holes: 18

### Southern Dunes Golf & Country Club

2888 Southern Dunes Boulevard, Haines City www.southerndunes.com 800.632.6400 YBT: 7227 • Par: 72 • Holes: 18

### Walt Disney World Golf

Eagle Pines GC, Lake Buena Vista GC, Magnolia GC, Oak Trail GC, Osprey Ridge GC, Palm GC, Walt Disney World Resort, Lake Buena Vista www.disneyworldgolf.com 407.938.GOLF (4653) Windermere Country Club 2710 Butler Bay Drive, North, Windermere www.windermeregolf.com 407.876.1112 YBT: 6760 • Par: 72 • Holes: 18



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# Travel Light with Owner's Locker

When we first started up Owner's Locker, we thought it was a GREAT idea. But then, we would. Dreaming is the easy part of a start up. The trick is in planning and executing.

But, what if no one else thought it was a good idea?? After all, maybe there's a reason no one has ever offered a service where frequent visitors can store personal items between visits.

We designed it to work like a charm, and poured lots and lots of time and money into behind-the-scenes capabilities.

But would anyone really want it? No amount of research could answer that question. So, we just did it. We launched Owner's Locker and we've never looked back.

And, you know what? People liked it... a lot. Lou Mongello, winner of the best travel podcast in 2007, said, "Traveling as much as I do, it's rare for me to find something that literally changes the way I vacation and travel. I was a skeptic, but when I first saw it, I was hooked... now I can't imagine not having an Owner's Locker. I think the service is invaluable."

Mary Waring, owner of the phenomenally successful site, www.MouseSavers.com, says, "I have to admit, now that I've experienced the Owner's Locker service, I never want to go without it again! It is totally worth the money. The whole experience is easy, seamless and worry-free. Not many things in life are like that!"

And Deb Wills, who runs the highly trusted Disney reference site, AllEars, says, "Owners Locker has made traveling to Orlando so much simpler for me. I no longer have to carry several types of non-perishable medical supplies with me; I can keep them in the locker! I filled my first one so completely, I needed a second one. The professionalism of the Owners Locker team is A+++. Owners Locker is well worth the cost! Why didn't you come up with this idea sooner?"

But the really neat thing is what our Members are doing now that they have a place to store their stuff. They've filled their lockers up with things like these: a vase for fresh flowers; pins for trading; rain ponchos; Cuisinart appliances;

**Owner's** 

special champagne glasses; a flashlight; medical supplies; candles; a bottle of champagne; shampoo; prescription medicine; sheets; Q-tips; a sewing kit; a corkscrew; a water filter; diapers;

> a hair straightener; a computer keyboard; flip flops; pool toys; a crock pot; an espresso machine; batteries; a spare digital camera; park passes; a map of Orlando; a restaurant guide; a game console; kosher dinnerware; DVDs; coffee filters; an air bed; body lotion; diapers......



The Purple Place for Storing Your Vacation Stuff.™



If you're a regular visitor to Orlando, you need to know about a new service called Owner's Locker.

Owner's Locker allows you to store your vacation gear between visits, which means less packing, less hassles, less hauling and less stress!

**Owner's Locker** provides you with a container to store personal items that you regularly use when you're here, such as toiletries, an air bed, a water filter, your favorite liquor—just about anything that makes your stay more pleasant.

**Owner's Locker** picks the container up from your resort when you check out and stores it in a climate-controlled warehouse until you return.

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**Owner's** 

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OT DAY TRIPPIN'

ampa in a Day

By Nikki Naser

So you've done it all before. You've visited the Mouse, fed dolphins and stingrays, seen the movies come to life, and ridden extreme tube rides. What more could Florida have to offer? Your answer lies on the west coast, just an hour's drive away on Interstate 4—the city of Tampa. So load up the kids, your significant other, your friends, or just yourself and start your Tampa adventure!

#### **Action and Adventure**

You know the first stop on any Tampa adventure has to be **Busch Gardens**, where you can visit the countries of Africa. Their newest land, Jungala, features an orangutan habitat with treetop viewing platforms that allow guests to interact with the primates from a specially designed tree house. If you've never been, test your screaming skills on the roller coasters, including the newest—SheiKra—Florida's tallest at 200 feet. Cool off on the Tidal Wave, Stanley Falls, or the Congo River Rapids. If it's wildlife you came to see, take a safari on Rhino Rally or visit the 500 tropical birds from around the globe at the Bird Gardens. For more splashing and relaxing, head next door to Adventure Island, Tampa's 30-acre water park.

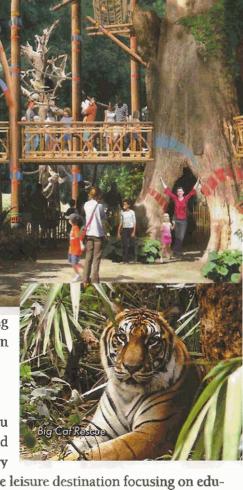
The action continues throughout the night at The Seminole Hard Rock Casino. Take a chance at 150,000

square feet of gaming machines and live action poker.

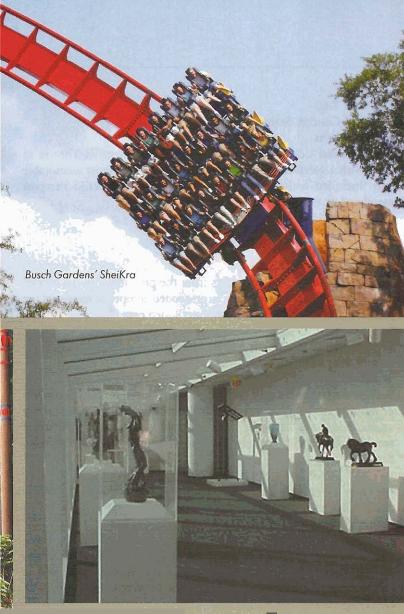
#### **Animal Antics**

Even for those of you who are not confirmed animal lovers, the Lowry

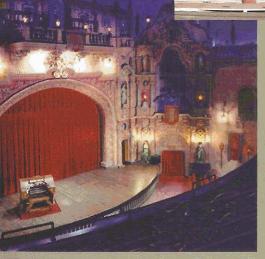
Park Zoo is an affordable leisure destination focusing on education and endangered species conservation. Where else can you snap a shot of rare and endangered animals, pet a goat,



Jungala at Busch Ga



The Terrace Gallery is popular with Tampa Museum visitors because of its location overlooking the scenic Hillsborough River. Day or night, the view and the sculpture are both spectacular.



Ybor City's familiar gated entrance beckons night and day.

YBBR

The Tampa theatre hosts a variety of cultural events in a Mediterranean setting. and visit a manatee hospital all in one place?

Tampa's hidden gem of animal attractions is the **Big** Cat Rescue, the world's largest non-profit accredited sanctuary for big cats and home to over 100 exotic cats, including tigers, lions, leopards, cougars, bobcats, lynx, ocelots and more. See the cats up close on a guided day, night, feeding or private tour.

## **Arts and Culture**

Slow down the pace with Tampa's artistic ventures. The Tampa Museum of Art collection includes 20th century and contemporary art and a renowned collection of Greek and Roman antiquities. A changing special exhibitions program provides a mix of classical and contemporary shows.

In the mood for a classy night out? Get tickets to one of the Tony Award-winning Broadway musicals at the **Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center**—featuring "Jersey Boys," "Avenue Q," and Disney's "The Lion King."

At the Tampa Theatre, audiences are transported to a lush Mediterranean courtyard with a nighttime sky, twinkling stars, a mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Organ, and even gargoyles. The Tampa Theatre is the place for a variety of cultural events, including specialty film, classic movies, concerts, special events, corporate events, weddings, and tours.

### **Fashion and Leisure**

Just minutes from downtown Tampa, Hyde Park Village is the place to go for unique boutiques filled with electronics, clothing, candy, pet items, house wares, toys, and specialty soaps. At the end of the day, you can rest your tired feet at one of the convenient restaurants.

No trip to Tampa is complete without a visit to Ybor City, Tampa's Latin Quarter and one of only two National Historic Landmark Districts in Florida. Ybor was originally a cigar-manufacturing center, but today you can browse the shops, art galleries, and museums or find a variety of cuisine while strolling down the main street. But don't leave when the sun goes down—Ybor comes alive at night with a vast array of nightspots and entertainment.

So now that you know what Tampa has to offer, get out that planner, pick out your favorites and schedule your Tampa adventure!



#### February

February - March Bok in Bloom! Spring Color Historic Bok Sanctuary

Be dazzled by bountiful seasonal blooms as you stroll through the historic gardens. Enjoy the scent of orange blossoms as you wind along the entrance road. Visit our website for a list of flowering plants. Included with general Sanctuary admission. 863.676.1408, BokSanctuary.org

Historia Bok Sanctuary

February – March Irish Thunder Busch Gardens

The spirit of Ireland ignites the stage with a step-dancing spectacular sure to leave audiences breathless. Included with regular park admission or any valid Passport membership. 888.800.5447, BuschGardens.com

February 2, 5, 9, 14, 22 and 26, March 1, 6, 11 and 14 Disney's Pirate and Princess Party Magic Kingdom Park

Become a pirate or a princess in the place where dreams come true! Grab your adventure map and treasure pouch as you embark on a quest through Magic Kingdom Park for chocolate doubloons and royal beads. Immerse yourself in pirate coves and princess courts. If you wish, you can even come to the party dressed in your favorite pirate or princess costume! A separately ticketed event from 7:30pm-12:00am. 407.WDW.AHOY (939.2469), DisneyWorld.com



February 7-10 Big Band Concert Series Busch Gardens

The Big Band Concert Series returns to the Stanleyville Theater in 2008 with a spectacular line-up from one of music's most memorable eras. Included with regular park admission or any valid Passport membership. 888.800.5447, BuschGardens.com

February 15-17 Silver Spurs Rodeo

Silver Spurs Arena, Kissimmee

Greater Orlando attracts cowboys from the pro circuit to the annual Silver Spurs! Witness one of the largest rodeo competitions east of the Mississippi. 407.677.6336, SilverSpursRodeo.com

February 16 & 23, March 1 & 8 Bud & BBQ Fest SeaWorld

SeaWorld fires up the grill and turns up the music for four Saturdays of mouthwatering fun, featuring live performances by top country artists, bodacious barbecue from select U.S. regions and plenty of southern hospitality. Included with daily admission. 407.351.3600, SeaWorld.com

#### February 27 - March 29

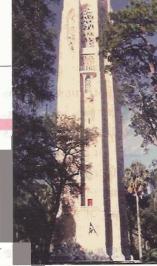
Atlanta Braves Spring Training

Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex

Join the Atlanta Braves for their 11th season of spring training! Following the start of workouts in February, the team settles into Champion Stadium to prepare for the 2008 season with a schedule of "Grapefruit League" games in March. 407.934.7639, DisneySports.com

## Mardi Gras at Universal Studios Saturday Nights February 2 - April 19, 2008 This spring, spend your Saturday nights at the biggest Mardi Gras celebration outside of New Orleans—at Universal Studios. Party-goers of all ages are welcome

outside of New Orleans—at Universal Studios. Party-goers of all ages are welcome as Universal transforms into the Big Easy for the ultimate street party with tons of beads, Cajun cuisine, and live performances by top-name talent. An elaborate Mardi Gras parade features vibrant floats winding around a replica of New Orleans' French Quarter. Watch hundreds of costumed characters and colorful floats, including the traditional Jester, King and Queen and King Gator floats, and a series of themed floats that embody each season. Musicians straight out of New Orleans will be showcasing their hottest music with jazz, zydeco, and blues. After the parade, the party continues with internationally-known performers during the Mardi Gras Concert Series. Taste some authentic Cajun and Creole classics—jambalaya, gumbo and beignets, and sip on party drinks made famous in New Orleans. Mardi Gras tickets are valid after 5pm. For more information, call 407.363.8000 or visit UniversalOrlando.com.



February 29 - March 2

**ESPN** The Weekend

**Disney's Hollywood Studios** 

Put your game face on for the ultimate sports fan's weekend! From star athletes to interactive experiences, there is something for everyone to cheer about. Included with daily admission. 407.934.7639, DisneyWorld.com

#### March

March 13-16, 20-23, 27-30

Real Music Concert Series

#### **Busch Gardens**

A spectacular lineup of swing, pop and rock 'n roll from some of the music's most memorable eras. Included with regular park admission or any valid Passport membership. 888.800.5447, BuschGardens.com

#### March 17

St. Patty's Day Concert

#### Historic Bok Sanctuary

**Come dressed in green**...or in pink, if that's your color! Enjoy the Emerald String Quartet's fiddlers as they strike favorite Irish tunes to make merry on St. Patty's Day! If you know the Irish jig, don't be shy—come on and try! Taste a pre-concert authentic Irish dinner. Limited seating. Cost: \$20; Dinner \$25. 863.734.1221, BokSanctuary.org

#### March 17

Shamrock 'N' Roll

Universal CityWalk

It's Pat O'Brien's biggest St. Patrick's Day party ever, with live rock bands, traditional Irish food, drink specials, leprechauns and more! So wear your green and come celebrate with all your friends at the biggest party in town, 407.363.8000, UniversalOrlando.com

*TRAINING* CAMP SITE

March 25-30 Monty Python's "Spamalot" Bob Carr Performing Arts Centre

Winner of the 2005 Tony Award for Best Musical, Monty Python's "Spamalot" is the outrageous new musical comedy lovingly ripped off from the film classic "Monty Python and The Holy Grail." "Spamalot" tells the tale of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table as they embark on their



Disney's Pirate and Princess Party at the Magic Kingdom

quest for the Holy Grail. 407.839.3900, BroadwayAcrossAmerica.com

March 29, 12-5pm Caribbean Fusion Lakefront Park, Kissimmee

Join the fun for fantastic food, crafts, music, dance, kids' activities and local entertainment, all with a unique Caribbean flair. Music and dance representing the prominent languages (English and French) of the Caribbean islands are highlighted at this event. 407.933.8368, Kissimmee.org

#### April

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#### April 3-4 Nature Quest Wildlife Days Silver Springs

Come and celebrate the Earth at this two-day festival. Activities include environmental display booths, wildlife shows and Earth Day games. Included with daily admission. 352.236.2121, SilverSprings.com

#### April 5-6, 10am-5pm Spring Art Festival Market Street, Celebration

The creations of more than 120 fine artists will be on display. There will be paintings, sculptures, jewelry, photography and other items for sale as well as entertainment, kids' crafts and more for the whole family. Free admission. 407.566.1200, Celebration.Fl.Us

#### April 11

Bacchus Bash 2008 Orlando Premium Outlets Presented by The Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association, this event will feature tasty delights, raffle prizes, including a grand prize, and free admission and parking. 407.313.5000, CFHLA.org





#### April 17-27 Central Florida Fair Central Florida Fairgrounds, Orlando

Visit the fairgrounds for some of the best family fun around! Carnival rides, games, food, live music, animal acts and interactive exhibits add to the merriment at this classic annual event. 407.295.3247, CentralFloridaFair.com

April 23 - May 4 "Wicked"

#### Bob Carr Performing Arts Centre

Orlando Broadway presents the Tony award-winning musical "Wicked." Long before Dorothy drops in, two other girls meet in the land of Oz. How these two grow to become the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good Witch makes for the most spellbinding new musical in years. Tickets: 407.849.2020 or BroadwayAcrossAmerica.com

#### May

#### Weekends in May (Dates TBA)

#### StarWars Weekends

Disney's Hollywood Studios

May The Force be with you as you blast off into the futuristic fun and fantasy of Star Wars. Demonstrate your trivia knowledge, pose for pictures and collect autographs from legendary characters and celebrities. Included with daily admission. 407.824.4321, DisneyWorld.com

May 15-26

Fringe Festival

Loch Haven Park

Orlando International

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showcases hundreds of

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than 80 producers from around the world. From

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the risqué cabaret, lovers

of every kind of theater

will be in heaven. Purchase

of a Fringe button is

required and individual

shows range in admission

OrlandoFringe.org

price.

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407.648.0077,



Star Wars Weekends at Disney's Hollywood Studios

May 28, 1pm & 3pm Memorial Day Concert Historic Bok Sanctuary



Special carillon concerts will honor the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who have given their lives to preserve our freedom. Free with Sanctuary admission. 863.676.1408, BokSanctuary.org

#### May 31 Velvet Sessions at the Hard Rock Hotel<sup>®</sup> Universal Orlando Resort Join the rock n' roll cocktail party that combines creative cocktails with live music from Lou Gramm, former lead singer of Foreigner. Admission is \$25 and includes free drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and warm-up tunes from 6:30-8:30pm. Cash bar and rock music from 8:30 pm on. You must request your invitation online to attend; 21

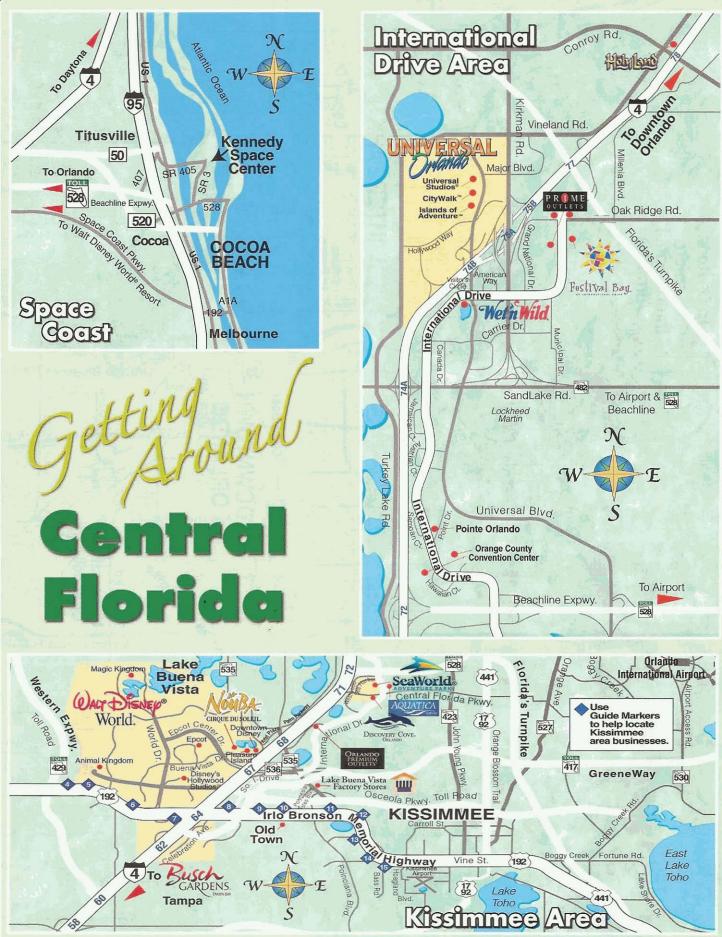


and older event. UniversalOrlando.com

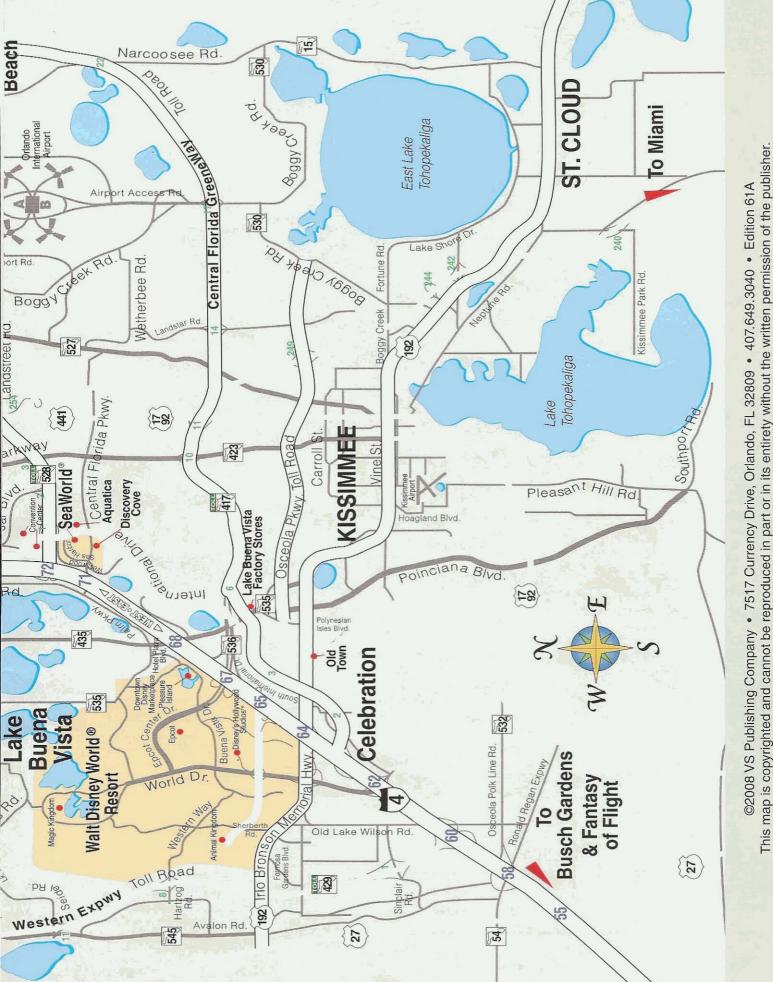
## Epcot's 15th Annual International Flower & Garden Festival

March 19 - June 1

Epcot is bursting into bloom with the 15th annual International Flower & Garden Festival at Walt Disney World Resort. This year's festival expands to a full 75 days with its first-ever March launch, offering oceans of floral fantasy and gardening fun. In all, there will be up to 70 topiaries-plus 30 million blooms, artfully designed floral beds, expertly crafted bonsai trees and lush rose gardens-gracing the 300 acres of Future World and World Showcase. Peter Pan's Neverland Garden, a children's area, will open along Imagination Walkway from Future World to World Showcase. And Minnie's Magnificent Butterfly Garden returns with hundreds of butterflies in a walk-through screened enclosure featuring a live exhibit showing how caterpillars for the state of th a chrysalis and emerge as butterflies. Beyond the dazzling displays of blooms, the Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival is known by gardening aficionados for its celebrity guest speakers, hands-on seminars and innovative planting demonstrations and exhibits such as a new Florida style outdoor living display. Each evening, Flower Power concerts will rock the park with live entertainment from top acts of the 1960s and '70s. For more information, seall 407.WDISNEY (934.7639) of isit DisneyWorld.com/Flower. The Jestival is included in regular Epcot admission.







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Take I-4 to exit 67 and follow signs to Downtown Disney Marketplace.