

ORLANDO

1 MINUTE/1 HOUR/1 DAY GETAWAY

Approximately 25 million people visit Orlando—more than any other place in the entire “vacation” state of Florida. The growth of this world-famous resort town continues to be felt, happily, along with still-preserved and attractive areas of residential districts, replete with recreational parks and beautiful lakes.

1 MINUTE

Lake Eola Park Fountain

Rosalind Ave. & Robinson St. • 407-246-2827

At the center of Lake Eola, in the center of Orlando’s business district, sits its popular floating fountain that glistens in the day and comes alight at night. Relax and enjoy the view under the Asian gazebo, or circle the lake on the mile-long wooden sidewalk.

Dickson Azalea Park

100 Rosearden Dr. • 407-246-2150

Take a minute to savor the shade in this peaceful oasis away from the clamor of the theme parks and downtown. Once a watering hole for cattle, now the park is a quiet, lush beauty year-round.

1 HOUR

Orange Blossom Balloons

Lake Buena Vista • 407-239-7677

Get your bearings high above Orlando with an hour-long, dynamic hot-air balloon flight. Lift-off is early (after 6 a.m.), but you can expect a full breakfast buffet on the ground to round out your time in the sky. Call for exact meeting place.

Ripley’s Believe It or Not Odditorium

8201 International Dr. • 407-363-4418 • ripleysorlando.com

The Orlando area is famous for its many sinkholes—tilting about 10° to its side, the museum appears to be sinking into one of them. After you’re greeted by Ripley’s “ghost,” you’ll find such bizarre exhibits as a 3/4-scale 1907 Rolls Royce made with matchsticks, historical torture devices and a two-headed kitten.

Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art

445 N. Park Ave., Winter Park • 407-645-5311 • morsemuseum.org

A few minutes away from downtown Orlando is the world’s largest collection of Tiffany glass, including a stunning stained glass chapel built in 1893.

1 HOUR (CON’T)

Altamonte Mall

451 E. Altamonte Dr., Altamonte Springs • 407-830-4422

Need a shopping fix? Located just north of Orlando, the Altamonte Mall boasts 160 stores, like Macy’s, White House Black Market, Banana Republic and more, along with 15 restaurants and 18 movie screens.

Orlando Science Center

777 E. Princeton St. • 407-514-2000

Here’s where to go for hands-on science fun. This modern science museum offers interactive exhibits, an IMAX theater and a planetarium. Check out the Body Zone, where you’ll wear 3-D glasses and take a truly fantastic voyage through the circulatory system, check out the fossils in DinoDigs Animal Kingdom or cry “Eureka!” as you play scientist in Dr. Dare’s Laboratory.

1 DAY

Kennedy Space Center

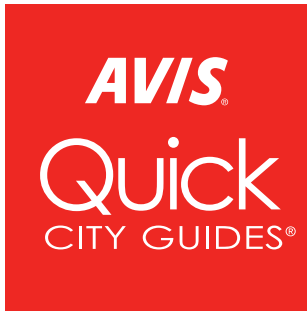
State Road 405 • 321-449-4444

Head 45 minutes east to the Cape to get up close to the heart of our nation’s space program. Climb into replicas in the Rocket Garden, experience a simulated Apollo 8 mission, see space in 3-D on a 5-story IMAX screen and take a driving tour of the shuttle launch area.

Silver Springs

S.R. 40 (exit 352 East off I-75 or exit 268 West off I-95)

Located 90 miles north of Orlando, this a 350-acre nature theme park surrounds the headwaters of the beautiful Silver River, the world’s largest artesian spring formation. Take a glass-bottom boat ride to see fish, turtles and alligators in water that’s up to 80 feet deep and 99.8% pure. Afterward, you can see a show or explore the habitats of Florida’s alligators, endangered bears and panthers.



ORLANDO

GOURMET DINING AND LOCAL FAVORITES

GOURMET DINING

Roy's

Chef Roy Yamaguchi calls his cuisine "Hawaiian Fusion," but among the tropical décor, you'll find a world of influences, from the specialty misoyaki butterfish to the melting hot chocolate soufflé.

7760 W. Sand Lake Rd. • 407-352-4844

Antonio's Ristorante

Step into an authentic Tuscan villa with a visit to Antonio's. The cuisine is a mixture of Italy's distinct and varied regional flavors, the view is of the fountain plaza below and the service is thorough and attentive.

The Fountains Plaza, 7559 W. Sand Lake Rd. • 407-363-9191

Del Frisco's Prime Steak & Lobster

Set in a warm, private club atmosphere, Del Frisco's serves what many consider are the best steaks in town as well as cold-water Australian lobster tails. A nightly piano lounge begins at 8 p.m.

729 Lee Rd. • 407-645-4443

Manuel's on the 28th

Floor-to-ceiling windows frame dining at its finest on the 28th floor of the Bank of America building. Over eclectic dishes, like the miso marinated Chilean sea bass, you'll get a sprawling view from downtown to the theme parks in a jacket-and-tie setting.

390 N. Orange Ave. • 407-246-6580

Victoria & Albert's

As Walt Disney World's finest dining experience, V & A's extravagant ambiance of marble and crystal is the backdrop for a memorable meal. You'll have your own butler and maid on-hand to serve delicacies from the constantly changing prix-fixe menu.

Disney's Grand Floridian Beach Resort • 407-939-3463

LOCAL FAVORITES

Jockamo's

If you could somehow capture the essence of New Orleans and turn it into a small eatery, you'd have Jockamo's. Everything is authentic, from the décor (beads, Mardi Gras masks) to the affordable food (muffulettas, po boys).

3042 W. Sand Lake Rd. • 407-226-2848

Le Peep

In a town with so much tourism, local hangouts are cherished, and Le Peep may be near the top of the list. Open for breakfast and lunch, the diner serves up American standards and not-so-standards that keep locals loyal.

4666 S. Kirkman Rd. • 407-291-4580

Flying Fish Café

Located just outside Disney, the Flying Fish offers healthful, inspired seafood in a stylish and sophisticated undersea-themed atmosphere. Entrees include potato-wrapped Florida red snapper with leek fondue and plump crab cakes with slaw and ancho-chili rémoulade. Not a seafood person? Perhaps one of the café's sizzling oak-grilled steaks will hook you.

Disney Boardwalk:

2102 N. Epcot Resorts Blvd., Lake Buena Vista • 407-939-3463

Bravissimo Italian Café

Nestled in Thorton Park, this neighborhood favorite makes a terrific casual meal option. You'll find simple Italian fare and a wine list that boasts over 90 different wines. Expect hearty pastas, pizzas, chicken and more. Reservations recommended, especially on weekends.

337 N. Shine Ave. • 407-898-7333

Seasons 52

No dish here has more than 475 calories, but the fresh ingredients and natural cooking methods will make you believe you're indulging. You'll find pizza-style flatbreads, duck salad with greens, jicama and sesame dressing and caramelized sea scallops with roasted asparagus and pearl pasta. You'll have plenty of room left for their Mini Indulgences: guiltlessly small portions of tempters like strawberry mango cheesecake or Key lime pie.

7600 W. Sand Lake Rd. • 407-354-5212