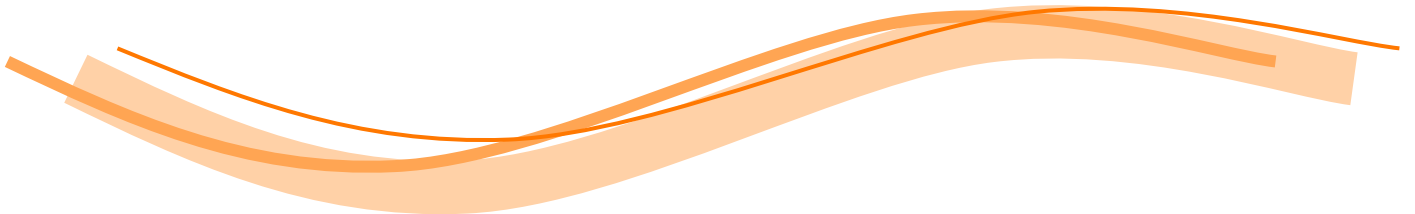




ORLANDO





DESTINATION INFO	<p>ORLANDO</p> <p>It's a trip where memories of time spent with your family never fade, and where you start planning your next visit before you even get back home. An Orlando vacation with your family will leave a lasting impression on all of you.</p> <p>Of course, Orlando's world-famous theme parks and attractions are a must-see. And with the year-round warm weather and the incredible value of the Canadian dollar, an Orlando vacation makes more sense now than ever.</p> <p>Start planning your Orlando vacation today - just think of it as the perfect opportunity to get closer to the ones you love the most. Learn more at www.orlandoinfo.com/canada and say YES to an Orlando vacation.</p> <p>And check out the great packages and great prices on Orlando vacations available from itravel2000 at www.itravel2000.com . itravel2000 is Canada's largest independent travel company offering flights, accommodations, package vacations, cruises and more to destinations throughout the Caribbean, Mexico, North America and around the world.</p>
Location	<p>At the approximate geographic center of the state of Florida in the U.S.A., the three-county Orlando area consists of 2,856 square miles making it the approximate size of Austin, Texas or Stockholm, Sweden. Orlando is situated approximately 150 miles from the Florida/Georgia border to the north, 50 miles from the Atlantic Coast to the east, 75 miles from the Gulf Coast to the west, and 370 miles from the Florida Keys at the southern tip of the state.</p>
Geography	<p>The region Orlando occupies is generally low-lying, the only exception being minor sand hills formed by wave action in earlier geological eras when sea level was higher. Orlando is rivaled only by the Twin Cities in the number of natural lakes to be found in its metropolitan area. The Orlando area is home to more than 100 lakes.</p>
Name	<p>The real namesake was a man named Orlando Rees, who operated a sugar mill and plantation about thirty miles north of the modern city; An alternative explanation for the name is a founders of the city was enamored with Shakespeare, and named the city for the hero of As You Like It. Rosalind Avenue runs though downtown, as Rosalind ran through Orlando's heart.</p>
Population	<p>The population of Metro Orlando is approximately 1.8 million. Metro Orlando consists of Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Lake counties. The population of Orange County is approximately 1 million</p>
Language	<p>English</p>
Currency	<p>US Dollars; the current exchange rate at 17 October 2008 is 84 cents US to the Canadian Dollar</p>

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Tipping	The custom of tipping is a common practice in Orlando: 15% to 20% for waiters; 10% to 15% for taxi drivers; \$1 per bag for bellmen. Occasionally gratuities are automatically added to restaurant checks, but not usually.
Dress	Clothing styles in Orlando are as varied as any other major city in the world. Styles of dress ranging from comfortable and casual to elegant and stylish will be seen in all parts of the city. Air conditioning is a way of life during Orlando summers, making all clothing comfortable indoors.
Documentation	Passports are now required for Canadian visitors arriving by air; currently Canadians only require a birth certificate and drivers license if driving across the border, but a Passport is still strongly recommended and will become mandatory in June 2009
Time zone	Eastern Standard Time, same as Toronto
Health	Excellent services available but ensure that you have travelers health insurance as health costs in the US can be very high
Safety tips	Orlando is relatively safe for the tourist. One should use the same precautions as when traveling anywhere - try not to travel alone and avoid deserted areas at night

CLIMATE	
General climate	Orlando has a warm and humid subtropical climate, and there are two major seasons each year. One of those seasons is hot and rainy, lasting from April until October (roughly coinciding with the Atlantic hurricane season). The other is a cooler season (November through March) that brings more moderate temperatures and less frequent rainfall. October - May Average Daily Temperatures Days - Low 70s F (22 C) to mid 80s F (27 C) Nights - Low 60s F (16 C) to high 60s F (20 C) June - September Average Daily Temperatures Days - Upper 80s F (27 C) to mid 90s F (32 C) Nights - Upper 60s F (20 C) to mid 70s F (25 C)
Today's weather	28 degrees Centigrade with sun and clouds (18 October 2008)
Best time to visit	Certain periods of the year are busier than others in terms of visitation to Orlando. The December holiday season as well as the traditional spring break vacation period (March and April, especially around Easter weekend) and summer vacation periods acquire the highest visitation numbers. In addition, various conventions and trade shows come to Orlando each year and may limit hotel space. The best travel times are February or September-November.

GETTING THERE	
Flying time	Flight time to Orlando from Toronto is around 2 hours 40 mins

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Airport	For two consecutive years, Orlando International Airport was named by the International Air Transport Association survey as the number one airport in North America and number one in the world for overall passenger satisfaction for airports serving more than 30 million passengers annually.
Distances	Cocoa Beach via the 528 Beeline Expressway is approximately 1 hour from the Orlando attractions area
Trolleys	I-Ride Trolleys are the fun way to get around International Drive. Symbolizing its role as a true destination, the International Drive Resort Area offers its guests a certain amenity with all the bells and whistles: the exclusive, convenient, and economical I-RIDE Trolley Service. Single fare is just .75. Kids under age 12 ride free. Just hop on board an I-RIDE Trolley. Hours 8 a.m. - 10:30 p.m. daily.
Trains	Amtrak serves Orlando with two daily trains originating from New York and Miami with stops in downtown Orlando, Winter Park, Sanford and Kissimmee, as well as with a triweekly train originating from Los Angeles. Amtrak also offers its popular Auto Train, which transports passengers and their vehicles and features the comfort of bi-level Superliner sleepers, a diner and a lounge. The Auto Train runs daily between Lorton, Va., and Sanford, leaving each town at 4 p.m. and arriving at the destination at 8:30 a.m. the next morning.
Car Rental	Car rental is easy at the airport and downtown locations with all major companies represented. Because of the competition for customers, the car rental rates are among the lowest in the world. Those who rent a car while in Orlando will find excellent signage that makes it easy to navigate throughout the area as well as friendly rental agents who will provide detailed maps that will guide you to your destination. Major highway networks provide easy access for visitors to reach their destination and for traveling in and around the Greater Orlando area. Major highways include Interstate 4, the Florida Turnpike, Highway 528 (Bee Line Expressway), Highway 408 (East-West Expressway) and Highway 417 (Central Florida Greenway).
Buses and More	Besides taxi and limousine service to anywhere in the Greater Orlando area, the city's Lynx bus system provides economical public transportation around Orlando. Bus stops are marked with a 'paw' print of a Lynx cat. The downtown Orlando Lymmo bus system provides free transit reaching from the T.D. Waterhouse Centre to City Hall. The 11 Lymmo stations are designated by kiosks and the eight Lymmo stops are indicated by a small sign. Returning to the horse-and-buggy days, carriage rides are also available through local vendors in downtown Orlando.
Passes	The Orlando CVB offers the Orlando Preferred Visitor Magicard , a year-round money-saving discount card that allows visitors to save up to \$500. The card is valid at 105 area establishments including

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	attractions, accommodations, restaurants, dinner theaters, ground transportation, golf courses, shopping malls, eco-tourism and cultural arts. Visitors can conveniently download the card at www.orlandoinfo.com/magicard .
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ACCOMMODATION TYPES	The greater Orlando area contains approximately 450 hotels and 112,000 hotel guestrooms. There are also more than 26,000 vacation home rentals available and more than 16,000 vacation ownership units
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LIFESTYLE GROUPS	
Kids	This is THE Kid's Destination on Planet Earth! Nowhere else in the world will you find seven incredible theme parks, three water parks, and more than 80 other attractions offering astronauts to zoos and everything in-between. You would need to stay for 67 days just to experience all of Orlando's attractions!
Teens	A concert at House of Blues or Hard Rock Live could be just the ticket to keep teens happy during their visit. And dinner at Race Rock Supercharged Restaurant, NASCAR Café at Universal Studios CityWalk, Sharks Underwater Grill inside SeaWorld Orlando, Planet Hollywood or Rainforest Café is a treat they won't forget. There are no less than five major water parks in the area:- -Adventure Island 813-987-5660 www.adventureisland.com 10001 Malcolm McKinley Drive Tampa, FL 33612 -Aquatica - SeaWorld's Water Park NEW! 407-363-2280 www.seaworldaquatica.com 10303 International Drive Orlando, FL 32821 -Disney's Blizzard Beach Water Park 407-824-4321 www.disneyworld.com Post Office Box 10,000 Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830-1000 -Disney's Typhoon Lagoon Water Park 407-824-4321 www.disneyworld.com Post Office Box 10,000 Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830-1000 -Wet 'n Wild - Orlando 407-351-1800 www.wetwildorlando.com 6200 International Drive Orlando, FL 32819 Newly opened this year: The Simpsons Ride at Universal Studios!
Disabled Travellers	An Orlando vacation offers lots to explore for all members of your travel party. Guests with mobility disabilities will find our more than 500 hotels, 99 attractions and many recreational opportunities specially equipped to ensure their comfort and ease of access. Accommodations Hotels and motels are required by law to have special rooms equipped for wheelchairs, with hand rails and wider doorways. Please mention

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	<p>your special needs when making your reservations</p> <p>The Able Trust, is a public-private partnership foundation established by the Florida Legislature in 1990. Through its Web site, you can find listings of additional service providers: http://www.abletrust.org/links/agency_listings_CF.shtml The Society for Accessible Travel & Hospitality (SATH) provides information on traveling with a variety of special needs.</p>
Honeymoons & Weddings	<p>Known for years as a haven for honeymooners, Orlando has emerged as a premier wedding destination. From the simple to the elegant, from the intimate to the grandiose, Orlando provides a host of unforgettable wedding settings just right for the bride and groom's special day. While the area offers a bouquet of traditional wedding options, Orlando exceeds the extraordinary with a number of unique backdrops to say "I do." Among the stunning venues are the lush Harry P. Leu Gardens, the intimate Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens, the magical Cinderella's Castle at Disney's Magic Kingdom, the Rivership Romance river boat and the creative "Weddings at the Shack" at Orlando Harley-Davidson.</p>
Family Reunions	<p>For a reunion that's miles apart from last year's gathering in Aunt Edna's backyard, celebrate your special event at one of Orlando's spectacular theme parks. Walt Disney World Resort, Universal Orlando Resort, SeaWorld Orlando and Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex all offer discounted tickets for groups as well as special services such as catering, event and banquet space and assistance in event planning. Some parks even offer exclusive tours for groups. When it comes to planning your Orlando reunion, the possibilities are as limitless as your imagination.</p> <p>Walt Disney World Resort is celebrating multi-family and multi-household vacations with a special designation called Magical Gatherings. Disney offers free software on its Web site, to help families create invitations for their special gathering, chat online with other members of their travel party, create custom polls and cast votes on activities.</p>
Seniors	<p>Mature travelers, snowbirds, seniors, grandparents and the young-at-heart - Orlando offers numerous discounts to help you make the most of your visit. Search the offers at http://www.orlandoinfo.com/seniors for great deals on accommodations, attractions, cultural activities, dining and transportation.</p>

UNIQUES	
Surprising	<p>The world's most comprehensive collection of works by Louis Comfort Tiffany are on display year-round at The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art in Winter Park</p>
History	<p>During the Second Seminole War, the U.S. Army established an outpost</p>

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	<p>at Fort Gatlin, a few miles south of the modern downtown, in 1838. But it was quickly abandoned when the war came to an end.</p> <p>Prior to being known as its current name, Orlando was known as Jernigan, after the first permanent settler, cattleman Aaron Jernigan, who acquired land along Lake Holden by the terms of the Armed Occupation Act of 1842. But most pioneers did not arrive until after the Third Seminole War in the 1850s. Most of the early residents made their living by cattle ranching.</p> <p>Orlando remained a rural backwater during the American Civil War, and suffered greatly during the Federal Blockade. The Reconstruction Era brought a population explosion, which led to the city's incorporation in 1875.</p> <p>The period from 1875 to 1895 is remembered as Orlando's "Gilded Era," when it became the hub of Florida's citrus industry. But a great freeze in 1894-1895 forced many owners to give up their independent groves, thus consolidating holdings in the hands of a few "citrus barons" which shifted operations south, primarily around Lake Wales in Polk County.</p> <p>Perhaps the most critical event for Orlando's economy occurred in 1965 when Walt Disney announced plans to build Walt Disney World. Although Disney had considered the cities of Miami and Tampa for his park, one of the major reasons behind his decision not to locate in those cities was the threat of hurricanes. The famous vacation resort opened in October 1971, ushering in an explosive population and economic growth for the Orlando metropolitan area, which now encompasses Orange, Seminole, Osceola, and Lake counties. As a result, tourism became the centerpiece of the area's economy and Orlando is consistently ranked as one of the top vacation destinations in the world.</p>
Books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Frommer's Florida 2009 - "Florida, eh?" By Isobel Warren and Milan Chvostek - "Places to go with children in Orlando and Central Florida", by Deborah Ann Johnson and Cheryl Lani Juarez
New this Year	<p>Orlando's world-renowned theme parks have added a variety of new entertainment experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SeaWorld Orlando debuts three family rides, a new live show based on the popular Sesame Street character, Elmo, and a new Shamu show, "Shamu Rocks;" - Universal Orlando Resort presents the world-renowned Blue Man Group and the major new feature: "Aquatica" - and Walt Disney World has extended its "Year of a Million Dreams" Celebration. - Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex has opened the highly anticipated "Shuttle Launch Experience," a \$60 million attraction engaging riders in a realistic launch simulation designed by NASA and

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	astronauts.
Must Sees	<p>At Discovery Cove, guests have the exciting opportunity to swim with dolphins, snorkel among thousands of tropical fish and rays, hand-feed exotic birds and relax on pristine beaches. Discovery Cove is an all-inclusive adventure featuring animal interactions and first-class amenities such as light continental breakfast, freshly-prepared lunch, plus snacks and beverages throughout the day, as well as wetsuits, snorkels, towels, lounge chairs, sunscreen and a 7-day pass to either SeaWorld Orlando or Busch Gardens Tampa Bay.</p> <p>Twilight Discovery offers guests a unique way to experience Discovery Cove. This all-inclusive summer evening package brings the intimacy of Discovery Cove to an extraordinary level for 150 people a night. Twilight Discovery features sunset animal interactions, sumptuous island feasts and live Caribbean-style entertainment in a tropical setting.</p> <p>Guests of all ages are welcomed at Discovery Cove. To swim with the dolphins, however, guests must be at least 6 years old. This policy was established to ensure the cognitive and physical stature of the child. These factors are taken into consideration to ensure children are able to interact in a group social setting, accept instructions, and understand the trainer. Also, the physical size of the child is taken into account since he/she will be in water that is approximately 3 feet deep with large, powerful animals.</p> <p>Since Discovery Cove limits attendance to only 1,000 guests per day, it is highly recommended you make a reservation for your visit. Also, if you are planning on visiting during the summer or near a holiday, you should book your reservation at least two months prior to your intended visit to ensure availability as these timeframes tend to book early.</p> <p>The admission packages to Discovery Cove are all-inclusive products. Admission includes the use of lockers, wetsuit, towels and mask during your stay, free parking, shower amenities, souvenir snorkel, complimentary entry photo, continental breakfast, lunch, all drinks and snacks, access to the Aviary, Coral Reef, Ray Lagoon, Resort Pool, Tropical River, a 7-consecutive day pass to either SeaWorld Orlando or Busch Gardens Tampa, and the dolphin interaction.</p> <p>Discovery Cove , 6000 Discovery Cove Way, Orlando, FL 32821 www.discoverycove.com Tel: 407-370-1280 · 877-434-7268</p>

SPORTS ACTIVITIES	<p>Orlando is home to the Orlando Magic, an NBA pro basketball franchise that plays at the TD Waterhouse Centre in downtown Orlando. Sport lovers will enjoy the 176 golf courses, 800 tennis courts and 2,000 lakes for swimming, fishing, boating and water skiing.</p>
Golf	With 176 golf courses in the area - many designed by legendary

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	<p>course architects and pro golfers like Jack Nicklaus, Greg Norman, Arnold Palmer, Tom Watson and Robert Trent Jones - those who love the game will have no problem finding a challenging and enjoyable course immersed in Florida's natural beauty. If one of these championship courses proves a little too intimidating, Orlando also offers several miniature golf options.</p>
Fishing	<p>Anglers recognize the Greater Orlando area's 300 named lakes, rivers and springs as some of the best freshwater fishing in the world, particularly for largemouth bass. Those who prefer saltwater fishing can cast their lines from piers, from the shore or from deep-sea fishing boats in the East Coast waters within an hour's drive, or in the West Coast waters, only two hours away. Several fish camps and guides are available to help visitors navigate the local waters.</p>
Adventure Activities	<p>Orlando's Unique Extreme Adventures: Orlando is a virtual endless summer of outdoor fun - in the water, on land or in the air. With more than 2,000 lakes, springs and rivers, Orlando offers unlimited boating, canoeing, tubing, jet-skiing and water-skiing opportunities. Numerous ecotours offer an insider's look at natural Florida, from cruises through the headwaters of the Everglades to bird- and gator-spotting excursions. For more adrenaline-pumping activities, visitors can get behind the wheel of a 600-horse-power Nextel Cup race car at the Richard Petty Driving Experience, skydive indoors at SkyVenture Orlando, enjoy a breathtaking sunrise hot air balloon ride, or hang glide at Wallaby Ranch Hang Gliding Flight Park, the first year-round hang gliding flight park in the world. Adventure enthusiasts can also get up-close and personal with the sea's perfect predators during a Sharks Deep Dive Experience at SeaWorld Orlando.</p>
Hiking	<p>21 fitness trails for biking, walking or blading</p>
Cycling	<p>You can tour Orlando by bike: the West Orange Trail provides 30.5 kilometers of paved trails for biking, in-line skating or walking near beautiful Lake Apopka. Rental skates and bikes are available through West Orange Trail Bikes & Blades Co</p>
Horseback Riding	<p>If you've always had a hankering for the Wild West, try horseback riding through Westgate River Ranch's 1,700 acres (688 hectares) of protected wildlife reserve. Westgate offers an authentic ranch experience with Western-style lodging, nature hikes, fishing, boating, trap and skeet shooting, line dancing at its very own saloon and even a weekly cowboy rodeo.</p>
CULTURE	<p>The Orlando Metropolitan Area is home to a substantial theatre population, as well. Several professional and semi-professional houses and many community theatres dot the area including Orlando-UCF Shakespeare Festival, Orlando Repertory Theatre, Mad Cow Theatre, Theatre Downtown, The Osceola Center for the Arts, Winter Park</p>

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	Playhouse, Theatre Winter Haven, and Seaside Music Theatre. In addition, the Bob Carr Performing Arts Center brings national tours through town on a regular basis. Each spring, local theatres and downtown venues play host to the Orlando International Fringe Festival,
Arts	Orlando Museum of Art: Permanent collections of American, African and ancient American art, as well as prestigious touring exhibitions in a picturesque park setting. Family discovery centers, Museum shop and free parking. Open Tues.-Sat. 10 am-4 pm, Sun. Noon-4 pm.
Music	The Orlando Opera, Orlando Ballet, Orlando-UCF Shakespeare Festival, Bach Festival Society, The Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra
Museums	Marvel at Tiffany glass at The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art.
Festivals	SEP 26, 2008 - NOV 09, 2008 Epcot International Food & Wine Festival at Walt Disney World's Epcot NOV 05, 2008 - NOV 09, 2008 Orlando Film Festival in Downtown Orlando

ATTRACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arboretum of the University of Central Florida • Blue Spring State Park, which is the winter home of large numbers of Florida manatees that come upstream from the St. Johns River to bask in the warm 72 °F (22 °C) waters of the springs. Canoeing, swimming and fishing are popular activities at Blue Springs. • Central Florida Zoological Park, located in Sanford on Lake Monroe. This 100 acre (400,000 m²) zoo is home to a butterfly garden, herpetarium, and numerous tropical animals. The zoo originally started as a collection in the Sanford Fire Department, but grew into a regional zoo in 1975. It is currently in the planning stages of expansion and renaming the facility to "Zoo Orlando at Sanford". • Church Street Station, a multi-level shopping mall and entertainment center that once featured an abundance of specialty shops, restaurants, nightclubs, and bars. Purchased in the late 1990s by TransContinental Talent owner Lou Pearlman, it is now virtually defunct, as the area suffered in post-9/11 tourist-industry slump. The area is being redeveloped with residential condominiums. • Cirque du Soleil: La Nouba, in Downtown Disney West Side, features its renowned blend of acrobatics and special effects with more than 70 artists from around the globe performing in a custom-designed, 1,671-seat theater. • Cornell Fine Arts Museum, situated on the campus of Rollins College, features significant loans, recent acquisitions, and items from the Cornell's renowned permanent collection. Admission is free. • Discovery Cove, a resort that is part of the SeaWorld Adventure Park complex. Some attraction features are tropical fish in a coral reef, snorkeling with stingrays, and interacting with birds in an aviary, as well
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as swimming and playing with dolphins during a half-hour session.

- **Gatorland** houses thousands of alligators and crocodiles. A few of Gatorland's residents have made wrangling appearances in movies, television shows and commercial spots. The 54 year old park combines a petting zoo, bird sanctuary, mini-water park, eco-tour and outdoor entertainment, including daily alligator wrestling.
- **Hard Rock Café** is the Orlando location of the famed restaurant chain with the typical HRC music memorabilia. There is also Hard Rock Live, a 3,000-capacity live music venue, and the Hard Rock Hotel, a resort hotel with a California-style restaurant called "The Kitchen". It is one of eight worldwide, and one of three in Florida. (Miami and Tampa are the other two.)
- **International Trolley and Train Museum** features 14 model railroad trains with sound and lighting traveling through an indoor garden with 12 foot (4 m) high mountains, waterfalls, and more than 30 trestles and tunnels. Also on display are toy trains from the 1920s to the present. Visitors can catch a ride in a California Victorian-style half open/half closed trolley or the 5/8 replica of an 1880 locomotive (a Mason Bogey) with its passenger cars.
- **Kennedy Space Center** is 45 minutes from Orlando and south of Daytona Beach. Visitors can tour launch areas, see giant rockets, "train" in spaceflight simulators, and much more. Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex is open every day except Christmas Day and certain launch days. Apart from the Astronaut Hall of Fame, Space Center bus tours run every 15 minutes with stops at an observation gantry and the Apollo / Saturn V Center. Other guided tours include NASA Up Close, Cape Canaveral: Then and Now, and Lunch With An Astronaut. Combo tickets offer maximum access admission, plus one guided tour.
- **The Kerouac House**, in the College Park neighborhood of Orlando, is where writer Jack Kerouac lived during the time his novel *On the Road* was published and released, making him a national sensation and Beat Generation icon. He lived in the house with his mother Gabrielle from July 1957 to the spring of 1958, and wrote his three-act play, *The Beat Generation*, a 51-chorus poem called *Orlanda Blues*, and the novel *The Dharma Bums* during his time there. In 1997, the Kerouac Project of Orlando formed, and restored the Kerouac house. It is now a haven for aspiring writers who can live in the house as they create their own work.
- **The World's Largest McDonald's PlayPlace**, located on the corner of Sand Lake Road and International Drive, looks like a fry box from the exterior. The interior features an arcade with 60+ games with prize redemption, a 1950s room, a waterfall and a gift shop. The *Bistro Gourmet* at McDonald's features chef-prepared food, such as panini

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and deli sandwiches, pasta, soup, desserts, and hand-dipped ice cream, plus the standard McDonald's menu.

- **The Morse Museum of American Art**, located at Rollins College, houses a permanent Tiffany & Co. exhibit featuring the world's "most comprehensive" collection of the works of Louis Comfort Tiffany. It includes Tiffany art glass, jewelry, pottery, and the chapel interior designed for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. There is also an exhibit on the Tiffany home, and American paintings from the 19th century. The museum was founded in 1942.
- **Old Town**, in Kissimmee, features eight restaurants, fifteen amusement park rides and 75 shops along its brick-lined streets. Classic car shows every Friday and Saturday feature hundreds of vintage automobiles. Admission and parking are free.
- **The Orange County Regional History Center** Features exhibits and artifacts from the earliest days of the region to the modern day. Includes information on everything from the time of the Seminole Indians to the founding of the city to the Civil Rights era to the Disney period to today.
- **The Orlando Museum of Art**, which has ongoing exhibitions of American portraits and landscapes, American impressionist works, and art of the ancient Americas.
- **The Orlando Science Center**, is a 207,000 square foot (19,000 m²) hands-on learning center with hundreds of interactive exhibits for visitors of all ages. Images surround visitors on the giant screen of the Dr. Phillips CineDome. Other attractions include the Body Zone, teaching health and fitness, as well as an observatory. The center has the largest refracting telescope in Florida.
- **The Ripley's Believe It or Not!** Orlando Odditorium is located in a building artfully constructed to appear as if it were collapsing to one side, which may be a sly reference to central Florida's infamous sinkholes. Visitors can explore bizarre artifacts, strange collections, weird art/hobbies and interactive exhibits in sixteen odd galleries. It is one of 27 Ripley museums in ten countries.
- **Wonder Works** A funhouse located on International Drive. Can be easily identified as an upside down white building.
- **Wekiwa Springs State Park**, which comprises around 7,000 acres (28.3 km²) of wild Florida. The springs pump out 42 million gallons of crystal clear water a day. Popular activities at the park include canoeing, swimming, picnicking and fishing.
- **World of Orchids**, featuring thousands of blooms in an enclosed tropical rainforest. World of Orchids is a working greenhouse shipping orchids and other plants nationwide. A greenhouse covers nearly an acre (4,000 m²), and in this controlled climate of warm, humid air some 1,000 orchids are displayed in a natural jungle setting, with streams,

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	<p>waterfalls, and squawking parrots. World of Orchids also has a 1,000 foot (300 m) long boardwalk meandering off into nearby wetlands. Admission is free.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wet n' Wild A large waterpark located just minutes from Universal Studios on International Drive
Beaches	St Petersburg/Clearwater on the Gulf Coast is known as Orlando's Beach and is a two hour drive away. Here you will find some of the finest beaches anywhere in the US and they have been consistently rated as the best in the US
Wildlife	Manatees, alligators, Disney's Animal Kingdom
Parks	Cypress Gardens Adventure Park, an amusement park opened in 1936. This park features beautiful botanical gardens, 40 rides, 5 roller coasters and a water park. But it is most famous for its lovely southern belles and world-renowned Ski Shows.
Gardens	Harry P. Leu Gardens, which is an inner city oasis covering 50 acres (20,000 m ²) and features colorful annuals, palms, an orchid house, a floral clock and a butterfly garden.

OTHER ACTIVITIES	
Shopping	<p>Shopping is a thrill ride of its own in Central Florida, where a wealth of fashion-forward stores, boutiques, and outlets are a gold mine for visitors. Considered Central Florida's signature shopping street, Park Avenue in Winter Park offers shoppers several blocks of trendy boutiques and brand-name stores. The exclusive The Mall at Millenia, anchored by Neiman Marcus and Bloomingdale's, is home to such high-end stores as Dior, Jimmy Choo, Louis Vuitton, Chanel, St. John and Cartier. The Florida Mall, Central Florida's largest shopping destination, rounds out the high-end department store offerings with Saks Fifth Avenue and Nordstrom. Orlando Premium Outlets and Prime Outlets Orlando provide even more exposure to designer merchandise, this time at discount prices, with stores like Barney's Outlet and Neiman Marcus Last Call, respectively.</p>
Markets	Great farmers markets and flea markets in the area
Nightlife	Nightlife consists of ultra-hip bars, high-energy dance clubs, happening game spots, multi-venue entertainment complexes, comedy clubs and plenty of venues filled with live music located from Downtown Orlando to the attractions area.
Casinos	A Sterling Casino Cruise aboard the world's largest gaming ship is a sure bet for fun-twice daily free cruises depart from nearby Cape Canaveral. Those without their sea legs can make a two-hour drive to the Seminole Hard Rock Casino in Tampa.

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CUISINE	
Food	There are more than 5,300 restaurants in the area with continental and ethnic cuisine in unique settings including upscale and fine dining. You name your dining theme and you can find it in Orlando!
Wine	Lakeridge Winery & Vineyards: Free guided winery tour and wine tasting at Florida's largest award-winning winery. Gift shop, picnic area, festivals and concerts Location: 19239 US 27 North, Clermont, FL 34715; website: www.lakeridgewinery.com Tel: 352-394-8627 · 800-768-9463
Restaurants	It should come as no surprise that Orlando has something for everybody when it comes to pleasing your palate, ranging from fast food to four-star restaurants and everything in between. The city overflows with over 5000 dining options though it's usually noted for its many theme and chain restaurants. Here some suggestions from our friends at Frommer's: Best Spot for a Romantic Dinner: Victoria & Albert's (tel. 407/939-3463) will spoil you with superior service and stylish surroundings. Dinner is an intimate seven-course meal offering some of the finest food around. Best Value: At Romano's Macaroni Grill (tel. 407/239-6676), the casual yet lively ambience and the northern Italian cuisine score very highly, and prices are low, low, low. Best Spot for Celebrating: Emeril's at Universal's CityWalk (tel. 407/224-2424) is a great choice for a high-end special occasion. For the pure party factor, you can't beat Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville (tel. 407/224-2155) at CityWalk. Best for Kids: Kids adore the meals served up with Disney characters bounding about and there are plenty to choose from throughout the Walt Disney World resorts and theme parks. They also love the eclectic atmosphere, sounds and visuals of the jungle-themed Rainforest Cafe at Downtown Disney Marketplace (tel. 407/827-8500) and Animal Kingdom (tel. 407/938-9100). Monkey business is strongly encouraged there. Finally, the world's largest McDonald's can also be found in Orlando, right on 6875 Sand Lake Rd. (tel. 407/351-2185). The location boasts a huge tubular maze with 25,000 feet of twists, turns, sliding, crawling, and jumping space for kids to play in. Another unique feature: You can book hotels, transportation, buy attraction tickets, and get daily park information, all while enjoying your fries and a Coke (or, in this case, maybe a gourmet coffee).

MORE INFO	
Brochures	Order a Planning Kit online or at 1-800-551-2006 Vacationers arranging a trip to Orlando also can speak with an Official

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	Travel Counselor, who will provide vacation-planning information and answer questions, by calling 407-363-5872 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST every day of the year except Dec. 25
Websites	www.orlandoinfo.com/canada www.seaworld.ca www.itravel2000.com www.allstarvacationhomes.com

ACCOMMODATION PRIZE PARTNER	All Star Vacation Homes 800-592-5568 Toll Free (U.S. & Canada) 407-997-0733 Fax:407-997-1370 7822 W. Irlo Bronson Highway, Kissimmee, FL 34747 reservations@allstarvacationhomes.com
Location	All Star Vacation Homes carefully considers the communities and properties that are accepted into the management program. They provide an excellent service level by having a guest services centre within just a few minutes of each property. Additionally, locations have been selected based on criteria that a destination has to offer, such as attractions, shopping, dining, activities and are able to meet the needs of both leisure and business travelers
Facilities	These 3, 4, 5 and 6 bedroom vacation homes in Kissimmee feature private pools and spas, rather than a hotel room for a very similar price. Their value price point offers all of the conveniences of a vacation home and are only minutes to Disney World.
Accommodation	All Star provides the highest standard for quality accommodations in vacation homes. Their guest services and in-home amenities place All Star among the most luxurious accommodations available. Interior designers have created a vacation home experience that brings together the conveniences of modern technology with the touch of classic elegance. Their Guest Services team is available to guests throughout their stay to assist with questions about the home, check-in/check-out procedures, local area attractions, directions and more.

PRIZE PARTNER	itravel2000 www.itravel2000.com 5560 Explorer Drive, First Floor, Mississauga, Ontario L4W 5M3 Reservations: 416-695-9999 Toll Free: 1-800-859-2920 itravel2000 was founded in 1994 with the purpose of offering the travel consumer superior customer service, travel selection, the best value and the lowest prices guaranteed on travel and travel related products. Today itravel2000 has grown into one of Canada's largest independent travel companies.
Special Promotion	The "Let it Snow" promotion from itravel2000 allows travellers who book

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	<p>with the company by 1st November 2008 for vacations departing between 1st November 2008 and 30th April 2009 to get their vacation for free if it snows five inches or more at their regional locality on 1st January 2009. See http://www.itravel2000.com/letitsnowterms.aspx for the full promotion rules.</p>
CURRENT DEALS	<p>The Orlando Preferred Visitor Magicard offers great savings on a variety of area attractions, accommodations, restaurants and shops. To get your free card: If you don't live in Orlando, you can download and print a Magicard at http://www.orlandoinfo.com/magicard/download.cfm or request a Magicard online and they will send you one, along with their comprehensive Destination Guide so you can plan your trip. If you're in town, pay the Official Visitors Center a visit to pick up your free Magicard. The Official Visitors Center will also provide you with all the vacation planning information you need including maps, tickets and more.</p>
PERSONAL EXPERIENCES	<p>I have been to Orlando numerous times and never fail to have a wonderful time and discover new experiences! For the shows in February 2008, I was on location at Discovery Cove in Orlando - a memorable experience!</p>

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