

FAMILY TRAVEL GUIDE · ORLANDO

THE ULTIMATE ORLANDO TRAVEL GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

A quick, practical plan for Orlando with kids.

Compare areas, choose attractions by age and weather, and build a day that still leaves room for rest.

Big-ticket parks · low-cost local days · rainy-day backups

AT A GLANCE

Your guide, in one glance

Use the trip shape below to make better choices before you buy tickets.



First-timers

Choose one flagship park day, then balance it with a slower local or pool day.



Little kids

Prioritize short walks, character or animal encounters, and height-friendly rides.



Mixed ages

Pair one anchor attraction with one flexible neighborhood stop.



Rainy days

Keep one indoor backup near your hotel or planned route.



The trip rule

Check official hours, height rules, tickets, and transportation the night before.

ORIENT YOURSELF

Orlando at a Glance

Think in clusters. Pick one zone per day whenever possible.

AREA	FAMILY SNAPSHOT
Lake Buena Vista	The Walt Disney World resort area, with four major theme parks plus Disney Springs.
International Drive	A dense corridor of attractions, dining, hotels, shopping, Universal Orlando Resort, and SeaWorld Orlando.
Downtown Orlando	A useful change of pace for dining, culture, parks, and neighborhood exploring.
Family logistics	Plan by cluster, not by attraction. Group nearby stops together and leave room for snacks, naps, weather shifts, and traffic.
Universal Orlando corridor	Universal Orlando Resort, Islands of Adventure, CityWalk, and short evening stops.
SeaWorld / Convention District	SeaWorld Orlando, Discovery Cove, family hotels, and easy access to I-Drive.
Winter Park	A calm stroll, Park Avenue, gardens, and a family culture day.
Lake Nona / Airport area	Nona Adventure Park, Airport Lakes Park, and a convenient route before or after your flight.

Which major park fits your family?

PARK	BEST FIT
Magic Kingdom	Classic fantasy, iconic characters, family rides, and the easiest “first big park” story.
EPCOT	Food, cultures, festivals, and hands-on discovery for families with older children.
Disney’s Animal Kingdom	Animals, immersive lands, and a strong choice for kids who love nature.
Disney’s Hollywood Studios	Movie and franchise worlds, with a higher payoff for fans and older kids.
Universal Orlando Resort	Choose it for big-screen worlds, thrill rides, and the Wizarding World experience.
SeaWorld Orlando	Combine animal encounters, shows, and coasters if your family likes variety.

Use official attraction pages for current hours, height requirements, closures, and ticket rules before committing.

THE BIG LIST

22 Must-Visit Family Attractions

1. Magic Kingdom classics: Peter Pan's Flight, Pirates of the Caribbean, and "it's a small world."
2. Tomorrowland and Fantasyland rides for different height bands.
3. EPCOT's World Showcase and hands-on learning spaces.
4. Disney's Animal Kingdom: Kilimanjaro Safaris and animal trails.
5. Disney's Hollywood Studios: Toy Story Land and Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge.
6. Disney Springs: shopping, dining, live entertainment, and a slower evening.
7. Universal Studios Florida: movie worlds and family-friendly attractions.
8. Universal Islands of Adventure: The Wizarding World of Harry Potter and Seuss Landing.
9. Volcano Bay for a dedicated water-park day.
10. SeaWorld Orlando for marine life, shows, and coasters.
11. Discovery Cove for a more relaxed, reservation-based water experience.
12. LEGOLAND Florida Resort for younger builders and colorful rides.
13. Peppa Pig Theme Park Florida for preschool-focused fun.
14. ICON Park and The Orlando Eye for a panoramic I-Drive stop.
15. **SEA LIFE Orlando Aquarium** for a climate-controlled ocean visit.
16. Madame Tussauds Orlando for a playful photo stop.
17. **Orlando Science Center** for hands-on learning.
18. Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Gardens for a full outdoor animal day.
19. **Crayola Experience** for an all-ages creative indoor reset.
20. **Gatorland** for a distinctly Central Florida wildlife experience.
21. **WonderWorks Orlando** for indoor play and hands-on attractions.
22. **Nona Adventure Park Orlando** for active outdoor play.

Before you go, check official pages for age, height, timed-entry, weather, and closure details.

LOWER-COST DAYS

11 Free & Budget-Friendly Places

A paid anchor plus one free stop can make the whole day feel fuller.

01 Disney Springs for open-air browsing, people-watching, and entertainment without a park ticket.

02 **Lake Eola Park** for swans, skyline views, and a downtown reset.

03 Harry P. Leu Gardens on a free-admission day or with a family membership strategy.

04 **Orlando Public Library Children's Library** for a quiet, air-conditioned break and children's programming.

05 Local playgrounds and splash pads for a low-cost movement break.

06 Winter Park's Park Avenue for strolling, treats, and window-shopping.

07 Celebration for a small-town-style walk, lake, and easy family meal.

08 ICON Park's outdoor promenade when you want the atmosphere without every paid attraction.

09 Visit Orlando's **budget guide** for current low-cost ideas, deals, and price bands.

10 **Lake Lorna Doone Park Orlando** for a quiet lakeside walk.

11 **Airport Lakes Park Orlando** for open green space and play.



The local day: slower, greener, and easier to adjust.

BEYOND THE PARK LOOP

10 More Local Favorites & Hidden Gems

1. Winter Park Scenic Boat Tour.
2. Kraft Azalea Garden for a short, beautiful lakeside walk.
3. Mead Botanical Garden for shaded paths and easy exploration.
4. Audubon Park Garden District for local food and a neighborhood feel.
5. Mills 50 for Asian food, murals, and a downtown-adjacent change of scene.
6. House of Blues Disney Springs for live music and Southern-inspired dining.
7. Orlando Wetlands Park for wildlife spotting and open skies.
8. Wekiwa Springs State Park for a nature day outside the theme-park loop.
9. Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art for a grown-up cultural hour.
10. East End Market for a flexible family food stop.

Choose one “local” day after two high-energy park days; the contrast helps children enjoy the big attractions more.

WEATHER BACKUP

Rainy-Day & Indoor Picks



For curious kids

Orlando Science Center, **Crayola Experience**, **SEA LIFE Orlando Aquarium**.



For little kids

Indoor play spaces, **Orlando Public Library Children's Library**, and a hotel-pool reset.



For fans

Universal and Disney indoor attractions, shows, shops, and dining districts.



For a short weather window

ICON Park, SEA LIFE, or a mall-based activity near I-Drive.



For parents

Build a "soft landing" into the day — snack, dry clothes, and one indoor anchor instead of racing between parks.

Disney's official attraction directory labels indoor experiences and current operating details, so use it as a final check.

BEFORE YOU BOOK

Common Planning Mistakes

The best itinerary leaves room for the children who are actually on the trip.

01 Trying to do two major parks in one day with young children.

02 Ignoring height requirements until you reach the ride.

03 Booking every meal and leaving no snack or rest flexibility.

04 Underestimating heat, walking time, and stroller logistics.

05 Choosing attractions by internet popularity instead of your child's interests.

06 Putting the most important ride at the end of an already-long day.

07 Leaving no rainy-day backup.

08 Driving across Orlando for one small stop instead of grouping by area.

09 Relying on old ticket, parade, or operating-hour information.

10 **Remember: a slower day is part of the vacation, not wasted time.**