

Grand Prix: Orlando 2012 Travel Guide

This information is provided as a courtesy to judges attending the Grand Prix: Orlando event Jan. 13–15, 2012. All information is as up-to-date and accurate as possible as of Dec. 29, 2011, but website links are provided for most items in order to allow you to verify important information for yourself or find more details. If you find an error or need more information, please contact mgcgrl6262@gmail.com.

For the official Orlando travel planning site, visit visitorlando.com. The site has an interactive trip planning/itinerary feature, information on dining, shopping, entertainment, night life, discounts & tickets, and special events.

The Official Visitor Center of Orlando sells discounted theme park and attraction tickets. The friendly, multilingual staff can assist with questions in person or via telephone at (407) 363-5872. At the center, guests can find information about all things Orlando as well as purchase [discount attraction tickets](#) and pick up a [free Orlando Magicard](#), which offers great savings at area hotels, restaurants, dinner shows, attractions, and shopping.

Address: 8723 International Drive, Suite 101 | Orlando, Florida 32819

Hours: 8:30 A.M. – 6:30 P.M. daily

Discount ticket sales: 8:30 A.M. – 6 P.M. daily

Phone: (407) 363-5872

E-mail: info@visitorlando.com

Grand Prix Venue:

[Wyndham Orlando Resort](#)

8001 International Drive

Orlando, Florida 32819

(407) 351-2420

Getting Here

Getting to Orlando is quick and easy, with an ever-growing list of nonstop routes to both of the area's airports, Orlando International Airport (MCO) and Sanford Orlando International Airport (SFB). Travel by car is also convenient with a number of major highways flowing into Central Florida and throughout the rest of the state. Train passengers can enjoy the destination's easy access to the Amtrak rail system, and once here, visitors can choose from a large selection of rental vehicles, taxis, and limousines. Visitors traveling around International Drive can hop on board the I-Ride Trolley, a hop-on, hop-off service route exclusive to the International Drive Resort area.

orlandoairports.net
orlandosanfordairport.com

iridetrolley.com (8 A.M. to 10:30 P.M.)
amtrak.com

Maps & Directions for Wyndham Orlando Resort

MCO - Orlando Intl Airport

Distance: 10 miles

Directions: When leaving the airport, take the Bee Line Expressway (also known as State Road 528) going west. Once on the expressway, go through two toll booths. After the second toll booth, take the International Drive Exit (Exit 1). Turn right onto I Drive. Resort is located 1.5 miles on the right side.

Click here to map directions to the resort:

wyndham.com/hotels/MCOWD/mapanddirections/main.wnt

Transportation Costs:

Limo \$135

Shuttle \$18 (\$30 round trip)

Taxi \$31.00

Getting Around Orlando

Taxis, shuttle vans, and private car pickups are available just outside the door on the baggage-claim level at both Orlando International and Orlando-Sanford International airports.

Drivers using **toll roads** should note the E-Pass "Exact Change Only" and "Change and Receipts" toll lanes. Tollbooths do not accept credit cards.

Weather

Sunshine and warm temperatures are one of the highlights of an Orlando vacation. Average temperatures for Jan. 8-17 are a high of 71°F and a low of 49°F.

Hotel & Sales Tax

In Central Florida, taxes on purchases range from 6.5% to 7% on all merchandise except "necessary" grocery items and medicine. A 6% resort tax is imposed on all hotel rooms in addition to the sales tax.

Dining

* All distances are from Wyndham Orlando Resort, 8001 International Drive, Orlando, Florida 32819

FISHBONES

Cuisine: seafood
Address: 6707 W Sand Lake Rd
Distance: 374 ft E
Phone: (407) 352-0135
Website: fishbonesorlando.com
Price range: \$\$\$

GIORDANO'S

Cuisine: pizza
Address: 6203 West Sand Lake Road
Distance: 0.2 mi E
Phone: (407) 377-0020
Website: giordanos.com
Price range: \$\$

OLIVE GARDEN

Cuisine: Italian
Address: 7653 International Dr
Distance: 0.2 mi N
Phone: (407) 351-1082
Website: olivegarden.com
Price range: \$\$

PANDA EXPRESS

Cuisine: Chinese
Address: 7653 International Dr
Distance: 0.2 mi N
Phone: (407) 352-6337
Website: pandaexpress.com
Price range: \$

TILTED KILT PUB & EATERY I-DRIVE

Cuisine: sports bar
Address: 7653 International Dr
Distance: 0.2 mi N
Phone: (407) 226-6886
Website: orlando-idrive.tiltedkilt.com
Price range: \$\$

CiCi's PIZZA

Cuisine: pizza
Address: 7437 International Dr
Distance: 0.3 mi N
Phone: (407) 226-9822
Website: cicispizza.com
Price range: \$

NEW PUNJAB INDIAN RESTAURANT

Cuisine: Indian
Address: 7451 International Dr
Distance: 0.3 mi N
Phone: (407) 352-7887
Website: punjabindianrestaurant.com
Price range: \$\$\$

PIRATE'S DINNER ADVENTURE

Cuisine: dinner theater
Address: 6400 Carrier Dr
Distance: 0.3 mi N
Phone: (407) 248-0590
Website: piratesdinneradventure.com
Price range: \$\$\$

SIZLER INDIAN RESTAURANT

Cuisine: Indian
Address: 7511 International Dr
Distance: 0.3 mi N
Phone: (407) 345-4980
Price range: \$\$

BEST OF BRITISH PUB

Cuisine: British
Address: 8324 International Dr
Distance: 0.3 mi S
Phone: (407) 264-9189
Website: bestofbritishpub.com
Price range: \$\$

Dining, con't

CHARLEY'S STEAK HOUSE

Cuisine: steakhouse

Address: 8255 International Dr

Distance: 0.3 mi S

Phone: (407) 363-0228

Website: charleyssteakhouse.com

Price range: \$\$\$

HANAMIZUKI JAPANESE RESTAURANT

Cuisine: Japanese

Address: 8255 International Dr

Distance: 0.3 mi S

Phone: (407) 363-7200

Website: hanamizuki.us

Price range: \$\$\$

KOBE JAPANESE STEAKHOUSE & SUSHI BAR

Cuisine: sushi/hibachi

Address: 8350 International Dr

Distance: 0.3 mi S

Phone: (407) 862-6099

Website: kobesteakhouse.com

Price range: \$\$\$

SLEUTHS MYSTERY DINNER SHOWS

Cuisine: dinner theater

Address: 8267 International Dr

Distance: 0.3 mi S

Phone: (407) 363-1985

Website: sleuths.com

Price range: \$\$\$

UNO CHICAGO GRILL

Cuisine: American/pizza

Address: 8250 International Dr

Distance: 0.3 mi SW

Phone: (407) 351-8667

Website: unos.com

Price range: \$\$

TAJ PUNJABI INDIAN RESTAURANT

Cuisine: Indian

Address: 6524 Carrier Dr

Distance: 0.4 mi N

Phone: (321) 436-6240

Price range: \$\$

KOSHER CULINARY

Cuisine: Jewish/kosher

Address: 7508 Universal Blvd

Distance: 0.4 mi NE

Phone: (407) 354-1296

Website: kosherculinaryorlando.com

Price range: \$\$

CRAB HOUSE

Cuisine: seafood

Address: 8291 International Dr

Distance: 0.4 mi S

Phone: (407) 352-6140

Website: crabhouseseafood.com

Price range: \$\$

BUFFALO WILD WINGS GRILL & BAR

Cuisine: sports bar

Address: 7004 International Dr

Distance: 0.5 mi N

Phone: (407) 351-6200

Website: buffalowildwings.com

Price range: \$\$

BOSTON LOBSTER FEAST

Cuisine: seafood

Address: 8731 International Dr

Distance: 0.7 mi S

Phone: (407) 248-8606

Website: bostonlobsterfeast.com

Price range: \$\$\$

Shopping

FLORIDA MALL

Address:

8001 South Orange Blossom Trail
Orlando, FL 32809

[Store Directory](#)

Hours:

Mon to Sat: 10 A.M. – 9 P.M.

Sun: 12 P.M. – 6 P.M.

BELZ FESTIVAL BAY MALL

Address:

5250 International Drive
Orlando, FL 32819

[Store Directory](#)

Hours:

Mon to Sat: 10 A.M. – 9 P.M.

Sun: 11 A.M. – 7 P.M.

PREMIUM OUTLETS INTERNATIONAL DRIVE

Address:

4951 International Drive
Orlando, FL 32819

[Store Directory](#)

Hours:

Mon to Sat: 10 A.M. – 11 P.M.

Sun: 10 A.M. – 9 P.M.

LAKE BUENA VISTA FACTORY STORES

Address:

15657 S Apopka Vineland Rd (SR 535)
Orlando, FL 32821

[Store Directory](#)

Hours:

Mon to Sat: 10 A.M. – 9 P.M.

Sun: 10 A.M. – 7 P.M.

POINTE ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL DRIVE MALL

Address:

9101 International Drive
Orlando, FL 32819

[Store Directory](#)

Hours:

Mon to Sat: 12 P.M. – 10 P.M.

Sun: 12 P.M. – 8 P.M.

MALL AT MILLENIA

Address:

4200 Conroy Road
Orlando, FL 32839

[Store Directory](#)

Hours:

Sun: 11 A.M. – 7 P.M.

Mon: 8 A.M. – 10 P.M.

Tues to Fri: 10 A.M. – 10 P.M.

Sat: 10 A.M. – 8 P.M.

Night Life

POINTE ORLANDO

Conveniently located along International Drive across from the Orange County Convention Center, Pointe Orlando is an inviting collection of unique shopping, award-winning restaurants, and exciting entertainment. Pointe Orlando is adorned with luscious landscaping and relaxing courtyards, offering a unique experience for all ages. You'll find more than forty stores including Brighton, A|X Armani Exchange, Victoria's Secret, Bath and Body Works, Chico's, and Hollister Co. Indulge in cuisine from more than fourteen delicious restaurants including The Capital Grille, Tommy Bahama's Restaurant and Bar, The Oceanaire Seafood Room, Funky Monkey Wine Company, Maggiano's Little Italy, and Cuba Libre Restaurant & Rum Bar. Enjoy exciting night life by listening to live music at B.B. King's Blues Club or catch a show at the Improv Comedy Club and Dinner Theatre. Pointe Orlando is also home to Baterbys Art Auction Gallery, WonderWorks, an amusement park for the minds, and Regal twenty-screen movie theater + IMAX. Pointe Orlando is a must-see destination for conventioners and tourists alike. Open daily. For more information, please visit pointeorlando.com.

HOWL AT THE MOON

Come live out your inner rock star at the World's Greatest Rock'n'Roll Dueling Piano Show. Howl at the Moon is an all-inclusive entertainment experience that incorporates audience participation and a high-energy rock show with pianos, drums, guitars, and more. Whether you're in the mood for Elton John or The Black-Eyed Peas, you say it, we play it! Our entertainers perform your song requests all night long, so be ready to sing, dance, and howl! ([website](#))

UNIVERSAL CITYWALK

Universal CityWalk is Orlando's hottest spot for entertainment. This dazzling entertainment complex is located right between the entrances to Universal Orlando Resort's two theme parks. Here you can experience the multimedia theatrics of the world-renowned Blue Man Group. You can take in the good times at Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville. Listen to live reggae at Bob Marley—A Tribute to Freedom. Enjoy great food and the excitement of professional basketball at NBA City, or high-speed racing at the NASCAR Sports Grille. Get your fill of shrimp at the Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. Restaurant & Market. CityWalk's Rising Star features karaoke with a twist; performing guests will take center stage as they sing with a live band and backup singers. With fabulous live entertainment, sizzling nightclubs, an incredible variety of restaurants and shopping, plus a twenty-screen movie theater, CityWalk makes your nights at Universal Orlando Resort just as exciting as your days. ([website](#))

DAVE & BUSTER'S

Escape into play. Restaurant serving everything from wings to NY strips; the best happy hour & million-dollar midway filled with the latest interactive and video games. ([website](#))

ICEBAR ORLANDO

ICEBAR Orlando: The coolest night you will spend in Florida. Our North Pole expedition is 50 tons of sculpted ice, 27 degrees, definitely cool with thermal capes, gloves and signature drinks in a glass of crystal ice. Try the world-famous Penguin Pizz! **Fire Lounge:** The hottest place for dance and romance. Top spinners for music, totally unique cocktails, and laid-back lounge for a grand evening finale. Both will take your breath away, literally! ([website](#))

Attractions

MAGIC KINGDOM

Magic Kingdom theme park, one of four theme parks in Walt Disney World Resort, captures the enchantment of fairy tales with exciting entertainment, classic attractions, backstage tours and beloved Disney characters.

Designed like a wheel with the hub in front of Cinderella Castle, pathways spoke out across the 107 acres of Magic Kingdom theme park and lead to these six whimsical lands:

Main Street, U.S.A. area

Adventureland area

Frontierland area

Liberty Square

Fantasyland area

Tomorrowland area

Travel through these lands and see how fantasy becomes reality when you learn how to be a pirate, match wits with funny monsters, and conquer mountains. Get swept up in the spectacle of splendid parades and fireworks shows at Magic Kingdom theme park—it's here that dreams come true for children of all ages.

disneyworld.disney.go.com/parks/magic-kingdom/

HOURS:

Jan. 8: 9 A.M. – 8 P.M.

Jan. 9: 9 A.M. – 9 P.M.

Jan. 10–12: 9 A.M. – 8 P.M.

Jan. 13: 9 A.M. – 9 P.M.

Jan. 14: 9 A.M. – 1 A.M.

Jan. 15: 9 A.M. – midnight

Jan. 16: 9 A.M. – 10 P.M.

Jan. 17: 9 A.M. – 9 P.M.

TICKETS:

Adult (10+): **\$85***

Child (3–9): **\$79***

* For single-day one-park ticket; see website for additional options, multiday tickets, and park hopper passes.

Attractions, con't

EPCOT

Epcot theme park, one of four theme parks at Walt Disney World Resort, sprawls across 300 acres—twice the size of Magic Kingdom theme park—and is divided into Future World and World Showcase.

disneyworld.disney.go.com/parks/epcot/

HOURS:

Jan. 8 – 17:

Future World: 9 A.M. – 9 P.M.

World Showcase: 11 A.M. – 9 P.M.

TICKETS:

Adult (10+): **\$85***

Child (3–9): **\$79***

* For single-day one-park ticket; see website for additional options, multiday tickets, and park hopper passes.

HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS

Disney's Hollywood Studios theme park, one of four theme parks in Walt Disney World Resort, offers behind-the-scenes glimpses of Hollywood-style action with live shows, thrilling attractions, backstage tours, and special events that only happen in this Disney park dedicated to entertainment.

The glitz and glamour of the Hollywood Heydays from the 1930s and 1940s are captured by the neon, chrome, art deco, and modern architecture throughout Disney's Hollywood Studios theme park. The streets and sections of the four areas of the park blend together like a large, bustling movie set.

Step into the action with new attractions—like the *American Idol* Experience—that might put you center-stage and under the spotlight. Feel like a star, or come face-to-face with one! Collect autographs and pose for photos at special events or at character greeting locations.

Live out your desire for stardom by participating in parades, being part of a rock'n'roll fantasy and experiencing spectacular attractions based on blockbuster movies and top TV shows—all at Disney's Hollywood Studios theme park, where movie magic comes to life!

disneyworld.disney.go.com/parks/hollywood-studios/

HOURS:

Jan. 8: 9 A.M. – 8 P.M.

Jan. 9–17: 9 A.M. – 7 P.M.

TICKETS:

Adult (10+): **\$85***

Child (3–9): **\$79***

* For single-day one-park ticket; see website for additional options, multiday tickets, and park hopper passes.

Attractions, con't

ANIMAL KINGDOM

Disney's Animal Kingdom theme park, one of four theme parks at Walt Disney World Resort, is full of attractions, adventures, and entertainment that reflect Walt Disney's dedication to nature and conservation, and in doing so, the park leads the way in animal care, education, and research.

Home to more than 1,700 animals from 250 species and sprawling across 500 acres of lush landscape, Disney's Animal Kingdom theme park is the largest animal-themed park in the world!

Disney's Animal Kingdom theme park is divided into seven areas:

Oasis
Discovery Island area
Camp Minnie-Mickey
Africa
Rafiki's Planet Watch area
Asia
Dinoland, U.S.A. area

Within each area, encounter real and fantastic animals. Get close enough to pet some of them, or ask for their autograph! Exciting attractions await, along with live and wild entertainment—like Broadway-style musical shows and parades that invite you to be part of the excitement.

disneyworld.disney.go.com/parks/animal-kingdom/

HOURS:

Jan. 8–13: 9 A.M. – 5 P.M.

Jan. 14–15: 9 A.M. – 8 P.M.

Jan. 16–17: 9 A.M. – 5 P.M.

TICKETS:

Adult (10+): **\$85***

Child (3–9): **\$79***

* For single-day one-park ticket; see website for additional options, multiday tickets, and park hopper passes.

Attractions, con't

UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

Go behind the scenes, beyond the screen, and jump right into the action of your favorite movies at Universal Studios, the world's premier movie- and TV-based theme park.

At this real working film and TV production facility, you'll find an amazing array of rides, shows, movie sets, and attractions that put you right in the picture. You'll enjoy themed dining and shopping, a variety of exciting special events throughout the year, and you might even catch a real film crew at work on the back lot.

universalorlando.com/Theme-Parks/Universal-Studios-Florida.aspx

HOURS:

Jan. 8–13: 9 A.M. – 7 P.M.

Jan. 14–15: 9 A.M. – 8 P.M.

Jan. 16: 9 A.M. – 6 P.M.

Jan. 17: 9 A.M. – 7 P.M.

TICKETS:

Adult (10+): **\$85***

Child (3–9): **\$79***

* For single-day one-park ticket; see website for additional options, multiday tickets, and park hopper passes.

ISLANDS OF ADVENTURE

Around every bend is another epic adventure. Around every corner awaits another once-in-a-lifetime thrill. Take an unforgettable journey through the uniquely themed islands of Universal's Islands of Adventure, where the world's most cutting-edge rides, shows, and interactive attractions bring your favorite stories, myths, cartoons, comic-book heroes, and children's tales to life.

Pass through the towering Hogwarts castle gates and explore the familiar passageways, classrooms and corridors at The Wizarding World of Harry Potter. Visit the shops of Hogsmeade, including Honeydukes, Zonko's Joke Shop, Ollivanders, and more. Dine at the Three Broomsticks. Plus experience new pulse-pounding rides including Dragon Challenge, Flight of the Hippogriff, and Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey, a state-of-the-art attraction that brings the magic, characters, and stories of Harry Potter to life in ways never before imagined.

universalorlando.com/Theme-Parks/Islands-of-Adventure.aspx

HOURS:

Jan. 8–13: 9 A.M. – 7 P.M.

Jan. 14–15: 9 A.M. – 8 P.M.

Jan. 16: 9 A.M. – 6 P.M.

Jan. 17: 9 A.M. – 7 P.M.

TICKETS:

Adult (10+): **\$85***

Child (3–9): **\$79***

* For single-day one-park ticket; see website for additional options, multiday tickets, and park hopper passes.

Attractions, con't

SEAWORLD

SeaWorld Orlando is a theme park and marine-life-based zoological park. When combined with its neighbor Discovery Cove and the Aquatica waterpark, it forms a larger entertainment complex devoted to Earth's oceans and the array of life that inhabits them.

Unlike most other theme parks, SeaWorld Orlando is not fully divided into dedicated themed "lands" or sections. There are instead individually themed attractions and select themed areas of the park. SeaWorld Orlando has a vast array of live shows and attractions including rides and animal exhibits. Two of these attractions actually combine the two, with both a ride component and a separate animal exhibit.

seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-orlando/

HOURS:

Jan. 8-17: 9 A.M. - 6 P.M.

TICKETS:

At the Gate:

Adult: **\$81.99***

Child: **\$73.99***

Online:

Adult: **\$71.99***

Child: **\$63.99***

* At the gate; savings of \$10 online.

FANTASY OF FLIGHT

Our stunning Art Deco facility is home to over forty rare and vintage aircraft, many of which have been restored to flyable condition. But that is just the beginning.

We offer a variety of guided tours including visits to our working restoration and maintenance areas. You can take a spin on a state-of-the-art hang glide simulator in our interactive Fun with Flight center for families and climb on board a real B-17 Flying Fortress in a WWII bombing mission.

fantasyofflight.com

HOURS:

Daily: 10 A.M. - 5 P.M.

TICKETS:

1-day -

Adult (13-54): **\$26.95**

Child (6-12): **\$12.95**

Senior (55+): **\$24.95**

Attractions, con't

RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT

What do an 8-foot-long fish, a 7-legged-sheep, and a mural made from 8,500 playing cards have in common? They're all new exhibits in a revamped Ripley's Believe It or Not! Orlando Odditorium!

Ripley's Believe It or Not! is home to weird family fun located just steps off International Drive. Our amazing 10,000-square-foot "Odditorium" actually looks like it's falling into a Florida sinkhole! Entertain the entire family with our interactive exhibits of the fascinating and outrageous. In our Odditorium, you can explore an unbelievable variety of artifacts and displays in sixteen unique galleries that pay tribute to the odd and strange from across the globe.

ripleys.com/orlando/

HOURS:

Daily: 9:30 A.M. – midnight

TICKETS:

Online –

Adult: **\$16.99**

Child (4-12): **\$9.99**

WONDERWORKS

WonderWorks Orlando began as a top-secret research laboratory on a remote island in the Bermuda Triangle. As legend has it, the world's greatest scientists – led by Professor Wonder – were given the task of creating a man-made tornado and harnessing the power of it. During this experiment, something went awry and the power of the tornado was unleashed throughout the laboratory. This created a swirling vortex that was strong enough to rip the laboratory from its foundation. It was carried thousands of miles away and landed upside-down on the top of a brick warehouse in Orlando, Florida. Remarkably, all of the experiments remained intact and functional.

When you enter the building, everything will be upside-down, so in order to participate in the fun, you must be inverted. Step inside the inversion tunnel and be turned right-side-up to begin your journey. Once you are properly aligned for your adventure, family fun awaits with more than one hundred hands-on exhibits. Make WonderWorks a stop on your things-to-do list when visiting Orlando.

wonderworksonline.com/orlando/

HOURS:

Daily: 9 A.M. – midnight

TICKETS:

Child (4-12) & Senior (55+):

General Admission: **\$19.99**

The Outta Control Dinner Show: **\$16.99**

Adult:

General Admission: **\$24.99**

The Outta Control Dinner Show: **\$24.99**

Attractions, con't

GATORLAND

At 110 acres, Gatorland provides affordably priced family fun with thousands of alligators & crocodiles to see, an aviary, breeding marsh with observation tower, petting zoo, nature walk, award-winning gift shop, and one-of-a-kind reptilian shows including the Gator Wrestlin' Show, Gator Jumparoo, and the Up-Close Encounters Show.

gatorland.com

HOURS:

Daily: 10 A.M. – 5 P.M.

TICKETS:

Adult (13+): **\$21.99**

Child (3-12): **\$13.99**

IFLY ORLANDO INDOOR SKYDIVING

You can experience human body flight! Indoor Skydiving at iFLY Orlando is safe for kids, challenging for adults, exciting for teens and realistic for skydivers. No experience is necessary, great fun for all ages three and up.

iflyorlando.com/ifly-indoor-skydiving

HOURS:

Daily: 10 A.M. – 10 P.M. (see website for availability and to book online)

TICKETS:

\$49.95 and up