



# Orlando & Walt Disney World

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## Best Places to Eat

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## Best Places to Stay

- » Grande Lakes Orlando (p245)
- » Celebration Hotel (p247)
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- » Park Plaza Hotel (see boxed text, p241)
- » Omni Orlando Resort at Championsgate (p246)

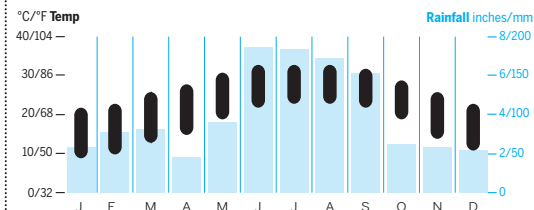
## Why Go?

Play quidditch with Harry Potter, disappear into the Twilight Zone in a haunted elevator, whip through the air on a sea monster. In Orlando, the Theme Park Capital of the World, it's all about high-adrenaline fun wrapped up in the mystique of storytelling and fantasy – Walt Disney World, Universal Orlando Resort (including the Wizarding World of Harry Potter), SeaWorld, Discovery Cove and the water-park Aquatica cluster within 15 miles of one another, and Legoland is an hour's drive. Their carefully constructed worlds, dripping with illusion and magic and filled with rides, shows and parades, promise escape from the everyday, the ordinary, the real, and folks flock here by the thousands looking for just that.

Yes, Orlando has a quieter side, with world-class museums and excellent parks, but as wonderful as it may be, the city will always lie in the shadow of Cinderella's Castle and Hogwarts School of Witchcraft.

## When to Go

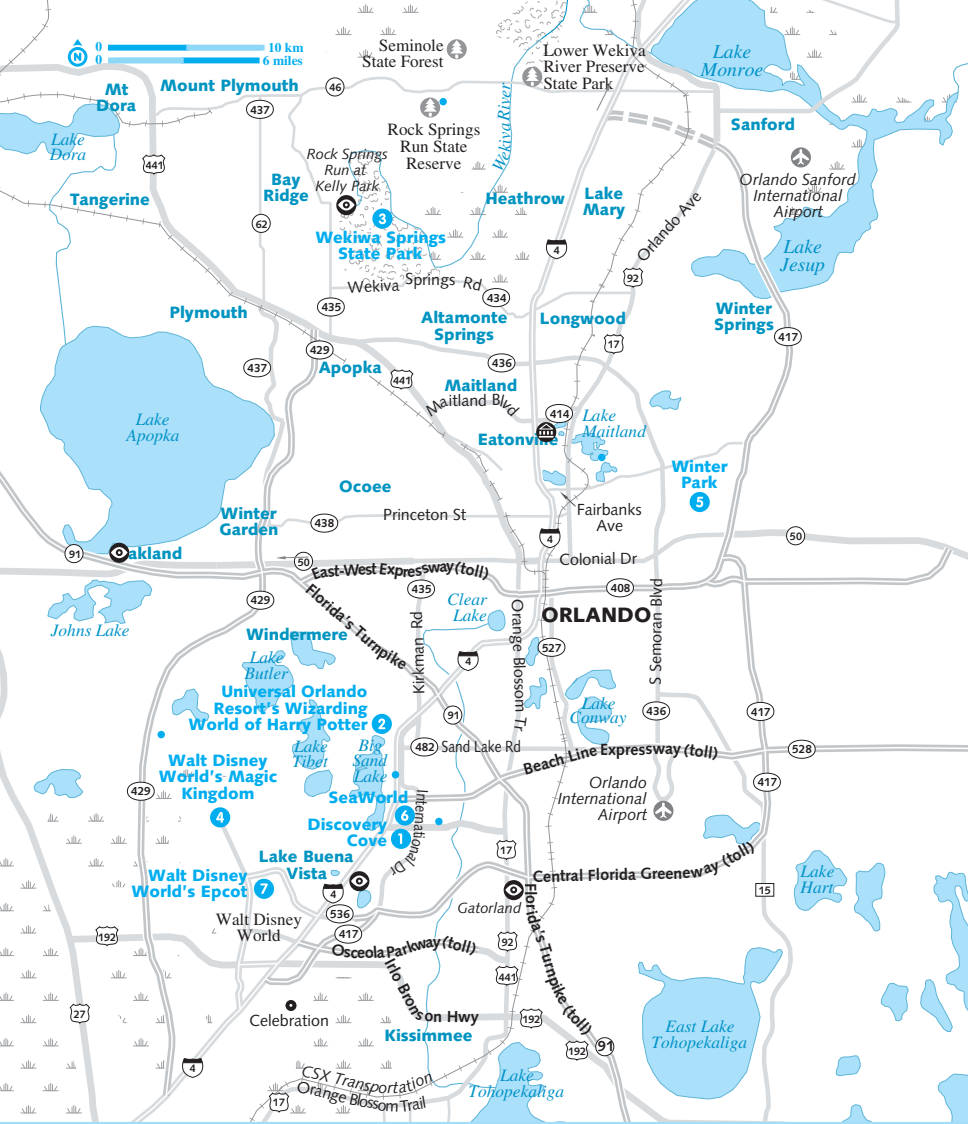
### Orlando



**Fall** Theme-park crowds thin, accommodation rates drop and summer sizzle fades.

**May** Warm, a lull between Spring Break and summer vacation peaks, and before the rains.

**Thanksgiving–mid-Dec** Avoid soaring holiday prices; enjoy over-the-top seasonal festivities.



## Orlando & Walt Disney World Highlights

- 1** Interacting with dolphins, snorkeling among tropical fish and floating on the lazy river through the bird aviary at **Discovery Cove** (p302)
- 2** Wandering Hogsmeade's cobblestone streets and zipping through Hogwarts at Universal Orlando Resort's **Wizarding World of Harry Potter** (p291)
- 3** Paddling quietly past alligators and blue herons on the Wekiva River at **Wekiwa Springs State Park** (p244)
- 4** Watching Magic Kingdom's **SpectroMagic parade** and sticking around for **Wishes Nighttime Spectacular fireworks** (p263) over Cinderella's Castle
- 5** Poking through art museums and boutique shops in **Winter Park** (p241)
- 6** Feeding rays and watching sea-lion and orca shows at **SeaWorld** (p299)
- 7** Meeting Sleeping Beauty after sipping wine in Italy and watching the Beatles in England at Disney's **Epcot** (p263)