

Orlando & Walt Disney World®

POP 2.3 MILLION / 407,321

Includes ➔

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Best Places to Eat

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Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Alford Inn (p271)
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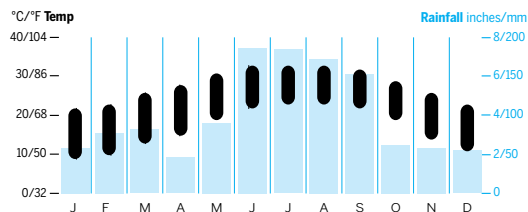
Why Go?

Central Florida is like a *matryoshka*, the Russian doll that encases similar dolls of diminishing size. The region features pretty state parks, gardens and rivers, all ideal for leisurely exploration. One layer down, Central Florida then embraces Kissimmee, Celebration and the vast, sprawling area of Greater Orlando. Greater Orlando's network of multi-lane highways and overpasses leads to a huge number of theme parks, including Walt Disney World®, Universal Orlando Resort, SeaWorld and Legoland. Judging from the crowds, these parks are the reason most people visit.

But at Central Florida's core is a city: pretty, leafy downtown Orlando, whose great field-to-fork eating scene and world-class museums get overlooked by the hype, sparkle and colors of the theme parks. Many visitors never reach this kernel, the final 'doll,' and the city of Orlando tends to lie in the shadow of Cinderella and Hogwarts School of Witchcraft & Wizardry.

When to Go

Orlando



Sep Theme-park crowds thin, accommodation rates drop, summer sizzle fades.

May Lull between spring break and summer vacation peaks; warm, before the rains.

Thanksgiving–mid-Dec Enjoy seasonal festivities (though be aware of soaring prices).

This map of the Orlando, Florida area provides a comprehensive overview of the region's geography and infrastructure. Key features include:

- Major Roads:** The map displays a network of highways, including Interstate 4 (I-4), Interstate 95 (I-95), and various state roads like SR 408, SR 417, and SR 429.
- Water Bodies:** Numerous lakes are shown, such as Lake Apopka, Lake Butler, Lake Wekiwa, and Lake Hart.
- Parks and Recreation:** Several parks are highlighted, including Wekiwa Springs State Park, Lake Louisa State Park, and the Orlando Sanford International Airport.
- Landmarks:** The map identifies several key locations, including the Universal Orlando Resort's Wizarding World of Harry Potter, Walt Disney World's Epcot, and the Central Florida Greenway.
- Numbered Markers:** Six numbered markers (1-6) are placed across the map, likely indicating specific points of interest or destinations.
- Scale and Orientation:** A scale bar at the bottom right indicates distances in miles (0 to 10) and kilometers (0 to 10). A north arrow is also present.