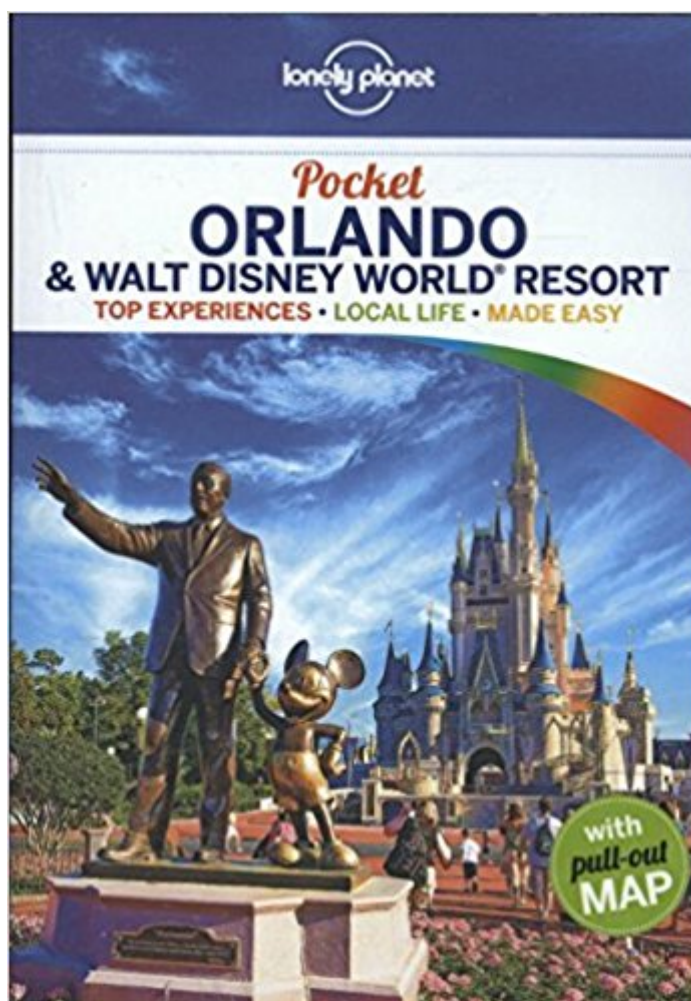


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# Lonely Planet Pocket Orlando & Walt Disney World® Resort (Travel Guide)



## Synopsis

Lonely Planet: The world's leading travel guide publisher Lonely Planet Pocket Orlando & Walt Disney World<sup>®</sup> Resort is your passport to the most relevant, up-to-date advice on what to see and skip, and what hidden discoveries await you. See the iconic Cinderella's Castle at the Magic Kingdom, explore the Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal Studios, or ride roller coasters at the Islands of Adventure; all with your trusted travel companion. Get to the heart of the best of Orlando and begin your journey now! Inside Lonely Planet Pocket Orlando & Walt Disney World<sup>®</sup> Resort : Full-color maps and images throughout Highlights and itineraries help you tailor your trip to your personal needs and interests Insider tips to save time and money and get around like a local, avoiding crowds and trouble spots Essential info at your fingertips - hours of operation, phone numbers, websites, transit tips, prices Honest reviews for all budgets - eating, sleeping, sight-seeing, going out, shopping, hidden gems that most guidebooks miss Free, convenient pull-out Orlando map (included in print version), plus over 17 color neighborhood maps User-friendly layout with helpful icons, and organized by neighborhood to help you pick the best spots to spend your time Covers Walt Disney World<sup>®</sup> Resort, Universal Orlando Resort, International Drive, Orlando, Loch Haven Park, Winter Park, Kennedy Space Center, Legoland, Gatorland and more The Perfect Choice: Lonely Planet Pocket Orlando & Walt Disney World<sup>®</sup> Resort, a colorful, easy-to-use, and handy guide that literally fits in your pocket, provides on-the-go assistance for those seeking only the can't-miss experiences to maximize a quick trip experience. Looking for a comprehensive guide that recommends both popular and offbeat experiences, and extensively covers the whole region? Check out Lonely Planet's Florida guide. Or check out Discover Florida, a photo-rich guide to the region's most popular attractions. Looking for more extensive coverage? Check out Lonely Planet's USA guide for a comprehensive look at all the country has to offer, or Discover USA, a photo-rich guide to the country's most popular attractions. Authors: Written and researched by Lonely Planet and Jennifer Denniston. About Lonely Planet: Since 1973, Lonely Planet has become the world's leading travel media company with guidebooks to every destination, an award-winning website, mobile and digital travel products, and a dedicated traveler community. Lonely Planet covers must-see spots but also enables curious travelers to get off beaten paths to understand more of the culture of the places in which they find themselves.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Probably a really good book if your going to any of the Disney parks, but we weren't going to any of those places. Maybe a little light on the rest of the town.

Very pleased as always with Lonely Planet publications

We recently completed a week long trip to Orlando, spent primarily at the Disney resorts and a few restaurants outside of the parks. I was interested in this guide since we will be returning to Orlando area this winter for a cruise leaving out of Port Canaveral. I was interested in things we could do for a day that don't involve going to Disney or probably Universal....since 1 day admissions are quite costly for a family of 4. I was pleasantly surprised with the amount of info packed in this guide on other area attractions. There is information about Kennedy Space Center, Lego Land, Sea World, Universal, Disney - and an entire section on free things you can do in the area. Having just been to Disney, I can say it hits the highlights. If you are going for an extended stay, you may wish for a more comprehensive guide (like the Unofficial Guide to Disney). I'm a super planner and guides like that can be overkill for a lot of people. This guide is succinct, packed with color pictures, easily portable and full of great information. I look forward to using it to help plan possible activities for our day or two in the area next year.

Creating a useful guide to America's top tourist destination in the form of a 176 page book no bigger than a stack of 4X6" prints is a task that's probably considerably tougher than pulling together a

traditional guide of four or five times the word count. Jennifer Denniston does pretty well, and she's not even a local to the area. The names and attractions have changed some since our middle child, now teen, was a toddler, but it's interesting to note how much hasn't changed in and around the environs of Walt Disney World/Universal Orlando. Color coded sections are quickly thumbable, and interspersed with sometimes extended sidebars under the header "understanding", sharing both the history of the region and tips for making the most of your Central Florida experience. Coverage of accommodation and dining destinations around the park and area attractions are necessarily limited but hit the high points, from Victoria and Albert's to The Brown Derby. (Also probably some places at Universal, but we've always been Disney fiends.) Cost planning and strategies abound, which by itself makes the book a tremendous value, considering the expense of visiting the parks. You could probably "do it all" with this book, along with plenty of pre-planning using the parks' own websites, Tripadvisor, and the myriad other resources online for travelers. A couple omissions in this guide struck me: 1) There is virtually no mention of Kissimmee/St. Cloud, which is the area directly to the South of the Parks, famed for budget and "overflow" accommodations/attractions for the area. I realize that Kissimmee has some perennial problems/issues (as does greater Orlando!) but to only see it mentioned for its Amtrack Station seemed odd. 2) Sea World was covered in one scant paragraph, with a mention of the animal treatment controversy very much in the news lately, particularly after the release of "Blackfish". Compare that to coverage of not THAT much larger Universal Studios (30 pages in this guide) or cheesy Gatorland (2 pages) and it seems likely to be a deliberate and philosophically grounded snub. This troubles me: First, I'd like to think that SeaWorld can eventually be forced to face its issues and may yet turn its fate around through responsible action. If it merely disappears, that will be a great loss; for whatever unconscionable misdeeds, SeaWorld has also helped to fuel a passion for ocean wildlife conservation over the decades with an immediacy to the experience that books and IMAX movies simply can't duplicate. Second, I remember it as a lovely garden-like place apart from the attractions -- a great place for young families with babies to get away from the crowds of Disney and Universal. Photos are not really what this little guide is about, and really this small format can't do justice to the beauty of the parks, the hotels, and the wildlife of Central Florida. (That's okay, you'll probably buy some gorgeous souvenir book while you are there.) General guidelines are given to help the traveler pick a time of year to go, but you also won't find any calendar of repeating annual events in the area or things of that nature. I'd suggest the events page on the Orlando Sentinel website as a starting point for that, particularly as you get close to your travel date. There also isn't much guidance here for micromanagers who want to minimize their in-line time and maximize the number of activities that can be planned during

their stay. There's an argument to be made that a "workbook" for those already at the park (and settled on accommodations, general itinerary, etc.) might be more useful in pocket size than a guide largely given over to pre-planning, but if you are comfortable scouting online and are only going to buy one guide, why not make it a portable one?

One day when things are more settled, I plan on doing a little bit of traveling. I have a couple of good friends in Orlando, and Disney World's always been a place I've wanted to visit. On top of that, I do have a thing for travel guide books, so this was an instant order when I saw it. Lonely Planet offers a true pocket sized guide book to Orlando, not just focusing on Disney World (it's not even half the content!) but essentially EVERYTHING you could ever want to do there. Normally with a good guide book, I'd provide a video review so you can take a look and see if you think it's worth the money or not. This one in particular contains mostly text. Yes, there are a good amount of photos inside, but definitely nowhere near as much as you'd normally get in a travel guide book. This one's all about giving you the information and locations, no fluff. Every store, site and location has just enough info to make them all sound worthwhile. I had no idea that there was a 50s style diner where waitresses dressed up in pink and white checkered outfits, and had a little fun with you if you didn't finish your meal. I had no idea there was a Duff brewing company from The Simpsons where you could get a Flaming Moe. I didn't know that Harry Potter fans were still so crazy that they'd be willing to wait 5 hours in line to get into some of the rides at Universal. And when I glanced over the Disney World section, that really put into perspective just how massive the place was. It seemed like I could spend a whole month just there and only scratch the surface. Cheap, perfectly sized, and packing a fold-out map, this little book is everything you could ask for.

Lonely Planet always produces a good guide, in my opinion, and this is no exception. The information is comprehensive - no mean feat given the size of the guide. The book itself will easily fit into a small bag and won't weigh you down. There's a bonus map. It's well-organized - I found it easy to find everything. There's a good selection of restaurants for each park as well as cost-comparison information for types of tickets to the park. As always, there's a very useful survival guide. My only difficulty with the book is that the type is a little light and small (necessary to fit all this material in a manageable book) and therefore a bit hard to read if your vision is less than excellent.

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