

# Experiencing the Magic of Orlando

**T**he AAO returns to Orlando April 30-May 4 for an annual session in a theme-park atmosphere. But Central Florida has much more to offer than Mickey and Minnie; JCO's yearly convention preview will help you decide where to go, eat, play, and shop during the meeting.

## Travel Information

Florida is typically warm and wet in the spring, with average high temperatures in the mid-80s and lows in the 60s. Because afternoon thundershowers can quickly turn into deluges of biblical proportions, rain gear is essential.

Ground transportation at the commodious Orlando International Airport can be found on Level 1, on the A and B sides of the terminal. Taxi fare to the convention hotels will run about \$30 each way; shuttle vans are \$14 one-way, \$24 round-trip.

## Restaurants

Some of the best restaurants in the city are found on the Disney properties, including Todd English's new **Bluezoo** and **Don Shula's Steakhouse** at the World Dolphin Hotel; **Artist Point** at the Wilderness Lodge; **Arthur's 27** at the Wyndham Palace Resort; **Citricos**, **Narcoossee's**, and **Victoria & Albert's** at the Grand Floridian Resort & Spa; the **Flying Fish Cafe** at the BoardWalk Inn; **Fulton's Crab House** and the **Wolfgang Puck Cafe** in Downtown Disney; the **California Grill** at the Contemporary Resort; and **Jiko** at the Animal Kingdom Lodge. The last two offer interesting and affordable wine lists, with Jiko specializing in South African bottlings.

The Universal resorts feature two Emeril Lagasse restaurants, **Emeril's Orlando** (Cajun) and **Emeril's Tchoup Chop** (Asian). Other

For subscription service and information on our Online Archive, visit the JCO booth (No. 325) at the AAO meeting. For information before the meeting, call us at (303) 443-1720.



Orlando's downtown skyline from Lake Eola.

rooms with a view include **Manuel's on the 28th** high above downtown, **Lee's Lakeside** on Lake Eola, **Enzo's on the Lake** in Longwood, **Gina's on the Water** in Altamonte Springs, **Houston's** in Winter Park, and the **Delfino Riviera** at the spectacular Portofino Bay Hotel.

For more choices in Italian cooking, check out **Christini's Ristorante Italiano**, **Sergio's Restaurant**, or **Antonio's La Fiamma** in Maitland. Other notable hotel establishments are **La Coquina** at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress and **Norman's** at the Ritz-Carlton.

French cuisine is featured at the award-winning **Le Coq au Vin**; **Cafe de France** and **Chez Vincent** in Winter Park; **Maison et Jardin** in Altamonte Springs; and **Chalet Suzanne**, a country-inn hideaway in Lake Wales. Other top ethnic choices include **Amura** (Japanese), **Cedar's** (Lebanese), **Ming Court** (Asian), **The Samba Room** (Cuban), **Taquitos Jalisco** (Mexican, in Winter Garden), and, in the neighborhood known as Little Saigon, **Thai House** and **Viet Garden**.

The best in seafood and American menus can be found at **Atlantis**, **Charley's Steak House**, **Chatham's Place**, **Dux**, **Fish Bones**, **Louis' Downtown**, **Moonfish**, and **Seasons 52**.

## Theme Parks

**Walt Disney World** alone is a galaxy of attractions, including not only the Magic Kingdom and Epcot, but the Animal Kingdom, Cirque

# Experiencing the Magic of Orlando



Map and photographs courtesy of Orlando/Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc. SeaWorld photograph courtesy of SeaWorld Adventure Park.

du Soleil, the DisneyQuest Indoor Interactive Theme Park, and MGM Studios. Check out the Orlando/Orange County Convention and Visitors Bureau website ([www.orlandoinfo.com](http://www.orlandoinfo.com)) for special deals on tickets to these and other parks. In addition, the free Orlando Magicard provides discounts at a number of area attractions, restaurants, and malls.

Another valuable offering from the same website is the Orlando Flex Ticket. The four-park package covers as many as 14 consecutive days of unlimited admission to **SeaWorld Orlando**, **Universal Islands of Adventure**, **Universal Studios Florida**, and **Wet 'n Wild Orlando**. The five-park package adds **Busch Gardens Tampa Bay**. Either SeaWorld or Busch Gardens is also available on a seven-day pass combined with **Discovery Cove**, a tropical swimming and snorkeling environment next to SeaWorld (reservations required).

Lesser known area attractions include **Dinosaur World** in Plant City, **Fantasy of Flight** in Polk City, **Gatorland**, the **Richard Petty Driving Experience** (reservations requested for either the Walt Disney World Speedway or Daytona International Speedway), **Ripley's Believe It or Not! Orlando Odditorium**, **Silver Springs**, **Skull Kingdom**, **SkyVenture** (an indoor skydiving wind tunnel), and **WonderWorks** (an upside-down virtual-reality experience).

Although the space shuttles are currently grounded, a trip to the **Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex** on the Florida coast offers a chance to see the launch pad and simulated missions and moon landings.

### Cultural Attractions

A number of musical and theatrical offerings are scheduled during the AAO meeting in Orlando's "Cultural Corridor". The **Orlando Opera** presents Federico Moreno Torroba's zarzuela (a Spanish operetta), *Luisa Fernanda*, May 7-9. The fabulously entertaining musical *Mamma Mia!* runs April 27-May 2 at the **Bob Carr Performing Arts Centre**, and the **Or-**



Whales perform at popular SeaWorld Orlando.

**lando Broadway Dinner Theater** has *Camelot* through May 30. In Winter Park, the **Bach Festival Society** will stage Giuseppe Verdi's *Requiem* at 8 p.m. May 1 and 3 p.m. May 2.

**Mad Cow Theatre Company** offers two productions: George S. Kaufman's *The Butter and Egg Man* (April 22-May 16) and Dale Orlandersmith's provocative *Yellowman* (April 29-May 16). For families, the **Orlando Repertory Theatre** presents *Honk!*, a musical adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's ugly duckling tale, May 6-June 6.

Museums abound in Orange County, led by the **Orlando Museum of Art**, with a show by glass master Dale Chihuly running through May 30. The **Orlando Science Center** features an interactive exhibit on experimental aircraft.



Display at Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex.



Tiffany Chapel in Charles Hosmer Morse Museum.

For more specialized tastes, the **Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art** in Winter Park has the world's most extensive collection of pieces by Louis Comfort Tiffany; the **Zora Neale Hurston National Museum of Fine Arts** in Eatonville showcases African-American art; the **Mennello Museum of American Folk Art** spotlights self-taught artists; the **Flying Tigers Warbird Restoration Museum** in Kissimmee offers vintage aircraft; the **Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall** in St. Cloud explores the Civil War era; and the **Water Ski Hall of Fame** in Polk City and the **Hard Rock Cafe** house museums on their respective subject areas. The **Salvador Dalí Museum** in nearby St. Petersburg celebrates its namesake's centennial this year.

Art galleries include the **Maitland Art Center**, an education-oriented colony on a site with historic "fantasy architecture"; the cooperative **OVAL on Orange**, open Thursdays through Saturdays only; the **Millenia Gallery**, offering contemporary works next door to the Mall at

Millenia; **Timothy's Gallery** in Winter Park, specializing in crafts; and the **Gallery at Avalon Island** in downtown Orlando, with rotating exhibits.

To get away from the theme-park crowds, visit the **Historic Bok Sanctuary** on Lake Wales, with landscaping by Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. and one of the world's most distinguished carillons. Closer to the convention, the **Harry P. Leu Gardens** are 50 acres of well-tended grounds on the shore of Lake Rowena, with many thematic gardens and a museum in a Victorian-era home. The **Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens** on Lake Osceola in Winter Park spotlight the work and private collection of a quirky 20th-century Czech-American sculptor in an idyllic setting.

### Golf

You may not be invited to play with Tiger Woods at Isleworth, but there are plenty of all-star public golf courses in Central Florida. Tops on the list is the tour-quality (and -price) **Bay Hill**, home of Arnold Palmer's annual tournament. Jack Nicklaus has also provided the area with some of his best course designs, including the 45 holes at **Grand Cypress** and the ecologically sensitive **Golden Bear at Keene's Point**.

There are two Greg Norman layouts at **ChampionsGate**, just south of Disney World, with the new National course considered better than the International course. Other highly rated tracks include the two courses at Winter Garden's **Orange County National**, Crooked Cat and Panther Lake; the 36 holes at **Mission Inn** in Howey-in-the-Hills, particularly the venerable El Campeon course; and the challenging **Southern Dunes** in Haines City.

**Walt Disney World** offers 99 holes of golf on 775 acres, led by Tom Fazio's Osprey Ridge.

Prospective members or home buyers at the new **Reunion Resort** can play nine holes of Palmer's Legacy course and nine holes of Tom Watson's Independence course by appointment.

### Shopping

In addition to theme-park souvenirs, Orlando provides the usual big-city shopping opportunities. The most upscale center is the **Mall at Millenia**, with no less pretentious a theme than "man, time, and universe". The **Florida Mall** is anchored by Nordstrom and Saks Fifth Avenue. **Festival Bay at International Drive** specializes in clothing stores, **Pointe\*Orlando** in boutiques. Other major centers are the **Altamonte Mall** and **Orlando Fashion Square**.

For more leisurely neighborhood shopping strolls, try Thornton Park in downtown Orlando, Park Avenue in Winter Park, or Market Street in Celebration. Orlando's Antique Row can be found downtown on Orange Avenue.



Boutiques at Pointe\*Orlando shopping center.



Seventh hole on Arnold Palmer's Legacy course at Reunion Resort, currently open to prospective buyers.

## DIRECTORY\*

Restaurants	Address	Phone**
Amura	7786 W. Sand Lake Road	370-0007
Antonio's La Fiamma	611 S. Orlando Ave., Maitland	645-5523
Arthur's 27	1900 Buena Vista Drive	827-3450
Artist Point	901 Timberline Drive	939-3463
Atlantis	6677 Sea Harbor Drive	351-5555
Bluezoo	1500 Epcot Resorts Blvd.	934-1839
Cafe de France	526 S. Park Ave., Winter Park	647-1869
California Grill	4600 N. World Drive	939-3463
Cedar's	7732 W. Sand Lake Road	351-6000
Chalet Suzanne	3800 Chalet Suzanne Drive	(800) 433-6011
Charley's Steak House	8255 International Drive	363-0228
Chatham's Place	7575 Dr. Phillips Blvd.	345-2992
Chez Vincent	533 W. New England Ave., Winter Park	599-2929
Christini's Ristorante Italiano	7600 Dr. Phillips Blvd.	345-8770
Citricos	4401 Grand Floridian Way	939-3463
Delfino Riviera	5601 Universal Blvd.	503-1415
Dux	9801 International Drive	345-4550
Emeril's Orlando	6000 Universal Blvd.	224-2424
Emeril's Tchoup Chop	6300 Hollywood Way	503-2467
Enzo's on the Lake	1130 S. Highway 17-92, Longwood	834-9872
Fish Bones	6707 Sand Lake Road	352-0135
Flying Fish Cafe	2101 N. Epcot Resorts Blvd.	939-3463
Fulton's Crab House	1670 Buena Vista Drive	934-2628
Gina's on the Water	309 N. Northlake Blvd., Altamonte Springs	834-5880
Houston's	215 S. Orlando Ave., Winter Park	740-4005
Jiko	2901 Osceola Parkway	939-3463
La Coquina	1 Grand Cypress Blvd.	239-1234
Le Coq au Vin	4800 S. Orange Ave.	851-6980
Lee's Lakeside	431 E. Central Blvd.	841-1565
Louis' Downtown	116 W. Church St.	648-4688
Maison et Jardin	430 S. Wymore Road, Altamonte Springs	862-4410
Manuel's on the 28th	390 N. Orange Ave.	246-6580
Ming Court	9188 International Drive	351-9988
Moonfish	7525 W. Sand Lake Road	363-7262
Narcoossee's	4401 Grand Floridian Way	939-3463
Norman's	4012 Central Florida Parkway	393-4333
Wolfgang Puck Cafe	1482 E. Buena Vista Drive	938-9653
The Samba Room	7468 W. Sand Lake Road	226-0550
Seasons 52	770 Sand Lake Road	354-5212
Sergio's Restaurant	355 N. Orange Ave.	428-6162
Don Shula's Steakhouse	1500 Epcot Resorts Blvd.	934-1362
Taquitos Jalisco	1041 S. Dillard St., Winter Garden	654-0363
Thai House	2117 E. Colonial Drive	898-0820
Victoria & Albert's	4401 Grand Floridian Way	939-3463
Viet Garden	1237 E. Colonial Drive	896-4154

*For more information on most restaurants listed here, visit [www.orlandoinfo.com](http://www.orlandoinfo.com).*

Theme Parks	Phone**	Internet Address
Busch Gardens Tampa Bay	(888) 800-5447	www.buschgardens.com
Dinosaur World, Plant City	(813) 717-9865	www.dinoworld.net
Discovery Cove	370-1280	www.discoverycove.com
Walt Disney World	939-4636	www.disneyworld.com
Fantasy of Flight, Polk City	(863) 984-3500	www.fantasyofflight.com
Gatorland	855-5496	www.gatorland.com
Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex	(321) 449-4444	www.kennedyspacecenter.com
Richard Petty Driving Experience	939-0130	www.1800bepetty.com
Ripley's Believe It or Not! Orlando Odditorium	351-5803	www.ripleysorlando.com
SeaWorld Orlando	351-3600	www.seaworld.com
Silver Springs	(352) 236-2121	www.silversprings.com
Skull Kingdom	354-1564	www.skullkingdom.com
SkyVenture	903-1150	www.skyventure.com
Universal Orlando	363-8000	www.universalorlando.com
Wet 'n Wild	351-1800	www.wetnwildorlando.com
WonderWorks	351-8800	www.wonderworksonline.com
<b>Cultural Attractions</b>		
Bach Festival Society of Winter Park	646-2182	www.bachfestivalflorida.org
Bob Carr Performing Arts Centre	839-3900	www.ticketmaster.com
Salvador Dalí Museum, St. Petersburg	(727) 823-3767	www.salvadoralimuseum.org
Flying Tigers Warbird Restoration Museum	933-1942	www.warbirdmuseum.com
Gallery at Avalon Island	992-1200	www.avalonisland.cc
Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall	892-6146	www.flausa.com
Hard Rock Vault	599-7625	www.hardrock.com
Historic Bok Sanctuary, Lake Wales	(863) 676-1408	www.boktower.org
Zora Neale Hurston National Museum of Fine Arts	647-3307	www.zoranealehurston-festival.com
Harry P. Leu Gardens	246-2620	www.leugardens.org
Mad Cow Theatre Company	297-8788	www.madcowtheatre.com
Maitland Art Center, Maitland	539-2181	www.maitartctr.org
Mennello Museum of American Folk Art	246-4278	www.mennellomuseum.com
Millenia Gallery	226-8701	www.milleniagallery.com
Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art	645-5311	www.morsemuseum.org
Orlando Broadway Dinner Theater	843-6275	www.themarktwo.com
Orlando Museum of Art	896-4231	www.omart.org
Orlando Opera	426-1700	www.orlandoopera.org
Orlando Repertory Theatre	896-7365	www.orlandorep.com
Orlando Science Center	514-2000	www.osc.org
OVAL on Orange	648-1819	www.ovalorlando.org
Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens	647-6294	www.polasek.org
Timothy's Gallery	629-0707	www.timothys.citysearch.com
Water Ski Hall of Fame	(863) 324-2472	www.waterskihallowfame.com
<i>(continued on next page)</i>		
*Orlando unless otherwise noted.		
**Area code 407 unless otherwise noted.		

## DIRECTORY\* (cont.)

### Golf

	Phone**	Internet Address
Bay Hill	876-2429	<a href="http://www.bayhill.com">www.bayhill.com</a>
ChampionsGate	787-4653	<a href="http://www.championsgategolf.com">www.championsgategolf.com</a>
Golden Bear at Keene's Point, Windermere	876-5775	<a href="http://www.thegoldenbearclub.com">www.thegoldenbearclub.com</a>
Grand Cypress	239-4700	<a href="http://www.grandcypress.com">www.grandcypress.com</a>
Mission Inn	(352) 324-3101	<a href="http://www.missioninnresort.com">www.missioninnresort.com</a>
Orange County National, Winter Garden	656-2626	<a href="http://www.ocngolf.com">www.ocngolf.com</a>
Reunion Resort	396-3200	<a href="http://www.reunionresort.com">www.reunionresort.com</a>
Southern Dunes, Haines City	(863) 421-4653	<a href="http://www.southerndunes.com">www.southerndunes.com</a>
Walt Disney World	939-4653	<a href="http://www.golf.disneyworld.com">www.golf.disneyworld.com</a>

### Shopping

Altamonte Mall, Altamonte Springs	830-4400	<a href="http://www.altamontemall.com">www.altamontemall.com</a>
Festival Bay at International Drive	351-7718	<a href="http://www.belz.com">www.belz.com</a>
Florida Mall	851-7234	<a href="http://www.simon.com">www.simon.com</a>
Mall at Millenia	363-3555	<a href="http://www.mallatmillenia.com">www.mallatmillenia.com</a>
Orlando Fashion Square	896-1132	<a href="http://orlandofashionsquare.com">orlandofashionsquare.com</a>
Pointe*Orlando	248-2838	<a href="http://www.pointeorlando.com">www.pointeorlando.com</a>

\*Orlando unless otherwise noted.

\*\*Area code 407 unless otherwise noted.