

# VISTA

*A world of wonder in the Sunshine State*

Orlando, Florida, may be known as the theme park capital of the world, but this vibrant city offers so much more than rollercoasters and fireworks (although those are pretty magical too!). From thrilling adventures to serene nature escapes, fantastic dining, and year-round sunshine, Orlando is a destination that captivates travellers of all ages.

Whether you're visiting for the first time or returning to relive the magic, Orlando delivers unforgettable experiences, warm hospitality, and endless reasons to stay a little longer.

# VISTA / *Getting there*

Several major airlines offer regular direct flights from the UK to Orlando International Airport, with flight durations of approximately 9 to 10 hours. British Airways, Virgin Atlantic, and TUI all operate non-stop services from London, Manchester, and other regional airports.

Booking 6-9 months in advance is a good idea for the best fares, particularly during peak family travel periods like Easter, summer holidays, and Christmas.



## Flight Duration

### **London to Orlando:**

9-10 hours

### **Atlanta/New York to Orlando:**

11-13 hours



## Average Flight Cost

Approximately  
£600-£800pp, depending  
on the season and  
departure point.



## Booking Tips

Book 9-11 months in  
advance for the best rates,  
especially for peak seasons  
(January-March).

Avoid peak periods like  
Christmas, Easter, and the  
school summer holidays,  
when prices can surge.



## Best Time to Fly

Mid-January to early March  
and late September to mid-  
November are generally the  
most budget-friendly times  
to fly.

# VISTA / *A seasonal guide*

Orlando is a year-round destination with something magical in every season — from flower-filled springs and summer water park days to autumn celebrations and festive winter fun. Here's a feel for what each season brings...







## SPRING

(March - May)

One of the loveliest times to visit. The weather's warm and sunny without being too hot, the parks are in full swing, and gardens across the city burst into bloom — especially at EPCOT's International Flower & Garden Festival. It's ideal for families, first-timers and anyone wanting to experience the parks at a comfortable pace.



## SUMMER

(June - August)

Hot and humid with afternoon showers – perfect for water parks and indoor attractions. Families love the summer buzz.



## AUTUMN

(September - November)

A fantastic time to visit if you prefer fewer crowds and shorter queues. The weather's still warm, and the city leans into seasonal fun with Halloween events, themed park nights, and food festivals. It's a great balance of value, fun and a slightly slower pace.



## WINTER

(December - February)

Mild and sunny – a great time for festive celebrations, golf, and park hopping without the heat.

# VISTA / *Where to Stay*

Orlando offers an incredible variety of accommodation options, from playful family-friendly resorts to sleek downtown hotels and peaceful villa communities. Whether you're all about theme park proximity or seeking a more laid-back, local feel, there's a perfect base for every kind of holiday.

## Lake Buena Vista & Disney Resort Area

This popular area surrounds Walt Disney World and is packed with hotels that offer easy access to the parks – including many with shuttles. It's a convenient base for families wanting to maximise their time in the parks while also being close to Disney Springs, which offers dining, shopping, and entertainment options.

## Universal Orlando Resort Hotels

Universal's collection of eight themed hotels includes options for every budget. Guests benefit from early park entry and, at select hotels, free Universal Express Passes. Whether you're staying at the tropical-themed Royal Pacific, the music-inspired Hard Rock Hotel, or the value-focused Dockside Inn & Suites, you'll enjoy being close to the action – often within walking distance.

## International Drive (I-Drive)

A lively strip packed with restaurants, attractions, and hotels, I-Drive is a top pick for first-timers or those without a car. It's home to ICON Park and offers easy connections to Universal Orlando and SeaWorld via shuttles or the I-Ride Trolley. You'll find everything from budget inns to big-brand resorts with pools and on-site dining.



## Walt Disney World Resort Hotels

For those who want to stay in the magic, Disney's own hotels are the ultimate themed escape. With early park entry, seamless transport to the parks, and famously friendly service, these resorts range from value options with playful décor to luxurious retreats like Disney's Grand Floridian. Many offer immersive touches like character dining, themed pools, and rooms overlooking wildlife or fireworks.



# VISTA / *Where to Stay*

## Kissimmee

Just south of the Disney area, Kissimmee is a favourite for families and groups wanting extra space. It's known for vacation rentals and villa communities – many with private pools, game rooms, and full kitchens. With plenty of dining, shopping, and nature-based activities nearby (like airboat rides and zip-lining), it's a great choice for longer or multigenerational stays.

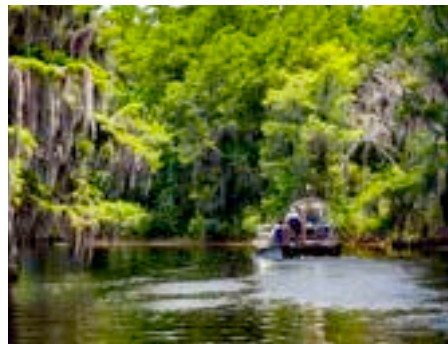


## Celebration

Originally developed by Disney, Celebration is a charming, master-planned community just minutes from the theme parks. With pretty streets, a small-town feel, and boutique hotels, it's ideal for travellers wanting a quieter base with a strong sense of place. The town centre offers lakeside dining, walkable streets, and seasonal events.

## Winter Garden

Located west of Orlando, Winter Garden offers a more local, historic feel with a growing number of boutique accommodations. Its downtown area is home to independent restaurants, shops, and the popular Saturday farmers market. Ideal for visitors wanting a relaxed pace, scenic bike trails, and easy day trips to the theme parks.



## Downtown Orlando

For a city-style stay, Downtown Orlando offers a mix of modern hotels and artsy enclaves. It's a great choice for return visitors or those seeking culture, nightlife, and a more local vibe. Highlights include Lake Eola Park, craft breweries, concert venues, and an emerging food scene. It's also a central base for exploring Orlando's natural parks and lakes.

# VISTA / *Main Attractions*

**Greater Orlando is the undisputed theme park capital of the world – but it's also so much more.**

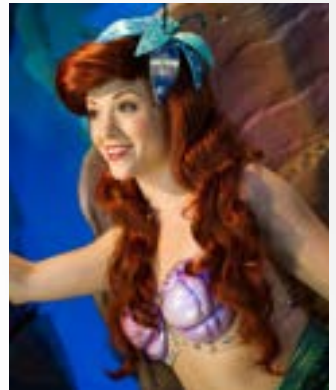
While blockbuster resorts like Walt Disney World, Universal Orlando and SeaWorld take centre stage with their iconic rides and immersive lands, the wider area is packed with family-friendly surprises, from quirky animal encounters to hands-on museums and water-soaked adventures.

Whether customers are travelling with toddlers or teens, thrill-seekers or nature lovers, there's something here for every type of holidaymaker. It's the sort of place where a day might begin with a meet-and-greet at Gatorland and end with dinner along International Drive. From cutting-edge coasters to charming roadside classics, these are the attractions that help turn a Florida holiday into a story-packed adventure.





# VISTA / *Walt Disney World, Orlando*



Walt Disney World is a magical place where fantasy meets adventure across four incredible theme parks and themed resorts. Just outside Orlando, it covers 25,000 acres filled with fun for families, couples, and Disney fans. Magic Kingdom features Cinderella Castle and classic rides, EPCOT mixes culture with tech, Hollywood Studios brings movies to life, and Animal Kingdom offers wildlife and thrills. Don't miss Disney Springs for dining, music, and shopping. It's more than a holiday—it's a journey into pure imagination.

## Top Attractions

**Magic Kingdom:** The classic Disney experience with Cinderella Castle, parades, fireworks, and iconic rides like Space Mountain.

**EPCOT:** Explore world cultures and future tech, featuring Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind and Soaring Around the World.

**Hollywood Studios:** Step into movie magic at Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge, Toy Story Land, and enjoy Tower of Terror and Runaway Railway.

**Animal Kingdom:** Discover wildlife adventures with Pandora, Kilimanjaro Safaris, and Expedition Everest.

**Disney Springs:** Shop, dine, and enjoy live shows by the waterfront.





# VISTA / *Universal Orlando Resort*



Universal Orlando is a thrill-seeker's dream with three theme parks and a lively entertainment district. Universal Studios Florida offers cinematic rides and film magic. Islands of Adventure features epic lands like Jurassic Park and Marvel Superhero Island. Volcano Bay adds tropical water fun with high-tech rides. Opening in 2025, Epic Universe promises brand-new worlds and attractions. CityWalk offers dining, shopping, and nightlife. From thrilling coasters to The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, it's nonstop excitement near Orlando's city centre.

## Top Attractions

**Universal Studios Florida:** Step into the movies with Harry Potter, The Bourne Stuntacular, and Minion Land—great for families and film fans.

**Islands of Adventure:** Thrill seekers love Jurassic World VelociCoaster, The Hulk Coaster, and Hagrid's Motorbike Adventure.

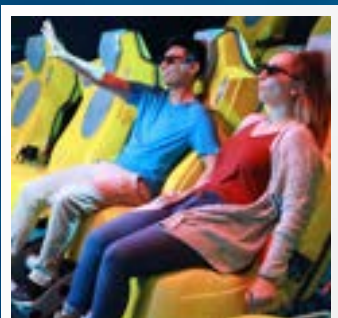
**Volcano Bay:** A tropical water park with a towering volcano, thrilling slides, and queue-free TapuTapu tech.

**Epic Universe (opening 2025):** New worlds like Super Nintendo and Universal Monsters with next-gen rides for all ages

**Universal CityWalk:** Dining, live music, bars, mini golf, and shops including Toothsome and Hard Rock Café.



# VISTA / *International Drive*



I-Drive is Orlando's high-energy hub, stretching over 11 miles and packed with attractions, dining, and shopping. ICON Park is a standout, with The Wheel, Madame Tussauds, and SEA LIFE Aquarium. Families love Ripley's, WonderWorks, and Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition. Thrill-seekers can try indoor skydiving or escape rooms. The I-Ride Trolley makes getting around easy, and the nearby Orange County Convention Centre draws business travellers. With diverse hotels and global cuisine, I-Drive offers something for every kind of visitor.

## Top Attractions

**ICON Park:** An open-air complex with The Wheel, SEA LIFE, Madame Tussauds, and Museum of Illusions—ideal for families.

**WonderWorks:** A fun, upside-down attraction full of interactive science exhibits, laser tag, and a ropes course.

**Ripley's Believe It or Not!:** Oddities and interactive fun in a building that looks like it's sinking.

**Fun Spot America:** Classic go-karts, thrill rides, and the towering SkyCoaster.

**Dining & Nightlife:** Global eats, karaoke, and lively Pointe Orlando.

**Shopping:** Big-brand bargains at nearby outlet malls.



# VISTA / *Gatorland, Orlando*



Gatorland is one of Orlando's oldest and quirkiest attractions. Spanning over 100 acres, it offers up-close encounters with thousands of alligators and crocodiles, along with shows, splash zones, and boardwalk trails. Watch gators leap at the Jumparoo Show, brave the Screamin' Gator Zip Line, or explore the Stompin' Gator Off-Road Adventure. Educational, exciting, and family-friendly, it's a relaxed alternative to the big parks and a great half-day trip for anyone wanting to experience Florida's wilder side.

## Top Attractions

**Gator Jumparoo Show:** Watch giant alligators leap high out of the water for food — entertaining, informative, and full of Florida flair.

**Screamin' Gator Zip Line:** Soar over gator pools on a unique zip line, perfect for adrenaline seekers and brave teens.

**Up-Close Encounters:** Meet snakes, lizards, and reptiles in fun, educational guided sessions for curious kids.

**Breeding Marsh & Boardwalk:** Stroll peaceful boardwalks through the breeding marsh — ideal for photos and wildlife watching.

**Gatorland Express Train:** A gentle ride around the park, great for little ones or an overview of the grounds.

**Behind-the-Scenes Tours:** Get closer to the animals and conservation efforts on guided tours beyond the enclosures.





# VISTA / LEGOLAND Florida



Located in Winter Haven, 45 minutes from Orlando, LEGOLAND Florida is perfect for families with young kids. The resort features a theme park, water park, and themed hotels, all inspired by LEGO's colourful world. With over 50 rides and attractions for ages 2 to 12, zones include LEGO NINJAGO, LEGO City, and pirate adventures. Highlights include MINILAND USA, with detailed LEGO replicas of American landmarks, plus the world's first Peppa Pig Theme Park. It offers a fun, creative escape at a gentler pace than Orlando's bigger parks.

## Top Attractions

**MINILAND USA:** Marvel at detailed LEGO recreations of cities like New York, Las Vegas, and Washington D.C., built from over 32 million bricks.

**LEGO NINJAGO World:** Train like a ninja and battle villains using hand-motion technology in this interactive dark ride.

**Coastersaurus & The Dragon:** Mildly thrilling roller coasters perfect for first-time riders and younger kids.

**LEGO City Driving School:** Kids drive electric LEGO cars and earn their own LEGOLAND driver's license.

**Water Park:** Splash zones, wave pools, and a build-your-own-raft lazy river offer cool fun on sunny days.

**Peppa Pig Theme Park:** Gentle rides, character meet-and-greets, and muddy-puddle fun for preschoolers.





# VISTA / Orlando Water Parks



Orlando's water parks offer the perfect mix of thrills and chill. From adrenaline-pumping slides and wave pools to lazy rivers and themed play zones, they're great for cooling off between theme park visits. Many are part of major resorts, with immersive themes and year-round operation thanks to heated pools. Highlights include Disney's Typhoon Lagoon and Blizzard Beach, plus Universal's Volcano Bay with high-tech fun. With options for all ages, they're a must for families seeking a splash of adventure and relaxation in the Florida sun.

## Top Water Parks

**Volcano Bay (Universal Orlando Resort):** A high-tech water park with a towering volcano, thrilling slides, and TapuTapu tech for virtual queuing.

**Typhoon Lagoon (Walt Disney World Resort):** Set in a storm-wrecked paradise, with a huge wave pool, lazy river, and the Crush 'n' Gusher water coaster.

**Blizzard Beach (Walt Disney World Resort):** A snowy-themed park with a ski-lift, racing slides, and Summit Plummet — one of the tallest body slides in the U.S.

**Aquatica Orlando (SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment):** Rides for all ages, plus Dolphin Plunge, where you zoom past playful dolphins.

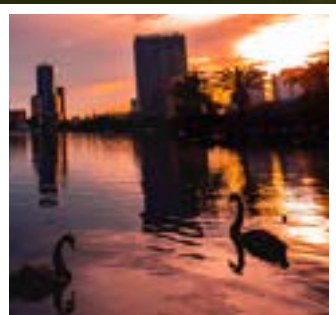
**LEGOLAND Florida Water Park (Winter Haven):** Perfect for younger kids, with giant LEGO bricks, gentle slides, and build-your-own-raft fun.

**LEGOLAND Florida Water Park (Winter Haven):** Tech-savvy slides with music, lighting, and points — ideal for teens and social groups.





# VISTA / *Orlando's Natural Side*



Beyond the theme parks, Orlando's wild side shines. Stroll Lake Eola Park's downtown paths or paddle a swan boat past the skyline. Explore trails and wetlands at Tibet-Butler Nature Preserve and Shingle Creek Regional Park. Swim, canoe, or hike at Wekiwa Springs State Park, just 30 minutes away. Nature lovers can also explore Ocala National Forest or drive the scenic Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive for birdwatching. These escapes reveal a quieter, wilder Florida — perfect for families, hikers, and photographers alike.

## Top Attractions

**Lake Eola Park:** An urban escape with swan boats, markets, walking paths, and skyline views in downtown Orlando.

**Wekiwa Springs State Park:** Swim in clear springs or hike and bike through forested trails rich in wildlife.

**Tibet-Butler Nature Preserve:** Peaceful trails and boardwalks through pine flatwoods and cypress swamps — ideal for birdwatching.

**Shingle Creek Regional Park:** Kayak and explore the Everglades' headwaters on scenic trails with interpretive displays.

**Ocala National Forest:** Hike, camp, or swim in springs just north of Orlando in this vast, wild forest.

**Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive:** A scenic drive for spotting birds, alligators, and native Florida landscapes.





# VISTA / Suggested Itineraries

## ORLANDO VILLA ESCAPE

Enjoy a relaxing family break in a 4\* villa near Disney, with a private pool, kitchen, and spacious living. Car hire included. Add Disney tickets or insurance and spread the cost with Direct Debit.

### Orlando, Florida

#### Highlights:

- Private villa with screened pool
- Car hire included for easy exploring
- Optional Disney Magic Ticket upgrade
- Ideal for families with kids

#### Travel Date:

21 Feb 2026

#### Villa Type:

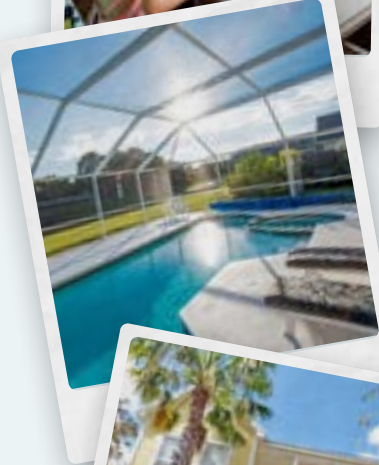
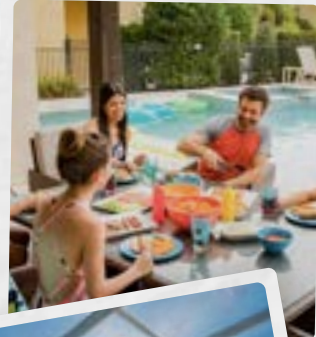
3-bed Executive Plus

#### Occupancy:

2 adults + 2 children (3-9)

#### Extras:

Car hire included Disney tickets from £745pp



## UNIVERSAL ORLANDO ADVENTURE

Stay 14 nights at Universal's Endless Summer Surfside Inn with early park entry and shuttles. Includes access to all four Universal parks, including Epic Universe, plus Volcano Bay, Hogwarts™ Express, and CityWalk dining.

### Orlando, Florida

#### Highlights:

- All-new Universal Epic Universe
- Access to 4 Universal Orlando parks
- Stay at Universal's Endless Summer Surfside Inn
- Ride the Hogwarts™ Express
- Live shows and dining at CityWalk

#### Travel Date:

11 Aug 2026

#### Hotel:

3\* Surfside Inn

#### Room:

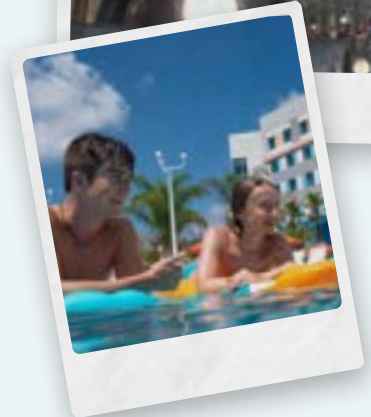
Room Only

#### Board:

Room Only

#### Flights:

Aer Lingus from Manchester



### Universal Ticket

#### Includes access to:

- Universal Studios Florida
- Universal's Islands of Adventure
- Universal's Volcano Bay
- Universal Epic Universe
- The Wizarding World of Harry Potter™ (Hogsmeade™ & Diagon Alley™)
- Hogwarts™ Express (park-to-park ticket required)
- Select shows and venues at Universal CityWalk

# VISTA / Suggested Itineraries

## DISNEY & UNIVERSAL COMBO ESCAPE

Celebrate the return of Disney Dining Plans with 14 nights at All-Star Movies Resort. Includes 14-Day Magic Ticket, Memory Maker, Quick-Service Dining, and Magic Extras like discounts, planning tools, and a welcome from Mickey.

### Orlando, Florida

#### Highlights:

- 14 nights at Disney's All-Star Movies Resort
- Disney Dining Plans return for 2026
- 14-Day Disney Tickets + Memory Maker
- Disney Magic Extras + letter from Mickey
- Optional upgrades to Coronado Springs & Dining Plans

#### Travel Date:

12 Jul 2026

#### Hotel:

Disney's All-Star Movies – Standard Room

#### Dining:

Quick-Service Plan included

#### Ticket:

14-Day Disney Magic + Memory Maker



## WALT DISNEY WORLD SUMMER ESCAPE

Enjoy 7 nights at Disney's All-Star Movies with meals, Magic Ticket, and extras, then 7 nights at Universal's Surfside Inn with room-only stay, Early Park Entry, and access to all Universal parks, including Epic Universe.

### Orlando, Florida

#### Highlights:

- Disney stay with free Quick-Service Dining
- Universal's Epic Universe and more included
- 14-Day Disney Magic Ticket for the price of 7
- \$100 Disney spending money + Magic Extras
- Two Orlando favourites in one trip

#### Travel Date:

21 Aug 2026

#### Duration:

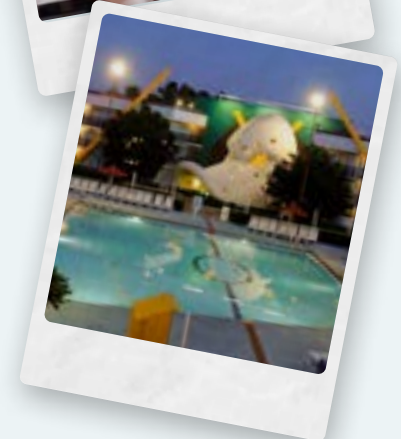
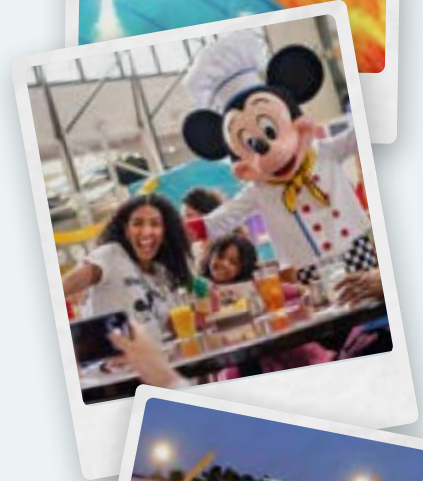
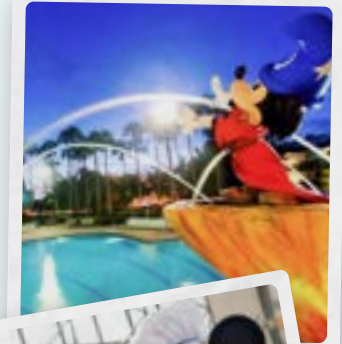
14 nights

#### Itinerary:

7 nights Disney All-Star Movies – Standard Room + meals

7 nights Universal Surfside Inn – Standard Room

Includes all park tickets and perks





# VISTA / *Travel Tips*

Orlando's natural surroundings offer a refreshing contrast to the city's vibrant entertainment scene. Just beyond the urban buzz, visitors can discover serene lakes, lush parks, and expansive conservation areas perfect for outdoor exploration and relaxation. From peaceful city oases to nearby wilderness escapes, Orlando's natural side invites nature lovers and families alike to enjoy Florida's unique landscapes.

## **Book Theme Park Tickets in Advance**

Buying multi-day or combo tickets ahead of time not only saves money but can help secure extras like Early Park Admission, dining packages, and access to virtual queues. Many packages also include perks such as free parking or Memory Maker photo downloads, particularly at Walt Disney World and seasonal events.

## **Make your Dining Reservations Early**

Orlando's signature restaurants and themed dining experiences can book up weeks in advance — particularly within the Disney and Universal resorts. Use official apps or websites to reserve popular options like Cinderella's Royal Table or The Toothsome Chocolate Emporium as soon as your booking window opens.

## **Plan Your Park Days Wisely**

Avoid overloading the schedule. Build in rest days, especially if travelling with young children. Consider visiting the busiest parks mid-week, and save smaller parks or water parks for weekends when crowds are lighter.

## **Getting Around: Car Hire vs Shuttles**

Hiring a car is ideal if you're staying off-site, planning to visit multiple resort areas, or want to explore Florida beyond Orlando. However, guests staying in Disney or Universal hotels can rely on complimentary resort transport. Ride-shares like Uber and Lyft are widely available and convenient for shorter distances.



## **Stay Cool at the Water Parks**

Florida's sunshine makes a visit to one of Orlando's world-class water parks a must. Typhoon Lagoon, Volcano Bay, and Aquatica each offer a mix of thrill rides and relaxing areas, making them great choices for a half-day escape from the theme park crowds.

# VISTA / *Travel Tips*

## Use Park Apps to Your Advantage

Download the official Disney and Universal apps before your trip. These allow you to check wait times, join virtual queues, make dining reservations, and even unlock hotel room doors in some resorts. Mobile ordering can also save time at quick-service restaurants.

## Take Advantage of On-Site Perks

If you're staying at a Disney or Universal hotel, be sure to make use of perks like Early Park Admission, free resort transport, and in some cases, free delivery of merchandise back to your hotel. These small extras can make a big difference.



## Think Beyond the Parks

Orlando is home to beautiful natural areas, fantastic shopping, and a growing food scene. Build in time to explore beyond the theme parks — whether that's a morning at Wekiwa Springs, outlet shopping on International Drive, or dining in Downtown Orlando's Milk District.



## Stay Hydrated and Pack Smart

The Florida sun can be intense, particularly in the summer months. Pack refillable water bottles, ponchos for afternoon downpours, and portable phone chargers to keep devices going throughout the day. Comfortable footwear is a must — you'll be walking several miles each day.



# *Entry Requirements*

UK visitors can travel to the US under the Visa Waiver Program (ESTA), which must be applied for online before departure. Passports should be valid for the duration of your stay, and travellers are advised to check up-to-date guidelines on health and customs prior to travelling.

# *Let the Magic Begin*

Whether you're chasing thrills, sunshine, family memories or just a break from everyday life, Orlando has a way of turning holidays into something truly unforgettable.

For more ideas, tailor-made tips, or help with planning, please don't hesitate to contact the Vista team – we're here to help your customers get the most out of every moment in Orlando.

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