

There's More to Orlando than Disney

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Orlando is one of the top tourism destinations in the world. It features Walt Disney World, Universal Studios and Sea World. People come from every continent to take in these famous theme parks, and especially to meet Big Mickey.

But there is another Orlando, a city full of unexpected smaller attractions, that you might want to take in when you want something a little different or just a break from the crowds at Disney World.

Kissimmee Rodeo.

<http://www.ksarodeo.com>

No, that's not a misprint. The rodeos of the west have come to the south-east - and they are just as much fun. Try this for something different.

Inland manatees.

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/bluespring/default.asp>

People often forget that Florida is more than just one big theme park and the host to spring brake excess. It is also home to many natural wonders. Blue Spring State Park is tucked in between Orlando and Daytona Beach. Although it is an inland park, they have 153 manatees this season, more than ever before.

Private Villa Rentals.

<http://www.lastminutevillas.net>

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You don't have to crowd the family into a cheap motel room in the Orlando region. Nowhere in North America are there so many private villas for rent (vacation home rentals). Look also for rental villas in Orlando at

<http://www.orlandovillaowners.com>

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Mystery Dinner.

<http://www.sleuths.com/Directions.html>

Half way between Orlando and Disney World, it's no mystery why this show packs a full house. This is your chance to participate in a real murder mystery

Farm animal adventure.

<http://www.greenmeadowsfarm.com>

Every child loves to pet animals. No, it does not replace Walt Disney World, but it might make a nice little break in the middle of the Disney excitement, and it is just a short distance south of the Disney park.

Ahoy there, Captain.

<http://www.piratesdinneradventure.com>

Not just the manatees have found their way inland. There are pirates in Orlando, and they offer an interactive family dinner spectacle.

Riverboat Cruise.

<http://www.rivershipromance.com>

It's not the Mississippi, but the "Rivership Romance" cruises along the St. Johns River, providing a first-hand connection with Florida's rich, natural heritage. Dining and dancing accompany the natural beauty.

A taste of Chicago.

<http://www.alcapones.com>

Don't be surprised if you wind up eating with a gangster or two. Or if the police burst in on your dinner to make a bust. This is a living tribute to the legendary Gangland Chicago, and you are invited to participate in the action.

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It's a pity that these gems hide in the shadow of Planet Earth's biggest theme park . You won't want to miss Walt Disney World, but take some time out to see what others have missed. Your friends back home will be impressed.

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For Disney vacation villa rentals:

<http://www.lastminutevillas.net/Disney-vacation.html>

For other Florida vacation home rentals:

<http://www.lastminutevillas.net/enquiry.html>

[Info@thehappyguy.com](mailto:Info@thehappyguy.com)

### **Choosing The Right Hotel For Your Disney Vacation**

#### **By Rosalie Carson**

So you decided to visit Walt Disney World this year? Now the fun begins as you plan everything you wish to see and do. As you plan all the details of your trip, you will first need to decide where you would like to stay in Orlando. If you research all the available hotels in the Orlando area you will overwhelmed with the number of choices you will have.

With thousands of hotel rooms in the area, from on-site Disney hotels to off-site large and small hotel chains, you really have quite a few decisions to make before you choose one. In order to determine what will work best for you, you should consider both your budget and the needs of your traveling party.

The number of people in your party and their ages and needs should guide you to where you should stay when visiting Walt Disney World. Usually, large parties benefit from suite type hotels or even renting a home during the stay, as most hotel rooms are geared for a total of 4 persons (2 adults and 2 children). Travelers with small children like to stay close to the theme parks and enjoy the ability to commute back and forth from the parks to the hotel with ease. The ages of your travelers should also be considered, as some of the family-budget type hotels may not be enjoyed by seniors or honeymooners.

Disney on site hotels do offer several choices in the area of pricing and features. Staying on site at

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Disney does include a few benefits that you cannot get off site. They include "extra park hours", which allow hotel guests to visit parks one hour before their scheduled opening times and up to three hours after closing times. This feature applies to one park per day and rotates each day of the week. On site hotels also offer Disney's Magical Express service, which provides transportation to and from the Orlando airport, including the ability to bypass baggage claim, as Disney picks up your luggage for you.

Staying on site also include guaranteed park admissions, even when the parks are filled to capacity. This only helps when traveling during real peak times of year.

Off site hotels are plentiful in the Orlando area. Some hotels are within one mile from Disney property and are very convenient to the parks. Usually an off site hotel will offer more for the money, compared to a Disney value or moderate type hotel. All of the major chain hotels (Embassy Suites, Holiday Inn, and Sheraton) can be found in the Orlando area. When booking a room outside of Disney, it makes sense to get referrals from family or friends who have stayed in those hotels. Otherwise, stick to a major hotel chain and check out the hotel online for reviews.

Deciding where to stay during your vacation is an important decision to make. If you want the complete Disney experience, or feel you need the ability to travel back and forth to the theme parks in the easiest manner you may want to choose an on site hotel. If you are planning to rent a car, are going to travel to other parks (Sea World, Universal), or are on a budget and want the best value for your dollars, look into an off site hotel deal.

Wherever you decide to stay you can be assured that Orlando offers great entertainment for travelers and continue to rank as a top travel destination.

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Rosalie Carson's website

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, where she writes about a variety of Disney related

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