Article Side

Things to do in Orlando (other than Disney World)

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Article published on April 18th 2012 | Travel

One of the hottest vacation destinations for families is Orlando, Florida. There is so much to see and do in this city that you could stay for weeks and not hit it all. If you're looking for some fun activities and don't know what's in Orlando aside from Disney World, check out these places:

1. Universal Studios

The other major theme park in Orlando, Universal has two main parks: the Studios, and Islands of Adventure. Many of the rides here tend to be more intense than in Disney, and you'll find a lot more roller coasters and thrill rides. And of course, the Wizarding World of Harry Potter has made Islands of Adventure one of the hottest places in Orlando. If you're a fan of the Harry Potter books then this location is not to be missed.

2. Sea World

Have some members of the family that like aquariums? Visit Sea World, the ultimate aquarium. You'll see some of the most impressive whale and dolphin shows in the country, as well as being able to visit and view other types of sea creatures, like seeing many different types of penguins and walking through the shark tunnel. Sea World also has plenty of amusement park elements itself, including two roller coasters and a couple of other rides.

3. Water Parks

Disney has two water parks, Typhoon Lagoon and Blizzard Beach, but there are some good ones outside of Disney World as well. Wet 'n Wild, right near Universal, has tons of fun water rides. They feature a lot of multi-person rides and slides that are good for families. Another water park that is definitely worth checking out is Aquatica, a water park owned by Sea World. This beautiful water parks has a few unique opportunities, including a clear slide that takes you through a dolphin tank and the lazy river takes you through large tanks filled with exotic fish.

4. Dinner Shows

There are tons of dinner shows available in Orlando, so pick something that someone in your family has an interest in. Maybe the Arabian Nights show to hear the tale of a genie, or Medieval Times, which features jousting and knights. The pirates dinner show is very popular, especially with boys. If you want a bit more of an interactive experience, consider one of the mystery dinner shows. With many of these you can become part of the action, interrogating the actors and trying to solve the mystery yourself.

5. Gatorland

Want to see some alligators up close and personal? Then head to Gatorland. It's one of the oldest attractions in the area, before Disney World was even around. There's shows, entertainment, a boardwalk, a swamp walk, and a number of educational programs that will teach you all about these fascinating creatures.

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Article Keywords:
holidays to Walt Disney World , vacations in Orlando , trips to Orlando , Villa breaks in Florida , breaks on the beach

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