

An Insider's Guide to Orlando

<u>CDAS</u> has created this guide to Orlando, compiled by an 18-year Orlando resident, to help you get the most out of your visit during the 2016 INTA Annual Meeting. Central Florida has so much more to offer than just theme parks. We hope you'll explore this special part of Florida, and that these recommendations enhance your visit!

Getting Around

Uber and Lyft operate in Orlando, and taxis are available at the airport and hotels, but keep in mind it's typically easy and inexpensive to rent a car in Orlando, especially at the airport. Many of the things to do on the following list are easily accessible by car, with only a few of these suggestions more than 45 minutes to an hour away.

Family-friendly things to do, other than Disney and Universal

- Visit the Orlando Science Center (great for kids): osc.org
- Old Town, Kissimmee: myoldtownusa.com
- Discovery Cove (*tip:* Call 30 days out to upgrade to a cabana- totally worth it): discoverycove.com
- Kennedy Space Center: <u>kennedyspacecenter.com</u>
- Catch a show at the Bob Carr Performing Arts Center, or Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts: drphillipscenter.org
- See the area from a helicopter: <u>orlandohelitours.com</u>
- And there are the theme parks. (*tip:* Tour the theme parks from the farthest from the entrance forward. Spaceship Earth will still be there in the afternoon. Trust us.)

"Real" Florida

- Gator wrestling and more at Gatorland: gatorland.com
- Mermaid shows at Weeki Wachee Springs: weekiwachee.com
- Wekiwa Springs for camping, hiking, manatees and beyond: floridastateparks.org/park/Wekiwa-Springs
- Blue Springs and Rock Springs Run are beautiful pack your swimsuit and snorkel: <u>floridastateparks.org/park/Blue-Spring</u> floridastateparks.org/park/Rock-Springs-Run

Shopping

- Park Avenue (in Winter Park): <u>experienceparkavenue.com</u>
- Orlando Premium Outlets: <u>premiumoutlets.com/outlet/orlando-vineland</u>
- The Mall at Millenia: mallatmillenia.com

If you love golf, get a tee time at...

- Dubsdread: <u>dubsdreadgolfclub.com</u>
- Stonybrook West: golfsbw.com
- Mt. Dora Golf Club: mountdoragolf.com

Other sports: Baseball's Spring Training is over, but...

- Orlando City Soccer has taken the town by storm, so pack something purple in your suitcase and join the fun, or just tune into the Orlando City Soccercast: orlandocitysc.com & orlandocitysc.com/soccercast
- Jai-alai is rare to see in the U.S. and the season is short, but it's on April-May at the fronton in Fern Park: jai-alai.info/orlando-jai-alai.html
- Get active with Orlando's bike share program, "Juice": orlando.socialbicycles.com

Cool off with some great microbrews!

- Redlight Redlight: <u>redlightredlightbeerparlour.com</u>
- Thirsty Topher (recently moved to 601 Virginia Drive, Orlando): thethirstytopher.tumblr.com
- Johnny's Fillin' Station: johnnysfillinstation.com
- Orlando Brewing Company: orlandobrewing.com
- Ten10 Brewery: ten10brewingcompany.com
- The Hourglass Brewing Company in nearby Longwood: thehourglassbrewery.com/cheers
- Red Cypress Brewing Company in Winter Haven: <u>redcypressbrewery.com</u>
- Crooked Can Brewing Company in Winter Garden: crookedcan.com
- Playalinda Brewing Co. (in Titusville, near the Atlantic beaches and Canaveral National Seashore State Park): <u>playalindabrewingcompany.com</u>
- Cigar City Brewing and Cycle Brewing (Tampa/St. Petersburg): <u>cigarcitybrewing.com</u> <u>keepsaintpetersburglocal.org/members/view/Cycle-Brewing</u>
- And for oenophiles, visit beautiful Lakeridge Winery in Clermont: <u>lakeridgewinery.com</u> and Quantum Leap, in Orlando, Florida's only sustainable winery: <u>quantumleapwinery.com</u>

On the radio

- WPRK 91.5 FM, Rollins College, one of the oldest and most independent college radio stations in the country
- WTKS 104.1 FM, massively popular talk radio station, with music on weekends
- WMFE 90.7 FM, classical/NPR affiliate
- WUCF 89.9 FM, University of Central Florida, featuring jazz and more

Downtown Orlando

 All business during the day; at night wander the long strip of bars running along Orange Avenue

Recommended concert venues and clubs there and nearby...

The Social (Aero Bar on the roof): thesocial.org

The Beacham: thebeacham.com

Will's Pub: willspub.org

Back Booth: backbooth.com

Venue 578 (formerly the famous Firestone Club): <u>venue578.com</u> Independent Bar: <u>independentbar2.pushthetempo.com/wordpress</u>

Church Street Station: churchstreetstation.com

- The bar at the Grand Bohemian Hotel: grandbohemianhotel.com/dining/lounge
- Although the Orlando Magic are off in May, the Amway Center has the occasional big concert (like Def Leppard & Tesla on May 20): <u>amwaycenter.com</u>
- For something more wholesome, try swan boat rides, free yoga (Sundays) and other events at downtown's beautiful Lake Eola: cityoforlando.net/parks/lake-eola-park
- Downtown Orlando Food Tour: orlandofoodtours.com
- For art, the Gallery at Avalon Island is a gift, the Henao Contemporary Center is a new favorite, and the Orlando Art Museum is not far away from downtown: artandhistory.org | henaocenter.com | omart.org

Explore Winter Park, Florida – not very far (just 30 minutes from the Convention Center on I-4) but a world away...

 Take a stroll up and down Park Avenue, loaded with shops, restaurants, trees draped with Spanish moss, and tons of charm. Visit the Casa Feliz historic home and museum at one end, and walk the avenue to Rollins College (voted "most beautiful campus" by The Princeton Review):

experienceparkavenue.com

casafeliz.us

rollins.edu/visit-rollins/index.html

• Walk the brick streets of Rollins College to the Cornell Arts Museum: rollins.edu/cornell-fine-arts-museum

- The Winter Park Scenic Boat Tour is a must, and is the best way to view the exquisite lakeside homes in the area: scenicboattours.com
- For something more active, try a kayak/paddleboard tour, or bike the Cady Way Trail (10 min. away):

<u>peaceofmindkayaktours.com/winter-park-chain-of-lakes</u> paddleboardorlando.com/wp

traillink.com/trail/cady-way-trail.aspx

- Stop by the Morse Museum of American Art, which boasts the world's largest collection of works by Louis Comfort Tiffany: morsemuseum.org
- The Maitland Art Center: artandhistory.org
- Other arts, culture and gardens in the area...

Polasek Gardens & Sculpture Museum: polasek.org

Kraft Azalea Gardens: bit.ly/1LKsaud
Mead Gardens: meadgarden.org
Harry P. Leu Gardens: leugardens.org
Jack Kerouac House: kerouacproject.org

- Enjoy an afternoon cocktail or an iced tea at the Alfond Inn: thealfondinn.com/dining/hamiltons_kitchen
- Catch an independent movie at The Enzian art-house cinema (food and drink are served): enzian.org

For great food

Visit Central Florida's center for food culture, East End Market: eastendmkt.com

Favorite dining spots...

Ravenous Pig (reservations strongly recommended): theravenouspig.com

Cask & Larder: caskandlarder.com

Briarpatch (brunch or lunch): thebriarpatchrestaurant.com

Luma on Park: <u>lumaonpark.com</u> 310 Park South: 310parksouth.net

Boca Kitchen Bar & Market: <u>bocawinterpark.net</u> Christini's Ristorante Italiano: <u>christinis.com</u> Tako Cheena yelp.com/biz/tako-cheena-orlando

P is for Pie: <u>crazyforpies.com</u>

The Osprey Tavern: <u>ospreytavern.com</u>

The Strand: strandorlando.com

Atlantic Beer & Oyster: atlanticbeerandoyster.com

Take a day trip to Mount Dora ci.mount-dora.fl.us

- About 45 minutes away on Highway 429 (and one of Florida's highest points)
- Classic Central Florida, overlooking beautiful Lake Dora galleries, cute shops, antiques, the Mt. Dora Golf Club, a couple of breweries, even a winery
- On weekends, the Orange Blossom Dinner Train runs through the area orangeblossomcannonball.com
- Stroll Renninger's antique center and flea market (it's enormous): renningers.net

If you love (or need) the beach

- Closest option (an hour away): Cocoa Beach nice Atlantic Ocean beach, and home of famous Ron Jon Surf Shop
- Recommended: Canaveral Park National Seashore beautiful, peaceful and protected (\$5 per person daily use fee): nps.gov/cana/index.htm
- For surfers, try New Smyrna Beach for chilled out surf culture
- On the west (gulf) coast: St. Petersburg/Clearwater boasts a fun downtown, a newly redone Salvador Dali Museum, and Ybor City for a little taste of Havana in the U.S. thedali.org | yborcityonline.com
- **Tip:** For a unique experience, drive to the east coast for the sunrise over the Atlantic Ocean and head west to see the sunset over the Gulf of Mexico!
- If you have extra time for a full-day trip, try St. Augustine (on the Atlantic side), the oldest city in the United States

Live like a real "local"

- Put on WPRK 91.5 FM in your car
- Get coffee and breakfast at Barnie's CoffeeKitchen on Park Avenue in Winter Park barniescoffeekitchen.com, or a sweet treat at Bluebird Bake Shop bluebirdbakeshop.com
- Go shopping for records at Park Ave CDs: parkavecds.com
- Grab coffee at Stardust and a copy of the Orlando Weekly: <u>facebook.com/stardustie</u> <u>orlandoweekly.com</u>
- Grab a beer at Redlight Redlight
- Get lunch at Briarpatch
- Wander Park Avenue, or one of the gardens or art galleries mentioned above
- Have dinner at Cask & Larder
- Enjoy a movie at The Enzian
- Wrap up your day with a show at The Social or Back Booth
- Ponder why anyone would want to spend the day in line at a theme park

Enjoy the conference and your visit to beautiful Central Florida. Feel free to share this guide with other attendees!



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