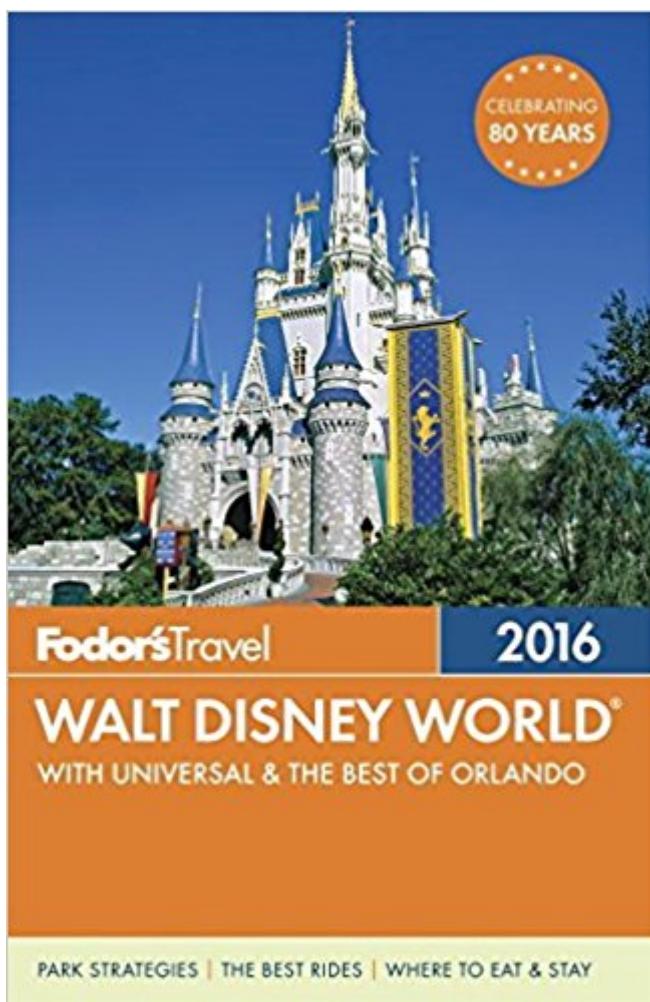


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# Fodor's Walt Disney World 2016: With Universal & The Best Of Orlando (Full-color Travel Guide)



## Synopsis

Written by locals, Fodor's travel guides have been offering expert advice for all tastes and budgets for 80 years. For generations, Americans have come to play and dream in Orlando. Whether visitors want to wander the halls of Hogwarts or dine with Cinderella, Fodor's Walt Disney World provides everything they need to know. Color photos and features highlight the best of the theme parks, area hotels and restaurants, golf courses and spas, and Orlando. This travel guide includes:

- Dozens of full-color maps
- Hundreds of hotel and restaurant recommendations
- Multiple itineraries to explore the top attractions and what's off the beaten path
- In-depth breakout features on park planning tips and the legacy of Walt Disney
- Coverage of Walt Disney World, Universal Orlando, Seaworld, Discovery Cove, Wet 'n Wild, Orlando and Environs

Planning to visit more of Florida? Check out Fodor's state-wide travel guide to Florida as well as our South Florida guide.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Fodor's is pitched a few notches higher and aimed at a fairly discerning traveler with an appetite for background and the occasional surprise. The Fodor's guides are notable for their ratings of sights, restaurants, shops, accommodations and attractions. In terms of comprehensiveness of coverage, the very accessible format, and the enthusiastic tone, this series remains one of the best on the market." Booklist

super-informative guidebooks are known for accuracy and attention to detail. Fodor's can help you plan the perfect adventure.

For over 80 years, Fodor's Travel has been a trusted resource offering expert travel advice for every stage of a traveler's trip. We hire local writers who know their destinations better than anyone else, allowing us to provide the best travel recommendations for all tastes and budget in over 7,500 worldwide destinations. Our books make it possible for every trip to be a trip of a lifetime.

Great to use, Easy to use and fun to use. This book is an all in one. Would be better if staying on the Disney property but has good insight for what is needed.

Very informative book!

Got this guide as we're going to Orlando in December like almost everyone else. I'm very disappointed in this book. First of all it's printed in tiny fonts which make it very hard to read for older readers like myself. Second it sorely lacks useful tips such as info about when the crowds are the largest. I had seen such info in another book at the library. Thirdly the information is not well organized. For example instead of narrative itineraries they should have used a list format, or shared more strategies to "beat" or work with the huge crowds everywhere especially at WDW. Finally Kennedy Space Center which I want to visit is mentioned only in passing and you can't even find it in the Index. Chapter 2 is for WDW and I'm disappointed it doesn't mention important info like where you can park at each of the theme parks or you have to park only at the transportation center. Important stuff for people like myself who stay off premises to save money. Chapter 3 is for Universal Orlando. Chapter 4 Seaworld, Discovery Cove and Aquatica, Chapter 5 Wet 'n Wild, Chapter 6 Orlando and environs, then the last chapters on dining, lodging, shopping and nightlife across the different venues. The maps are barebones.

I am enjoying my book. It came in excellent condition. Thank you

This book occupies the middle ground between the Official Guide, which gushes over WDW, and the Unofficial Guide, which is occasionally snarky, as though the writer didn't care for the subject matter, but edited it to suit the audience. Fodor's guide isn't an exciting read, but it is an excellent

tool for planning a trip. My guess is that the reader is already pretty excited about going to Disneyworld and doesn't need the Guide to be excited as well. There's a good explanation of the new Fastpass system which will be useful even for long-time visitors. In fact, long-time visitors need this most, since the new system spreads the wealth more, by severely limiting fastpasses for the most popular rides. We're the ones who need the system explained since so many changes have been made. As with all guides, there is much in the book which you will never need, especially restaurants and hotels that are either outside of your budget or your preferences. That's unavoidable in a guide meant for big spenders as well as the budget conscious, Grand Floridian guests as well as those of us in Joe's Irlo Bronson motel. On that note, you should seriously consider renting a nearby vacation home, I've slept ten comfortably for little over \$100/night, in a modern house (the master bath was bigger than my bedroom at home), five minutes from the Disney entrance highway. YMMV I'd also recommend the Unofficial Guide's Crowd Tracker, which has helped us a lot. Finally, be aware that the really slow times are no longer all that slow. All the major guides have the necessary information. If you're spending thousands on a Disney vacation, buying a couple of them is a good investment, and Fodor's is a good choice. People often come away from their trip frustrated by troubles which were easy to avoid (don't believe me? Look at the Spaceship Earth line in the morning, anyone who reads a guide will know the lines are small, except in the morning). You will greatly enhance your vacation experience if you have a good understanding of what your choices are, this book is a great start.

The latest Fodor's Walt Disney World 2016 has loads of information for anyone vacationing in Central Florida. This is not just a Disney overview. There are some very good reviews of other attraction like Universal Studios and Gatorland and the very interesting Winter Park area. The vast majority of this book, though is dedicated to Disney World. I have been to Disney World countless times and this overview is valuable. There are maps of every park and also of the Disney downtown area. Each park section explains the different lands and the attractions. What is really helpful are the expected lines and cautions of each ride such as warning pregnant women, those with back and neck issues and those that suffer motion sickness from riding certain attractions. Also Fodor's highlights those not to miss rides. Each attraction also details the special considerations of those with disabilities. I agree with almost all of their assessments of the rides. The new Mine Train ride in the Magic Kingdom should not be missed but expect a line along with every roller coaster in any of the parks. Disney fast passes are well explained. These are the three passes that guests can reserve for attractions. Fodor's explains that they should be reserved as early as possible (meaning

as soon as a guest receives their Disney tickets or wrist bands in the mail) although this is simply not possible for those who come to the park last minute or those that have military discounted tickets as they have to be activated at the park entrance. What is not as well explained is that guests can get more fast passes after they use their three. Fodor's also lets the reader know which fast passes to reserve. Some rides, like Mickey's Philharmagic in the Magic Kingdom and the Indiana Jones show in Hollywood Studios are big enough theaters that they are not needed. There are overviews of the nicer eating establishments at the Disney parks and the expected price at these restaurants. Included are those restaurants that have Character greetings. Again, Fodor's recommends reserving as soon as possible. Some of the Disney hotel restaurants are covered but not all of them. There is not enough page space dedicated to those quick counter places in the parks. Fodor's covers those special tours that Disney offers also, like the Jungle Trek at Animal Kingdom and VIP tours that can be reserved. These are pricey but Fodor's lets the reader know that up front. Fodor's also tells readers of special events in the park like the Food and Wine tasting at EPCOT and the Not so Scary Halloween at the Magic Kingdom, not all the special events are listed like Star Wars Weekends and the Villains Day at Hollywood studios. Something else Fodor's does well is explaining the bus and boat transportation system that Disney runs throughout its property. These are so wonderful for those who do not wish to rent a car (Disney has a Magical Express which will pick guests up at the airport), but Fodor's warns that the rider can expect a wait for the buses and boats as they make their rounds through the resorts and parks. The Disney property hotels are examined with Fodor's giving recommendations for each category (value, moderate and luxury). Also included are hotels kids will enjoy. The benefits at each hotel like pools and activities are not as well examined though. The two Water parks, Typhoon Lagoon and Blizzard Beach are well described along with the must do rides at each park. The missing piece of the Disney section is the character meet and greet spots. For many families, these are extremely important. Fodor's covers the princess section (Frozen and Rapunzel), the Mickey Mouse and the Toontown characters for the Magic Kingdom (along with the Attractions like Tales with Belle and Ariel's Grotto) but families would like to know where Merida is located or Princess Tiana. EPCOT has several spots located in the country sections where families can meet characters and these were not covered. The Animal Kingdom Park has spots also like the characters from UP and Pocahontas too which I did not see covered. The Universal Studios section is well covered, especially little things like parking. Two parks make up Universal, Islands of Adventure and Universal Studios. Families will find attractions are well described along with The Harry Potter section too. Fodor's explains parking is really far from the parks and expensive too. Again like Disney, there are maps of the parks with

those rides that are worth waiting for and those you can skip if you are short on time. The express pass system is explained which is not free like Disney and must be purchased separately. For those Harry Potter fans, Fodor's goes into detail about the new attractions in both the Islands of Adventure and Universal Studios. This area, Fodor's warns, tends to be very crowded but worthwhile. Islands of Adventure is better described than its sister park and that's probably because there are more thrill rides in this section. Universal also has special events and they are listed too like Mardi Gras. Fodor's describes Universal resort hotels with price points and the advantages of staying at one of these hotels like the express pass and convenience. Restaurants are listed along with recommendations and a price guide. Both Downtown Disney and Universal City Walk are covered along with its restaurants and attractions. Fodor's has a section on Sea World and Discovery Cove, not in the detail that the other parks are though. They are not as big. Still there is a map of Sea World and a listing of shows and rides along with those rides which are recommended by Fodor's. Finally Fodor's describes hotels and restaurants in the area. Many are on I Drive or in the Buena Vista or Kissimme area. Again Fodor's recommends several and there is a price guide and and Fodor's lets the reader know which have transportation to the parks. This book is a must for those traveling to Orlando for the first time and even for those who have been a few times and want to explore something new in the Orlando area.

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