

summer 2014  
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
ORANGE LAKE RESORT

# elifetimes

CELEBRATING YOUR VACATION LIFESTYLE



## Gee Whiz!

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For those whose children may have grown up with us here at Orange Lake Resort over the years, you've seen our property—and the big theme parks—grow up right beside them.

Maybe you remember taking your little girl to see the princesses at the Magic Kingdom Park or watching her giggle her way through the fountains at *Splash Lagoon*. Or you enjoyed seeing your boys step up from our mini golf courses to *Legends Walk* to challenging you on *The Reserve*.

If you're like me, sometimes you feel nostalgia for these earlier days. Although tradition and history are important, it's also exciting to see the many changes that come along. Our kids get older and accomplish wonderful things for themselves. As for Orange Lake Resorts, we just added our 12th resort in nearby Cape Canaveral, and more will come.

Orlando's theme parks are also poised for big things this summer. In fact, it's predicted to be the best year Central Florida has ever had. One of the biggest reasons is the new Wizarding World of Harry Potter—Diagon Alley at Universal Orlando Resort. Other parks are also responding with their own offerings. From the new Seven Dwarfs Mine Train at the Magic Kingdom Park to SeaWorld's 50th Anniversary Celebration to Legoland's Duplo Valley for toddlers, it's a great time to get the whole family back together in Orlando to enjoy the parks like in years past.

So take a look inside and get a peek at all the fun new experiences waiting for you this summer. Not into theme parks? That's okay. We certainly have plenty of pools waiting for you to relax your days away during your visit.

Sincerely,



Don Harrill  
CEO



## Guests Honored for Saving a Life

Orange Lake Resort guests took home memorable souvenirs—a medal and framed commendation of heroism. On Mother's Day, a couple resuscitated a 10-year-old boy who nearly drowned. Amy and Adam Reusch, vacationing healthcare professionals from Kentucky, received the honorary awards from the county sheriff during a water safety press event. Amy's parents, Stephanie and Mark Jones (also of Kentucky), beamed with pride and said Mother's Day 2014 will always be unforgettable because a life was saved.



# A Summer of Magical Surprises

Orlando's theme parks outdo themselves again

A favorite destination for visitors from all over the country, Orlando has always been about magical and whimsical surprises. And this summer, it's reaching a whole new level again. From dragons to dwarfs and everything in between, the area's theme parks are pulling out all the stops to make your next visit during the year's hottest season truly memorable.

# Universal Studios Florida® welcomes The Wizarding World of Harry Potter™ — **Diagon Alley™**

It all started with Hogwarts Castle and the village of Hogsmeade at the original Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal's Islands of Adventure®. And now, you're in for a real treat this summer. Whether you're a Harry Potter zealot or new to the "wizarding" world, the addition of Diagon Alley to the landscape of Universal Studios Florida is sure to cast a spell on you (*in a good way*)!

## Keeping it fresh

This new area brings to life some of the experiences and places found in and around London in the Harry Potter books and films, offering brand-new adventures for you and your family. It also doubles the size of the "wizarding" experience, adding a new ride, shops and attractions.

Although you don't have to tap the correct brick pattern (from the trash can, three up and two across), you will still enter Diagon Alley just like Harry did—passing through the iconic brick wall from London into the bustling wizarding hub.







# Harry Potter and The Escape from Gringotts™

At the far end of Diagon Alley stands Gringotts, the goblin-run bank. Inside, you'll experience a pulse-pounding adventure on a groundbreaking, multi-dimensional thrill ride that puts you right in the middle of the action as you navigate your way through the perils of the Gringotts vaults—encountering favorite characters from the Harry Potter books and films along the way! This new attraction is sure to rival Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey, located within the famous Hogwarts castle at The Wizarding World of Harry Potter—Hogsmeade.



*Harry wished he had eight more eyes... There were shops selling robes, shops selling telescopes and strange silver instruments Harry had never seen before, windows stacked with barrels of bat spleens and eels' eyes, tottering piles of spell books, quills, and rolls of parchment, potion bottles, globes of the moon....*

Description of Harry Potter's first visit to Diagon Alley, from *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by J.K. Rowling



Wisacre's Wizarding Equipment

## Famous Diagon Alley shops

If you've never seen a wand choose a wizard at Ollivanders™ wand shop in Hogsmeade at Universal's Islands of Adventure, be sure to experience it in its new Diagon Alley location.

You can also pick up magical jokes and novelties at Weasleys' Wizard Wheezes. Find all your wizardwear needs at Madam Malkin's Robes for All Occasions. Bring home a furry, feathered or scaly creature from the Magical Menagerie™. Search for supplies at Wisacre's Wizarding Equipment and authentic writing products at Scribbulus. And gather all your gaming gear at Quality Quidditch™ Supplies.

Meanwhile, practitioners of the Dark Arts will find everything they need down the gloomy Knockturn Alley™. You can even visit the infamous Borgin and Burkes shop, if you're brave enough.

## The Leaky Cauldron™ and other eating establishments

When you're feeling a bit hungry, you can dine on delicious pub fare at the Leaky Cauldron™. It's a great place to sit down and relax as you enjoy a traditional British meal. Or if you'd rather indulge in a frozen treat, visit Florean Fortescue's Ice-Cream Parlour.



Weasleys' Wizard Wheezes



Fortescue's Ice-Cream Parlour



## All Aboard the Hogwarts Express!

True to the books and films, you'll travel between "London" and Hogsmeade aboard the Hogwarts Express, exact down to the last detail. And just as Harry reaches the train by running through a brick wall onto the hidden, magical Platform 9¾, you'll appear to pass through the wall to board as well. Inside, you'll marvel at the movie-accurate size and details of the cabins, hallways, paint, materials and even the whistle.

The train offers two different experiences, depending on the direction you're traveling. During the journey, you'll pass by the scenery of London and the British countryside. And based on your seat and angle, the journey will look different. Be sure to watch for Hagrid on a flying motorbike, the Weasley twins on brooms and the Knight Bus in London traffic.



### Universal CityWalk also expands

Keep an eye out for additions to Universal CityWalk too. This year, you can dig into iconic hot dog creations from famous ball parks at Hot Dog Hall of Fame and grab a frozen treat from Cold Stone Creamery or Menchie's. You'll also enjoy trendsetting dishes at CowFish, delicious street fare at Antojitos Authentic Mexican Food, home-style sandwiches at Bread Box, Neopolitan-style pizza at Red Oven Pizza Bakery and more.





Seven Dwarfs Mine Train

## Dwarfed by the Details

### Meet the new Mine Train at the Magic Kingdom Park

Deep inside the mine where a million diamonds shine reside Snow White's famous friends, and the new **Seven Dwarfs Mine Train** brings them to life more realistically than ever before as part of New Fantasyland® at the Magic Kingdom® Park. The journey is accompanied by music and animated figures from the classic 1937 film.

The new attraction showcases a first-of-its kind coaster system that cruises up lifts, across banks and around turns through a glittering mine. From your mine car, you'll see the fully animated faces of the Dwarfs, whistling while they work with smooth, natural movements. They're being called "some of the most advanced Audio-Animatronics figures Walt Disney Imagineering has ever created."

The ride includes a "big drop" after exiting the interior mine area where you'll briefly be able to see a full view of the rest of New Fantasyland, including Beast's Castle and Prince Eric's Castle. The iconic Cinderella Castle will also be visible.

Also, paying homage to the magic and pageantry of Fantasyland and its inhabitants, the new Disney Festival of Fantasy Parade features innovative floats, vibrant costumes and original music winding through the streets of the Magic Kingdom Park each afternoon.



### Memories made easy with new MyMagic+

The Walt Disney World® Resort has unlocked a new dimension of personalized Disney magic. It's called **MyMagic+**, and it all starts with My Disney Experience. This family of online tools provides recommendations to help plan your trip from home. For the first time, guests who have purchased their theme park admission tickets can reserve access to attractions, shows, parades, Disney Character Experiences and more—before you even leave home. Then when you're at the parks, you can use the new MagicBand or a card to connect to the choices you've made online.



## See a **Sea of Surprises**<sup>TM</sup>



### SeaWorld's 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration continues

Share the excitement of the **50th anniversary celebration** that continues for the next eighteen months at all SeaWorld® parks, including Orlando. During the celebration, you'll discover even more up-close animal encounters—watch for a pair of Magellanic penguins, a lemur or even a parade of flamingos.

You'll also be invited to take part through new interactive experiences, shows and pathway performances, plus a "Surprise Squad" with prizes every day. Also included will be new ways for guests to connect to the parks and each other through digital devices.

### Chill out

When visiting SeaWorld Orlando, don't miss the recently opened realm of **Antarctica: Empire of the Penguin™**. The "coldest theme park attraction in Orlando" combines 30-degree temperatures, up-close encounters with more than 250 penguins and a family adventure ride to create a thrilling, chilling experience.

And if you're visiting **Aquatica, SeaWorld's Waterpark™** next door, you can test your bravery at the new Ihu's Breakaway Falls. At nearly 80 feet tall, it offers four unique slide paths—three "breakaway boxes" where you watch each other fall one-by-one and a fourth open slide for a different, but just as exciting descent.



### Feel the "Fury" at Busch Gardens®

If you like thrills, head to the west coast of Florida and check out the fearsome Falcon's Fury™ at **Busch Gardens Tampa**. The centerpiece of the new Pantopia™ land, it's the tallest freestanding drop tower in North America, standing at 335 feet. At the ride's highest point, like its bird-of-prey namesake, riders pivot 90 degrees in midair to a face-down dive position before plunging straight down at 60 mph.

# A New Way to Go Coastal

When it comes to vacation variety, few places offer the diversity of Cocoa Beach, Cape Canaveral and the **Space Coast**. Located midway between Miami and Jacksonville and just over 50 miles east of Orlando, you'll fall in love with the area's charms—from swaying palms to sparkling beaches, rocket gardens to botanical gardens, space ships to cruise ships and much more.





Photo courtesy Space Coast Office of Tourism

## Space and science to spare

Experience the world's most authentic space attraction firsthand at the **Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex** in Cape Canaveral. This one-of-a-kind spaceport offers rich historical references in every exhibit, along with a clear vision into the future of space exploration and travel. It's all bolstered by fascinating learning opportunities from both the International Space Station and the Hubble telescope photos.



© 2014 Air Force Space and Missile Museum

Meanwhile, the **Air Force Space and Missile History Center**, an extension of the Air Force Space and Missile Museum, is open to the general public six days a week. The History Center is located just outside the south gate of Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. Historic information and exhibits for each launch complex at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station are on display.



Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science

At the **Brevard Museum of History and Science**, you'll experience the diverse history of Brevard County through colorful dioramas depicting everything from woolly mammoths and saber-tooth cats to modern rockets and space shuttles. Visitors can handle fossils, specimens and artifacts from the animals and cultures that have lived in the area over many thousands of years.



Above and Right: Get up close to animals at Brevard Zoo.

## Into the wild

The **Brevard Zoo** is a wonderful attraction and conservation hub where you can get closer to nature and be reminded of the diversity of life with which we share this planet. The zoo covers over 75 acres and offers many activities, including Treetop Trek, guided kayak tours, paddleboats, giraffe and lorikeet feeding, a rhino encounter and more.

Since ancient times, the barrier island of the Canaveral National Seashore has provided sanctuary to both people and wildlife. Many threatened animals find refuge there, including nesting sea turtles. Like Native Americans and other early settlers, you too can find tranquility as you swim in the ocean, fish in the lagoon or stroll down a wooded trail. Or simply reflect on the longest expanse of pristine shoreline in Florida.

The **Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge**, which is an overlay of the John F. Kennedy Space Center, consists of 140,000 acres of brackish estuaries and marshes, coastal dunes, scrub oaks, pine forests, palm and oak hammocks. Many recreational opportunities are available, including bird and wildlife observation, a wildlife drive, a manatee observation deck, fishing and hunting opportunities, boating and paddling.

Photos courtesy Space Coast Office of Tourism



# Catch a **cruise**

**Port Canaveral** is a popular place to hop aboard a three- to seven-day cruise to the Bahamas or the Caribbean. With four million cruise passengers each year, it's the second-busiest cruise port in the world and the home port for ships from Carnival Cruise Lines, Disney Cruise Line and Royal Caribbean International.



**Above:** Disney and Royal Caribbean ships berthed in Port Canaveral.  
**Below:** Exploration Tower.



## Towering **view**

Even if you're not ready to board a ship, you can enjoy the sight of the luxurious liners leaving the docks in the afternoon. Head to the nearby beach or fishing pier at Jetty Park, or get a bird's-eye view from the top-floor observation deck of the new **Exploration Tower** just a few blocks from the resort. The tower is also a great way to learn more about the rest of the area through exhibits and interactive experiences.

Photo courtesy Space Coast Office of Tourism



## New Duplo® Valley Toddler Area Opens at Legoland® Florida

New enhancements at **Legoland Florida** will bring the Lego® Duplo line of preschool building toys to life with farm-themed attractions, an air-conditioned indoor play area and outdoor water spot created for toddlers aged two to five. Duplo Valley will be the ideal place for park guests to play and relax with their children.

The Duplo Train lets toddlers and parents explore countryside-themed scenery while riding through farms, fishing holes and campgrounds. Just across the way, toddlers can ride a tractor just their size and help farmers plow their cornfields and hunt for missing farm animals.

Kids looking to cool off can make a big splash in the refreshingly fun water park with intermittent fountains

and interactive aquatic elements surrounded by farm animals that are larger than life.

The existing Duplo Barn will also feature significant enhancements, so families can play indoors together in the comfort of air conditioning. Existing attractions will be enhanced with additional Duplo farm-themed play areas along with a toddler room where parents can relax while kids enjoy Duplo bricks.



# Have a Real Blast

Your dream to be like James Bond comes true at **Blast Off Adventures** in Clermont. Hop into the water and prepare to get launched as high as 30 feet in the air, propelled by a jet pack called JetLev. The device is part watercraft and part aircraft—designed for safety, stability, ease of use and precise and effortless control. In as little as six minutes, almost anyone can take off, fly, turn, hover and land. “Flights” lasts 20–30 minutes, and you can also get a video of the experience for an additional charge.

# Hang Out Over Central Florida

You don’t need a mountain to hang glide. **Wallaby Ranch** in Orlando is the first and largest aerotow hang gliding flight park in the world, and it also has a reputation for being one of the best and safest places to learn. And you don’t need a mountain to get launched. At Wallaby Ranch, gliders are towed aloft using a specially designed, ultra-light tow plane (an “aerotug” or “tug” for short).

For launch, the glider sits on a specially designed rolling cart and an assistant connects you and your glider to a 150-foot-long tow line. Then, at a signal from the ground crew, the tug accelerates. When you have enough airspeed (after a couple of seconds), you rise smoothly from the cart into the sky. It’s equal parts thrill ride and family-friendly fun.



# Give This Attraction a Whirl

**WhirlyDome** is home to Orlando’s totally mechanized team sport: WhirlyBall. Think of WhirlyBall as a combination of bumper cars, basketball, Jai-alai and hockey. The game is played five-on-five, with players piloting WhirlyBugs (high-tech bumper cars) while using a scoop to pass and shoot a plastic ball at their opponent’s goal. As players bump and block around the court, referees enforce rules, keep score and make sure everyone has fun.

WhirlyDome visitors can also experience the sights, sounds and adrenaline rush of driving a Formula One race car with the new Formula One racing simulator, modeled after the F1 simulators used by professional racing teams. There’s also Lazer Frenzy, where players navigate through a maze of beams, fog and mirrors. And you can enjoy pool tables, a variety of arcade games and a casual pub offering specialty craft beers.





## Swim with the Giants

The Florida manatee is a curious, friendly and playful animal. Ranging in size from 800 to more than 1,200 pounds, these slow-moving denizens of the sea make it hard not to fall in love. They prefer the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico, but you'll also find herds grouped together in the 72-degree, spring-fed Crystal River, located only two hours from Orlando.

Whether you're on your own or visiting through a **Meet a Manatee** tour, you can interact with these graceful, docile creatures as they glide peacefully through their natural habitat. It's an experience you'll never forget.

## A Trip Around **Our Resorts**

It's an action-packed summer lineup for Central Florida, and things are heating up at our other resort locations too! Here are some great ideas to add some extra fun to your season.

If music is your thing, you have multiple choices. Lake Geneva is home to free **Concerts in the Park** every Thursday night in July and August. Or chill out at Saengerfest Park in Galveston at **Music Night on The Strand** every second and fourth Saturday. Enjoy a series of Thursday night **Concerts in the Park** in Vermont.

Fourth of July celebrations will be everywhere, and few will be as grand as **July 4th Fireworks on Marco Beach**, with plenty of beachside activities to enjoy as well. To cool down in Williamsburg, try renting paddleboards at **Eco Discovery Park** or boating at **The Mariners' Museum**, now open for family adventures on weekends throughout the summer.

Visitors to Las Vegas get the first rides this summer on the 550-foot-tall **High Roller**, the world's largest observation wheel and the focal point of a new \$550 million **LINQ** entertainment district. Gatlinburg guests will tap their toes to **Smoky Mountain Tunes & Tales**, a summer-long street event featuring costumed musical performers, storytellers and artisans.

As the summer winds down, don't miss the eighth annual **Beach, Boogie & BBQ Festival**, a three-day celebration of delicious barbeque, free live entertainment and family fun from August 30 through September 1. And Panama City Beach rocks with the **Pepsi® Gulf Coast Jam**, another three-day Labor Day weekend celebration featuring sun, fun and country music.

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