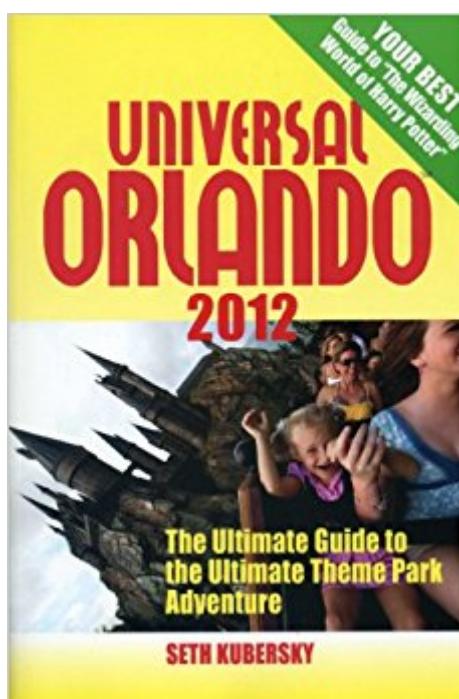


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# Universal Orlando 2012: The Ultimate Guide To The Ultimate Theme Park Adventure (Universal Orlando: The Ultimate Guide To The Ultimate Theme Park Adventure)



## **Synopsis**

The new Wizarding World of Harry Potter has made Universal Orlando Resort the hottest family destination in central Florida. This is the only guide devoted exclusively to Universal. It covers Universal Studios Florida, Islands of Adventure, and the CityWalk entertainment district. It features in-depth reviews of every ride, attraction, restaurant, and resort hotel along with maps and color photographs.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This great little guide sums up pretty much everything and anything that you'll want to know about visiting Universal Orlando. -Joey Inigo, Mouse Info, October, 23, 2011

### **A WHOLE NEW KIND OF MAGIC!**

Universal Orlando used to be one of the "also rans" down the highway from the Mouse, but Harry Potter changed everything. Even though Universal is a fraction (thankfully) of the size of the neighboring behemoth, there is a big payoff to doing a bit of advanced study. Our primary motivation for going was The Wizarding World of Harry Potter in Islands of Adventure. The author obviously loves his job and totally gets the entire Harry Potter experience. His observations and advice were spot on and greatly enhanced our experience. He describes all kinds of details and attractions we might have missed without knowing to look for them. I'm not a big fan of rides, so I really appreciated

the author's mention of the "Castle Tour," which is a way to tour Hogwarts without going on the ride. He also describes an observation area at the end of Dragon Challenge which I never would have found on my own. The strategy advice is invaluable, especially if your visit is during a busy time of year. We (ages from 67 to 11) found the ratings on rides and attractions helpful and accurate. His advice and observations are just as accurate and complete for the rest of the park, which is also big fun. I'm not kidding...you'll get way more for your money at Universal Orlando if you read this book before you go...maybe even before you book your trip.

This book is an absolute must to plan for your trip to Universal Orlando. Study it well before you leave home, and you'll have a much better time at the parks. The book is packed with invaluable information that will, 1) save you money, 2) save you time, and 3) allow you to see much more during your visit than you normally could. Actually, I would recommend that you read the book a couple of times, skim through it again on the flight to Orlando, and carry it with you inside the park. Excellent, excellent job, Seth. Thank you! I just returned from a trip (March 2012) and have a few comments about things I'd like to see in future editions:Page 9: It would be nice if this map (or another map) showed the canals and walking paths which connect the three hotels to City Walk. Don't miss walking along these paths and/or taking the water taxis - spectacular landscaping. (By the way, it's possible to walk from the lobby of the Royal Pacific Hotel all the way to City Walk without crossing a street. This is not evident from the map.)Page 40: The "Accuracy and Other Impossible Dreams" is well hidden inside the book. Be sure to check the blog before you leave home to see the last-minute changes. For example, the Jaws ride and Amity Island are now gone. Page 59: I'm not sure why, but "Lucy: A Tribute" and Kwik-E-Mart consistently opened their doors one hour after the official park opening. Page 115: The map of Islands of Adventure needs to show the \*\*bridges\*\* connecting the islands. Page 136: I disagree about the outdoor seating at Mythos Restaurant. To me, it was like eating in a subway station with trains roaring through every minute or so - impossible to have a conversation. (The noise comes from the roller coaster across the lake.) The author also mentions "repeat visitors may notice some falling off" relative to the food. I think he hit the nail on the head on that one. Disappointing food quality. Page 154: If you have your mail stamped with the "Hogsmeade postmark" at The Owl Post, be aware that it's not really a postmark. The problem arises when your letter goes to the USPS mail-processing facility, where it will receive a real postmark - probably on top of the Hogsmeade postmark. Suggestion: get the attendant to rubber stamp your letter just under the return-address area. That should avoid an overcancel. Page 187: There are two miniature golf courses: The Haunted Course and the Sci-Fi

Course. The first course you play (18 holes) runs almost \$15 per person. If you play both courses, you "save" 25% off the second course. To me, the Haunted Course was very basic and uninspired. I'm told the Sci-Fi course is more challenging. I hope so. Chapter 6: Staying Near the Parks: Please include daily parking charges, daily Internet-access fees, and whether breakfast is included. Thanks again for a fantastic guide book!

i just returned from my Orlando vacation. In planning my trip I wanted a book to help guide us through the park. This book was just that, it guided us through Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure. Some of the parks offer things for smaller children, we have teenagers. This book gives you a detailed plan for those with small children and those with older children. We were in awe of how quickly we got to everything we wanted to see and this was Easter weekend!!! My husband likes to know where were going and is a big fan of maps. This book has maps and outlines a detailed plan to follow. I do however wish that (and maybe it is a connection to Universal Studios) the author would not have suggested we spend 250.00 plus dollars on an express pass. It was not needed. Maybe for small children, but if you get going early enough you don't need the express passes. Everywhere I go I buy some sort of guide book (Disney, Paris, Germany and Shanghai to name a few) so I know what guide book should have and this one did not disappoint. A couple suggestions, eat in Harry Potter area. There is a great deal for 50.00 (lots of food) for 4, maybe even 5. In Universal Studios eat at Finnegans, nice pub food and relaxing atmosphere. Oh and it also details many of the attractions which was helpful because I get motion sickness and I was able to avoid rides that were likely to make me sick. Great book!!!

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