



Trip Questions & Answers:

I've never been Walt Disney World or Universal Orlando. How will I know how to get around?

Easy! Download the [My Disney Experience](#) app and the [Universal Orlando Resort](#) app. Both apps give you full maps of the parks and will also allow you to use your phone to mobile order food. You will also be able to see how long the wait is at each ride within the parks. These are invaluable apps to have on your phone while on this trip. Be sure to download them well before we travel!

What does "Parkhopper" or "Park-to-Park" mean?

Walt Disney World uses the term "Parkhopper" for one of their levels of passes. We have purchased these passes for our senior trip. This means that our seniors will be able to enjoy ANY or ALL of the four Walt Disney World parks (Magic Kingdom, EPCOT, Hollywood Studios, and Animal Kingdom) on either of the days we have these passes. We will have set park reservations, and they you can "parkhop" to any of the other Walt Disney World parks that you want to after 2:00pm. Universal Orlando has two amusement parks. The Park-to-Park passes that we have selected for our seniors allows them to travel to EITHER or BOTH of these parks on the day we have passes. You can start at either park and go back and forth as much as you want. If you are a Harry Potter fan, do not miss out on taking the Hogwarts' Express between the two Universal parks (Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure)!

How do I get to the parks from our hotel?

For the days we have passes to Walt Disney World, Disney offers free transportation to guests staying at one of its resorts. We are staying at All Star Sports Resort, so you will be able to use the Disney Park buses. The buses will take you to any of the parks (just find the right waiting area out front of the main All Star Sports Resort building—the buses usually depart every 20-30 minutes). Once at the parks, you can use this same free transportation (or the monorail, boat, or the new Skyliner) to get you to another park or back to the resort. You won't need to share the Skyliner gondola with many people, so it may be a more comfortable way to travel. On our first day at the Disney waterpark, you will need to take a bus from the waterpark to Disney Springs then from Disney Springs to our resort (All Star Sports). It sounds confusing, but it's not. There will be a bunch of us traveling together, so do not panic! On the days we are traveling to the Universal parks, we have buses just for our group to get us to and from the parks.

What should I pack?

Our flights to and from Orlando include a checked bag (50 pounds or less) and one carry-on bag. Be sure to check out the [TSA site](#) for what you can and cannot bring in your checked and carry-on bags. Our first day in Orlando will be spent at a Disney water park. We will be travelling directly to the water park from Orlando International Airport. Please be sure to WEAR or PACK a bathing suit in your carry-on for our first day! Here are some other things you may want to pack:

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| - Sunscreen | - Refillable water bottle | - Comfortable sneakers |
| - Sunglasses | - Money for snacks/souvenirs | - Bathroom items |
| - Phone charger | - Enough clothes for each day | - Hat |
| - Portable charger | - Extra socks | - Beach towel? |
| - Rain jacket/poncho | - Sweatshirt/jacket | - Mouse ears! |
| - Swim suit | - Camera with batteries/charger | - Your Hogwarts House scarf! |



Can I bring a bag into the parks?

Yes! You can bring a bag into both Disney World and Universal Orlando parks. Disney World allows guests to bring their bags onto most rides with them if they can be tucked under their seats. A small backpack or a fanny pack works best. Universal Orlando also allows bags, but they do not allow guests to take backpacks onto most rides. Universal provides free lockers right near most of these rides so you can lock up your belongings while you enjoy a ride. Universal does allow fanny packs to be worn on most of their rides, so these may be a better option for our Universal day. It may be best to purchase or bring a lanyard with a card-holder on it to be able to wear your park ticket/card without losing it.

Can I bring my Xbox/PS4/Switch?

Technically, yes, but why? You will be busy enjoying yourself all day at the parks. By the time you get back to your room, you will not want to do anything but sleep and do it all over again the next day. Leave the gaming consoles at home—it's less to pack and worry about breaking anyway!

Can I come back to the resort/hotel whenever I want?

On our Disney days: Yes, however, you will not be able to get into your room once you turn in your room key to a chaperone in the morning. We want you to spend your days at the parks and enjoy yourself. If we offer "pool time," you will be able to access your room briefly to change into a swim suit if you are taking a break from the parks. On our Universal days: No. We will all be going to the parks together on a private bus. This bus will take us to the Universal parks and leave us there for the day.

How do I know which park to go to on our Disney days?

This depends on what you are interested in or what type of rides you like. Our suggestion is *try to get to all the parks at some point to try as much as possible*. Our advice, however, is *don't get upset if you do not get a chance to try everything*. There is too much to do in Walt Disney World to get it all done in a few days. Here is some information about the parks to know what you may find there.

- [Magic Kingdom](#) – Classic Disney; Main Street USA (early 20th century décor) leads to a main hub and Cinderella castle; the hub spokes off to different themed areas (Adventureland, Frontierland, Liberty Square, Fantasyland, and Tomorrowland)
- [Animal Kingdom](#) – Animal-themed park; the main area with the Tree of Life called Discovery Island spokes off into different themed areas (Pandora, Africa, Asia, and DinoLand U.S.A.)
- [Hollywood Studios](#) – Movie and TV-themed park; the 1920's-themed Hollywood Boulevard leads to various other themed areas (Echo Lake, Grand Avenue, Sunset Boulevard, Animation Courtyard, Toy Story Land, and Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge)
- [EPCOT](#) – A "permanent world's fair" themed park celebrating human achievement and innovation; There are three distinctive areas – the main entrance leads to "the ball" (Spaceship Earth) which is between World Discovery and World Nature. Once you pass through these areas, you enter World Showcase which contains small representations of 11 different countries all surrounding World Showcase Lagoon.

If you want to see our ride recommendations, keep reading!

What about Universal? How do I know which park to go to on our Universal days?

- [Universal Studios](#) – Action, TV, and movie-themed park; the park is split into eight different themed areas around a lagoon (Production Central, New York City, San Francisco, The Wizarding World of Harry Potter – Diagon Alley, World Expo, Springfield, Woody Woodpecker's Kidzone, and Hollywood). This park has rides for everyone!
- [Islands of Adventure](#) – Adventure, superhero, and cartoon-themed park; the Port of Entry leads to different themed lands (Marvel Super Hero Island, Toon Lagoon, Skull Island, Jurassic Park, The Wizarding World of Harry Potter – Hogsmeade, The Lost Continent, and Seuss Landing). This park has some amazing thrill rides – some that are not for the faint of heart!

If you want to see our ride recommendations, see below!



How do I know which rides to go on?

First, try them ALL! If you need some recommendations, here are some from your chaperones:

- [Magic Kingdom](#) – Space Mountain, Big Thunder Mountain, Pirates of the Caribbean, Jungle Cruise, Haunted Mansion, Tron Lightcycle / Run
- [Animal Kingdom](#) – Flight of Passage, Dinosaur, Kilimanjaro Safari, Expedition Everest
- [Hollywood Studios](#) – Tower of Terror, Rock ‘n’ Rollercoaster, Rise of the Resistance, Smuggler’s Run, Slinky Dog Dash
- [EPCOT](#) – Soarin’, Mission Space, Test Track, Frozen Forever After, Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind
- [Universal Studios](#) – Escape from Gringotts, Rip Ride Rockit, Mummy Returns, Bourne Stuntacular
- [Islands of Adventure](#) – Harry Potter & the Forbidden Journey, Hagrid’s Magical Creatures Motorbike, Incredible Hulk Coaster, Velocicoaster

There are many more you will want to ride. Look at all the rides at each park by clicking their names above.

How do I know where to eat?

On our trip, you will receive Disney Dining cards for breakfast at the resort each day. You may use this at the [End Zone Food Court](#) within our hotel, Disney’s All Star Sports Resort, or you may save this to purchase food at the Disney park of your choice (on our Disney days only). Each day, you will receive a Disney Dining card and/or a Universal Meal/gift card. These cards/coupons are for you to purchase breakfast, lunch, and/or dinner. If you need some recommendations, here are some from your chaperones:

- [Magic Kingdom](#) – Pecos Bill, Be Our Guest, Cosmic Rays, Columbia Harbour House, Aloha Isle (try a Tropical Serenade Float!)
- [Animal Kingdom](#) – Yak & Yeti Local Foods, Flame Tree Barbeque, Satu’li Canteen, Harambe Fruit Market (try the corn on the cob!)
- [Hollywood Studios](#) – Sci-Fi Dine-In Theater, Ronto Roasters, Backlot Express, Neighborhood Bakery (try a Num Num Cookie!)
- [EPCOT](#) – La Cantina de San Angel, Regal Eagles Smokehouse, Katsura Grill, Les Halles Boulangerie-Patisserie, L’Artisan des Glaces (try a Croque Glacé!)
- [Disney Springs](#) – The Polite Pig, Jock Lindsay’s, Chicken Guy!, The Daily Poutine, D-Luxe Burger, Gideon’s Bakehouse
- [Universal Studios](#) – The Leaky Cauldron, Louie’s Italian Restaurant, Krusty Burger
- [Islands of Adventure](#) – Three Broomsticks, Mythos Restaurant, Green Eggs and Ham Café, Captain America Diner
- [Universal CityWalk](#) – Toothsome Chocolate Emporium, Voodoo Doughnuts, Bubba Gump Shrimp

There are many more restaurants (including quick service meals and snacks) that you may want to try. Look at all the dining options at each park by clicking their names above. You can also bring your own food into the parks. If you would like, you can buy breakfast to go at the resort and keep it with you until you get into the parks to eat a little later. You can also bring an empty bottle to fill with water at the resort or throughout the day at the parks!

What is Disney Springs?

We will spend our first evening at Disney Springs, a shopping and dining area near the theme parks (formerly “Downtown Disney”). You will have a Disney meal coupon to use while at Disney Springs. Look at all of the [restaurants](#) they offer as well as all the [shopping](#) available. Disney Springs also has live entertainment and other experiences like the NBA Experience.

What is Universal CityWalk?

Universal CityWalk is a dining area (similar to Disney Springs) that is at the entrance of and between Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure. Look at all of the [restaurants](#) they offer.

