

UNIVERSAL ORLANDO TIPS & TRICKS

You've Booked! What next?

Download the App: [The Official Universal Orlando App | Universal Orlando Resort™](#)

Play with the app to get to know what you can do so you're ready to rock and roll when traveling including virtual lines, mobile food & drink ordering,

[7 Things You Need to Know About the Universal Orlando Resort App - Discover Universal](#)

Note that virtual lines are available for select rides. Please get up early the morning of to get "In line" as they do fill up quickly. Keep checking back as well. They are available 15 minutes prior to park opening, at park opening, at 11 am, 2 pm, and 4 pm so keep checking back!!

RESTAURANTS: Restaurant reservations for dinner are HIGHLY recommended. Please click here to view options: [Dinner Reservations, Dining, & Restaurants | Universal Orlando™](#)

Click [HERE](#) to view my personal top faves.

TIPS:

DO NOT go into attractions with long running times without taking kids for a bathroom break first!

Buy Universal souvenirs ahead of time for your kids (from Target, Amazon, Dollar Tree, etc.) and package them up for your trip. If you want, in the middle of the night, leave a souvenir by each kid's bed (perhaps their favorite Universal Character left it! Maybe with a note from that character wishing them a great day! Hopefully, your child won't feel the need to buy souvenirs that day because they already received one, AND you don't spend a fortune on souvenirs!

Express passes are the way to go!! If you don't have them, contact Lisa@beachbumvacation to add them on. They really will change your entire park experience.

PACKING

If you are flying to Orlando, pack in your carry-on a bathing suit and one outfit per person. Depending on when you arrive, it may take a few hours until your room is ready. This way you can still go swimming if you want, or change your clothes after the plane ride. The resort can hold your luggage until your room is available.

Don't forget your sunscreen, and then don't forget to reapply if you are sweating in the summer.

If you want, purchase hand-held spray fans to help keep cool during the hot & humid summer months. They're \$20 if you buy them there.

Don't forget to bring sweatshirts or sweat jackets for cool evenings in the fall and winter. Sweatshirts in the parks are expensive! – check the weather first.

Bring a portable cell phone charger. The apps/pictures can use up your battery.

WIZARDING WORLD OF HARRY POTTER:

[First Time Tips for The Wizarding World of Harry Potter \(universalorlando.com\)](http://universalorlando.com)

**Do this first thing, and if you have early park hours, use them to get to Harry Potter world first and enjoy it before the regular crowd gets there. The Express passes start at park opening time so if you have express passes use your extra early morning hour to tour around, view the shops, etc. then right at regular park opening time, jump in that express lane for the rides!

**Personally I think frozen butter beer is MUCH better!

**Hagrid's ride is the most difficult to ride at this point. You can jump on a virtual line, but it fills up quickly. Top 3 ways to try to ride: Use Early Park Admission IF it is available at Islands of Adventure. If it is only at Universal Studios, then it's best to get in line early at Islands of Adventure at regular opening time and as soon as the gates open, go there first. Or utilize the virtual line mentioned at the top of this document.

The Interactive Wands are worth it – a lot of fun for kids and adults! Get to the wand shop early though as it will fill up!!! You can also buy them at other shops as well, but Ollivander's has the most "magical" way to choose a wand.

- [A Gryffindor's Guide to The Wizarding World of Harry Potter \(universalorlando.com\)](http://universalorlando.com)
- [A Hufflepuff's Guide to The Wizarding World of Harry Potter \(universalorlando.com\)](http://universalorlando.com)
- [A Ravenclaw's Guide to The Wizarding World of Harry Potter \(universalorlando.com\)](http://universalorlando.com)
- [A Slytherin's Guide to The Wizarding World of Harry Potter \(universalorlando.com\)](http://universalorlando.com)
- [The Ultimate Guide to Hagrid's Magical Creatures Motorbike Adventure at Universal Orlando Resort](http://universalorlando.com)
- [Your Guide to the Details Harry Potter Fans Will Appreciate About Hogwarts Castle \(universalorlando.com\)](http://universalorlando.com)

WATERPARK FUN! [Ultimate Guide to Volcano Bay at Universal Orlando Resort - Discover Universal](http://universalorlando.com)

JURASSIC PARK: [Universal Orlando's Ultimate Guide to Jurassic Park - Discover Universal](http://universalorlando.com)

RAIN RAIN GO AWAY

Buy rain ponchos **before** you leave to bring with you. There can be brief, but drenching thunderstorms that you don't want to be caught in. Plus, the parks don't close in the event of rain, though some individual rides may. Rain ponchos at the park are VERY expensive!

Check out Universal's Blog: [Tips for a Rainy Day at Universal Orlando Resort - Discover Universal](http://universalorlando.com)

SAFETY

Make a copy, or take a picture with your phone, of your ID, important documents, and any credit cards you may bring with you. This is to ensure that you have the telephone numbers and other information needed to report a lost or stolen card.

Each morning take a picture of your child/children. This is in case you get separated or lost from one another. You then have a photograph with what they look like and what they are wearing that day.

STROLLERS:

I recommend bringing your own so it doesn't look like everyone else's.

However Single-day and multi-day stroller rentals are available at all Disney Theme Parks. Look for the stroller symbol on each Disney Theme Park Guidemap, available at the Park entrances. Strollers cannot be pre-rented from the park.

You can also rent from outside companies such as <https://www.orlandostrollerrentals.com/> (Beach Bum Vacation does not endorse this company specifically, but overall this company does get good reviews online.)

GROCERY DELIVERY:

Instacart is the best way to have grocery delivery to the hotel.

UNIVERSAL CITY WALK: City walk is a great place for dining, shopping, nightlife, and activities:

[CityWalk™: The Epicenter of Awesome | Universal Orlando™](#)

Traveling during the holidays? Check out holiday shopping guide. [Your Holiday Shopping Guide to Universal Orlando Resort - Discover Universal](#)

Travel around the world! [Travel Around the Globe at Universal Orlando Resort - Discover Universal](#)

FAMILY TRAVEL

Remember – you can't do it all, and what the kids don't know, won't hurt them. 😊 Enjoy the experience without rushing through everything.

Ultimate Guide: [Family Weekend Guide to Universal Orlando Resort](#)

Traveling with a Baby: [How to Do Universal Orlando Resort with a Baby](#)

PERSONAL FAVE RESTAURANTS

Citywalk

Bigfire

Antojitos

Toothsome Chocolate Emporium

Vivo Italian Kitchen

**NBC Sports Grill & Brew – nearly 100 high-definition screens

In the parks:

Lombards Seafood Grille

Mythos Restaurant

Confisco

At the hotels:

Mama Della's Ristorante (Loews Portofino – very close to hard rock, few minutes boat ride)

- Bice Ristorante If you can't get into Mama Della's (also at Loews Portofino)

The Palm – steakhouse at Hard Rock

Amatista Cookhouse: Caribbean inspired cuisine

If they're adults or older people: (food is Cajun so may not have as much for kids, but has dueling pianos)

Pat O'Briens