



Perhaps the most critical event for Orlando's economy occurred in 1965 when Walt Disney announced plans to build Walt Disney World. Although Disney had considered the regions of Miami and Tampa for his park, one of the major reasons behind his decision not to locate there was due to hurricanes— Orlando's inland location, although not free from hurricane damage, exposed it to less threat than coastal regions. The vacation resort opened in October 1971, ushering in an explosive population and economic growth for the Orlando metropolitan area, which now encompasses Orange, Seminole, Osceola, and Lake Counties. As a result, tourism became the centerpiece of the area's economy. Orlando is consistently ranked as one of the top vacation destinations in the world, and now boasts more theme parks and entertainment attractions than anywhere else in the world.



After Mosquito County was divided in 1845, Orlando became the county seat of the new Orange County in 1856. It remained a rural backwater during the Civil War, and suffered greatly during the Union blockade. The Reconstruction Era brought on a population explosion, which led to Orlando's incorporation as a town on July 31, 1875, and as a city in 1885. The period from 1875 to 1895 is remembered as Orlando's Golden Era, when it became the hub of Florida's citrus industry. But the Great Freeze of 1894–95 forced many owners to give up their independent groves, thus consolidating holdings in the hands of a few "citrus barons" who shifted operations south, primarily around Lake Wales in Polk County.

Shuttle vans operate from the airport and go to downtown Orlando and all the main tourist destinations. They're a little cheaper than taxis, and it is cheaper to buy a roundtrip ticket. Expect to pay about \$10 per person one way from the airport to airport hotels and \$15 for a roundtrip ticket; \$15 one way to International Drive and downtown and \$25 for the roundtrip; and \$23 one way to Kissimmee and \$41 for the roundtrip. Lynx Orlando Transit Authority provides bus service from the airport to downtown Orlando. Buses are available on Level 1 of the airport's main terminal on the B Side at commercial lane spaces B12-14. Expect your ride to downtown Orlando to take 40 minutes and your ride to International Drive to be about 60 minutes. Fare cost is \$1.50 per person.



The Walt Disney World Resort is the world's largest and most visited recreational resort. The resort covers an area of 30,080-acre and includes four theme parks, two water parks, 23 on-site themed resort hotels, including a campground, two health spas and physical fitness centers, and other recreational venues. Gatorland is a 110-acre theme park and wildlife preserve located along South Orange Blossom Trail in Orlando, Florida. It was founded by Owen Godwin in 1949, and still privately owned by his family today. Billed as the "Alligator Capital of the World," Gatorland features thousands of alligators and crocodiles, a breeding marsh with boardwalk and observation tower, reptile shows, aviary, petting zoo, swamp walk and educational programs. SeaWorld Orlando is a theme park, and marine-life based zoological park, near Orlando, Florida. When combined with its neighbor Discovery Cove and the Aquatica waterpark, it forms a larger entertainment complex devoted to Earth's oceans and the array of life that inhabits them.

SAK Comedy Lab (SAK) is a 200-seat Improvisational Comedy theater in downtown Orlando, Florida, listed as "one of Orlando's most popular entertainment venues" and as a family-friendly show. SAK was the first theater of actor Wayne Brady, who has played in several shows since as a guest performer



FBLA -PBL is extremely excited to have this extraordinary event in this amazing city this year. At NLC this year we will have amazing guest speakers, workshops, and as always, intense competition. For the top performers in competitions this year FBLA will have more scholarships available than ever! Thus, if YOU want to be a part of this spectacular experience, contact your local chapter advisor, and BREAK BARRIERS!

