

Florida Theme Parks: A Guide

Alex Miller

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Alex Miller : Florida Theme Parks: A Guide before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Florida Theme Parks: A Guide:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy gbassIs a quick overview of the Florida Theme parks.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Colorful picture-filled overview of Florida theme parksBy Peter E. McGinnTo call this a guide to Florida's theme parks may be overstating things a bit. It is more of a detailed snapshot of them all. There are a lot of colorful pictures and positive comments about each. If you are wondering which theme park might be best for you, this is a good place to start - don't assume that the big three (Walt Disney World, Universal, Sea World) are the only Florida choices. For example, very young children might find Legoland to be a

good first park to experience. Once you have a better idea where you want to go, you will need to obtain one of those guides that explain in detail the best time to go, how to plan your visit, and so on, but this book will help you move toward that decision. And again, a lot of color pictures if you want to try to get a child motivated ahead of time. The only disadvantage worth mentioning I think is that with the smaller theme parks, bigger changes can make even an overview more outdated, such as with Silver Springs, which was a favorite of ours, but is not a state park, not a privately owned theme park. The glass bottom boat ride is still there, for the price of a separate ticket, and I don't believe they have the jeep tour any longer. But it is more of a nature park than a ride park, so perhaps this book reflects that still, at least.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Decent and Informative - Great before a trip

By Talvi

Florida Theme Parks a Guide provides insight into the less known (but not necessarily 'not as good') theme parks to be found in Florida. There is a map in the beginning that shows their locations and then the guide goes into a short write up of each theme park and what you can expect to find there. Each 3-5 paragraph write up comes with 4-5 images. The write ups are pretty factual - there are no opinions or good/bad points of the parks. Just a general summary. A lot are considered, "local favorites" by way of a recommendation. What I liked about the book is that I had not heard of most of them before this - I would have gone to the big names (Disney/Universal/Sea World) without knowing there were nicer alternatives out there. Indeed, some of the parks would be especially welcome by teens who don't want to go to the 'cutesy' Disney parks, for example. I could have split up so the younger kids went with mom to Disney and the older kids went with dad to the arcade/water parks. Quite a few of them were located in Central Florida/Orlando area. What let the book down for me, and the reason for 4 out of 5 stars, are the graphical elements. The images can be unhelpful and honestly feel amateurish and poorly chosen, none professionally shot. E.g., a picture of a train ride at a park is shot from behind a large white picket fence, concrete waiting area, and bench. I can't even see the train so the image is just concrete and white fence - not very helpful. As well, Legoland has a lot of images of Lego statues - I don't know that seeing a bunch of Lego lifelike statues gives us enough information to help decide whether to spend the money to go there? As well, the images are poorly arranged with a lot of clutter in corners and then massive amounts of white space elsewhere - again, in great need of a designer to make the book more professional and less cobbled together. It can feel like a portrait-oriented bland power point presentation by a time share at times - and that's doing the book a disservice because there is good information in here. The book could also have used overhead view shots or maps to get a sense of scale or size - I probably don't want to have to go digging through park websites. For me, the foreword were one of my favorite parts of the books. Especially by Tony Baxter, SVP of Walt Disney Imagineering. His remembrances of the Florida attractions of the past (everything from Gatorland, Kapok Tree Restaurant, Six Gun Territory, Silver Springs) and how he ended up ironically destroying those when he went to build the Disney Theme Parks was very poignant. For every Sea World, there was a Xanadu House of The Future or Splendid China that ended up being demolished as they couldn't adapt. But in the very least, the book brings us the new variety that, as noted within the description paragraphs, are doing very well in the shadow of Disney. Do I recommend it? Absolutely. But I'm hoping future editions are given better attention. Received as an ARC from the publisher.

Welcome to the Sunshine State's white sand paradise that plays host to millions of vacation-goers every year. Discover 20 of the state's unique venues and the attractions that make them famous in engaging text and 280 color photos. Whether you're planning your family's dream vacation, or just looking for your next big adventure, this guide offers a window into the state's largest and most exciting industry!

About the Author Alex Miller is the author of several books including California Theme Parks. He works for The Walt Disney Company in Glendale, California. Caroline Miller is an animator, illustrator, photographer, and filmmaker. She works as a media specialist for the Science Museum of Virginia.