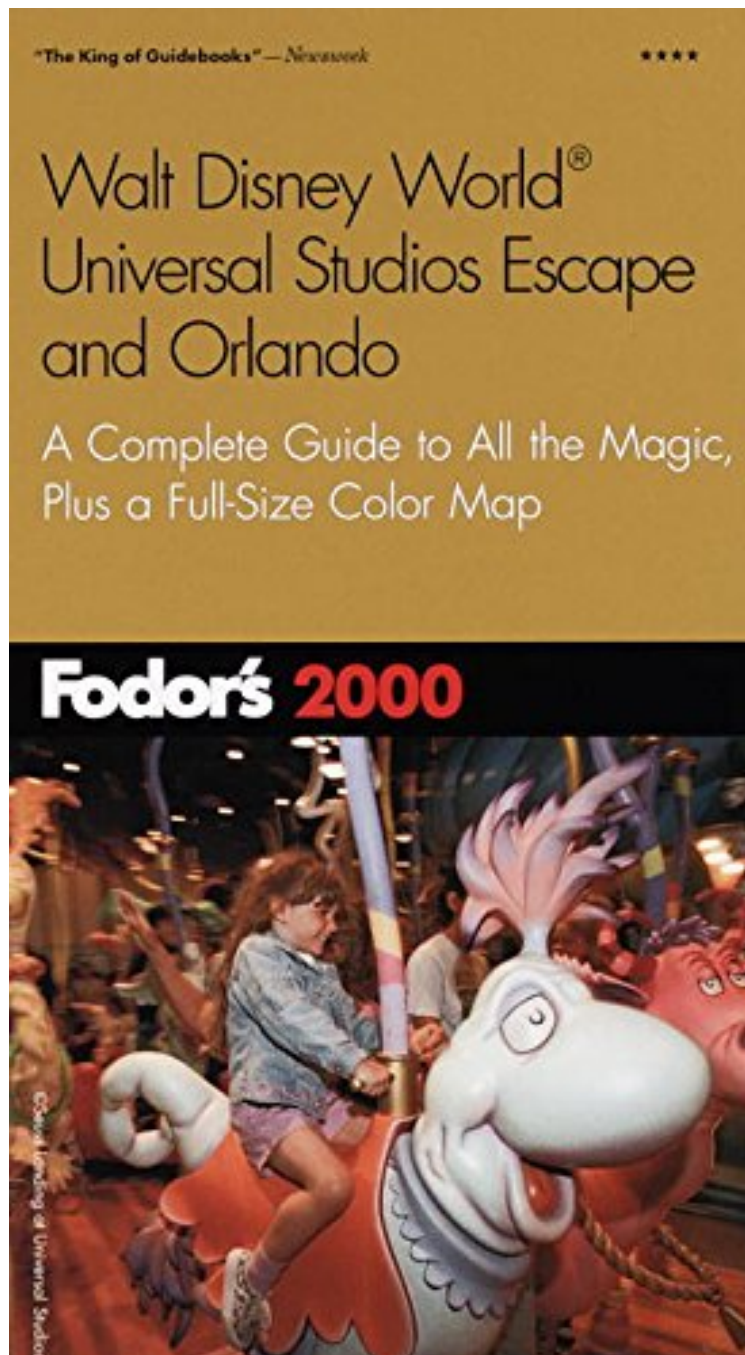


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Fodor's : Fodor's Walt Disney World, Universal Studios Escape and Orlando 2000 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fodor's Walt Disney World, Universal Studios Escape and Orlando 2000:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. not enough informationBy David O'DonnellIt has some holes in it... Disney does not have a 1-800 number for priority seating, so you need as much information as possible before calling. This book did not tell how far in advance you can make reservations (60 or 120 days, I have found) It doesn't say how old the kids need to be for all the rides, only some of them. There was a "Jake rating" that was great, but there wasn't one for everything talked about in the book. All the restaurants listed did not have a rating other than prices. So I couldn't tell if they were all good, all the same, or some better than others. Same for hotels. I think you could get more out of a different guide book.

"Fodor's guides are always a pleasure." -- The Chicago Tribune"Teeming with maps and loaded with addresses, phone numbers, and directions." -- NewsdayIn fast-changing Orlando, the newest attractions are often the best. If you want a guide that covers them all, you want this book. Official or unofficial, no other guide is as up-to-date. And it's just in time to help you create a fall or winter vacation your family will never forget.Let the world's smartest guide enrich your tripLocal experts give you the inside story - Thorough updating keeps you on track - Practical information gives you the know-how you need - Easy-to-use format puts it all at your fingertipsChoose among many hotels and restaurants in all price categoriesFind the right place to stay (at the right price), inside WDW or out - Zero in on character breakfasts, the best dinner shows, fine cuisine, quick bites, and the world's biggest McD's - Check out hundreds of detailed reviews and learn what's distinctive about each placeHot off the press: The scoop on the latest attractionsStrategies for doing the most in the time you have - Our own eyewitness ratings of every attraction in every theme park, including Universal's Islands of Adventure - Top tips for parents -- what's scary, what they'll love - Beyond the theme parks: city sights, the beaches, the Space CenterGo straight to the facts you need and find all that's newHow to get around - Multiday touring plans, daylong blitz tours of every park - Money-saving tips - Romantic spots for grown-ups - Special events - Learning vacations, kid's programs - When to go - What to pack - Costs, hours, and tips by the thousands

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WorldIn April 1999, one year after the opening of Disney's Animal Kingdom, this 800-acre park added a new Asia area. But that's not the end of 1999's Disney doings. You'll also find new rides at each of the other theme parks: Buzz Lightyear's Space Ranger Spin and the Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh in the Magic Kingdom; Test Track in Epcot; and the Rock 'n' Roller Coaster and Disney's Doug, Live! in Disney-MGM Studios. Also in the parks, Disney is at this writing experimenting with the idea of allowing guests to schedule appointments to experience the most popular attractions. All you have to do is step up to the front of the line and book your time. If the test is successful, you will eventually be able to plan your entire vacation in advance, including time at the attractions. DisneyQuest, in Downtown Disney, is the prototype for a new interactive shopping, dining, and entertainment complex, complete with virtual reality games. At the same time, Disney has been promoting its new cruise venture, the Disney Magic; 1999 marked the maiden voyage of a second ship, the Disney Wonder. Ships depart Port Canaveral, about 45 minutes east of Orlando, for three- or four-day cruises to the Bahamas, with a stopover at a Disney-owned, tropical isle. The Disney marketing wizards have designed itineraries so that passengers set sail after several days at the theme parks. SeaWorld and Busch Gardens In Busch Entertainment's charming SeaWorld, Journey to Atlantis, a water ride-cum-coaster that debuted in spring 1998, continues to shine as an illusionary and sensory encounter, with ancient statues coming to life and entire sets metamorphosing into Olympian vistas. But there's bigger news: A spectacular coaster, Kraken is slated to debut in spring 2000, followed in summer by an entirely new park designed for those who want to get really close to its dolphins, sting rays, and other marine mammals. In Discovery Cove, you'll also be able to snorkel in a faux coral reef lagoon and explore underwater shipwrecks. In Tampa, Busch Gardens opened Gwazi in June 1999 -- as if Montu weren't fast enough. The new thriller packs in the action, most notably a 90-ft drop, along 70,000 ft of track. Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep In Orlando, where the number of hotel rooms is expected to swell beyond 100,000 by the turn of the century, the 1999 addition of 500 rooms to Marriott's Orlando World Center's current 1,500 barely rates a blip on the resort radar screen. Nevertheless, several new hotels in addition to the Universal lodgings are eagerly anticipated. In summer 1999, Disney added another reasonably priced All-Star option: the All-Star Movies resort. More accommodations are on the horizon to serve Disney's Animal Kingdom. A new Westin Orlando, a 34-story showplace on International Drive, is also in the offing for spring 2000. The Restaurant Scene Between Downtown Disney and Universal uptown, visitors have never had so much choice about where to wait for a table. There seems to be a law in Orlando prohibiting new restaurants from opening unless they have a theme, celebrity backing, or both. Prominent newcomers are Bongos Cuban Caf (Gloria Estefan), House of Blues (Dan Aykroyd), Wolfgang Puck Caf (Wolfgang Puck, naturally), and the Official All-Star Caf (Tiger, Junior, et al.). Play "YMCA" or "Respect" on the jukebox at the retro Johnny Rockets, and you may get a spelling lesson from the waitstaff. Shop 'til You Drop, Etc. It seems almost an afterthought to mention a new mall on I-Drive, but the Pointe*Orlando (oddly placed asterisks being big in Orlando) has a number of establishments that are surprising even in a town that seems almost incapable of being surprised. Wedged between a huge teddy bear and an enormous Raggedy Ann is F.A.O. Schwarz, that almost makes the New York original seem like small potatoes. If you feel like going to the movies but not just any movie (this is Orlando, after all), try on the liquid-crystal headsets to view something in 3-D and IMAX at Muvico, one of only eight such theaters in the world.