



The Series
with more than
4 million
copies sold!

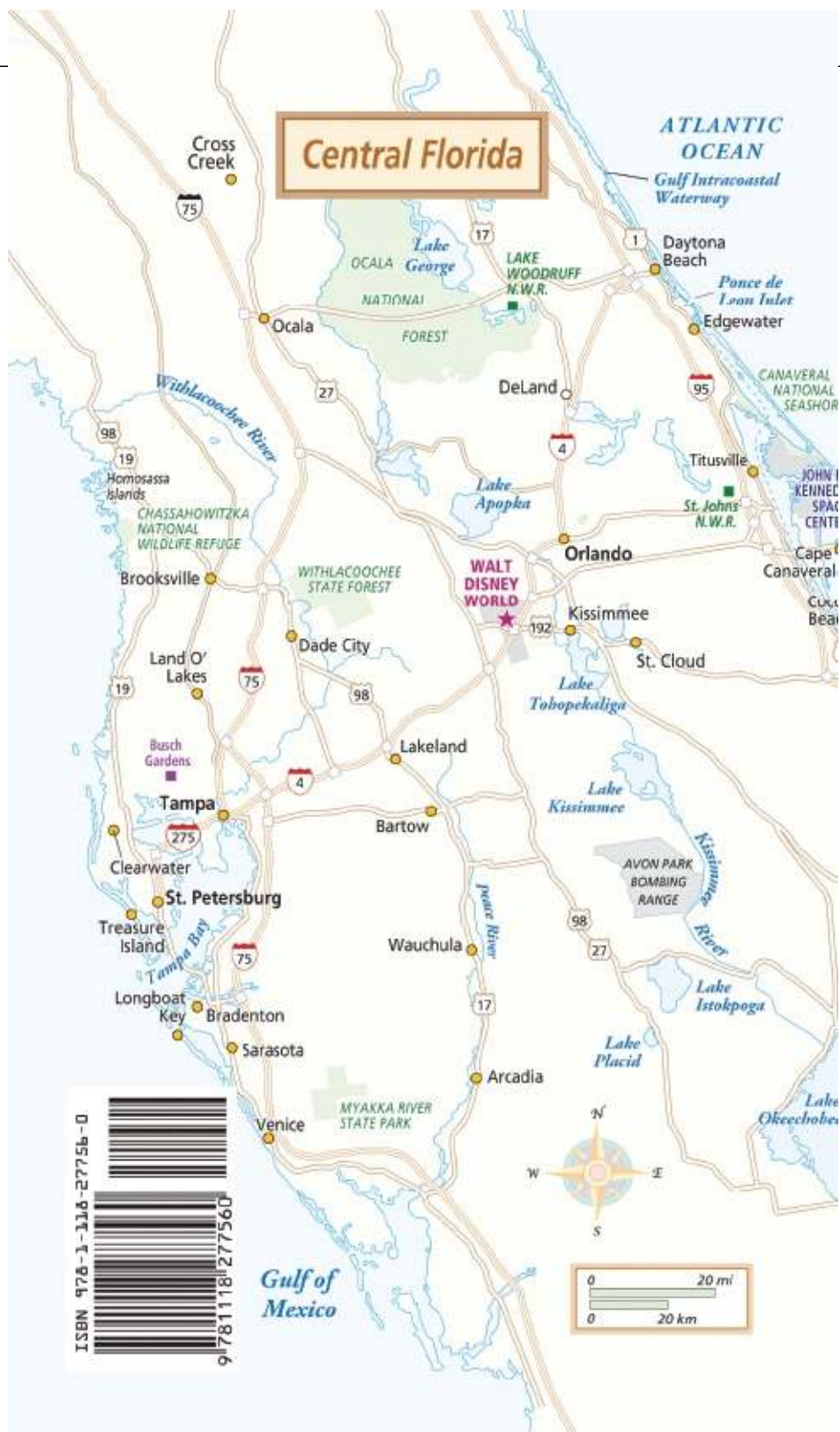
the
Unofficial
Guide

Walt Disney World® 2013

- The latest scoop on Universal's The Wizarding World of Harry Potter™
- How to cut your waits in line by 4 hours a day

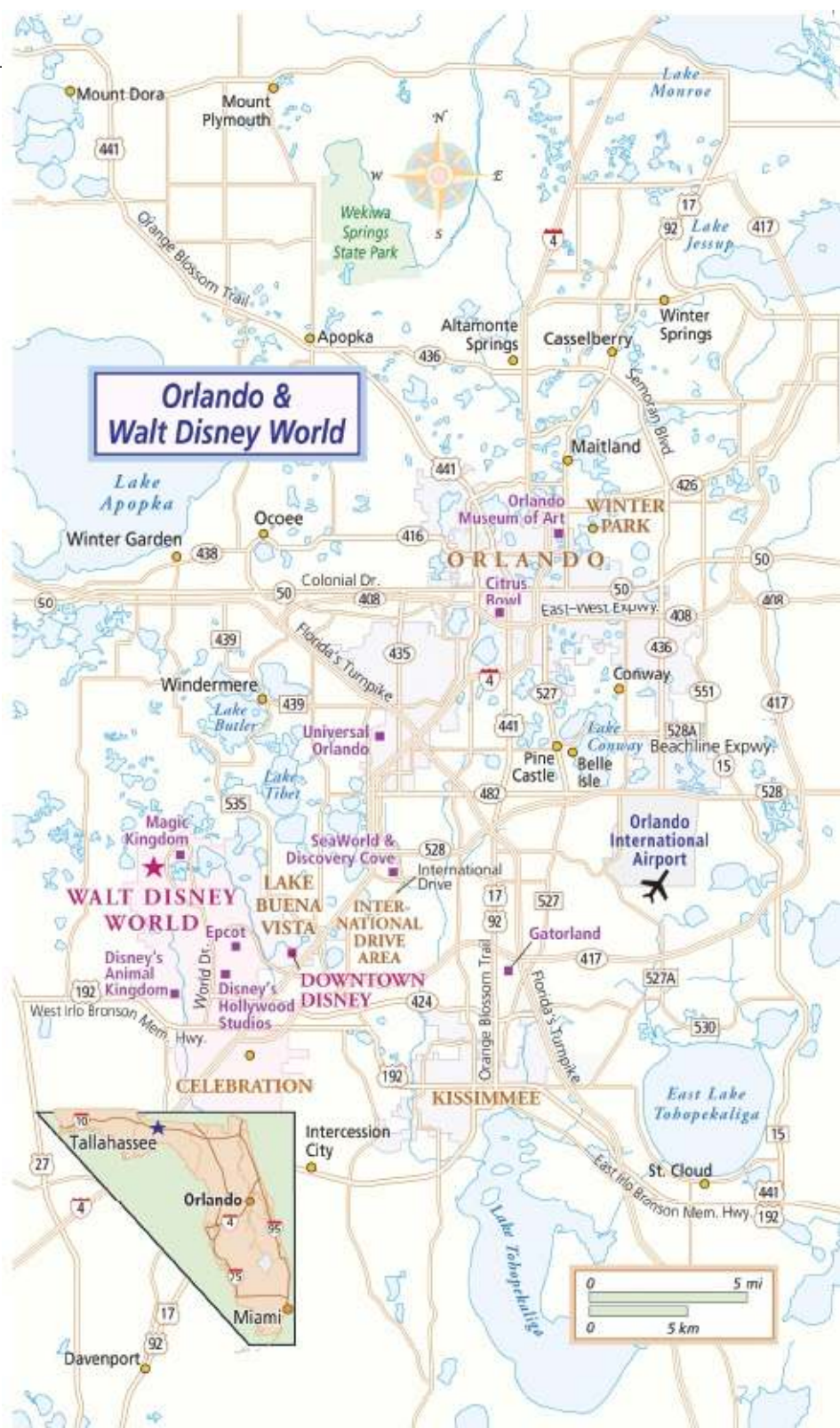
Bob Sehlinger & Len Testa

Central Florida



ISBN 978-1-118-27756-0

9 781118 277560



Please note that prices fluctuate in the course of time and that travel information changes under the impact of many factors that influence the travel industry. We therefore suggest that you write or call ahead for confirmation when making your travel plans. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information throughout this book, and the contents of this publication are believed to be correct at the time of printing. Nevertheless, the publishers cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions, for changes in details given in this guide, or for the consequences of any reliance on the information provided by the same. Assessments of attractions and so forth are based upon the authors' own experiences; therefore, descriptions given in this guide necessarily contain an element of subjective opinion, which may not reflect the publisher's opinion or dictate a reader's own experience on another occasion. Readers are invited to write the publisher with ideas, comments, and suggestions for future editions.

Published by:
John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
111 River St.
Hoboken, NJ 07030-5774

Copyright © 2013 by Robert W. Sehlinger. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning, or otherwise, except as permitted under Section 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act, without either the prior written permission of the Publisher or authorization through payment of the appropriate per-copy fee to the Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Dr., Danvers, MA 01923; 978-750-8400; fax 978-646-8600; or on the web at copyright.com. Requests to the publisher for permission should be addressed to the Permissions Department, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 111 River St., Hoboken, NJ 07030-5774, 201-748-6011, fax 201-748-6008, or online at wiley.com/go/permissions.

Wiley, the Wiley logo, and *Unofficial Guide* are registered trademarks of John Wiley & Sons, Inc., in the United States and other countries and may not be used without written permission. Used under license. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., is not associated with any product or vendor mentioned in this book.

Produced by Menasha Ridge Press

Cover design by Paul Dinovo

Interior design by Vertigo Design

For information on our other products and services or to obtain technical support, please contact our Customer Care Department from within the United States at 800-762-2974, from outside the United States at 317-572-3993, or by fax at 317-572-4002.

John Wiley & Sons, Inc., also publishes its books in a variety of electronic formats. Some content that appears in print may not be available in electronic formats.

ISBN 978-1-118-27756-0

Manufactured in the United States of America

5 4 3 2 1

CONTENTS

[List of Maps & Diagrams](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Why “Unofficial”?](#)

[Declaration of Independence](#)

[Dance to the Music](#)

[The Importance of Being Goofy](#)

[Honey, I Blew Up the Book!](#)

[Your *Unofficial* Walt Disney World Toolbox](#)

[The Death of Spontaneity](#)

[Don’t Let the Tail Wag the Dog](#)

[Corrections, Updates, and Breaking News](#)

[We’ve Got Attitude](#)

[The Sum of All Fears](#)

[Too Many Cooks in the Kitchen?](#)

[The *Unofficial* Team](#)

[The How and the Why of It](#)

[This Is Not a Novel!](#)

[The *Unofficial Guide* Publishing Year](#)

[Letters and Comments from Readers](#)

[Walt Disney World: An Overview](#)

[What Walt Disney World Encompasses](#)

[DISNEY-SPEAK POCKET TRANSLATOR AND GUIDE TO COMMON ABBREVIATIONS](#)

[The Major Theme Parks](#)

[The Water Parks](#)

[Other Walt Disney World Venues](#)

[The People](#)

[PART ONE Planning Before You Leave Home](#)

[Gathering Information](#)

[Walt Disney World on the Web](#)

[IMPORTANT WALT DISNEY WORLD ADDRESSES](#)

[WALT DISNEY WORLD PHONE NUMBERS](#)

[When to Go to Walt Disney World](#)

[Selecting the Time of Year for Your Visit](#)

[Extra Magic Hours](#)

[Early Entry \(a.k.a. Morning Extra Magic Hours\)](#)

[Summer and Holidays](#)

[The Walt Disney World Calendar](#)

PART TWO Making the Most of Your Time and Money

Allocating Money

[Disney and the Economy](#)
[Walt Disney World Admission Options](#)
[Help Is on the Way!](#)
[Magic Your Way!](#)
[Base-Ticket Add-Ons](#)
[A Cloud Is Just a Cloud](#)
[Big Brother Is Watching](#)
[How to Get the Most from Magic Your Way](#)
[Gotcha!](#)
[Where to Purchase Magic Your Way Tickets](#)
[For Additional Information on Passes](#)
[Where the Real Deals Are](#)
[The British Are Coming!](#)
[More Discounts on Admissions](#)
[How Much Does It Cost Per Day?](#)

Allocating Time

[Which Park to See First?](#)
[Operating Hours](#)
[Official Opening versus Real Opening](#)
[The Vacation That Fights Back](#)
[The Practicality of Returning to Your Hotel for Rest](#)
[Arrival- and Departure-Day Blues: What to Do When You Have Only Half a Day](#)
[The Cardinal Rules for Successful Touring](#)
[What's a Queue?](#)
[Of Utmost Importance: Read This!](#)
[Touring Plans: What They Are and How They Work](#)
[Overview of the Touring Plans](#)
[Extra Magic Hours and the Touring Plans](#)
[Fastpass](#)

Understanding Walt Disney World Attractions

[Cutting Your Time in Line by Understanding the Rides](#)
[Cutting Your Time in Line by Understanding the Shows](#)
[A Word about Disney Thrill Rides](#)
[Attraction-Breakdown Rates](#)

Central Florida Roller Coasters

PART THREE Accommodations

The Basic Considerations

[The Tax Man Cometh](#)
[About Hotel Renovations](#)
[Benefits of Staying in the World](#)
[Staying in or out of the World: Weighing the Pros and Cons](#)

The Disney Resorts

[Disney Resorts 101](#)
[How to Get Discounts on Lodging](#)

[Choosing a Walt Disney World Hotel](#)

[Researching Walt Disney World Hotels](#)

[Unofficial Guide Readers Speak Out](#)

[Readers' 2012 Disney Resort Report Card](#)

[Walt Disney World Hotel Profiles](#)

[The Magic Kingdom Resorts](#)

[The Epcot Resorts](#)

[The Bonnet Creek Resorts](#)

[Independent Hotels of the Walt Disney World Resort Area](#)

[Camping at Walt Disney World](#)

[How to Evaluate a Walt Disney World Travel Package](#)

[Cut to the Chase](#)

[Walt Disney World Travel Company Magic Your Way Packages](#)

[DISNEY LODGING FOR LESS](#)

[Number Crunching](#)

[Throw Me a Line!](#)

[Packages from a Different Perspective](#)

[Hotels outside Walt Disney World](#)

[Selecting and Booking a Hotel outside Walt Disney World](#)

[Driving Time to the Parks for Visitors Lodging outside Walt Disney World](#)

[Good Neighbor Hotels](#)

[Hotel Shopping on the Internet: Welcome to the Wild West](#)

[Condominiums and Vacation Homes](#)

[The Best Hotels for Families outside Walt Disney World](#)

[Hotels and Motels: Rated and Ranked](#)

[What's in a Room?](#)

[Room Ratings](#)

[THE TOP 30 BEST DEALS](#)

[A Word about Toll-Free Telephone Numbers](#)

[The 30 Best Hotel Values](#)

[HOW THE HOTELS COMPARE](#)

[HOTEL INFORMATION CHART](#)

[PART FOUR Serenity Now! A Look at Disney-Area Spas](#)

[Spa Profiles](#)

[PART FIVE The Disney Cruise Line](#)

[The Mouse at Sea](#)

[The Future Is Now](#)

[The Ships](#)

[Cabins](#)

[Services and Amenities](#)

[Dining](#)

[Facilities and Entertainment](#)

[Children's Programs](#)

[Sports, Fitness, and Beauty](#)

[Castaway Cay](#)

[Disney Cruise Line and the Economy](#)

[Cruise–WDW Packages](#)

[Advance Reservations for Shore Excursions, Spa, Palo, Remy, and Children’s Programs](#)

[A Few Tips](#)

PART SIX Walt Disney World with Kids

[The Ecstasy and the Agony](#)

[Reality Testing: Whose Dream Is It?](#)

[Recommendations for Making the Dream Come True](#)

[About the *Unofficial Guide* Touring Plans](#)

[Stuff to Think About](#)

[Strollers](#)

[Lost Children](#)

[How Kids Get Lost](#)

[Disney, Kids, and Scary Stuff](#)

SMALL-CHILD FRIGHT-POTENTIAL CHART

[The Fright Factor](#)

[A Bit of Preparation](#)

[Attractions That Eat Adults](#)

[A Word about Height Requirements](#)

ATTRACTION AND RIDE RESTRICTIONS

[Waiting-Line Strategies for Adults with Young Children](#)

[The Disney Characters](#)

[Meeting Characters for Free](#)

[Character Dining](#)

[What to Expect](#)

[When to Go](#)

[How to Choose a Character Meal](#)

CHARACTER-MEAL HIT PARADE

[Getting an Advance Reservation at Cinderella’s Royal Table](#)

[Other Character Events](#)

[Babysitting](#)

[Special Programs for Children](#)

[Birthdays and Special Occasions](#)

PART SEVEN Special Tips for Special People

[Walt Disney World for Singles](#)

[Walt Disney World for Couples](#)

[Weddings](#)

[Honeymoons and Vows Renewals](#)

[Romantic Getaways](#)

TIPS FOR GOING SOLO

[Walt Disney World “At Large”](#)

[Walt Disney World for Expectant Mothers](#)

[More Tips for Moms-to-Be](#)

[Walt Disney World for Seniors](#)

[Getting Around](#)

[Timing Your Visit](#)

[Lodging](#)

[Transportation](#)

[Senior Dining](#)

[Walt Disney World for Guests with Special Needs](#)

[Visitors with Disabilities](#)

[Friends of Bill W.](#)

[Guests Who Don't Speak English](#)

PART EIGHT Arriving and Getting Around

[Getting There](#)

[Directions](#)

[The I-4 Blues](#)

[Sanford International Airport](#)

[Security at Orlando International Airport](#)

[Getting to Walt Disney World from the Airport](#)

[Disney's Magical Express](#)

[Renting a Car](#)

[RENT AT THE AIRPORT OR OFF-SITE?](#)

[Getting Oriented](#)

[A Good Map](#)

[Finding Your Way Around](#)

[How to Travel around the World \(or, The Real Mr. Toad's Wild Ride\)](#)

[Transportation Trade-Offs for Guests Lodging outside Walt Disney World](#)

[All You Need to Know about Driving to the Theme Parks](#)

[Good Fuzz, Bad Fuzz](#)

[Sneak Routes](#)

[Taking a Shuttle Bus from Your Out-of-the-World Hotel](#)

[The Disney Transportation System](#)

[DOOR-TO-DOOR COMMUTING TIMES TO AND FROM THE DISNEY RESORTS AND PARKS](#)

PART NINE Bare Necessities

[Money, Etc.](#)

[Credit Cards](#)

[Banking Services](#)

[Currency Exchange](#)

[A License to Print Money](#)

[Visiting More Than One Park in a Single Day](#)

[Problems and Unusual Situations](#)

[Attractions Closed for Repairs](#)

[Car Trouble](#)

[Gasoline](#)

[Lost and Found](#)

[Medical Matters](#)

[Sergeant Blisterblaster's Guide to Happy Feet](#)

[Rain](#)

[How to Lodge a Complaint with Disney](#)

[Services](#)

[Messages](#)

[Pet Care](#)

[PhotoPass](#)

[Excuse Me, but Where Can I Find ...](#)

[PART TEN Dining in and around Walt Disney World](#)

[Dining outside Walt Disney World](#)

[Room Service Orlando](#)

[Dining at Universal CityWalk](#)

[Buffets and Meal Deals outside Walt Disney World](#)

[WHERE TO EAT OUTSIDE WALT DISNEY WORLD](#)

[Dining in Walt Disney World](#)

[Getting It Right](#)

[Disney Dining 101](#)

[Disney Dining Plans](#)

[It's the Economy, Pluto](#)

[Behind the Scenes at Advance Reservations](#)

[Getting Advance Reservations at Popular Restaurants](#)

[ADVANCE RESERVATIONS: THE OFFICIAL LINE](#)

[ADVANCE RESERVATIONS: THE UNOFFICIAL SCOOP](#)

[Dress](#)

[Food Allergies and Special Requests](#)

[A Few Caveats](#)

[Walt Disney World Restaurant Categories](#)

[WALT DISNEY WORLD BUFFETS AND FAMILY-STYLE RESTAURANTS](#)

[Hard Choices](#)

[Full-Service Dining for Families with Young Children](#)

[Quiet, Romantic Places to Eat](#)

[Fast Food in the Theme Parks](#)

[Disney Dining Suggestions](#)

[The Magic Kingdom](#)

[Epcot](#)

[Disney's Animal Kingdom](#)

[Disney's Hollywood Studios](#)

[More Reader Comments about Walt Disney World Dining](#)

[Counter-Service Restaurant Mini-Profiles](#)

[Walt Disney World Restaurants: Rated and Ranked](#)

[Readers' Restaurant-Survey Responses](#)

[Full-Service Restaurant Profiles](#)

[WALT DISNEY WORLD RESTAURANTS BY CUISINE](#)

[PART ELEVEN The Magic Kingdom](#)

[Arriving](#)

[Getting Oriented](#)

[Fantasyland Expansion](#)

[Dining in the Magic Kingdom](#)

[Starting the Tour](#)

[Main Street, U.S.A.](#)

[Adventureland](#)

[Frontierland](#)

[Liberty Square](#)

[Fantasyland](#)

[Tomorrowland](#)

[Live Entertainment in the Magic Kingdom](#)

[Parades](#)

[Afternoon Parade](#)

[Evening Parade\(s\)](#)

[Parade Route and Vantage Points](#)

[Vantage Points for Fireworks](#)

[Leaving the Park after Evening Parades and Fireworks](#)

[Traffic Patterns in the Magic Kingdom](#)

[Magic Kingdom Touring Plans](#)

[Choosing the Appropriate Touring Plan](#)

[Magic Kingdom Touring-Plan Companion](#)

[The Single-Day Touring Conundrum](#)

[Preliminary Instructions for All Magic Kingdom Touring Plans](#)

[Park-Opening Procedures](#)

[Before You Go](#)

[Magic Kingdom One-Day Touring Plan for Adults](#)

[Magic Kingdom Authors' Selective One-Day Touring Plan for Adults](#)

[Magic Kingdom One-Day Touring Plan for Parents with Small Children](#)

[Magic Kingdom Two-Day Touring Plan](#)

[Magic Kingdom Dumbo-or-Die-in-a-Day One-Day Touring Plan for Parents with Small Children](#)

[PART TWELVE Epcot](#)

[The Epcot Acronym](#)

[Operating Hours](#)

[Dining in Epcot](#)

[Arriving](#)

[Getting Oriented](#)

[Future World](#)

[Test Track Pavilion](#)

[Imagination! Pavilion](#)

[The Land Pavilion](#)

[The Seas with Nemo & Friends Pavilion](#)

[World Showcase](#)

[Mexico Pavilion](#)

[Norway Pavilion](#)

[China Pavilion](#)

[Germany Pavilion](#)

[Italy Pavilion](#)

[United States Pavilion](#)

[Japan Pavilion](#)

[Morocco Pavilion](#)

[France Pavilion](#)

[United Kingdom Pavilion](#)

[Canada Pavilion](#)

[Live Entertainment in Epcot](#)

[IllumiNations](#)

[IllumiNations Cruise](#)

[Traffic Patterns in Epcot](#)

[Epcot Touring Plans](#)

[Before You Go](#)

[Epcot One-Day Touring Plan](#)

[Epcot Authors' Selective One-Day Touring Plan](#)

[Epcot One-Day Touring Plan for Parents with Small Children](#)

[Epcot Two-Day Early-Riser Touring Plan](#)

PART THIRTEEN Disney's Animal Kingdom

[Arriving](#)

[Operating Hours](#)

[Getting Oriented](#)

[Dining in Disney's Animal Kingdom](#)

[The Oasis](#)

[Discovery Island](#)

[Camp Minnie-Mickey](#)

[Africa](#)

[Asia](#)

[DinoLand U.S.A.](#)

[Live Entertainment in Disney's Animal Kingdom](#)

[Traffic Patterns in Disney's Animal Kingdom](#)

[Disney's Animal Kingdom Touring Plan](#)

[Before You Go](#)

[Disney's Animal Kingdom One-Day Touring Plan](#)

PART FOURTEEN Disney's Hollywood Studios

[The End of the MGM Connection](#)

[What's Offered at the Studios Today](#)

[How Much Time to Allocate](#)

[Disney's Hollywood Studios in the Evening](#)

[Arriving at Disney's Hollywood Studios](#)

[Getting Oriented at Disney's Hollywood Studios](#)

[Dining in Disney's Hollywood Studios](#)

[Disney's Hollywood Studios Attractions](#)

[Hollywood Boulevard](#)

[Sunset Boulevard](#)

[Echo Lake](#)

[Streets of America](#)

[Pixar Place](#)

[Mickey Avenue](#)

[Animation Courtyard](#)

[Live Entertainment at Disney's Hollywood Studios](#)

[Disney's Hollywood Studios Touring Plan](#)

[Disney's Hollywood Studios One-Day Touring Plan](#)

PART FIFTEEN Universal Orlando

[A Universal Primer](#)

[Universal on the Web](#)

[Cost](#)

[A Word about Crowds](#)

[How Much Time to Allocate](#)

[Lodging at Universal Orlando](#)

[Arriving at Universal Orlando](#)

[Universal Express](#)

[Singles Lines](#)

[Lockers](#)

[Universal, Kids, and Scary Stuff](#)

[Quitting Time](#)

[Impact Wrestling and Blue Man Group](#)

PART SIXTEEN Universal Studios Florida

[Universal Studios Florida Attractions](#)

[Live Entertainment at Universal Studios Florida](#)

[Universal Studios Florida Touring Plan](#)

[Buying Admission to Universal Studios Florida](#)

[Universal Studios Florida One-Day Touring Plan](#)

PART SEVENTEEN Universal's Islands of Adventure

[Beware of the Wet and the Wild](#)

[Getting Oriented at Universal's Islands of Adventure](#)

[Decisions, Decisions](#)

[Universal's Islands of Adventure Attractions](#)

[Marvel Super Hero Island](#)

[Toon Lagoon](#)

[Jurassic Park](#)

[The Wizarding World of Harry Potter](#)

[The Lost Continent](#)

[Seuss Landing](#)

[Universal's Islands of Adventure Touring Plan](#)

[Rolling the Dice with Harry Potter](#)

[Universal's Islands of Adventure One-Day Touring Plan](#)

PART EIGHTEEN SeaWorld Orlando

[Discovery Cove](#)

PART NINETEEN Behind the Scenes at Walt Disney World

[Multipark Tours](#)

[Behind the Scenes at the Magic Kingdom](#)

[Behind the Scenes at Epcot](#)

[Epcot DiveQuest](#)

[Dolphins in Depth](#)

[Seas Aqua Tour](#)

[Behind the Scenes at Disney's Animal Kingdom](#)

PART TWENTY The Water Parks

[You're Soaking in It!](#)

[Watch the Weather](#)

[Extra Magic Hours](#)

[Blizzard Beach](#)

[Typhoon Lagoon](#)

[Shark Reef](#)

[Surf Pool](#)

[Typhoon Lagoon versus Blizzard Beach](#)

[When to Go](#)

[Planning Your Day at Disney Water Parks](#)

[Water-Park Touring Plans](#)

[Wet 'n Wild](#)

[Body and Mat Slides](#)

[Raft and Tube Rides](#)

[Other Attractions](#)

[Wake Zone](#)

[Aquatica by SeaWorld](#)

PART TWENTY-ONE Beyond the Parks

[Downtown Disney](#)

[Downtown Disney Marketplace](#)

[Whither Pleasure Island?](#)

[Downtown Disney West Side](#)

[DisneyQuest](#)

[ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex](#)

[The Disney Wilderness Preserve](#)

[Walt Disney World Speedway](#)

[Walt Disney World Recreation](#)

[Walt Disney World Golf](#)

[Golf beyond Walt Disney World](#)

[Grand Cypress Golf Club](#)

[Other Standout Courses in Orlando](#)

[The Best of the Rest](#)

[Miniature Golf](#)

[PART TWENTY-TWO Shopping in and out of Walt Disney World](#)

[Hey, Big Spender](#)

[Pin Mania](#)

[Vinylmation](#)

[Shopping in Walt Disney World](#)

[Tips for Disney Shopping](#)

[Downtown Disney](#)

[The Magic Kingdom](#)

[Epcot](#)

[Disney's Animal Kingdom](#)

[Disney's Hollywood Studios](#)

[Disney Outlet Stores](#)

[Shopping beyond Walt Disney World](#)

[Celebration](#)

[Universal CityWalk](#)

[International Drive](#)

[Outlets](#)

[Traditional Shopping](#)

[PART TWENTY-THREE Nightlife in and out of Walt Disney World](#)

[Walt Disney World at Night](#)

[In the Theme Parks](#)

[At the Hotels](#)

[At Downtown Disney](#)

[Walt Disney World Dinner Theaters](#)

[Universal CityWalk](#)

[Appendix, Touring Plans, and Reader Surveys](#)

[Readers' Questions to the Author](#)

[Readers' Comments](#)

[Touring Plans](#)

[Clip-Out Touring Plan Companions](#)

LIST of MAPS *and* DIAGRAMS

[South Orlando & Walt Disney World Area](#)

[Walt Disney World](#)

[Disney Deluxe Resorts Room Diagrams](#)

[Disney Deluxe Villa Resorts Room Diagrams](#)

[Disney Moderate Resorts Room Diagrams](#)

[Value Resorts Room Diagrams](#)

[Fort Wilderness Resort Cabin Diagram](#)

[Grand Floridian Resort & Spa](#)

[Polynesian Resort](#)

[Wilderness Lodge & Villas](#)

[Contemporary Resort & Bay Lake Tower](#)

[Shades of Green](#)

[Yacht & Beach Club Resorts & Beach Club Villas](#)

[BoardWalk Inn & Villas](#)

[Swan & Dolphin](#)

[Caribbean Beach Resort](#)

[Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa](#)

[Treehouse Villas at Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa](#)

[Disney's Old Key West Resort](#)

[Port Orleans French Quarter Resort](#)

[Port Orleans Riverside Resort](#)

[Animal Kingdom Lodge & Villas](#)

[Coronado Springs Resort](#)

[All-Star Resorts](#)

[Pop Century Resort & Art of Animation Resort](#)

[Fort Wilderness Resort & Campground](#)

[Hotel Concentrations around Walt Disney World](#)

[International Drive & Universal Areas](#)

[Lake Buena Vista Resort Area & the I-4 Corridor](#)

[US 192–Kissimmee Resort Area](#)

[Rental-Home Developments near WDW](#)

[I-4 & Walt Disney World Area](#)

[Walt Disney World Touring & Hotel Clusters](#)

[International Drive Area Sneak Routes](#)

[US 192–Kissimmee Resort Area Sneak Routes](#)

[I-4 Sneak Routes](#)

[The Magic Kingdom](#)

[Magic Kingdom Parade Route](#)

[Epcot](#)

[Where to View IllumiNations](#)

[Disney's Animal Kingdom](#)

[Disney's Hollywood Studios](#)

[Universal Orlando](#)

[Universal Studios Florida](#)

[Universal's Islands of Adventure](#)

[Downtown Disney](#)

INTRODUCTION

WHY “UNOFFICIAL”?

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

THE AUTHORS AND RESEARCHERS of this guide specifically and categorically declare that they are and always have been totally independent of the Walt Disney Company, Inc.; of Disneyland, Inc.; of Walt Disney World, Inc.; and of any and all other members of the Disney corporate family not listed.

The material in this guide originated with the authors and researchers and has not been reviewed, edited, or approved by the Walt Disney Company, Inc.; Disneyland, Inc.; or Walt Disney World, Inc.

This guidebook represents the first comprehensive *critical* appraisal of Walt Disney World. Its purpose is to provide the reader with the information necessary to tour Walt Disney World with the greatest efficiency and economy and with the least hassle.

In this guide, we represent and serve you. If a restaurant serves bad food, or a gift item is overpriced, or a ride isn't worth the wait, we say so, and in the process we hope to make your visit more fun and rewarding.

DANCE TO THE MUSIC

A DANCE HAS A BEGINNING and an end. But when you're dancing, you're not concerned about getting to the end or where on the dance floor you might wind up. In other words, you're totally in the moment. That's the way you should be on your Walt Disney World vacation.

You may feel a bit of pressure concerning your vacation. Vacations, after all, are very special events—and expensive ones to boot. So you work hard to make your vacation the best that it can be. Planning and organizing are essential to a successful Walt Disney World vacation, but if they become your focus, you won't be able to hear the music and enjoy the dance.

So think of us as your dancing coaches. We'll teach you the steps to the dance in advance so that when you're on vacation and the music plays, you'll dance with effortless grace and ease.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING GOOFY

Egbert Hoofnagel, who coordinates the calendar for all Walt Disney World parks and venues, sits puzzling over an event to be held at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex....

“MacDermott, can you come here for a minute?”

“Aye, boss?”

“There's a, ahem, ‘ferret-legging’ contest scheduled next month at the Wide World of Sports. Is this something that involves the Disney characters?”

MacDermott looks surprised. “Nae, sir, it doesn't. But as far as characters go, it will

draw some of the strangest you'll ever see."

~~"So what is ferret-legging?" Hoofnagel inquires, more confused than ever.~~

"It's sort of a test of endurance where you stuff a live ferret down your trousers. The ferrets are quite, um, *lively* when they get in there. Whoever can suffer the beast the longest is the winner."

"Good grief! Have you ever tried ferret-legging?"

"Nae, sir, ferret-legging is for girlie-men in England and Wales. In Scotland we use the noble wolverine. Tuck it right up under our kilts, we do."

Hoofnagel's eyebrows take the elevator to the top floor and stick there, afraid to descend. "Well, do you have anything on under there—like, you know, *underpants*?" he stammers.

"You'll hafta ask the wolverine. That's a Scottish national secret."

"This doesn't sound very Disney-like," Hoofnagel says. "Do you think it's appropriate for the Wide World of Sports?"

After mulling it over a bit, MacDermott responds, "Well, it depends, but my honest opinion is that Americans are too soft for this sport. Then there are those great, baggy britches yer lads wear. The seat of the pants hangs down around the knees, it does. A proper ferret could get lost in there for a fortnight."

Hoofnagel demurs. "Americans can't stand to watch a sport where they don't win. I think we should cancel."

"Either that or start small for the Yanks, maybe mouse-legging. Works well with our corporate symbol, it does. We could call it 'Mickey's in Yer Knickers.' "

"That's *appalling*! I'd be fired on the spot!"

"How about 'Parrots in Yer Pants'? 'Weasels in Yer Y-Fronts'?"

Enter Vilmos Paprikash, a recent immigrant who's heard the whole conversation while changing the air-conditioner filter. "In East Vovodyodo, ve put chicken in pants and keep her there until she lay egg. You could try, perhaps?"

Hoofnagel groans. "You're both giving me a migraine. I *won't* sign off on anything that involves putting live animals in your clothing!"

"Easily solve!" Paprikash announces cheerily. "Ve have other game where you run 1-mile race vith dead sturgeon strapped to calf. That would be perfect, yes?"

"NOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!"

And so it goes....

What really makes writing about Walt Disney World fun is that the Disney people take everything so seriously. Day to day, they debate momentous decisions with far-ranging consequences: Will Pluto look silly in a silver cape? Have we gone too far with the Little Mermaid's cleavage? With the nation's drug problem a constant concern, should we have a dwarf named Dopey?

Unofficially, we think having a sense of humor is important. This guidebook has one, and it's probably necessary that you do, too—not to use this book, but to have the most fun possible at Walt Disney World. Think of the *Unofficial Guide* as a private trainer to help get your sense of humor in shape. It will help you understand the importance of being Goofy.

HONEY, I BLEW UP THE BOOK!

THE FIRST EDITION OF *The Unofficial Guide to Walt Disney World* was fewer than 200 pages, a mere shadow of its current size. Since that edition, Disney World has grown tremendously. The *Unofficial Guide* has grown to match this expansion. (Truth be told, Bob has put on a little weight himself. Len's rate of metabolism, on the other hand, is so high that his body is

incapable of producing fat.)

A mom from Streator, Illinois, was amazed by the size of the *Unofficial Guide*, writing not unsympathetically:

It had been 10 years since we have been to WDW, and I was shocked by how the size of your book grew. After going, I'm surprised that it's so small.

We have no idea where it will all end. In 30 years we may be selling an alphabetized, 26-volume edition, handsomely packaged in an imitation-oak bookcase. In the meantime, we offer a qualified apology for the bulk of this edition. We know it may be too heavy to carry comfortably without the assistance of a handcart or Sherpa, but we defend the inclusion of all the information presented. Not every diner uses ketchup, A.1. sauce, or Tabasco, but it's nice to have all three on the table.

Concerning *Unofficial Guide* content, a mom from Vallejo, California, requests that we include a map of the Orlando airport. Other reader ideas for new content included these suggestions:

- *I think your guide should have a list of attractions that provide (1) seats, (2) air-conditioning, and (3) at least 15 minutes off your feet.*
- *I feel your Unofficial Guide should include a claustrophobia rating for each attraction.*
- *I wish you'd discuss restrooms more in the next edition. I found myself constantly searching for one.*
- *We think you need a rating system regarding water [i.e., how wet you can expect to get on specific attractions]. EW = Extreme Water; SW = Some Water; M = Mist.*
- *A touring plan for wimpy teens would be helpful.*
- *I'd like to see a more adult version of the one-day touring plan for the Magic Kingdom—one that doesn't include Fantasyland, the Country Bears, or Tom Sawyer Island. Title this plan "I hate those damn bears!"*

These comments are representative in that many of you would like more detailed coverage of one thing or another. Believe me, we've debated adding an airport map, as well as hundreds of other things, but haven't done so. Why? Because we don't have an infinite number of pages with which to work, and we felt other information was more important. You'd be amazed by the wealth of worthwhile material that doesn't make the cut. What if we put it all in? Well, the book would look more at home in your hayloft than on your bookshelf.

YOUR UNOFFICIAL WALT DISNEY WORLD TOOLBOX

YOU NEED DIFFERENT TOOLS to work on your car than you do to fix a leaky faucet or trim your azaleas. It's much the same with a Walt Disney World vacation. If we think of information as tools, a couple with two toddlers in diapers will need different tools than a party of seniors going to the Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival. Likewise, adults touring without children, families with kids of varying ages, and honeymooners all require their own special tools.

To meet the varying needs of our readers, we've created the very comprehensive guide before you. We call *The Unofficial Guide to Walt Disney World*, at about 850 pages, the "Big Book." It contains the detailed information that anyone traveling to Walt Disney World needs

to have a super vacation. It's our cornerstone.

But as thorough as we try to make the main guide, there still isn't sufficient space for all the tips and resources that may be useful to certain readers. Therefore, we've developed four additional guides, each designed to work in conjunction with the Big Book and provide information tailored to specific visitors. Although some advice from the Big Book, such as arriving early at the theme parks, is echoed in these guides, most of the information is unique. You might think of the Big Book as a vacuum cleaner and the other guides as specialized attachments that certain users might need for a particular job (back to tools, you see).

Here's what's in the toolbox:

The Unofficial Guide Color Companion to Walt Disney World, by Bob Sehlinger and Len Testa, is a visual feast that proves a picture is worth a thousand words. In the Big Book, for instance, you can learn about the best guest rooms to request at the Wilderness Lodge, but in the *Color Companion* you can see the rooms, along with the pool and the magnificent lobby. For the first time, full-color photos illustrate how long the lines get at different times of day, how wet riders get on Splash Mountain, and how the parks are decked out for various holidays. The *Color Companion* will whet your appetite for Disney fun, picture all the attractions, serve as a keepsake, and, as always, help make your vacation more enjoyable. Most of all, the *Color Companion* is for fun. For the first time, we're able to use photography to express our zany *Unofficial* sense of humor. Think of it as Monty Python meets Walt Disney in Technicolor.

The Unofficial Guide to Walt Disney World with Kids, by Bob Sehlinger and Liliane J. Opsomer with Len Testa, presents detailed planning and touring tips for a family vacation, along with more than 20 family touring plans that are exclusive to this book.

Mini-Mickey: The Pocket-Sized Unofficial Guide to Walt Disney World, by Bob Sehlinger, Len Testa, and Ritchey Halphen, is a portable CliffsNotes-style version of *The Unofficial Guide to Walt Disney World*. It distills information from the Big Book to help short-stay or last-minute visitors decide quickly how to plan their limited hours at Disney World.

Beyond Disney: The Unofficial Guide to Universal, SeaWorld, and the Best of Central Florida, by Bob Sehlinger and Robert N. Jenkins, is a guide to non-Disney theme parks, attractions, restaurants, outdoor recreation, and nightlife in Orlando and Central Florida.

THE DEATH OF SPONTANEITY

ONE OF OUR ALL-TIME FAVORITE LETTERS came from a man in Chapel Hill, North Carolina:

Your book reads like the operations plan for an amphibious landing: Go here, do this, proceed to Step 15. You must think that everyone is a hyperactive, type-A theme park commando. What happened to the satisfaction of self-discovery or the joy of spontaneity? Next you'll be telling us when to empty our bladders.

As it happens, *Unofficial Guide* researchers are a pretty existential crew. We're big on self-discovery, if the activity is walking in the woods or watching birds. Some of us are able to improvise jazz, and others can whip up a mean pot of chili without a recipe. When it comes to Disney World, however, we all agree that you need either a good plan or a frontal lobotomy. The operational definition of self-discovery and spontaneity at Walt Disney World is the "pleasure" of heat prostration and the "joy" of standing in line.

Let's face it: Walt Disney World is not a very existential place. In many ways it's the quintessential system, the ultimate in mass-produced entertainment, the most planned and programmed environment anywhere.

We aren't saying that you can't have a great time at Walt Disney World. What we *are* saying is that you need a plan. You don't have to be compulsive or inflexible; just think about what you want to do before you go. Don't delude yourself by rationalizing that the information in this guide is only for the pathological and the superorganized. Ask not for whom the tome tells, Bubba—it tells for thee.

DON'T LET THE TAIL WAG THE DOG

SOME FOLKS BECOME SO INVESTED in their plan that it becomes the centerpiece of the vacation. A Columbia, Missouri, mom, obviously intent on making every second count, offers time-saving advice that makes *Unofficial* strategies look flat-out amateurish:

Getting to the park when it opens is the key to beating the lines. To make that happen: (1) Pack breakfast on the go—you can eat your Pop-Tarts once you're on the shuttle bus, then drink your juice while you wait in line for Dumbo. (2) Send the fastest runner in your party to jump on the bus or boat; the driver will wait if he sees you coming and one of your kids is already hanging on. (3) Showering wastes precious park and rest time; the pool will do. (4) Braid your daughter's hair. Seriously. My 8-year-old never had to brush her hair in the morning (worst case: do her hair on the shuttle bus—don't waste time in your room). (5) Ball caps for boys also avoid hair brushing and help with the sun.



It's hard to imagine keeping up with this woman, but she apparently derived great satisfaction from creating and executing her plan. For most, however, the stress and doggedness of this approach would push them over the edge. Remember the basics: Know thyself, nothing to excess, and concentrate on having fun.

CORRECTIONS, UPDATES, AND BREAKING NEWS

CORRECTIONS AND UPDATES can be found online at the *Unofficial Guide* website, touringplans.com. Also available on the site are the WDW Crowd Calendar; more than 140

touring plans; our mobile app, Lines; trip-planning and -organizing tools; a Ticket Calculator; research reports; and breaking Walt Disney World news.

WE'VE GOT ATTITUDE

SOME READERS DISAGREE about our attitude toward Disney. A woman from Golden, Colorado, lambastes us:



I read your book cover to cover and felt you were way too hard on Disney. It's disappointing when you're all enthused about going to Walt Disney World to be slammed with all these criticisms.

- [*The Culture of China \(Understanding China\) for free*](#)
- [download online Religion and the Politics of Tolerance: How Christianity Builds Democracy](#)
- [click The American Revolution 1774-1783 \(Essential Histories, Volume 45\) pdf](#)
- [*The Spanish Inquisition: A Historical Revision pdf, azw \(kindle\)*](#)
- [read The Men Who Would Be King: An Almost Epic Tale of Moguls, Movies, and a Company Called DreamWorks](#)

- <http://schroff.de/books/The-Culture-of-China--Understanding-China-.pdf>
- <http://bestarthritiscare.com/library/Professional-C--.pdf>
- <http://cavalldecartro.highlandagency.es/library/Kitty-and-the-Silver-Bullet--Kitty-Norville--Book-4-.pdf>
- <http://paulczajak.com/?library/The-Spanish-Inquisition--A-Historical-Revision.pdf>
- <http://berttrotman.com/library/The-Men-Who-Would-Be-King--An-Almost-Epic-Tale-of-Moguls--Movies--and-a-Company-Called-DreamWorks.pdf>