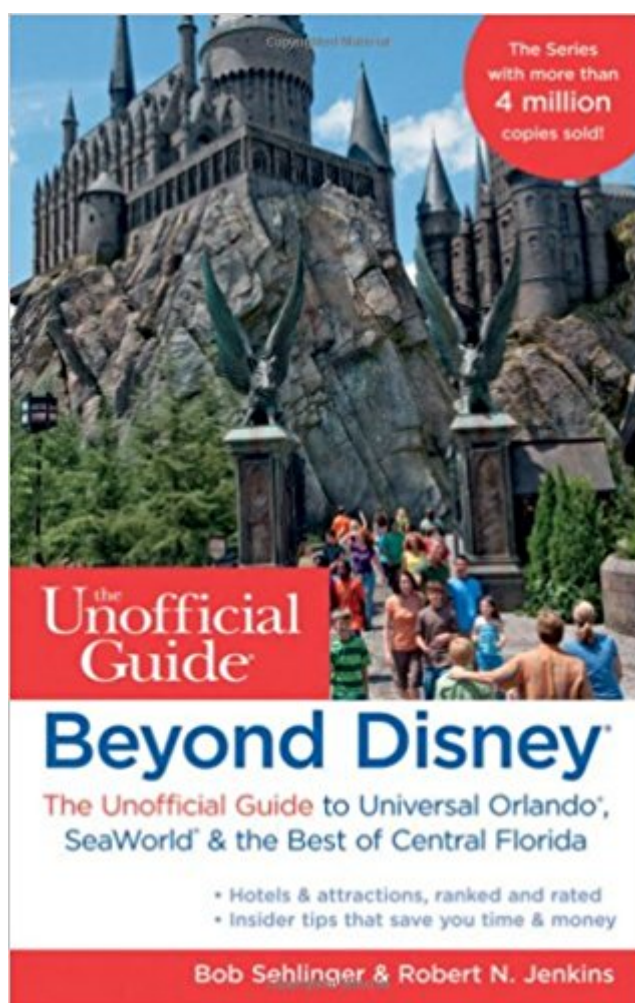


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# Beyond Disney: The Unofficial Guide To Universal Orlando, SeaWorld & The Best Of Central Florida (Unofficial Guides)



## Synopsis

According to the Orlando Tourism Bureau, Orlando hosted 47 million domestic and international visitors in 2009 (the most recent year available). Includes comprehensive coverage on the WIZARDING WORLD OF HARRY POTTER which opened in 2010 Both Universal Orlando and SeaWorld remain in the top theme parks to visit in the United States- each with attendance of almost 5 million in 2009. Universal Orlando's Islands of Adventure attendance is expected to increase with the much anticipated arrival of the WIZARDING WORLD OF HARRY POTTER

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## Customer Reviews

From the publishers of The Unofficial Guide to Walt Disney World "A Tourist's Best Friend!" Chicago Sun-Times "Indispensable" The New York Times Five Great Features and Benefits offered ONLY by The Unofficial Guide: Comprehensive coverage of theme parks, dinner theater, mini-golf, water parks, adventure outings, sports, museums, and more Field-tested Touring Plans for Universal Orlando that can save four hours of standing in line a day Extensive coverage of The WIZARDING WORLD OF HARRY POTTER at Universal Orlando Complete descriptions and ratings for all the best non-Disney hotels for families Insider tips on the best restaurants, buffets, and meal deals Hotels & attractions, ranked and rated Insider tips that save you time & money

BOB SEHLINGER is the author of The Unofficial Guide to Walt DisneyWorld and the executive publisher of the Unofficial Guide series. GRANT RAFTER is a graduate of Dartmouth College and a professional writer. He makes his home in Maine. --This text refers to the Unknown Binding edition.

Its not a bad book if you are planning a trip to Universal. We were going to Seaworld and I felt it could have had more information on the restaurants in the park. I would have like to have a lot more information on Aquatica and Discovery Cove. I felt they were very lacking. I did find a great many attractions outside of Disney that I didn't know existed. Since we usually go a couple days before our Disney vacation each year, it provided many different alternatives rather than the big theme parks.

I had used the unofficial guide to Disney when planning a trip to Orlando a few years ago and it was very helpful. So when planning a trip this year to visit Universal Studios in Orlando I ordered this book. It was not as detailed as the Disney version, but proved to be just as helpful... a trip to Universal Studios is simply not as intense as a trip to Disney. The ride and park descriptions were very helpful.

We are huge fans of the Unofficial Guide to Disney World series, having purchased an update prior to every trip (3 or 4). The explanations are spot on and we follow the touring plans religiously. On this basis, we purchased the "Unofficial guide to Universal Orlando, etc. "book for our last trip where we visited Islands of Adventure, Discovery Cove, SeaWorld, and Aquatica. We purchased it primarily for Discovery Cove and Islands of Adventure. The information on Discovery Cove was less than five pages (including a page with a map). Given the cost of the visit, we were hoping for more pithy information. To be fair, there was substantial information on SeaWorld, but since we have visited SeaWorld in San Diego many, many times, this was not important for us. There was a lot of information on Islands of Adventure, Harry Potter specifically, that was helpful. There was scant information about Aquatica. This book may work for your trip. It's disappointing that some families will need to buy two books -- one for Disney, one for the rest (where they used to be in one book). For our trip, this book did not work -- not enough information on the parks that were important to us.

My daughter and I used this book - we referred to it as "the oracle" on two different trips to FL. Using the guides saved us countless time in lines and made good food recommendations.

I had no idea that there were so many things outside of Disney to do! I bought it basically because of SeaWorld. It tells when the busiest times are for rides and lunch/dinner. It explains how long the rides and shows last and rates them per interest per age group. Also compares hotels, gives maps, and lots of websites. I'm taking this book with me on vacation!

I would have liked to see more photos of the places listed. It was boring and dull to read through the book

I bought several books for planning a trip to Orlando with my Grandson and this was the best for the planning of how we'll spend our time at Universal Studios. The format is perfect for one's understanding of the park layout and deciding which activities are best for which age groups.

Preparing a trip to Orlando, I like the practical information about Seaworld and the two Universal Parks ( e.g. day planning tour )

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