

# ORLANDO

## What's New

### THEME PARK THRILLS

#### FIRST NEW ORLANDO THEME PARK IN 25 YEARS OPENS AT UNIVERSAL

Universal Orlando Resort's fourth theme park, **Universal Epic Universe**, opened May 22, 2025, transporting guests to expansive worlds featuring more than 50 attractions, entertainment, dining and shopping experiences. Celestial Park, inspired by astronomical and mythological elements, will be the first world guests encounter and the gateway to explore four additional worlds:

- **The Wizarding World of Harry Potter – Ministry of Magic** blends 1920s wizarding Paris from Warner Bros. Pictures' *Fantastic Beasts* films with the iconic British Ministry of Magic from the *Harry Potter* series.
- **SUPER NINTENDO WORLD** invites guests to discover a new way to play as they step into the worlds of beloved characters like Mario, Luigi, Princess Peach and Donkey Kong.
- **How to Train Your Dragon – Isle of Berk** immerses visitors in a colorful world filled with Viking adventures based on the wildly popular *How to Train Your Dragon* film franchise.
- **Dark Universe** offers face-to-face encounters with Universal Pictures' legendary Monsters, from the experiments of Dr. Victoria Frankenstein to the shadowy landscape where monsters roam in a world of myth and mystery.

#### SOAR ABOVE THE ARCTIC AT SEAWORLD

SeaWorld Orlando's Expedition Odyssey, the world's first fully immersive Arctic-themed flying theater, opened May 9. The first-of-its-kind attraction combines cutting-edge technology, breathtaking real-world footage and close-up encounters with Arctic wildlife.

#### WALT DISNEY WORLD'S NEW SUMMER PARADE AND SHOW

Two new shows debuted at **Disney's Hollywood Studios** on May 27 including "The Little Mermaid – A Musical Adventure," a reimagined production inspired by the classic film, and "Disney Villains: Unfairly Ever After," with appearances by dozens of infamous evildoers – including Cruella de Vil, Captain Hook and Maleficent. **Magic Kingdom Park** will debut "Disney Starlight," a new nighttime parade, featuring characters from Walt Disney Animation Studios films "Peter Pan," "Encanto," "Frozen" and more.

#### NEW SHOW AT ANIMAL KINGDOM'S "TREE OF LIFE"

In winter 2025, The Tree of Life Theater at **Disney's Animal Kingdom** will debut an all-new 4D production, "Zootopia: Better Zoogether!" Families can join their favorite herd from the hit Walt Disney Animation Studios movie including Judy Hopps, Nick Wilde and more for an exhilarating new wild story.

#### SEA LIFE FLORIDA MAKES A SPLASH THIS SUMMER

**SEA LIFE Florida**, a new aquarium attraction at **LEGOLAND Florida Resort**, opened May 23, offering an oceanic adventure with diverse marine life, interactive exhibits and a finale showcasing "The Theme Park Under the Sea."

### SPORTS

**Inter&Co Stadium** and **Camping World Stadium** will host matches during the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup on June 17, 20, 24, 26, 30 and July 4, bringing global stars like Erling Haaland (Manchester City) and Nicolás Otamendi (SL Benfica) to Orlando.







## BOOMING HOTEL GROWTH

Adding to Orlando's nearly 500 hotels and more than 130,000 rooms, the destination will open and expand nine hotel properties.

### NEW PROPERTIES

**Universal Helios Grand Hotel**, a Mediterranean-inspired escape overlooking the all-new **Universal Epic Universe** theme park, opened April 16. The hotel features 500 guest rooms and 35 suites – including *How to Train Your Dragon*-themed Kids' Suites, dining options, a breath-taking rooftop bar, entertaining amenities and a dedicated entrance into Epic Universe.

**Universal Stella Nova Resort** and **Universal Terra Luna Resort** both opened in early 2025. The new properties feature 750 double-queen guest rooms with spaceship-styled windows, a variety of dining options and amenities including resort-style pools, fitness centers, game rooms and more.

**Island Tower at Disney's Polynesian Villas & Bungalows** opened in December. The property offers villas for five to nine guests, with amenities like kitchens, dining areas and outdoor patios. The tower includes two-bedroom penthouses with lagoon and Magic Kingdom views.

**Villatel Orlando Resort** unveiled 270 villas with immersive themed rooms featuring living and sleeping space for up to 26 guests; the nation's first **Apartments by Marriott Bonvoy Resort**, a collection of 256 apartments featuring two- to three-bedrooms units; and a 200,000-square-foot wonderland of resort amenities including a water park, Splash Cove and a variety of elevated resort experiences.

## RENOVATIONS

**Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort** completed the renovation of all 756 guest rooms and suites in the Swan hotel, unveiling a sleek, modern space. These enhancements are part of a broader \$275 million renovation and expansion project, which also includes upgrades to the meeting spaces at both the Swan and Dolphin, as well as a 120,000-square-foot expansion of the Dolphin's event space.

**Fort Wilderness Resort & Campground** at Walt Disney World Resort unveiled 365 newly renovated cabins this spring.

**The Residence Inn Orlando Lake Buena Vista** unveiled a multimillion-dollar transformation featuring upgraded suites with new furnishings and custom designed kitchens; a new arcade; outdoor spaces; a fitness center; a refreshed breakfast area and modern amenities.

**Ramada Plaza by Wyndham Orlando Resort & Suites** completed a nearly \$7 million top-to-bottom renovation of all 164 guest rooms and bathrooms of its South Tower in May. The refresh features upgraded in-room technology, sleek furnishings and enhancements to the hotel's lobby, meeting spaces and public areas.

## DINING

### AWARD-WINNING DINING AT MICHELIN GUIDE RESTAURANTS

Orlando's evolving dining scene has been recognized with one of the world's highest culinary honors. In the 2025 MICHELIN Guide Florida, inspectors added 11 new Orlando restaurants to the lineup, starting with the destination's first-ever Two-MICHELIN-Star honoree, Sorekara, which also received a MICHELIN Service Award for General Manager Austin Joseph, and the One-MICHELIN-Star Ômo by Jônt. Orlando now boasts 59 restaurants recognized by Michelin, including 9 MICHELIN Starred venues, 15 Bib Gourmands and 35 Recommended eateries.