

# ORLANDO, What's New



EPIC UNIVERSE

## THEME PARK THRILLS

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

**Universal Epic Universe**, Universal Orlando Resort's fourth theme park, opened in May 2025, inviting guests to step into over 50 attractions, dining, shopping and entertainment experiences across five vibrant worlds.

### WALT DISNEY WORLD'S NEW SHOWS

In summer 2026, **Disney's Hollywood Studios** unveils two new experiences, including "Disney Jr. Mickey Mouse Clubhouse Live!", a high-energy show with tunes and dancing, and "The Magic of Disney Animation," inspired by Walt Disney Animation Studios and the Emmy-winning short film, "Once Upon a Studio." The Tree of Life Theater at **Disney's Animal Kingdom** debuted an all-new 4D production, "Zootopia: Better Zoogether!" in fall 2025.

### NEW SOCIAL GAMING EXPERIENCE AT DISNEY SPRINGS

**Level 99**, an interactive adult obstacle course featuring more than 50 physical and mental challenges, plus a bar and restaurant, will debut at Disney Springs.

### NEW IMMERSIVE RIDE AT SEAWORLD ORLANDO

Coming in 2026, **SEAQuest: Legends of the Deep** – a first-of-its-kind suspended family dark ride – will take guests on a submersible journey through vibrant underwater worlds, immersing them in the awe-inspiring stories of the sea.



DISNEY'S ANIMAL KINGDOM THEME PARK

### FIRST NEW COASTER IN TWO DECADES OPENS AT LEGOLAND FLORIDA

**Galacticcoaster**, LEGOLAND Florida's first coaster in more than two decades, will blast off on Feb. 27 in the park's newest space-themed land.

## BEYOND THE THEME PARKS

### WORLD'S FIRST SLOTHARIUM OPENS IN FEBRUARY

**Sloth World**, the world's first and only Slotharium, will open in February on International Drive, offering guided, small-group experiences inside a rainforest-style habitat where sloths roam freely among lush trees, vines and natural climbing structures.

### 'GEN Z COUNTRY CLUB' OPENS IN 2026

**Society Park**, a large sports and entertainment complex, will open on International Drive in April 2026. Described as a "Gen Z country club," Society Park will include a mix of sports, dining, shopping and entertainment featuring nine padel courts, an exhibition court, two children's courts, three pickleball courts, a pro shop, spa and two restaurants.

### WORLD'S LARGEST BUILD-A-BEAR WORKSHOP

**Build-A-Bear Workshop** will open a new multi-level flagship store at ICON Park in 2026, set to be the largest workshop in the world.

### INSTAGRAMMABLE DESSERT-THEMED MUSEUM

**Museum of Ice Cream Orlando**, known for its colorful exhibitions, unique sweet treats and world-famous sprinkle pool, will make its debut at International Drive's **Pointe Orlando** in 2026.

### BLUE MAN GROUP DEBUTS NEW SHOW AT ICON PARK

**Blue Man Group's** new show will debut at ICON Park on May 1, featuring the group's signature blend of art, high-energy live music, comedy and non-verbal storytelling.



SEAWORLD ORLANDO



UNIVERSAL HELIOS GRAND HOTEL, A LOEWS HOTEL



VILLATEL ORLANDO RESORT



MICHELIN HONORS 58 ORLANDO RESTAURANTS IN ITS 2025 GUIDE

## BOOMING HOTEL GROWTH

Adding to Orlando's nearly 500 hotels and more than 133,000 rooms, the destination has opened four new hotel properties.

## FAMILY-STYLE ACCOMMODATIONS

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

## UNIVERSAL'S EPIC UNIVERSE ONSITE HOTELS

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

**Universal Stella Nova Resort** and **Universal Terra Luna Resort** 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.

## SHOPPING

**The Florida Mall** welcomes 11 new-to-market retail brands, including Glow or Go, an immersive team challenge with high-energy game zones; Pop Mart, the Beijing-based collectible brand; plus Lindt, Steve Madden and more. In early 2026, Round1 Bowling and Arcade, a Japanese-style, multi-entertainment facility featuring bowling, exclusive arcade games from Japan, claw machines and more, will open.

**The Mall at Millenia** is welcoming a wave of updates, including an expanded Christian Louboutin space, a new Versace store, a refreshed Gucci gallery and openings from Lids, PacSun, Suitsupply and Vuori, plus an upgraded Tommy Bahama location.

## 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 58 restaurants recognized by Michelin**, including 9 MICHELIN Starred venues, 15 Bib Gourmands and 34 Recommended eateries.

## TRANSPORTATION

### BRIGHTLINE TRAIN CONNECTS ORLANDO AND MIAMI

With the FIFA World Cup attracting travelers from around the globe to Miami in 2026, Brightline offers a seamless way to extend the excitement, linking world-class soccer with a seamless Orlando getaway. As America's only modern, the eco-friendly intercity rail connects Miami and Orlando with 16 daily round trips and hourly departures, stopping in Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach, Boca Raton and Aventura.