ITGCF shareware v. 1.4 1995 T. DaveyTRUEORLANDOyesyesyesyesyesnonoE&xitC&opy&PrintThe Informed Tourist's Guide to Central Floridayes

The Informed Tourist's Guide to Central Florida

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Help file produced by HELLLP! v2.5e , a product of Guy Software, on 1/24/96 for Tamasin Davey.

The above table of contents will be automatically completed and will also provide an excellent cross-reference for context strings and topic titles. You may leave it as your main table of contents for your help file, or you may create your own and cause it to be displayed instead by using the I button on the toolbar. This page will not be displayed as a topic. It is given a context string of ____, but this is not presented for jump selection.

HINT: If you do not wish some of your topics to appear in the table of contents as displayed to your users (you may want them ONLY as PopUps), move the lines with their titles and contexts to below this point. If you do this remember to move the whole line. not part. As an alternative, you may wish to set up your own table of contents, see Help under The Structure of a Help File. Do not delete any codes in the area above the Table of Contents title, they are used internally by HELLLP!

Introduction

Millions of people visit Central Florida every year. Most of them don't have any idea where to go, eat or stay. This software is meant to help those tourists make the most of the precious few days that they have on vacation.

I am a resident of Central Florida. This guide is a compilation of my own observations and well as those of other Central Florida residents and visitors.

This guide is shareware. There are some sections that are incomplete to encourage you to buy the registered version. A lot of research, time and energy has gone into creating this guide and I am asking a very nominal fee to register it.

When you consider how much time it could take you to accumulate this information, not to mention online and internet fees, if you could find it at all, isn't it worth it to you? See How to Register for more information.

I hope this guide is helpful to you in planning your trip and hopefully will make it a very pleasant and memorable time for you and your family.

Understanding the Rating System

This Attraction rating system is based on my own opinion and the opinion of other residents and visitors to Central Florida. You may feel differently. However it is a good basis for judging what you should try to do while visiting Central Florida. There will be a series of stars after some of the items in this guide. Those stars are explained below. If the attraction does not have any stars, that is because I have not been there or have not heard anything good or bad about the place.

- ****
 Absolutely Must Go!!
- ******** Go if you still have time.
- ******* Average
- **
- Only if you have to
- * Don't Bother

Theme Parks

Disney's MGM Studios Theme Park***** Universal Studios Theme Park***** Busch Gardens at Tampa Bay***** Disney's Magic Kingdom***** Disney's Epcot Center**** Sea World of Orlando*** Splendid China Silver Springs Weeki Wachee**** Cypress Gardens

Disney's MGM Studios Theme Park****

Learn which ride everybody can't stop talking about! Purchase the registered version and find out.

Universal Studios Theme Park****

Which rides are worth the wait in line? Register and find out!

Busch Gardens at Tampa Bay*****

Busch Gardens is a Theme Park and Zoo all rolled into one. It is set in the theme of the Dark Continent, Africa. Located in Tampa, it is about an hour and a half from the Orlando area.

There are many water rides so it is recommended that you wear your bathing suit under your clothes. There are also a couple of roller coasters, the newest and best of which is Kumba. This ride goes incredibly fast through all its twists and turns. There is a train ride and a walkway around the park where you can look at many different animals, including, monkeys, alligators, elephants and antelope.

There is also a brewery on the property where they give "complimentary" samples of Anheuser Busch products, including beer. For the little ones there is a kiddle area.

All in all Busch Gardens is a delightful trip, though you may have to stay over night in Tampa or the near vicinity because it will take a full day to see it all. See Tampa or West Coast Beach Accommodations for some suggested places to stay.

Busch Gardens is located at 3000 E. Busch Blvd. In Tampa. Take exit 33 off I-275 or exit 54 off I-75 and follow the signs. Phone Number: 813-987-5082.

Disney's Magic Kingdom*****

Disney's Magic Kingdom is, of course, a classic. Most of us have memories of going there or to Disneyland as a child. But, there are also many new rides and attractions in the Magic Kingdom including the new Tomorrowland.

Though I haven't personally experienced the new Alien Encounter ride, I have been told that it is VERY scary. In fact, it is so scary that rumor has it Michael Eisner has asked that it be toned down because many guests are becoming too frightened. Not the kind of thing you would expect at the Magic Kingdom, but certainly a change of pace. So, if you like a good scare, check it out.

If you haven't ever been to the Magic Kingdom, here are some of the better rides there. My absolute favorite is Pirates of the Caribbean. I guess with me it brings back memories and it portrays some not so nice and Disneylike characters as pirates, chasing women and pillaging.

Some other favorites are The Haunted Mansion, Jungle Cruise, and Space Mountain. These are just a few of the many classic rides at the Magic Kingdom. You should be able to see the best rides here in one day, maybe two.

The Magic Kingdom is located off I-4 at exit 25B. Follow the signs to the park. Phone Number: 407-824-4321.

Disney's Epcot Center****

There are some excellent exhibits and shows at Epcot Center. Register and find out which ones to see.

Sea World of Orlando***

Find out about Sea World's newest, most expensive and elaborate exhibit by registering now.

Splendid China

Splendid China's theme is replicating many of China's best known sites in miniature as well as full scale. It offers visitors a view of China without visiting the country.

Some of the best features include a half-mile long replica of the Great Wall, miniatures of the Forbidden City and Temple of Heaven. There is also a replica of the natural Stone Forest of China. The real forest was naturally carved of limestone. There is every kind of Chinese food served here and authentic Chinese entertainment.

Splendid China is located in Kissimmee, 12 miles southwest of Orlando on U.S. Hwy. 192. It is three miles west of Interstate 4 (exit 25-B), one mile west of the Walt Disney World entrance. Phone Number: 407-396-7111.

Silver Springs

Silver Springs contains the world's largest formation of clear artesian springs. These springs come from the Silver River. The Springs release more than 750,000 gallons of water a day.

The Glass Bottomed Boat Cruise offers a narrated view of underwater life up to 40 feet below the surface. The Jungle Cruise contains 22 species of animals including zebras and giraffes. There is also a Jeep Safari where you can view many different animals and Petting Zoo with several exotic animals to touch and see.

Silver Springs is located on SR40 at 5656 Silver Springs Blvd., Silver Springs FL outside Ocala. Phone Number: 904-236-2121.



To receive this section and learn about Weeki Wachee's mermaids you must purchase the registered version of this software.

Cypress Gardens

Cypress Gardens features more than 8,000 varieties of plants and flowers from over 75 countries; worldrenowned water-ski performances, a butterfly conservatory; authentic Southern Belles; and children's' rides and games. Cypress Gardens sits on 200 acres of land. Opened in 1936, it was Florida's first theme park and remains the state's longest running attraction. Some of its more interesting attractions follow.

Cypress Gardens' Southern Belle costumes are hand-crafted, antebellum dresses. Each Southern Belle has their pictures taken an average of 500 times per day as they stroll through the gardens.

"Wings of Wonder," the Butterfly Conservatory. More than 1000 butterflies in free-flight and plenty of exotic waterfowl and iguanas live in this 5,500 square-foot, educational conservatory. Waterfalls, pools and rain forest plants and flowers are abundant here.

The "Pontoon Lake Cruise" features snowy egrets, blue herons, and otters. An occasional alligator can be spotted on this pontoon boat cruise along the banks of Lake Eloise. (Extra fee charged.)

There is also an antebellum style hospitality center on the property where they give "complimentary" samples of Anheuser Busch products, including beer. For the little ones there is a kiddle area.

The park is located midway between Tampa and Orlando, 30 minutes southwest of Walt Disney World off U.S. 27 near Winter Haven. Phone Number: 800-237-4826.

Water Parks

Disney's Blizzard Beach***** Typhoon Lagoon***** River Country Adventure Island Wet 'N Wild***

Disney's Blizzard Beach*****

Which water rides do you absolutely have to try? Purchase the registered version and find out.

Typhoon Lagoon*****

Find out the best way to spend your day at Typhoon Lagoon in the complete guide. Purchase it now!

River Country

River Country is designed to look like "your old swimming hole." It features pools, slides, ropes and winding rapids. There is a nature trail and picnic areas. River Country is the smallest of Disney's three Water Parks and the most affordable.

River Country is located on Disney Property in Ft. Wilderness Resort. Take I-4 to exit 25-B and follow the signs to River Country. Phone Number 407-824-4321

Adventure Island

Located near Busch Gardens in Tampa, Adventure Island is a 36 acre water park. It is Tampa's only water park and features water flumes, swimming and diving areas.

One of these rides is called Key West Rapids. It is a 6 story 700 foot long slide that contains twists, turns and speedy slopes. Four rafts can be hooked together to make a roller coaster of sorts on this slide.

There is also has a children's play area, wave pool, speed slide and beach area. A combination ticket can be purchased for both Busch Gardens and Adventure Island.

Adventure Island is located at 10001 Malcolm McKinley Drive(40th St.)in Tampa. Phone Number: 813-987-5660.

Wet 'N Wild***

Wet 'N Wild is a 25 acre water park. This park contains many waterslides and flume rides, a wave pool, picnic areas and a children's water playground that has child size versions of the park's most popular rides.

A couple of Wet 'N Wild's highlights include a cable operated kneeboard ride and the Surge, a multipassenger slide that travels through 600 feet of twists and turns.

Wet 'N Wild is located at 6200 International Drive in Orlando. Phone Number: 407-351-3200.

West Coast Beaches***** East Coast Beaches*****

West Coast Beaches*****

Longboat Key****

Longboat Key is located between Bradenton and Sarasota, so it is farther south than some of the other beaches in Central Florida, but worth the trip. It is a Gulf Island or "Key," with spectacular Beaches and low traffic. If you really want to get away for a while, I recommend this place. Though there are very few hotels on Longboat Key, if you are persistent, they can be found. In fact, I have listed several under West Coast Beach Accommodations in this guide. What makes Longboat Key charming is that it is somewhat off the beaten path and therefore it gives you a glimpse of the real Florida.

Longboat Key has sparkling white sands and warm brilliant blue gulf waters with gentle waves. You could lose yourself for a long time on this heavenly beach.

How to get there: Take I-4 West to I-75. Take I-75 South to Exit 42 (SR64 Manatee Avenue) Take Manatee Avenue West out to Gulf of Mexico Drive (789) Go South on Gulf of Mexico Drive to Longboat Key. Any area along here is beautiful. See below under Lido Beach for alternate directions.

For more information on other West Coast Beaches, order the registered version of this shareware now!

East Coast Beaches****

The East Coast Beaches are by far more popular with the tourists. Therefore there are generally more people in the area. In Volusia County (where Daytona Beach is located) you can drive on the beach in many areas making a picnic a lot of fun. The water here is slightly cooler and the waves are higher than on the West Coast. The East Coast Beaches are also closer. Some are within an hour's drive from the Orlando area. Below are a few of the favorite beaches.

New Smyrna Beach****

New Smyrna Beach is my favorite beach on the East Coast. It is little known to the tourists, but is very popular with the residents of Central Florida. You can drive on the beach here so it is an ideal location for a day picnic. It is located south of Daytona Beach, so it takes under an hour to get to New Smyrna Beach. There are relatively few hotels here and they are booked well in advance, so I recommend that you book early if you want to stay here. Look under East Coast Beach Accommodations for some Hotel listings in this area.

How to get there: Take I-4 East to State Road 44. There will be signs for New Smyrna Beach at this exit. Take SR44 East to the beach areas. There are several locations to enter onto the beach. I prefer the farthest south entrance. There seems to be the least traffic there. There's a sign that tells you that it is the last beach entrance.

For information on more East Coast Beaches including Daytona Beach, please register and receive the complete guide.

Accommodations

Orlando has the greatest number of Hotel rooms of any city in the United States. Therefore, I am going to list several of the better Hotel/Motels in each designated area. Keep in mind that there are many more good places to stay. These will only be a few of the better quality ones. I will list some chain Hotels as well with their phone number so you can contact them for available Hotels in the area you are interested in. The Hotels will be rated as follows:

\$	Inexpensiveup to \$60 a night
\$\$	Moderateup to \$100 a night
\$\$\$	Expensiveup to \$150 a night

\$\$\$\$ Very Expensive--over \$150 a night

Keep in mind that Hotel prices go up and down depending on the season, with the rates being the cheapest in the summer and the first two months of the year. Beach Accommodations also tend to be on the more expensive side because of their location. Therefore, these ratings should be used merely as a guide, the prices can vary greatly and some Hotels run excellent specials from time to time.

Here are some codes that you will see marked under each hotel and the meaning of each:

P-	Pool on the property
В-	Beachfront property
R-	Restaurant(s) on the property
L-	Lounge or bar on the property
C-	Childcare available
CP-	Children's program available
K-	Kitchenettes available
S-	Suites available
PT-	Pets allowed
G-	Golf on the property
T-	Tennis on the property
RN-	Rentals available(ie:bikes, paddleboats, etc.)
I-	Interior corridors(good for crime prevention. See Avoiding Tourist Crime section)

Be sure and check with the hotel to make sure these services are still available if it's important to you that they are.

Many hotels offer free or paid transportation to the airport or area attractions. Check with them to see if this is available and you may be able to avoid having to rent a car!

<u>Hotel/Motel Chains</u> <u>Orlando Area Accommodations</u> <u>Tampa Area Accommodations</u> <u>West Coast Beach Area Accommodations</u> <u>East Coast Beach Area Accommodations</u>

Hotel/Motel Chains

Contained here is a list of some of the better Hotel/Motel chains. You can call these to see if they have a hotel in the area that you would like to stay. Below that are some Web sites that you can check out on the internet. Many of the hotel chains can do reservations on the web!

Best Western(Address & Phone # available in Registered Version)Clarion(Address & Phone # available in Registered Version)

Register and receive a complete list of Hotel/Motel chains, phone numbers and web sites so you can make reservations before you leave home.

Orlando Area Accommodations

Listed here are some of the better hotels in the Orlando area. I only have listings in the better areas to stay such as Lake Buena Vista and not in the areas that I listed as questionable in the section <u>Avoiding</u> <u>Tourist Crime</u>.

Lake Buena Vista and Disney Hotels

Buena	Vista	Palace	\$\$\$\$
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(Address & Phone # available in Registered Version) (P,R,L,C,CP [in summer],K,S,T,I) (Located right next to Disney Village and very close to Disney Parks)

Orlando Hotels

Some of these Hotels are farther North away from Disney and off the beaten tourist track, but the values are good and the crime level is lower so you should consider them. There are several that are near Disney as well.

Comfort Inn-Lee Road \$\$

(Address & Phone # available in Registered Version) (P,I) (North Orlando-off I-4. 1/2 hour to Disney)

In the registered version of my guide, I list many more hotels including all the Disney Hotels and the different amenities for each.

Tampa Area Accommodations

Colony Hotel Busch Gardens\$\$	(Address & Phone # available in Registered Version) (P,R,L,S,T,I[some)
Embassy Suites Hotel-Westshore\$\$\$	(Address & Phone # available in Registered Version) (P,R,L,K,S,PT,I)
In the registered version of this softw	vare. I list many more hotels near Busch Gardens and

In the registered version of this software, I list many more hotels near Busch Gardens and other areas of Tampa.

West Coast Beach Area Accommodations

Clearwater and Clearwater Beach:

Best Western Clearwater\$	(Address & Phone # available in Registered Version) (P,T,I)
Residence Inn-Marriott\$\$\$	(Address & Phone # available in Registered Version) (P,K,S,PT)

Register and receive more information on some of the best beach hotels on the Central West Coast of Florida, including St. Petersburg Beach, Lido Beach, Longboat Key and more.

East Coast Beach Area Accommodations

Cocoa Beach Area:

Cocoa Beach Oceanside Inn\$\$	(Address & Phone # available in Registered Version) (P,B,R,L,K)
Days Inn Oceanfront\$\$	(Address & Phone # available in Registered Version) (P,B,K,PT)
De sieten and wet we are means hetel lie	it was as well as these in the back leasting for a shuttle

Register and get many more hotel lisitngs as well as those in the best location for a shuttle launch.

Restaurants

In these sections, I will list some of the best Restaurants in the area. Common to most areas are several chain restaurants that I have placed in a category of their own. I have rated the restaurants as follows:

- \$ Inexpensive--expect to pay up to \$10 per person.
- \$\$ Moderate--expect to pay up to \$15 per person.
- \$\$\$ Expensive--Expect to pay up to \$20 per person.
- \$\$\$\$ Very Expensive--Expect to pay more than \$20 per person.

These ratings are based on the average meal. There will be some meals that exceed the price range listed above and some that fall below it.

<u>Chain Restaurants</u> <u>Orlando Area Restaurants</u> <u>Tampa Area Restaurants</u> <u>West Coast Beach Area Restaurants</u> <u>East Coast Beach Area Restaurants</u>

East Coast Beach Area Restaurants

Daytona Beach:

The Chart House (American) \$\$\$\$ (Address & Phone # available in Registered Version)

Coquinas (Seafood) \$\$\$ (Address & Phone # available in Registered Version)

For a complete list of restaurants and in Daytona Beach and other East Coast Beach areas, please register this guide.

West Coast Beach Area Restaurants

St. Petersburg and St. Petersburg Beach:

Crabby Bill's(Seafood)\$\$(see Chains)	(Address & Phone # available in Registered Version) (great inexpensive seafood and family atmosphere)
The Heritage Grill(American)\$\$\$\$	(Address & Phone # available in Registered Version)

For more Restaurants that serve great food all across the West Coast Beach areas, please order your registered version of this guide.

Tampa Area Restaurants

Bern's Steak House(Steaks)\$\$\$\$ (Address & Phone # available in Registered Version) (Rumored to have the best Steaks in Central Florida)

Cactus Club(American)\$

(Address & Phone # available in Registered Version)

To get more of the best Restaurant listings in the Tampa area, please order the registered version of this guide.

Orlando Area Restaurants

Variety:	

4th Fighter Group \$\$ (Address & Phone # available in Registered Version)

Hard Rock Cafe \$\$ (Address & Phone # available in Registered Version)

The registered version of this guide contains listings of many terrific restaurants that serve every kind of food you could want. Also included are the very best Disney Restaurants to visit!

Chain Restaurants

Variety:

Chili's \$

TGI Fridays \$

(Address & Phone # available in Registered Version)

(Address & Phone # available in Registered Version)

For a list of other common chain restaurants with decent food that can be found in most of Central Florida, register and receive the complete guide.

Dinner Theatres & Attractions

There are several <u>Dinner Theatres</u> and Dinner Attractions in the Orlando Area. I personally have been to several of them. There is just about every theme imaginable, so whatever your fantasy, there's a Dinner Theatre for you.

Many visitors that I have spoken with have really enjoyed these Theme Restaurants. Personally, I found many of them to be overcrowded and the food quality was below average. However, here are a few of the better choices. A complete list of Dinner Theatres is under the category of Addresses and Phone Numbers of Attractions.

My favorite is Sleuth's Mystery Dinner Show. Though, I wouldn't call myself the biggest fan of mysteries, I thoroughly enjoyed the mystery "play" that this theatre puts on. The audience is encouraged to participate in discovering "Whodunnit." This theatre is smaller than most so fewer people are allowed in. This also gives it a more personal feel. The tables are round allowing a lot of elbow room. The food was better than most.

For more information on other Dinner Theatres including Disney's Dinner Attractions you must register the shareware guide now!

A Dinner Theatre is basically a Theme Restaurant. The theatre is set in a certain place, time, or circumstance. Some are based on an era in the past, others are based on certain events that could be in the present or past. Common to all, is the fantasy that you are there at that place or time and you get to have dinner, too!

Other Attractions and Places of Interest

NASA's Kennedy Space Center, "Spaceport USA"**** Gatorland Zoo*** Blue Springs Park**** Lake Eola Park**** Church Street Station*** Orlando Magic Basketball Games***** Daytona International Speedway**** Pirate's Cove Adventure Golf****

NASA's Kennedy Space Center, "Spaceport USA"****

Register and find out how you can see a shuttle launch up close.

Gatorland Zoo***

Gatorland Zoo has been a Central Florida landmark for many years. It is an alligator farm and zoo. They raise alligators there and have several shows so you can see the gators in action, such as feedings and gator wrestling.

Lately, they have done some renovations that have greatly improved this attraction. They now have a lookout tower where you can view the alligators in their natural habitat and a nature trail into a native swamp where you can see some natural Florida plants and wildlife.

Gatorland is an inexpensive daytrip. You should be able to completely see the park in one short day.

Gatorland is located on Orange Blossom Trail in Kissimmee at 14501 S. Orange Blossom Trail Phone Number: 407-855-5496

Blue Springs Park****

Blue Springs is located near Orange City, FL. It is a natural aquamarine spring that is 48 feet deep and maintains a temperature of 72 degrees Fahrenheit year round. Here you can go swimming, camping, canoeing, scuba diving and picnicking. An occasional alligator may be seen lying on the riverbank while swimming here.

This park is naturally beautiful. The water is several degrees cooler than any pool around in the Summer and Blue Springs is the site where several Manatees come in the Winter to keep warm. You can see them there but are not allowed to swim near them

If you've wondered what a Florida Spring is like, or would like to see some of Florida's natural wildlife, Blue Springs is the place to visit.

Blue Springs is located 2 miles west of Orange City, FL off US 17/92 on West French Avenue Phone Number: 904-775-3663.

Lake Eola Park****

Lake Eola is Orlando's best kept secret. This section only available with the purchase of the registered version of this software.

Church Street Station***

What is Church Street Station? You must purchase the registered version of this software to receive this section.

Orlando Magic Basketball Games*****

Learn how to get tickets to a sold out Magic Game. Register Now!

Daytona International Speedway****

Register to receive this section and find out how you can tour the racetrack.

Pirate's Cove Adventure Golf****

For a change of pace or just to kill a couple of hours, Pirate's Cove Adventure Golf is a lot of fun. It is a mini golf course and is designed with pirates and buried treasure in mind. There are several locations around Central Florida to go to. The course is actually very well designed and when you hit the ball, it goes where it's supposed to go, which makes it fun. If you get a hole in one at the last hole, you get a free game.

There is a Pirate's Cove Adventure Golf at Lake Buena Vista just off I 4 at the Crossroads Shopping Center. Phone Number 407-827-1242.

Addresses and Phone Numbers of Attractions

This is a list of most attractions in the Central Florida Area. Attractions featured in this guide are highlighted in red.

A.J. Hackett Bungy

(Address & Phone # available in Registered Version)

Adventure Island

(Address & Phone # available in Registered Version)

Register and you will get a complete list of addresses and phone numbers of many attractions, including those not highlighted in this guide.

Night Life

Tampa Area Nightlife:

Some of the more popular nighclubs in the Tampa Area include:

Cha Cha Coconuts(Four locations-Live Entertainment-Jazz, Reggae, Rock):

(Address & Phone # available in Registered Version)

Selena's(Blues and Jazz) (Address & Phone # available in Registered Version)

Register and find out where more of the hottest nightspots are in all of Central Florida.

Shopping

Shopping Centers

Florida Mall (Address & Phone # available in Registered Version)

Hiawassee Woods Shopping Center (Address & Phone # available in Registered Version)

You can shop 'til you drop at all the many Shopping Centers, Factory Outlets and Tourist and Specialty Shops listed in the registered version of this guide.

Car Rentals

Here is a list of some of the Car Rental Agencies. These agencies are in the Orlando Area, but many of them are chains and their cars can be found in other areas of Central Florida. Most of these companies offer "pick-up" service so you can get to their agency by shuttle or be picked up or the car may be delivered to you at your location. Check with the company you choose.

A & A (Address & Phone # available in Registered Version)

Alamo (Address & Phone # available in Registered Version)

Need a rental car? Register and receive the complete list of rental car companies as well as a list of recommended companies that have affordable rates and decent cars.

<u>Tips for Theme and Water Parks</u> <u>Avoiding Tourist Crime</u> <u>General Tips about Visiting Central Florida</u>

Tips for Theme and Water Parks

Once you have arrived here in Orlando, you need to strategically plan your visits to the Theme and Water Parks if you want to get your money's worth. You may want to decide ahead of time, what rides you want to see. Below are some tips to help you make the most of your days at the Theme and Water Parks.

1. Apparel--Dress in light clothing and good walking shoes. You may even want to wear two pairs of socks. You don't want your feet to give out before you do. Most of the year, shorts and a T-shirt will be fine for the whole day. Only in the winter months will it cool down enough that you might get cold. If that's when you are going to be here, then bring a light sweater or sweatshirt. I recommend that you bring an umbrella or rain poncho no matter when you are coming. We get torrential downpours here and if you're prepared, you can get into the rides and move around just fine while everyone else is huddled under the awnings. They also charge a lot for these items at the parks. For water parks, I recommend a one piece bathing suit for women, cover up, a towel and aquasocks for shoes. These will really help your feet if it's hot and keep them somewhat cushioned for more comfort.

Register and learn how to get the most bang for you buck at theme and water parks. Tricks to getting around and avoiding the crowds are included as well as a way to get current information on rates, park hours and special events before you leave home.

Avoiding Tourist Crime

Something to consider when making a Hotel choice is to try to find one that has it's doors in an interior hallway. If they are on the outside of the building, thieves can break in and make a quick getaway. Under Accommodations, I list hotels that have such entrances. Also, always remember to shut and lock your door and do not open it to a stranger. If the person says they are a hotel employee and you are not expecting them, call the front desk and verify that he works there and was sent to your room. Many crimes have been committed under these circumstances, so be alert. Try to stay on the second floor or higher and look for a hotel that uses computerized keys for the doors to their rooms. Ask if the hotel has security. These precautions deter crime and you should be looking for them. Most of your better hotels have crime prevention measures in place.

Sadly, crime is something that must be considered whenever and wherever you go. Learn how to keep yourself and your family safe from Tourist Crime. This section includes information on the best areas to stay in, rental car safety and much more. Register now and receive more of this important information.

General Tips about Visiting Central Florida

About the sun in Florida. Don't be fooled by a cloudy day. We are fairly close to the equator here and the sun will definitely burn you even through the clouds. Many tourists are hospitalized because they did not take precautions. Use a good sunblock. The sun here is nothing to fool with and if you want to have a good vacation without a nasty burn, use sunblock. Also, drink a lot of water all day long. Many tourists have been overcome by the heat and passed out at Theme Parks so even if you're not feeling thirsty, keep drinking water!

What's the best time of year to visit Central Florida to beat the crowds and the heat? Find out in this section when you register.

About Shareware

Shareware is copyrighted software that is distributed by authors to various bulletin boards, disk vendors and on-line services.

Shareware allows you to try the software for a limited time. If you decide that you do not want to continue using it, you just discard it. If you continue to use it, then you must pay for it.

The Shareware system depends on your willingness to register and pay for the Shareware you use. The registration fee allows authors to continue to produce quality Shareware programs.

This program is Shareware. You may use this program for 30 days at which time you must register it or dicard it. You may freely distribute this program in its entirety and in its original form only without the express written consent of the author.

How to Register

There are three different options for registering this shareware. Please choose the option that would work best for you.

Registering by Credit Card Registering by Mail Registering on Compuserve

Registering by Credit Card

You can order with Mastercard, Visa, American Express, or Discover Card from Public (software) Library (PsL) by calling 1-800-2424-PsL or 1-713-524-6394 or by FAX to 1-713-524-6398 or by E-mail to 71355,470@compuserve.com When you order use the name of the guide, "The Informed Tourist's Guide to Central Florida," or tell them you want **Product ID # 14227.** You can also mail credit card orders only to:

PsL P.O.Box 35705 Houston, TX 77235-5705.

If you send E-mail remember to include the name of the guide or the Product ID # 14227, how many you want to order, your name, address, phone number, E-mail address, credit card type, name on credit card, credit card number and expiration date. They will receive it immediately and notify me so I can send out your copy right away.

THE ABOVE NUMBERS ARE FOR CREDIT CARD ORDERS ONLY. THE AUTHOR OF THIS PROGRAM CANNOT BE REACHED AT THESE NUMBERS.

If you have Prodigy, America Online, or Compuserve (also see Ordering on Compuserve)

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Version Information

Version 1.4 was completed on January 24, 1996. Format was improved.

Version 1.3 was completed on December 11, 1995. Format was improved.

Version 1.2 was completed on November 2, 1995. Format was improved.

Version 1.1a was completed on September 25, 1995. Added credit card registration information.

Version 1.1 was completed on September 13, 1995. Format was improved.

Version 1.0a: was completed on August 16, 1995. Compuserve registration information was added to the program.

Version 1.0: was completed on August 5, 1995. Original Version.

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