

Insider's Guide to

Welcome to Orlando, Florida—also known as the Theme Park Capital of the World! You'll find plenty of family fun here, but there's more to O-town than the theme parks. From nightclubs to cozy pubs, there are all sorts of exciting destinations in and around the city.

That's where the Sonnhalter Insider's Guide to Orlando comes in. It's our way of helping you cut through the clutter to find the city's best restaurants, nightlife and sights.

We asked our friends in the Sunshine State for their recommendations on where to sample the best of Central Florida. You know, those secret locales where the locals do their winning and dining. After all, at Sonnhalter, we not only like to get our hands dirty...we like to get them nice and greasy too!

So, when you're not convening at the convention center, make sure you go out and get a taste of what really makes Orlando's magic!

Orlando/Multiple Locations

Beefy King

Classic American
407-894-2241

<http://beefyking.com/>

Family owned & operated for over 42 years, Beefy King is a true American classic. Known for their uniquely steamed hot roast beef, this is a true landmark in Orlando.

Bubbalou's Bodacious BBQ

BBQ
Multiple Locations

<http://bubbalous.com/>

Since 1986, Orlando's consistently favorite BBQ. Five locations, each with their own menu, and catering available as well.

Chroma Modern Bar & Kitchen

Modern-American
407-955-4340

<http://www.chromalakenona.com/>

Located in the Lake Nona neighborhood, and serving an eclectic mix of small plates, craft beers and garden-to-glass cocktails.

College Park Café

Breakfast & Lunch
407-420-9892

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Diner/College-Park-Cafe-101310497907372/>

Located in the heart of College Park, this old-school diner is the definition of good food, great service and a neighborhood feel.

Hawkers Asian Street Fare

Asian
407-237-0606

<http://eathawkers.com/>

Offering the best of traditional Asian street vendors, delivered in a hip, sharing-encouraged environment.

Hemisphere

New American
407-825-1234

<https://orlandoairport.regency.hyatt.com/en/hotel/dining/HemisphereRestaurant.html>

Newly remodeled, this neo-contemporary restaurant re-defines "airport dining." Steaks, seafood and a globe-spanning wine list.

Highball & Harvest

Southern
407-393-4422

<http://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/florida/orlando/dining/highball-and-harvest>

Located inside the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, this innovative restaurant offers a southern culinary adventure with many ingredients harvested from the on-site garden.

Lazy Moon Pizza

Pizza
Multiple Locations

<http://www.lazymoonpizza.com/>

"Eat, Drink & Be Lazy" with aged dough, homemade sauce and made-to-order pizzas, a wide beer selection and made-from-scratch cocktails and bocce courts.

Graffiti Junktion

Burgers
Multiple Locations

<https://graffitijunktion.com/>

100% Angus, hormone and antibiotic-free burgers. Nachos, wings, salads and more, and all of it fresh, never frozen.

Orlando/Multiple Locations (continued)

Le Coq au Vin Restaurant

French

407-851-6980

<http://www.lecoquauvinrestaurant.com/>

World-renowned Executive Chef Reimund Pitz prepares classic French favorites in a charming historic Orlando location, complete with a garden patio for al fresco dining.

Mediterranean Blue

Greek

407-422-2583

<http://www.mediterraneanblue.net/>

Authentic Greek food, prepared with care and served like you're a member of the family.

Pho 88

Vietnamese

Multiple Locations

<http://pho88orlando.com/>

With two locations, this family owned restaurant offers a vast selection of authentic Vietnamese dishes. A multiple award-winning menu, with the best Pho in central Florida.

Tabla Indian Chinese & Thai

Pan-Asian

407-248-9400

<http://www.tablacuisine.com/>

Consistently voted Orlando's favorite Indian restaurant, this restaurant also features outstanding Chinese and exquisite Thai flavors as well.

The Osprey Tavern

New American

407-960-7700

<http://ospreytavern.com/>

This Baldwin Park mainstay offers classic dishes with the freshest of ingredients as well as creative spins on old favorites.



ORLANDO

Orange County Convention Center

Café Tu Tu Tango

Tapas

(407) 248-2222

<http://cafetututango.com>

Artists paint as you eat (all for sale) at this funky tapas spot with live entertainment plus a patio & bar. It's action packed with music and performers. Or you can relax with cajun chicken egg rolls and a plate of alligator bites, washed down with a pitcher of sangria or one of the share plates which are inspired with Asian and Mediterranean influences. Great for Sunday brunch.

Christini's Ristorante Italiano

Italian

407-345-8770

<https://www.christinis.com/>

Five star dining for over 30 years, Christini's has earned its reputation as Orlando's premier restaurant.

Del Frisco's Double Eagle Steak House

Steak House

407-351-5074

<https://delfriscos.com/steakhouse/orlando>

With two floors, private dining areas and an expansive patio, Del Frisco's has the perfect fine dining atmosphere. Add to that the finest steaks, entrees and a 1,200 label wine list, and the experience is complete.

Dragonfly Robata Grill & Sushi

Japanese

407-370-3359

<http://www.dragonflyrestaurants.com/orlando-florida/>

Fresh selections from farm & sea, prepared in the traditional Japanese royatayaki method. Also featuring sushi and seafood flown in fresh from Japan.

FishBones

Seafood

407-352-0135

<https://www.fishbonesrestaurants.com/>

Fresh caught seafood, aged steaks and prime rib all cooked over wood in an open fire pit. Add to that a Key West inspired atmosphere and you have a comfortable setting for any dining event.

Urbain 40 American Brasserie & Lounge

American-Continental

407-872-2640

<http://urbain40.com/>

This chef-crafted restaurant evokes the spirit of the 40's while presenting imaginative cuisine based on American and continental classics.

Urban Tide

Seafood

407-345-4570

<https://orlando.regency.hyatt.com/en/hotel/dining/urban-tide.html>

Located in the Hyatt Regency, near the Orange County Convention Center, this elegant location offers fresh coastal fare, with a stunning view of the Grotto Pool.



Downtown

Black Rooster Taqueria

Mexican
407-601-0994

<http://www.blackroostertaqueria.com/>

Contemporary Mexican tacos, bowls and ceviches are served with coffee & drinks amid colorful décor.

DoveCote

Brasserie & Raw Bar
407-930-1700

<http://dovecoteorlando.com/>

Open morning, noon and night with a menu featuring French-inspired flavors as well as a raw bar featuring oyster, clams and shellfish.

Elize

American (Traditional)
407-401-8811

<https://www.elizefoodwine.com>

Locally sourced farm-to-table cuisine incorporating the flavors and sauces from the Netherlands and blended in with the American cuisine.

Harp & Celt Irish Pub & Restaurant

Irish Pub
407-481-2928

<http://harpandcelt.com/>

A lively, 2-story space with cozy wood booths provides an Irish-pub setting for classic eats and a wide variety of brews and spirits.

Kabooki Sushi

Sushi
407-228-3839

<http://kabookisushi.com/>

Diligent details meet creative freedom for a one-of-a-kind sushi experience. Flavor and atmosphere meet in this critically acclaimed location.

Linda's La Cantina

Steak House
407-894-4491

<http://lindaslacantinasteakhouse.com/>

Locally owned, and open since 1947, Linda's has been a constant in central Florida, and has set the bar for delicious, hand cut, fire pit grilled steaks.

Disney/Buena Vista

Artist Point

Pacific Northwest
407-824-3200

https://disneyworld.disney.go.com/dining/wilderness-lodge-resort/artist-point/?CMP=OKC-wdw_gmap_175

Rustic elegance, pacific-northwest cuisine with the finest seasonal ingredients and an award-winning wine list make for a one-of-a-kind dining experience.

DRESS CODE

Capa

Tapas & Steak
407-313-7777

<http://www.fourseasons.com/orlando/dining/restaurants/capa/>

This rooftop Spanish steak house, part of the Four Seasons Resort, features the best Spanish-influenced cuisine in a romantic setting like no other.

Earl of Sandwich

Sandwiches
407-938-1762

<http://www.earlofsandwichusa.com/florida/disney-springs/>

Focusing on the art of the sandwich, the Earl of Sandwich features a wide variety on fresh baked bread with only the freshest of ingredients. An excellent catering option for a business meeting too.

Jiko

South African
407-938-4733

https://disneyworld.disney.go.com/dining/animal-kingdom-lodge/jiko-the-cooking-place/?CMP=OKC-wdw_gmap_83

A delicious blend of African, Indian and Mediterranean cuisine. Steak, seafood, vegan and vegetarian dishes in a unique setting.

Johnnie's Hideaway

Steak & Seafood
407-827-1111

<http://www.johnnieshideaway.com/>

Nostalgically cutting-edge. Enjoy fresh fish hand cut daily, steaks dry-aged on premises and fabulous raw bar, all with a prime lake view.

Morimoto Asia

Pan-Asian
407-939-6686

<https://www.patinagroup.com/morimoto-asia>

From creative mind of Iron Chef Masaharu Morimoto comes this unique culinary destination. Lounges, private dining spaces and an exhibition glass-encased kitchen bring the inspired pan-Asian menu to life.

Narcoossee's

Seafood
407-824-1400

<https://disneyworld.disney.go.com/dining/grand-floridian-resort-and-spa/narcoossees/>

Costal dining, featuring local and global seafood, with panoramic views of the Grand Floridian Lagoon.



Celebration/Kissimmee

Bruno's Italian Restaurant

Italian
407-397-7577
<http://brunos192.com/>

Pizzas and home-cooked Italian favorites are the course at Bruno's, a family-friendly, owner operated eatery.

Charley's Steak House

Steaks
407-396-6055
<http://www.charleyssteakhouse.com/>

Using only USDA Prime & Choice, grain-fed beef from the Midwest, aging on site for 4-6 weeks and cooking over a 1,200-degree open wood pit has made Charley's the ultimate steak house experience.

Columbia

Spanish-Cuban
407-566-1505
<http://www.columbiarestaurant.com/Menu-By-Location/Locations/Celebration>

The Orlando location of this regional favorite, family owned for over 110 years. Overlooking Celebration's picturesque lake, offering classic elegance and award-winning Spanish and Cuban cuisine.

Savion's Place

American
407-572-8719
<http://savionsplace.com/>

Modern American meets an island influence with this chef-driven concept. Live jazz and other events add to the laid back atmosphere.



Winter Park

Black Bean Deli

Cuban
407-628-0294
<http://blackbeandeli.com/>

An authentic Cuban deli serving traditional fare for over 15 years.

Blu on the Avenue

Seafood
(407) 960-3778
<http://bluontheavenue.com/>

An eclectic seafood menu, plus sushi and an extensive whiskey menu, all served in a breezy open spot with plenty of outdoor dining options.

Bosphorous Turkish Cuisine

Turkish
407-352-6766
<http://bosporousrestaurant.com/>

Family owned and rooted in tradition, Bosphorous offers the best, fresh, home-made Turkish dishes in central Florida. Come enjoy a taste of Turkey in the vibrant heart of Winter Park.

Cocina 214

Tex-Mex
407-790-7997
<http://cocina214.com/>

Fresh, quality Mexican & Tex-Mex dining utilizing local ingredients and a clean, modern design. Voted best in its class 5 years in a row by Orlando Magazine.

Kona Grill

New American, Sushi
407-900-0100
<http://www.konagrill.com/>

The Orlando location of this national, upscale chain, Kona Grill offers inspired new American cuisine along with first-rate sushi.

Prato

Italian
407-262-0050
<http://www.prato-wp.com/>

Celebrating cuisine from Italy's rich culinary landscape, blending the traditional with the modern utilizing seasonal ingredients.

The Coop

Southern
407-843-2667
<https://asouthernaffair.com/>

Celebrating the home-style fare of the south, this neighborhood restaurant serves hospitality at every table, along with comfort food classics.

The Ravenous Pig

Gastropub
407-628-2333
<http://www.theravenouspig.com/>

Orlando's locavore gastropub with a menu that features the best that central Florida's farmers, fishermen and artisanal purveyors have to offer as well as rotating taps and creative cocktails.

Winter Park Fish Company

Seafood
407-622-6112
<https://www.thewinterparkfishcompany.com>

This market-style restaurant combines fine dining with fast casual, with fresh seafood, homemade sauces and from-scratch cooking.

Nightlife and Bars

180 Skytop Lounge - <https://www.180downtown.com/>

Aero - <http://www.aeroorlando.com/>

Cowboys - <http://www.cowboysorlando.com/>

Cuba Libre Rum Bar - <http://cubalibrerestaurant.com/en/orlando/>

Eve - <http://eveorlando.com/>

Hanson's Shoe Repair - <https://www.facebook.com/hansonsshoerepair/>

Icebar & Fire Lounge - <http://www.icebarorlando.com/>

Kings Bowl Orlando - <https://www.kingsbowlamerica.com/orlando/>

Latitudes - <http://churchstreetbars.com/latitudes-downtown-orlando-bar>

Raglan Road - <http://www.raglanroad.com/>

Redlight Redlight - <http://redlightredlightbeerparlour.com/>

Sportstown Billiards - <http://sportstownbilliards.com/>

The Hammered Lamb - <http://thehammeredlamb.com/>

The Venue - <http://www.thevenueorlando.com/>

Vyce Lounge - <http://www.vyclounge.com/>

Wall Street Plaza - <http://wallstplaza.net/>

Orlando Area Sightseeing

Boat Tours of Winter Park - <http://www.scenicboattours.com/>

Boggy Creek Airboat Rides - <http://bcairboats.com/>

Charles Homer Morse Museum of American Art -
<http://www.morsemuseum.org/>

Harry P. Leu Gardens - <http://www.leugardens.org/>

iFly indoor Skydiving - <https://www.iflyworld.com/orlando/>

Kayak, Mountain Bike & Eco Tours - <http://bkadventure.com/>

Orlando Museum of Art - <http://omart.org/>

Sprinkles Cupcake ATM - <http://sprinkles.com/cupcake-atm>

The Orlando Eye - <https://iconparkorlando.com/>

The Orlando Science Center - <http://www.osc.org/>

The Orlando Watersports Complex -
<http://www.aktionparks.com/orlando-watersports-complex/>

Tibet-Butler Nature Preserve - <http://www.ocfl.net/CultureParks/Parks.aspx?m=dtlww&d=39#.WDXCLNUrKUI>

Wekiwa Springs State Park -
<https://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/wekiwa-springs-state-park>

WonderWorks - <http://www.wonderworksonline.com/orlando/>

Transportation

EagleRider Motorcycle Rentals - <http://www.eaglerider.com/>

Hawks Transportation - <http://www.hawkstransportation.com/>

I Ride Trolley - <http://www.iritrolley.com/>

MCA Transportation - <http://mcatransportation.com/>

Mears Transportation - <http://www.mearstransportation.com/>

Orlando Shuttle Service - <https://www.orlandoshuttleservice.com/>

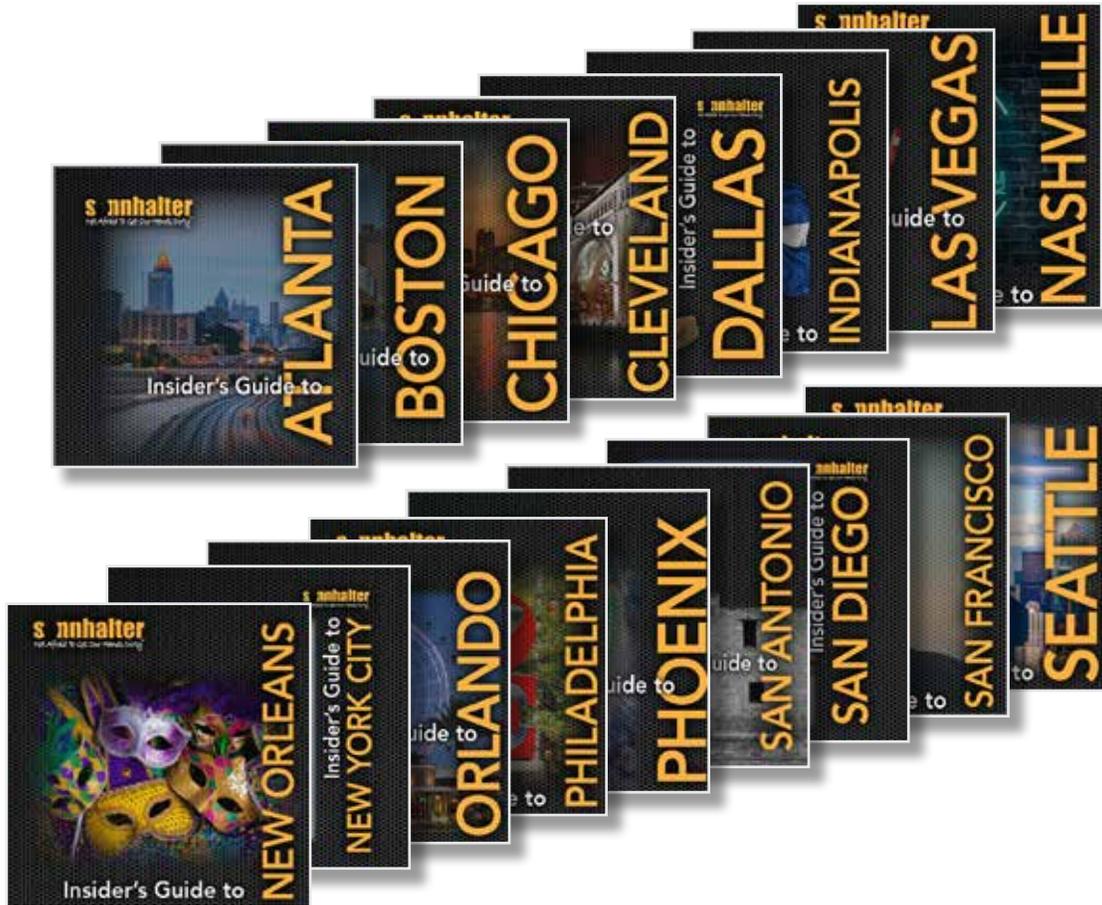
Orlando Transportation Services -
<http://orlandotransportationservice.com/>

SuperShuttle - <https://www.supershuttle.com/locations/orlando-mco-sfb/>

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