

The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD



A GROWN-UP GUIDE TO ORLANDO

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Orlando and Mickey Mouse go hand-in-hand. But in recent years, the city has made a concerted effort to appeal to the adults, too. They've added speakeasies, celebrity chefs, high-end dining, and uber-fancy hotels. Here's how to have the perfect adult Orlando vacay.

Get to Winter Park Just a half-hour outside the other parks (you know, Disney), sits the most adorable little boutique city called Winter Park. It's filled with independent eateries, little shops, a farmer's market, and tons of green space — along with quaint museums and gardens. Be sure to stop at the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art, where you'll find the largest collection of Tiffany pieces. This is the type of place you visit and never want to leave because you'll want to move here stat. Make sure you take a Scenic Boat Tour while you're there, and you'll be treated to stunning views of grandiose homes that envelope Winter Park's chain of lakes.

Venture into Disney Springs Yes, it's got tons of kids' stuff — it is Disney, after all. But Disney Springs also has a Speakeasy and lots of high-end restaurants that attract foodies galore. Once you try the queso fundido at Rick Bayless' Frontera Cocina, you may not be able to stop ingesting it. It's truly some addictive cheese. Pair it with one of Frontera's massive margaritas and your happy hour is done. Next, head to Morimoto Asia for its infamous lychee martini (takes like juice, but is two-thirds alcohol, so be warned). End your evening at Enzo's Hideaway if you can find it. This speakeasy is tucked under a bridge that connects to the west side of Disney Springs — no password needed at this one. It's a traditional Italian restaurant that simply does it right, and their cured meats and artisan cheeses are a guilty pleasure.



Winter Park (top) is adorable little boutique city. Wine Bar George in Disney Springs is the only master sommelier-led wine bar in Florida.

Stay at the Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek Located inside the parks, this pointedly doesn't have anything Mickey in any of the rooms or common areas. It's purely a fancy hotel. But that's not the only reason for our obsession. It shares amenities with its neighbor, Waldorf Astoria Orlando, so you can stay at the Hilton yet use the Waldorf's pool (the Hilton's pool has the best lazy river ever, but the Waldorf's pool has more of an adult vibe), spa, and other amenities. They're connected indoors. Pro tip: Order the cauliflower salad at Hilton's La Luce restaurant. It sounds so unassuming, but that warm cauliflower mixed with lemon, beans, and reggiano is one of the best things we ever ate.

Plan your visit around the Epcot International Food & Wine Festival Epcot raised the bar with this one. They added to their global food experience with food and wine pairings from across the globe (go directly to France). In

addition to the special foods and drinks during the festival, there are food seminars, parties, and other events throughout Epcot on selected days. Through Nov 23.

Get an education at Wine Bar George This new bar (opened in 2018) — located in Disney Springs — is the only master sommelier-led wine bar in Florida. They offer more than 140 wines by the glass — or even by the ounce, if you really want to sample. The bar literally takes the stage at Wine Bar George, and it showcases bottles upon bottles of tempting options. You can also choose to head upstairs for more of a date-night candlelight atmosphere.

Wander through East End Market This market likes to deem itself a “food movement.” We like to describe it as the best place in the entire world to snag a cookie at Gideon's Bakehouse. You're never too old to eat a half-pound cookie in one sitting — or that's what we like to tell ourselves. When we heard about Gideon's strict limit of six cookies max without a preorder, we dismissed it. After all, who needs more than six half-pound cookies. Um. We do. They're that good. They're rich, filled with stuff (we like the Pistachio Toffee Dark Chocolate the best, but you really can't go wrong), and even after eating an entire cookie, we were ready for more.

Take a walk through a nature preserve The Tibet-Butler Nature Preserve contains 440 acres of wetlands and flatwoods that are shaded and stunning. There are six trails ideal for hiking that are good for beginners (half-mile hikes) and those looking for a half-day walk (several miles). Keep that camera ready: You may spot bald eagles, turtles, and other wildlife along the way.

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HERE

SPARKLING ART BRIGHTENS SEAPORT Gloomy winter got you down? Visitors to Boston's Seaport District can expect to be dazzled by “Entre les rangs,” a temporary immersive art installation by KANVA, presented in collaboration with Quartier des Spectacles Partnership and Creos. On Seaport Common (85 Northern Ave.) a shimmering field of more than 4,000 handmade white flexible crystalline stems are topped with white reflectors that bend and move in the wind. Reflecting natural and artificial light, the work is designed to evoke rural wheat fields swaying in the breeze (think spring!) while capturing the rhythms of the city and environs. On display through Feb. 2. Free. www.bostonseaport.xyz/venue/entre-les-rangs/

SKATING IN A WINTER WONDERLAND While in the Seaport, visitors can also enjoy the area's newest entertainment venture, Snowport Winter Village. The interactive winter wonderland features a 3,000-square-foot ice rink that can accommodate more than 200 skaters; themed skate nights; vibrant light displays; live music; and an array of complimentary activities such as outdoor iceless curling and yoga. Hungry? A warming tent offers seasonal food and beverage options, including freshly baked waffles by The Waffle Cabin, and more. Rink tickets: Adults \$5; ages 4-12 \$3. Skate rentals \$5 per pair (or bring your own!). www.bostonseaport.xyz/snowport/

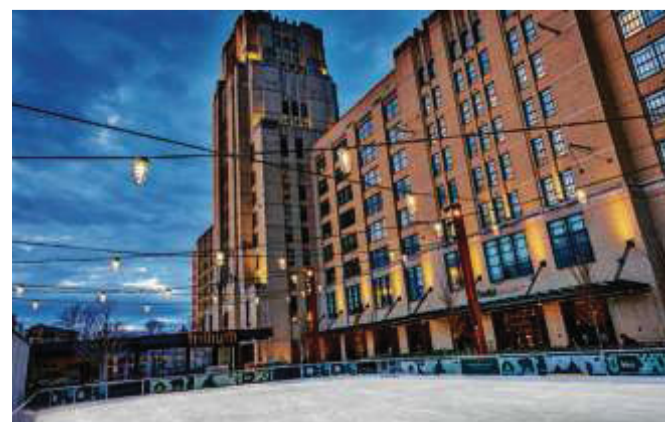
OUTDOOR SKATING RINKS GALORE! Outdoor ice-skating enthusiasts have



another new option in Boston this winter. Touted as the first public skating rink in The Fenway, The Rink at 401 Park (at the former Sears, Roebuck, and Co. warehouse and distribution center) recently debuted its 6,000-plus square-foot rink. The premiere season, sponsored by retailer REI, offers a variety of fun activities both on and off the ice. Unique experiences include make-your-own s'mores and gingerbread cookie bar; post-skating chill-out lounge; snowshoe and ski rental promotions; layering 101 classes; make-your-own reusable hand-warmers; contests to build snow sculptures; and more. Rink tickets: adults \$10; students, seniors, and 12 and under \$6. Skate rentals \$6. 401park.com/icerink/ Don't know how to skate? The Skating Club of Boston offers lessons every Saturday at 10 a.m. for all ages and abilities; sign-ups available online. skatingacademy.org/campus/fenway-campus/

THERE

NOTABLE HOSTS LEAD DISTINCTIVE TOURS Modern Adventure, a travel company that pairs curious adventurers with notable guest hosts, has led over 40 trips to 30 countries, predominantly co-hosted by award-winning chefs, winemakers, and sommeliers — including 10 James Beard Award-winning chefs and 20 nominees. In the coming year, the company is expand-



ing beyond the culinary sphere, and anticipates launching up to four tours a week led by tastemaker hosts across an array of new disciplines spanning wellness, design, and fashion. Upcoming departures include Colombia with Dandelion Chocolates and foraging aficionado Traci des Jardins (April 13-19); Argentina with Classic Wine Auctions (April 12-18); Yucatán with chef Claudette Zepeda (April 28-May 4); Mexico City with chef Jonathan Zaragoza (May 15-19); Costa Rica with LA fitness expert Jenn Glysson (June 25-30); and more. Adventures include between 14 to 20 people, depending on the destination. 1-855-219-8018, modernadventure.com/

EVERYWHERE

GYPSY CREAM PROTECTS AND HEALS Soothe your travel-weary skin with Gypsy Cream, the newest offering from Good Stuff Botanicals. Made from mineral-rich Montana water and hemp seed (not to be confused with CBD), this moisturizer can rejuvenate skin that's been exposed to the elements, from ice-rock climbing to skiing or lolling on the beach. Inspired by a grandmother's centuries-old Romanian recipe, Gypsy Cream offers relief for dry skin, dermatitis, sunburn, rashes, cuts, and even the fine lines of aging. Originally created to treat psoriasis, this potent cream is now used in hospitals and is recommended by doc-



tors, dermatologists and estheticians for its soothing and healing effects. Made without GMOs, parabens, sulfates, fragrance, alcohol, chemicals, or dyes. \$29.99. thegoodstuffbotanicals.com/gypsy-cream/

SILKY TRAVEL ACCESSORY

Keep your clean lingerie separated from your to-be-laundered items with the Midnight Flight Travel Bag by Julianna Rae, a Boston-based direct-to-consumer sleepwear and lingerie company. Made of 100 percent silk, the soft and flexible bag features two zippered compartments that can be rolled and tied with ribbon, fitting easily into your suitcase or carry-on bag. Once you have the bag, why not treat yourself to Natalya Sil Pajamas, a company best-seller available in three prints and six solid colors. In a pinch, the PJ's silk top with detailed collar pairs perfectly over a pair of jeans, with a high-waisted skirt or under a blazer. Talk about multi-purpose! Midnight Flight Travel Bag \$50; Natalya Sil Pajama \$250. www.juliannarae.com/

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