

How to Have a Great Overall Universal Orlando Vacation

Your time at Universal Orlando will be so much fun! It truly is a unique experience, and the Wizarding World of Harry Potter is the most immersive experience in ALL of the Orlando theme parks. I have put together some general, helpful tips for you to guide you in the planning process. I am so excited you have decided to visit Universal Orlando!

***Please have your driver's license on you at all times. They will sometimes ask to see it to verify your tickets when scanning in at the park entrances.**

*Take advantage of Early Park Admission as an onsite, Universal resort guest. Please plan to leave your resort room one hour before park opening.

***Universal conducts bag check and security BEFORE boarding the transportation to the park, or for guests who arrive via motorcoach, before entering Citywalk. When you arrive at Citywalk, you can just make your way to the park entrance. Islands of Adventure will be to your left and Universal Studios will be to your right.**

*All the table service restaurants at Universal's Citywalk require reservations. These can be made on the [Universal website](#), or some are found on Open Table as well.

***Locker lines can be long, since many attractions do not allow bags of any kind. If you can avoid taking a bag into the parks, that is ideal. If not, no worries! Just stash it in one of the complimentary lockers before boarding the attraction. It's a good idea to have a small snack and/or disposable water bottle or drink for your family when waiting in the queue. You can dispose of these before boarding the attraction.**

*MOST attractions do not allow you to carry on a bag. Some do not even allow your phone. Universal provides small, complimentary lockers for guests at these attractions. They are roughly the size of a shoebox, and will fit a small bag. Consider a draw string bag, or going bagless, if possible. You can have as many small lockers as you have people with tickets. So, if you need to spread your items out amongst lockers, that is doable.

***Citywalk is Universal's central hub. This is where all guests pass through before entering the parks. Citywalk has MANY great restaurants, as well as shops. This is where your water taxi will drop you off, and also where you will board it to return later that night. You can also follow the walking path between your resort and Citywalk.**

*One of the Universal Parks will open one hour early each day. Please check your Universal app or ask at the front desk of your resort. This is the park you want to start with since it opens early!

***Ollivander's is the wand shop, and is a MUST DO! If this is a priority for your family, please arrive AT park opening to ensure you have a great experience and a short wait time.**

*Hogwarts Express will take you between Islands of Adventure and Universal Studios. You will need to verify your park to park ticket before boarding. Ride it both ways! It is different depending on the direction you are going.



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