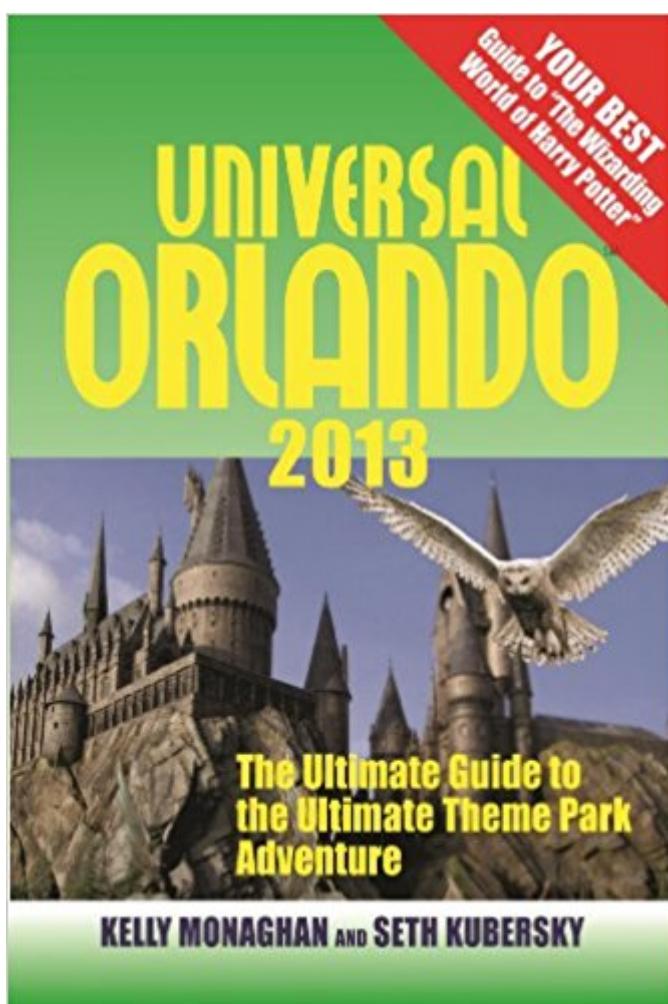


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# **Universal Orlando 2013: The Ultimate Guide To The Ultimate Theme Park Adventure (Universal Orlando: The Ultimate Guide To The Ultimate Theme Park Adventure)**





## Synopsis

The Wizarding World of Harry Potter made Universal Orlando Resort the hottest family destination in central Florida. Now the Potter franchise is expanding to a second park and the only guide devoted exclusively to Universal Orlando Resort is on top of it all. It covers Universal Studios Florida, Islands of Adventure, and the CityWalk entertainment district. It features in-depth reviews of every ride, attraction, restaurant, and resort hotel along with maps and color photographs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Universal Orlando 2013” is the ultimate tool for planning your next vacation to Universal Orlando. Vacations are supposed to be stress free, fun, and relaxing. If you’re getting ready to plan your next vacation to Orlando, it will do you a ton of good to start planning your vacation before you get on the plane. It could not only save you money and time, but it will also save you heartache and make for a much smoother vacation. This book is the perfect tool to planning your vacation. Written by Kelly Monaghan and Seth Kubersky, this 287-page guide is exactly what it says it is: the ultimate guide to the ultimate theme park adventure. From cover to cover, you will find heaps of important information you might not think to look up while planning your vacation. The book is broken down into six sections, or chapters if you may, which goes in depth and in detail about everything there is to know. Each section tackles a different topic: Planning, Universal Studios, Islands of Adventure, Citywalk, On-Site hotels, and hotels near the park. Now, you’re probably asking, “What about changes?” Businesses change over the course of

time, and to keep up with the changes, the publishers of the book maintain an online blog to make updates to the book. Monaghan and Kubersky even address this in the first section of the book, so everyone who reads it is aware they can keep updated on recent changes after the book's publication. Changes to the book can be read at <http://theotherorlando.com/tooblog/>. (Racheal Yates, This guide is exactly what it says it is: the ultimate guide to the ultimate theme park adventure. From cover to cover, you will find heaps of important information you might not think to look up while planning your vacation. Behind The Thrills.com, 11/6/12)Once Christmas is over, it's time to plan your vacation for 2013. If you're planning to visit Universal Orlando Resort, "Universal Orlando 2013" by Kelly Monaghan and Seth Kubersky is a great tool for navigating Universal Studios Florida and Islands of Adventure, as well as the CityWalk entertainment district. I recently received a review copy, and it was a very useful read. Sure, there's lots of planning information online, but it's nice to have a reference tool you can carry with you and flip through to easily find what you're looking for. The guidebook is nicely broken down into sections on the two parks, CityWalk, and the resort hotels. It also has a list of nearby offset hotel options. Besides being packed with information, I think it's a nice tool for taking notes before and during your vacation. If you've got a family, the kids can go through the book with you, making notations on their must-do attractions. Then it becomes a keepsake if they write their impressions on the pages during their vacation. I did that with Walt Disney World guidebooks on my early Orlando trips, and it's fun to read my impressions of rides and attractions back then and to have a book that includes now-defunct rides that I once enjoyed. The book is a great way to narrow down what you want to research in more depth, too. It puts the whole resort at your fingertips so, for example, you can narrow down the rides of most interest to your family. Then you can look them up online for photos, YouTube videos, etc. I like the fact that this book covers CityWalk in such depth. I'm an expert on the theme parks, but I don't spend nearly as much time in the entertainment district so I don't know much about the nightclubs and even some of the restaurants. The book gave me an excellent overview and taught me some things I didn't know. If you're not familiar with Universal Orlando Resort yourself, scour the book for entertainment options on days you might skip the parks or leave early, like miniature golf, the movie theater, and the wide variety of stores. You'll get plenty of coverage of the parks, too. The book covers not just rides and shows, but also dining options, ATM locations, and even games. The only area in which I would have liked to see more coverage is Halloween Horror Nights, since I'm a rabid Halloween fan, but that almost be a book on its own, and it changes completely every year. The book's

only limitation is the same issue shared by all other print media: the parks are continually changing. Late this year, Universal Studios Florida announced a Transformers ride for 2013, and it also has a mysterious construction in the old Amity/Jaws area. The book addresses the Harry Potter rumors for the latter section and what the new area is likely to include, but there will probably be an official announcement sometime in 2013. If you want a trusty guide for your 2013 Universal Orlando Resort trip, grab a copy of *Universal Orlando 2013*. It will help you with pre-planning and also make a helpful go-to guide while you're in the parks and at your hotel. (Barbara Nefer, Sure, there's lots of planning information online, but it's nice to have a reference tool you can carry with you and flip through to easily find what you're looking for. It puts the whole resort at your fingertips. Examiner.com, 12/13/12) Book review: *Universal Orlando 2013* The folks behind the unofficial Universal books (as well as the Other Orlando books) have put out a new edition of the Universal Orlando volume, and it's a doozy. I have to say, I really like this guidebook. It knows how to balance the tone. Neither breathless nor relentlessly negative, it's above all lucid. The reader comes away knowing the facts, which are presented in a manner that generates buzz and excitement, but in an authentic way. The expensive (but fun) mini golf that opened recently, for instance, is here said to be a satisfying, if expensive, way to spend an hour or two. Clear, informative, helpful and "balanced" way to say good things about a resort that has come so far in the past five years. It does what all guidebooks do: offer advice on when to come, how to get there from the airport, and then comprehensive essays on every attraction in the parks, most with five or more paragraphs, saying pretty much everything that needs saying. This being the 2013 edition, it's updated with all the stuff that's new. And the book helps you realize just how much really is new! Despicable Me, mini golf, Blue Man Group's new show, Universal's Superstar Parade, revised Spider-Man, Cinematic Spectacular. You won't read about Transformers, which was announced just yesterday (and after the book went to print), but that's part and parcel of the theme park world. There's so much new, especially at Universal, that any book is out of date to some extent even before it's printed. You also won't find much on the Harry Potter expansion, since that's still unannounced even as of this review. One thing I rather liked: the sections in the book where color photos were bunched together. This is an old trick invented years ago by other publishers, but it works to give you some color images in a book that otherwise would be plain black and white. It straddles the line of keeping costs down, while also providing a sense of color to the book. (Kevin Yee Ultimate Orlando.com, 11/3/12) *Universal Orlando 2013* The Ultimate Guide to the Ultimate

Theme Park Adventure Kelly Monaghan and Seth Kubersky -The Intrepid TravelerUniversal Studios in Florida used to be the thing that you did if you had extra time while in Florida. Now it is becoming the first stop for many families. You can see evidence of this at the number of Thing 1 and Thing 2 shirts I see at WDW. I suspect the opening of The Wizarding World of Harry Potter may have had something to do with the new found popularity. Kelly and Seth have been covering the Universal beat just as long as anybody and they have it down pat. The guidebook is complete, concise, and offers some very handy tips. I got the book just prior to visiting Florida and tested many of the suggestions. The book will come especially handy for those staying on site. Unlike WDW where everything is a drive or a bus, Universal is very compact. Walking is encouraged with beautiful pathways and there are ferry boats from each of the three hotels. CityWalk is so dense with shops and restaurants, the guidebook will help you save a lot of time. (Sam Gennawey, Complete, concise, and offers some very handy tips. *Ã¢â¬Å| [It]* will come especially handy for those staying on site.)

Kelly Monaghan has been covering Central Florida theme parks for 20 years. He lives in Branford, CT. Seth Kubersky is an arts columnist and theme park expert who lives in Orlando, FL.

A very good guide to Universal, and an improvement over earlier versions. Each version is more complete and more thorough. Explains the onsite hotel guests perk of an hour earlier entry to Islands of Adventure and The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, and clearly explains the different express ticket options. I heard other guests who had not read up on these things complaining that it was too confusing, while we felt we made good decisions on what the best choices were. Also explains all the rides and shows and entertainment venues.

I bought this book in hard copy before we went to Universal. I then also downloaded it for my kindle app so I could carry it in the park. I thought the book had great detail - the reviews were very helpful in making some ride decisions (I don't like motion simulators and my son doesn't like roller coasters). The planning strategies were right on! We studied it before we went and it made the whole trip better. I always like to buy a good guide before I go and this one was right on the money!

The book was a great resource with most information accurate and up-to-date. Teen night at the groove hasn't existed for a couple of years we were told. The best and most accurate reviews were on the rides and restaurants. The royal pacific restaurants were overall excellent in service and

quality if food served. Best deal outlined and recommended is Emerils tchoup chop happy hour.

Fantastic food prices and ambience!

We bought the book to prepare for a February trip to Orlando and Universal, primarily to see the Wizarding World of Harry Potter. We are all huge Potter fans, stood in line to buy the last 5 books! And bought two copies so it was easier for us to share it! The books gave us exactly the information we were seeking, and all of us are reading it before we go.

The writers are obviously big fans and don't have much of an objective opinion. The book wasn't nearly as informative as one I bought before visiting Disney. I was hoping for more information on rides as far as which ones are suitable for what ages or physical limitations (heart conditions, pregnancy). Easy reading.

Great book that explains Universal Orlando step by step. Covers each ride and show, suggests which ones to see first, second, etc based on 1 day there or more. I have set my daily itinerary off this book, hopefully it works - will be there in a week! Would recommend for sure, just wish there were more pictures of the parks.

The book is fine, there is not much information in the computer but still there are details that you better check in the computer such as the reviews about the food in Universal which many people consider bad and expensive. Best and worst rides in Universal Orlando etc. Still is worth it to buy.

Extremely thorough and detailed. It will make your trip run more smoothly for sure! More pictures would be fun, but overall, a very researched book. A must have for planning a trip to Universal. I have purchased a guide to Disney as well, and is equally as helpful and thorough.

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