A photograph of an orange grove. In the foreground, a large, dense orange tree is covered in ripe fruit. A path leads into the distance between rows of trees. On the right side of the path, a person is standing on a tall ladder, reaching into the branches of a tree. The sky is blue with some clouds.

**Golden Globes**  
Florida is home  
to 74 million  
citrus trees.

YOUR ADVENTURE IN

# Orlan





PHOTOGRAPH BY SWAN/GETTY

# do

Sure, it has its share of theme parks—we swung by the new Wizarding World of Harry Potter—but it'd be too small a world if coasters were all the City Beautiful had to offer. Ready to check out a frozen vodka bar where even the glasses are made of ice? Told ya you'd be surprised...

BY JENNIFER NALEWICKI

**BEGIN YOUR  
ADVENTURE HERE**

**What's the first  
thing you reach  
for after stepping  
off a plane?**





If it wouldn't be a true vacation without...



**GETTING THERE** Fly into Orlando International Airport ([orlandoairports.net](http://orlandoairports.net)), about 10 miles southeast of downtown.



**Village People**  
Harry Potter's stomping grounds.

→ KIDS WILL GO CRAZY FOR...

# Casting a Spell

Before the Wizarding World of Harry Potter opened at Universal Studios Islands of Adventure last year, it was rare for “muggles” (people who lack the gift of magic) to set foot in Hogsmeade, one of the mystical settings in J.K. Rowling's best-selling book series. The cobblestone village has been expertly created at the park, right down to the steeply pitched roofs covered in “snow.” Browse for prankster gifts like screaming yo-yos and shrunken heads at Zonko's Joke Shop, get fitted for a magic wand at Ollivander's, then stop at Three Broomsticks for a frosty mug of Butterbeer. Continue with “Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey,” an hour-long adventure that includes visits to Headmaster Dumbledore's office and the Defense of the Dark Arts classroom. End with the ultimate thrill: careening down the inclines of Dragon Challenge, the world's only pair of dueling inverted roller coasters. [universalorlando.com](http://universalorlando.com) *Your adventure continues...*

THEN YOUR MOST IDEAL HOTEL IS...



**Nickelodeon Suites Resort**  
Splash around at not one but two water parks, or plunge into the “sea” with SpongeBob SquarePants at the hotel's 4-D movie theater. [nickhotel.com](http://nickhotel.com)



**Eō Inn & Spa**  
Perk up with the Desert Heat Body Cocoon, a concoction of red seaweed and mineral-studded mud from the Arizona desert, designed to reduce stress and fatigue. [eoinn.com](http://eoinn.com)



**The Peabody**  
Grab a drink at Mallards, the lobby bar, and watch as the hotel's five resident ducks regally waddle down a red carpet to their roost. [peabody-orlando.com](http://peabody-orlando.com)

Which of these is most welcome at your dinner table?



PHOTOGRAPHY BY UNIVERSAL ORLANDO RESORT (HARRY POTTER)

If you'd be happy to see this on your dinner table...



THEN PULL UP A CHAIR AT...



**The Ravenous Pig** Don't miss the seasonal roast: turkey, roasted lamb, or house-smoked ribs, depending on the time of year, served with your choice of eight microbrews. [theravenous-pig.com](http://theravenous-pig.com)



**Cracker's** Ask any local in Crystal River: This is the place to go for fresh bay scallops, shrimp, and clam chowder. [crackersbar-grillandtiki.com](http://crackersbar-grillandtiki.com)

**GETTING AROUND** Fares for Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority (LYNX) buses start at \$2 for a single ride or \$4.50 for the day.

Which item of clothing are you more comfortable in?



**Main Squeeze**  
Reaching for Orlando's high-hanging fruit.

FILL YOUR OWN FRUIT BASKET BY...

# Citrus Picking

Once you've sunk your teeth into an orange fresh from the tree, it's hard to settle for the well-traveled grocery store variety ever again. Taste what we're talking about at Showcase of Citrus, an organic farm 30 miles southwest of Orlando, where visitors wander the groves stuffing mesh bags full of juicy souvenirs. The farm is open year round, and varieties change seasonally: In the spring expect stout Valencia oranges, lip-puckering grapefruit, and sweet honey tangerines. Once you've had your fill, head to the on-site country store for thirst-quenching OJ and jars of homemade marmalade. Or climb aboard the farm's zebra-striped safari truck for an off-road tour that rumbles past cow pastures and forested wetlands to the headwaters of the Everglades Watershed. [showcaseofcitrus.com](http://showcaseofcitrus.com) **Your adventure continues...**

Continued



Continued

If you'd rather wear a...



Which subject  
would you  
rather study?



THEN INDULGE YOUR CURIOSITY AT...



**Orlando Science Center**  
Aspiring scientists will delight in the hands-on experiments, which range from chemical reactions to electricity surges. [osc.org](http://osc.org)



**Titanic The Experience**  
Actors in period garb lead visitors through replicas of the ship's grand staircase and boiler room, and past 200 artifacts from the sinking. [titanictheexperience.com](http://titanictheexperience.com)



**Gatorland**  
Scope out toothy reptiles at close range inside this 110-acre wildlife park, home to thousands of alligators and crocodiles. [gatorland.com](http://gatorland.com)

BUNDLE UP AND TRY...

# Imbibing on Ice

Don't bother asking for ice in your drink at this watering hole—you won't need it. At a teeth-chattering 27 degrees, everything inside ICEBAR is made of ice—the walls, the tables and chairs, the décor, even the glasses. Which is why you're outfitted with a fleece cape and gloves before entering. "I usually wear about four layers of clothing," says bartender Bud Hewell. "Halfway through my shift, I pull on my furry Russian hat." Naturally, the bar serves only vodka and uses it in creative concoctions like the Penguin Pizz,

where alcohol goes into the mouth of an ice-sculpted penguin, travels through a tube and comes out—well, you get the idea. After a drink or two—most people can only stand the frigid temp for 45 minutes—thaw out at the on-site Fire Lounge, where a DJ spins dance hits and you can savor your cocktail without shivering. [icebarorlando.com](http://icebarorlando.com)

**Freeze Frame**  
Sip a cold one in an igloo-esque environment.



Your adventure continues...

## GETTING OUT

Dance away to live merengue and salsa bands at Fiesta Medina (April 10). For more events, go to [orlandoinfo.com/calendar](http://orlandoinfo.com/calendar).

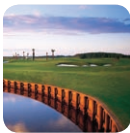
Which is  
your more  
preferred  
means of  
transport?



THEN TRAVERSE THIS PATCH OF EARTH...



**Wekiwa Springs State Park** Waters that rarely fall below 72 degrees make this natural spring an ideal swimming hole. Post-dip, dry off on 23 miles of hike-and-bike trails. [floridastate-parks.org](http://floridastate-parks.org)



**Eagle Creek Golf Club** Strap on your spikes for this 18-hole, par 73 championship course, inspired by those in the U.K. [eaglecreekgolf.info](http://eaglecreekgolf.info)



**Harry P. Leu Gardens** Stroll through 50 acres of manicured landscape, including the state's largest formal rose garden, along the shore of a glassy lake. [leugardens.org](http://leugardens.org)

## SHARE YOUR STORY

Have you tried any of the adventures on our itinerary? Tell us by e-mailing [adventures@spiritmag.com](mailto:adventures@spiritmag.com).

BUDDING MARINE BIOLOGISTS WILL LOVE...

# Floating By

They're called the cows of the sea, and for good reason. Weighing in at a hefty 1,200 pounds, Florida manatees spend much of the year in the temperate waters of Crystal River, about 90 minutes northwest of Orlando. Like their bovine counterparts, they munch on (sea) grass, consuming about 10 percent of their body weight daily. Due to their easygoing nature, manatees have become popular swimming companions. Captain Mike's Sunshine River Tours offers visitors the opportunity to float alongside the slow-moving endangered species in their own habitat, providing wetsuits, snorkels, masks, and a boat ride to the secluded Three Sisters Springs, a favorite manatee haunt. "Manatees are the only mammals I know of that will let you get between them and their calves," says Captain Rick Apple. "They're very inquisitive and friendly." [manateeswimtours.com](http://manateeswimtours.com)



**River Keeper**  
Mingle with  
manatees on  
their own turf.

And when you're done...