

Part 2 of Alan Spicer Holiday Memories: Thank you Alan.

Orlando – A Holiday to Remember – Part 2

I really hope you found part 1, which detailed the preparation, planning and touchdown in Orlando, mildly interesting. This part was going to be about the accommodation, transportation, shopping and eating but accommodation is proving hard to condense so this part two will just be about that. Please let me know if you are finding this helpful, informative or just plain boring. If it is the latter then this could be the final part!

Accommodation Whist this subject that can have pages and pages, I will generalise as much as possible. Practically all rooms will take up to 4 people (2 queen beds). If visiting both Disney and Universal is a given then seriously think about splitting your holiday to something like 4 nights Universal Hotel, 10 nights Disney Hotel. We did this last year and it definitely was the best of both worlds!

Disney Resort Hotels The first and most important thing about staying at any Disney owned properties is the closeness and thereby speed at which you get to the parks. In addition, all Disney transportation is free to guests and every day of the week you can get in to one Disney park one hour early and one Disney park at least two hours later than the opening hours of other visitors. You can book your 'Fast Passes' 60 days before your first night in the hotel and then for your whole holiday (30 days for non-Disney guests) and as every hotel is themed, it would be hard not to be immersed in the magic the minute you arrive rather than when you get to your first park. There are other hotels called De-Luxe Villas but are not mentioned here. See <https://www.disneyworld.co.uk/resorts/> for a full list.

Disney Resort Hotels are split into three categories with Value being the cheapest, Moderate (the one we plump for) and De-Luxe, with several hotels within each category.

Value resorts

The **All-Stars Resort** is split into three separate entities, the **Sport, Music and Movies**, and are adjacent to each other. Great for kids but perhaps not for the discerning adult! **Pop Century & Art of Animation** are also next to one another (walkable) and more central than the All-Stars complex. Definitely worth considering if saving a few bob is a necessity. The latter is the newest Value Resort and has the advantage of 1120 suites in addition to 864 rooms. Suites are for up to 6 guests.

The All Stars are serviced just by buses but the other two have buses plus the new gondoliers linking to Epcot and Hollywood Studios via the Caribbean Beach Resort.

Moderate resorts

Port Orleans, Coronado Springs, Fort Wilderness and Caribbean Beach – We have only stayed at the latter (5 times now) and my daughter wouldn't stay anywhere else. It is ideally placed for all the parks, being probably the most central. The Port Orleans has mainly positive reviews and we visited the Coronado Springs and this would be my second choice Moderate Resort. Fort Wilderness is tucked away and has cabins or you could camp!

Port Orleans and Fort Wilderness are serviced by boats and buses, the Coronado Springs just by buses and the Caribbean Beach by gondoliers and buses.

DeLuxe resorts Lots of these and ones that most of you rich retired peeps would want to consider. We have stayed at the **Contemporary** and this is on the monorail that goes to Magic Kingdom (walkable) along with the **Grand Floridian** (Princess Diana and her boys stayed there) and the **Polynesian Village**. The **Wilderness Lodge** is also walkable, just, to Magic Kingdom. The **Animal Kingdom Lodge** has rooms