

My name is Devin MaGrann and I have been a member of GCSG since 2016! I'm always excited to attend the GCSG conference due to the networking and learning opportunities the conference provides, but this year I am EXTRA excited because it's taking place right in my backyard – Orlando, Florida! This being the case, I wanted to provide you with a little “cheat sheet” in case you or your family end up extending your stay here in Orlando before/after the conference.



I'm sure you're all aware of the Theme parks Orlando has to offer, so I figured I would provide you with some information on other fun things to do. I hope this helps and please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Welcome to Orlando!

### **First --- 10 Fun Facts About Orlando**

1. Orlando is home to more than 100 lakes. Lake Eola in downtown Orlando is actually a giant sinkhole and is 80 feet at its deepest point.
2. Orlando was once the main hub of Florida's citrus industry. A deep freeze in the late 1800s caused farms to move their citrus crops further south.
3. There is no official documentation on how Orlando received its name, although it is known that the city was originally named Jernigan, after the first permanent settler in the area. Some believe it was named “Orlando” for a character in Shakespeare's “As You Like It.”
4. The Rogers Building and the 1890 Railroad Depot are the oldest remaining structures in downtown Orlando.
5. In 2015, 66 million people visited Orlando, more than any other destination in the world. The number of visitors in Orlando each day is equivalent to the population of Atlanta.
6. Gatorland, the first theme park in Orlando, opened in 1949. Its main attraction was a 15-foot gator which was said to be the biggest in the world.
7. Universal Studios opened in Orlando in 1990 with Nickelodeon, Back to the Future, E.T., Ghostbusters and The Bates Hotel attractions.
8. To fund the demolition of its old city hall, Orlando enlisted the help of Hollywood. Producer Joel Silver blew up the building for the opening scene of *Lethal Weapon 3*.
9. The official nickname of the city of Orlando is “The City Beautiful.” It is also known as “O-Town.”
10. The Orlando Magic NBA team was almost known as the Orlando Juice. A contest was held in 1987 to pick the name of the team. The finalists were the “Heat”, the “Tropics,” the “Juice,” and the “Magic.”

**Aquatica Orlando** --- <https://aquatica.com/orlando/>

5800 Water Play Way, Orlando, FL 32821

Aquatica is a chain of water parks owned and operated by SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment. Fun for the whole family!

**Discovery Cove** --- <https://discoverycove.com/orlando/>

6000 Discovery Cove Way, Orlando, FL 32821

Discovery Cove is a theme park owned and operated by SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment. It is the sister park of SeaWorld Orlando and Aquatica Orlando. Visitors to the park can interact with a range of marine animals including bottlenose dolphins. All-inclusive (endless food and drinks!) options, too!

**Disney Springs** --- <https://www.disneysprings.com/>

1486 Buena Vista Dr, Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

Disney Springs is an outdoor shopping, dining, and entertainment complex at the Walt Disney World Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, near Orlando.

**CityWalk** --- <https://www.universalorlando.com/web/en/us/theme-parks/citywalk>

6000 Universal Blvd, Orlando, FL 32819

CityWalk is an energetic attraction at Universal Orlando featuring a variety of restaurants, shops & family shows. This is basically Universal's version of Disney Springs, and we will be going to several of the spots in CityWalk as part of the GCSG entertainment during the conference.

**Volcano Bay** --- <https://www.universalorlando.com/web/en/us/theme-parks/volcano-bay>

6000 Universal Blvd, Orlando, FL 32819

Universal's tropical-themed water park at Universal Orlando Resort. Really fun for the whole family!

**Gaylord Palms Hotel** --- <https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/mcogp-gaylord-palms-resort-and-convention-center/overview/>

6000 W Osceola Pkwy, Kissimmee, FL 34746

Located in beautiful Central Florida, Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center welcomes guests to an upscale, one-of-a-kind experience only minutes from Walt Disney World®, Universal Orlando Resort™, and other Orlando theme parks and attractions. From Cypress Springs Water Park with our new Crystal River Rapids action river, to an exciting lineup of family-friendly activities and entertainment, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Explore four-and-a-half acres of indoor garden atriums, nine award-winning restaurants, bars, world-class Relâche Spa, and a state-of-the-art fitness center. For those planning or attending their next meeting, convention or event, the hotel features a newly expanded convention center with over 500,000 sq ft of flexible meeting space and 1,718 guest rooms, including 129 spectacular suites and 306 brand-new rooms in Gulf Coast tower.

**Central Florida Zoo** --- <https://www.centralfloridazoo.org/>

3755 W Seminole Blvd, Sanford, FL 32771

The Central Florida Zoo and Botanical Gardens is a 116-acre zoo and botanical garden located north of Orlando in Sanford (about 40-50 minutes from GCSG Hotel). There are also zip lines, splash pads, and a ropes course!

**Legoland Orlando** --- <https://www.legoland.com/florida/our-company/about-legoland-florida-resort/>

One LEGOLAND Way Winter Haven, FL 33884

LEGOLAND® Florida Resort is the place where kids rule! It's where princesses, knights and adventurer's roam. Where dragons soar, castles are stormed, and pirates sail the seven seas. We are truly the ultimate multi-day vacations destination for families with young kids and imagination comes to life with over 50 rides, shows and attractions at the Theme Park, 14 water slides in the Water Park, 3 unique themed Hotels and more!

**Gatorland** --- <https://www.gatorland.com/>

14501 S Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando, FL 32837

Get ready for down-home family fun at "The Alligator Capital of the World®" – Gatorland! There isn't a better place to see alligators and crocodiles of all sizes, from babies, also known as grunts, to the 14-foot monsters that call our Breeding Marsh home. We even have the largest collection of extremely rare white leucistic alligators. But Gatorland is more than just a gator park! Our free-flight aviary, petting zoo, one-of-a-kind animal shows, thrilling Screamin' Gator Zip Line and new Stompin' Gator Off-Road Adventure ensure your day will be chock-full of fun, smiles and special memories!

**Dezerland Park** - <https://dezerlandpark.com/orlando/>

5250 International Dr, Orlando, FL 32819

Florida's Largest Indoor Attraction --- Over 800,000 sq feet of Thrills & Fun! Activities at Dezerland park include: Indoor Go Karting, Arcade Games, Bowling, Foam Nerf Battle Arena, Trampoline Park, Bumper Cars, 4D Motion Simulators, Auto/Car Museum (world's longest limousine!), Smash N Dash, Play Shooting, Indoor Glow in the Dark Mini-Golf, Pinball, and Axe Throwing!

**Andretti Indoor Karting and Games** --- <https://andrettikarting.com/orlando>

9299 Universal Blvd, Orlando, FL 32819

Similar to Dezerland Park, Andretti Indoor Karting and Games is a large, indoor attraction with a variety of activities! From classic arcade and prize games to the latest and greatest, there's something for everyone! Get ready for a legendary family fun entertainment experience as you play for fun or the thrill of the competition with our Two-Level Go Karting Experience, Two-Level Laser Tag Arena, State of the Art VR Experience or our Racing-Themed Boutique Bowling Lanes. What are you waiting for? There's some serious fun to be had at Andretti Indoor Karting & Games!

**Kayak/Paddleboard/Canoe Wekiva/Crystal Springs**

- Wekiva Island --- <https://www.wekivaisland.com/activities/>

- 1014 Miami Springs Dr, Longwood, FL 32779
  - Wekiva Island is the perfect place to enjoy outdoor activities in Orlando. Our vessel rentals are one of our most popular activities. They are first come, first served; we do not take reservations. While you are here, plan to stop by The Tooting Otter for refreshments or some great food from Without a Paddle Cafe.
  - Canoe, kayak, paddleboard, swim or float a large inflatable through the Wekiva River.
  - Also well-known as a great fishing spot!
- Crystal River/Kings Bay --- <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/crystal-river/visit-us>
- 268 NW 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Crystal River, FL 34429
  - Crystal River, one hour north of Tampa on the Gulf Coast is the only wildlife refuge dedicated to the protection of the West Indian manatee. There are several ways to enjoy the refuge. You can explore the displays at the visitor's center located on Kings Bay where volunteer staff will answer questions. You can visit the Three Sisters Springs property to walk the boardwalk and view the springs or enjoy the trails. To swim or paddle in the Three Sisters Springs, you can rent a vessel/paddle craft or bring your own and launch at a nearby boat ramp. Visitors can even put on a wetsuit and snorkel to immerse themselves in the underwater world of the manatee.

**Winter Park - Park Avenue** – <https://winterpark.org/park-avenue>

Google “Prato – Winter Park” and it will take you to Park Avenue!

Park Avenue – Winter Park’s shopping, dining and cultural gem – boasts more than 140 boutiques, sidewalk cafes, and museums, all in the shadow of oak-canopied Central Park. In addition to our stylish shops, diverse dining choices and many cultural offerings, you can plan a trip around special events that include seasonal art shows, concerts, exotic car shows, fashion events and holiday festivities.

**Orlando International Premium Outlets** – <https://www.premiumoutlets.com/outlet/orlando-international>

5269 International Dr, Orlando, FL 32819

Orlando International Premium Outlets is Florida's largest outlet shopping destination spanning over 773,586 square feet and welcoming more than 17MM visitors annually. Located in the heart of Orlando’s booming hospitality industry, the center is only 5 minutes from Universal Orlando Resort and 10 miles from Walt Disney World Resort. Visitors and locals will enjoy an array of more than 180 designer and name-brand outlet stores including H&M, Tory Burch, Champion, Forever 21, Old Navy and Guess. In addition, Orlando International Premium Outlets offers 20 distinct dining options including Vinito Ristorante, a full-service Italian restaurant. Dining selections cater to a wide variety of tastes including international flavors from Brazil and Latin America.

**Orlando Science Center** – <https://www.osc.org/>

777 E Princeton St, Orlando, FL 32803

Orlando Science Center is Central Florida’s award-winning, hands-on science museum. With four floors of interactive exhibit halls, labs and workshops, theaters, an observatory, and experiences that change

with the seasons, there is always something exciting for our 670,000 annual visitors to see and do at Orlando Science Center.

**Wonderworks Orlando** – <https://www.wonderworksonline.com/orlando/>

9067 International Dr, Orlando, FL 32819

WonderWorks is an amusement park for the mind with 28,000 square feet of “edu-tainment”. The attraction combines education and entertainment with more than 100 hands-on exhibits that challenge the mind and spark the imagination. This once top-secret laboratory was located in the Bermuda Triangle. An experiment gone awry lifted the laboratory, carrying it to International Drive in Orlando, Florida where it landed upside down. Luckily, all of the exhibits remained intact and available for guests to explore.

**Ripley’s Believe It or Not!** --- <https://www.ripleys.com/orlando/believe-it-or-not/>

8201 International Dr, Orlando, FL 32819

Ripley’s Believe It or Not! Orlando showcases one of the world’s most remarkable collections of natural, scientific, and artistic oddities. Watch out—it’s a Florida sinkhole! Fortunately, our Odditorium only looks like it’s falling into one! Inside, you’ll be greeted by 10,000 square feet of amazing, hair-raising, truly unbelievable exhibits. With 16 unique galleries and hundreds of displays, there are artifacts, interactive experiences, and just plain weird stuff sure to entertain the entire family!

**Orlando’s Crayola Experience** – <https://www.crayolaexperience.com/orlando>

8001 S Orange Blossom Trl, Orlando, FL 32809

Crayola Experience is where the magic of Crayola comes to life! With 70,000 square feet of attractions, Crayola Experience is Florida's most colorful family destination for interactive, creative play! Families typically spend 3-4 hours exploring our 27 hands-on attractions. Go on a wonderful, whimsical adventure with our unique experiences, such as:

- Star in your very own coloring page
- Name and wrap your very own Crayola crayon
- Embark on a 4-D coloring adventure
- Learn how crayons are made in a live manufacturing show
- And so much more!

**Kennedy Space Center** – <https://www.kennedyspacecenter.com/>

Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, Space Commerce Way, Merritt Island, FL 32953

Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex is organized into Mission Zones where attractions and tours are grouped by chronological era. From the dawn of space exploration to current and ongoing missions, you can get an up-close, hands-on feel for the story of humans in space. Fuel your quest for inspiration right here.

**Gateway Classic Cars of Orlando** – <https://www.gatewayclassiccars.com/contact/ORD>

635 Century Point, Lake Mary, FL 32746

Gateway Classic Cars works every day to give classic car enthusiasts around the world the opportunity to get behind the wheel of their dream cars. Gateway is the World's Largest Classic/Exotic Car Dealership since 1999. Is there a car that you have had your eye on for a while? Maybe the car you had a poster of in your room since you were a child? With our collection of thousands of classic and exotic cars, chances are we have your dream classic in one of our 21 locations around the US. Give us a call during our normal business hours of 9:00am-5:00pm Monday - Saturday, or message us on live chat.

**Camping/Glamping – Disney's Fort Wilderness Resort** –  
<https://disneyworld.disney.go.com/resorts/campsites-at-fort-wilderness-resort/>

4510 North Fort Wilderness Trail Lake Buena Vista, Florida 32830-8415

Camp amid the magic of the great outdoors. Disney's Fort Wilderness Resort & Campground evokes the timeless beauty of the American frontier, with deer, rabbits, ducks, and armadillos roaming the Resort's 750 acres of pine and cypress forest. Discover charming woodland trails, spectacular pool areas and rip-roarin' entertainment at this picturesque backcountry retreat.

## **Restaurants**

**28 of the best restaurants in the Orlando area!** --- <https://www.timeout.com/orlando/restaurants/best-restaurants-in-orlando>

Devin's personal notes on this list:

*Places I recommend:*

- Hunger Street Tacos (super good, quick, and cheap)
- The Ravenous Pig (personal favorite + has an outdoor beer garden!)
- The Monroe (awesome cocktails!)
- Reyes Mezcaleria (Mexican, Margaritas, and Mescal? Yes, Please!)
- Prato (Great Vibes, Great Italian Food, Awesome Area)
- The Osprey (Very good seafood and cocktails!)

## Golf

**Call/Text/Email Devin (info below), but here are some recommendations:**

- Disney Courses - <https://disneygolf.ezlinksgolf.com/index.html#/preSearch>
  - [Lake Buena Vista Golf Course](#)
  - [Magnolia Golf Course](#)
  - [Oak Trail Golf Course](#)
  - [Palm Golf Course](#)
- Hawk's Landing - <https://golfhawkslanding.com/>
- Falcon's Fire – <https://www.falconsfire.com/>
- Shingle Creek - <https://www.shinglecreekgolf.com/>
  
- **TopGolf Orlando** – <https://topgolf.com/us/orlando/>
- 9295 Universal Blvd. Orlando, FL 32819
  - Welcome to Topgolf Orlando, the premier entertainment destination in Orlando, FL. Enjoy our climate-controlled hitting bays for year-round comfort with HDTVs in every bay and throughout our sports bar and restaurant. Using our complimentary clubs or your own, take aim at the giant outfield targets and our high-tech balls will score themselves.
  
- **TopGolf Lake Mary** – <https://topgolf.com/us/lake-mary/>
- 1010 Greenwood Blvd Lake Mary, FL
  
- **Tiger Woods' Pop Stroke (Waterford)** – <https://popstroke.com/orlando-waterford-lakes/>
- 321 N Alafaya Trail, Orlando, FL 32828
  - Tiger Woods and his TGR Design team created two 18-hole putting courses, built entirely with synthetic turfs, incorporating fairways, bunkers, and rough just as you would see on a traditional golf course. Using only a putter, this unique golf experience can be played by anyone --no matter their ability, expertise, or whether they've ever held a club before. No reservations needed! Order your favorite draft beer, wine, or hand-crafted cocktail from the PopStroke Mobile App - and get it delivered right to your spot on the course. Don't forget to celebrate your success with one of our signature milkshakes or some premium homemade ice cream.

Thanks everyone – I hope this has been helpful and you have lots of fun whatever you choose to do! Of course, feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or need a consult! Looking forward to seeing you all at the GCSG conference!

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