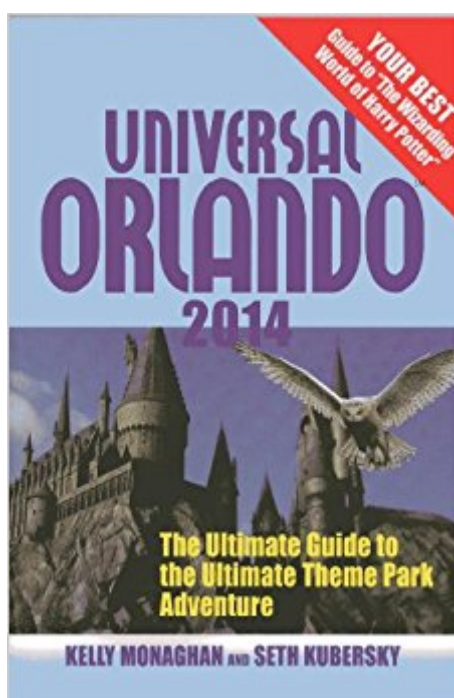


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# Universal Orlando 2014: The Ultimate Guide To The Ultimate Theme Park Adventure



## Synopsis

As Harry Potter fans continue to flock to Universal Orlando Resort, the only guide devoted exclusively to the home of Orlando's hottest attraction keeps pace with the magic. This edition updates details on the Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Islands of Adventure and previews Harry's new London digs in Universal Studios Florida. It also includes the first in-depth reviews of the new Transformers thrill ride in Universal Studios, and previews the resort's first "value-priced" hotel property, Cabana Bay Beach Resort, scheduled to open in spring 2014. The authors' detailed insider knowledge and signature wit guide readers through the specifics of an effective visit. They offer extensive coverage of every ride and attraction, CityWalk, and Universal's three luxury resort hotels, as well as dining, and shopping at the theme parks. PLUS: all the ins and outs on Universal's front-of-the-line policies and special things to do with that special someone. "Damn near indispensable if you're planning on visiting the Wizarding World of Harry Potter." — Jim Hill, Jim Hill Media.com

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Kelly Monaghan has covered Orlando's non-Disney attractions for two decades. He lives in Branford, CT, near New Haven. Theme park maven and former Universal employee Seth Kubersky lives in Orlando and writes an arts column for "Orlando Weekly."

Just got back from Orlando so waited to review until trip was complete. This book was a great

resource in planning our trip to Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure. The information was accurate and helpful, especially in deciding what to see first in each day.

I bought this book a few months ago and have been going through it very well to find out all the info I can. I've never been to Universal Studios before and really want to go for my son's 10th birthday and my birthday in December. Our main goal is to see all of the Harry Potter stuff. Everything else would be an added bonus. One of the things that I had been looking at are the hotels on the Universal property. This book gives you a pretty good outline of the pros and cons of each hotel. I did figure out from this book that you can't use the express pass on the Harry Potter attractions which was the thing that would've been worth it to stay at one of their hotels. The book also goes into detail about all of the rides, how much the food at the various places in the park costs and it even gives you a good day planner. The day planner even has a different agenda for the Harry Potter fans, which is great for us!. Overall the book is very helpful and helping to plan our trip and gives me a pretty good idea on how much money I'll need. Great book! Definitely get it if you've never been to Universal Studios and want something to help give you a good idea of things.

I bought this book before going to the 2 Orlando Universal Parks with my husband leaving our adult sons at home. We are in our late 50s/early 60s. I read the book before going and looked up several things while down there. I found the book very helpful as I am a person that likes to know things before going. We ate in several of the suggested restaurants and were not at all disappointed.

The time had come to prepare for our day at Universal. And, truth be told, we are such Disney die-hards that I had no clue where to begin. So, I first turned to my friends at The Intrepid Traveler. And, as luck would have it, they were in the process of updating this book to include the new Diagon Alley addition. Just in time!! I received the book last week and proceeded to read through it immediately. I was really impressed with the details in the book. Truth be told, I got much more information from this book than I could find on the Universal website. I marked the sections on both Diagon Alley at Universal Studios and Hogsmeade at Islands of Adventure. My favorite thing about this book is found on page 57 and is entitled "The One-Day Stay for Potterphiles." Since our primary purpose for finally wanting to go to Universal at all is the Harry Potter attractions. So, this page will come in EXTREMELY helpful for navigating these parks which we've never visited before. I feel like, with this itinerary and the accompanying chapters on the two Harry Potter sections of the parks, we can have a very successful day and get the most out of the things

that we want to see and do. I'm not saying that we won't venture out into the other areas of the parks, but the other parts aren't priority. I'm so thankful for this book! I would highly recommend it if you're planning an upcoming Universal visit.

We wanted to know how we should navigate universal studios and islands of adventure. This book helped save time and money.

I used this and the Unofficial Disneyworld book on a recent business trip where I took advantage of tickets to USF and Disney at every available opportunity. It was a great read before getting to the park and I found the suggestions helpful. I actually don't agree on which ride is the best but that is subjective anyway and nothing I'd mark down for. I found this super helpful to get me through Universal Orlando in the time I had with the best happiness. I didn't take my own advice and did a one day two park hopper - but if you have to do that this book is a MUST!

Like others who have reviewed this, I am a Disney person and had no idea of what to expect at Universal. Just vague ideas of Harry Potter. This book answered all my questions and then some. It is very comprehensive and I like the way it is divided into chapters and sections. Very easy to find specific information as well as presenting everything you need to know about the park sections, resorts and basic how to get there information. I think anyone interested in going to Universal whether for the first time or as a repeat visitor will find this book is excellent

I purchased this book before my trip to see the Wizarding World of Harry Potter. I assumed the authors had just covered the highlights, but after visiting the park, I realized just how truly thorough their 17 brief pages on the subject of the new Potter World really was. They have it all covered! But I can only assume that Universal had them write it! Once I got to the park, I realized there was nothing new for me to discover there- because the Wizarding World is TINY and I had already read about every detail in the book. Universal's new addition is just one short street, and most of the shop windows say "closed" because they are just for appearances. Yes they look fantastic and so do the small buildings, but you can only enter maybe 4 of them. So it was too crowded for shopping and they weren't selling anything as clever as you'd think they could come up with (besides the wands). There are only about three different 5 minute performances, show times for street performances as far as I know are unlisted, you wait for all of them in the hot sun. There is one restaurant, which looks just like a set out of the movies.. But there are so many people, so you wait

in a line to get in and then you are herded into lanes where a dozen or more cash registers are ready to zip as many people through as possible. I had a meat pie, my husband had fish and chips, plus drinks for lunch = \$40. I recommend the park at night (when it looks most magical) Universal closes at 9:00 pm weekdays so that gives you a half hour. As for the three Potter rides, two coasters were just refurbished with a new Potter theme and the Hogwarts Castle ride is just more virtual, it jerks you back and fourth in front of a low res screen, But no worries you will have two hours in line for your \$40 lunch to settle.

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