



# ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Comments are by CruiseCritic.com members & friends  
collected by 'DarryDFL' & 'PegEggFL'.  
Names in single quotes are alias.

Click on any blue, underlined text to go to its linked reference.



## CONTENTS

### ATTRACTIONS

- Disney [All Ears](#)
- Disney [Blog Boards](#)
- Disney [Deals](#)
- Disney [Earful Tower](#)
- Disney [Eating](#)
- Disney [Epcot](#)
- Disney [Hidden Mickeys](#)
- Disney [Info](#)
- Disney [World Shuttle](#)

### LODGING

- [Springhill Suites](#) at the Airport

### SHUTTLE

- [Shuttle](#) — Orlando Airport to Port Canaveral

Driving to Port Canaveral

## ATTRACTIONS

### DISNEY

- **Disney All Ears** — <http://allears.net> — Sharing Disney magic
- **Disney's Blog Boards** — (like CruiseCritic), all about Disney parks & cruises: <http://Disboards.com>
- **Disney Deals** — <http://www.mousesavers.com/> — discounts, etc.
- **Disney Earful Tower** —

---

<sup>1</sup> Permission for reproduction in whole or in part is granted to individuals and to organizations for internal, non-profit use provided credit is given to the author along with the copyright notice: Article reprinted with permission. Copyright © 2007-9 Darry D Eggleston, <http://DarryD.com>.

➤ DarryDFL, Aug/1/09: Located in Disney Hollywood Studios, in Lake Buena Vista, FL, the Earful Tower was the original logo for the Studios. It was built in 1988 by Caldwell Tanks, of Louisville, KY, but never contained water. It's 130 feet tall and weighs 32,000 pounds. The ears weigh 5,000 pounds each.

➤ **Disney Eating** —

➤ '10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary': Our favorites are Ohana, Liberty Tree, Le Cellier, Whispering Canyon, and 50's Prime Time. Cosmic Rays is our favorite 'quick counter' at Magic Kingdom.

➤ **Disney "Hidden Mickeys"** — [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hidden\\_Mickeys](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hidden_Mickeys)

➤ **Disney Epcot** —

➤ 'Dopey1956': We have had good dinners at **Le Cellier Steakhouse** in Canada in the world showcase, and **Coral Reef** in the Living Seas in Future World. Lunch you can get anywhere.

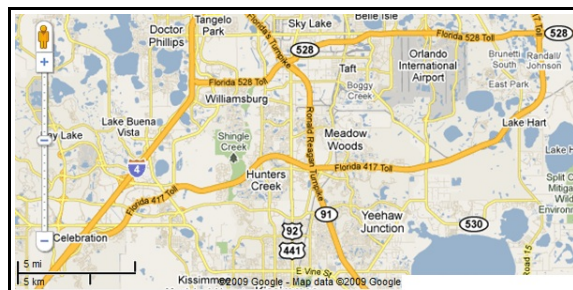
➤ **Disney Info:** <http://wdwinfo.com/> — hours, parks, planning, tickets.

➤ **Disney World Shuttle.**

➤ 'Grumpy-Gramps': If you are staying at Disney you can take the free shuttle to your resort but you have to sign up for it. Do you know about this service? "Disney's Magical Express must be booked at least 10 days prior to arrival through [DisneyWorld.com](http://DisneyWorld.com), Disney Reservation Center is 407-W-DISNEY. Be sure to have your Arriving Flight Number and time into the Orlando International Airport, your Departing Flight Number and time out of the Orlando International Airport, and the name of the airlines you are flying. We *highly* recommend booking this service a *minimum of 6 weeks in advance!*" 'Dopey1956': They said once RC bus brings us back to the airport with our luggage we will head to the Disney welcome station where we will check in and then head to the Disney bus and into Disney resort where we are staying.

## DRIVING: TAMPA to PORT CANAVERAL

► 'DarryDFL', Oct/25/09: Looking at a map, one might think that Florida 417 Toll would be a better bet for reaching Port Canaveral faster than going into Orlando and taking FL 528. However, not only is it more expensive, it takes longer because you're forever stopping to pay a toll. Returning via FL 528, we stopped at 3 toll booths and paid \$3.25 (total). That is almost \$3 less, plus 15 minutes in time. FL 528 exits I-4 near Sea World.



## LODGING

### SPRINGHILL SUITES, AIRPORT

► 'MdWstCruiser', August 16, 2009: We are staying in Orlando the night before at the Springhill Suites at Orlando Airport location and plan to take the Coca Beach Shuttle over.

### ORLANDO AIRPORT (MCO) SHUTTLE

<http://www.cbshuttle.com/?gclid=CK6F...FRifnAodAXTWdQ>

- 'BigSteelerFan', Aug/13/09: **Cocoa Beach Shuttle** offers a shuttle from the Orlando Airport to Port Canaveral.
- 'Daytona', Aug/13/09: The Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines (RCCL) transfers are only for the day of embarkation/departure. If the Cocoa Beach shuttle or others don't work, you can rent a car from Orlando and drop off in Cape Canaveral.
- 'Marcel8004a', Aug/14/09: We have used a shuttle [from Orlando Airport to Port Canaveral] in the past with *less than satisfactory* results. They didn't keep the schedule they promised and we were at their mercy. This time we are renting a mini van with 'T&KLuvCruising' (Teresa & Kevin). It can cost less than \$100 each way and we can have it from Saturday late morning until Sunday morning. They will shuttle you to the ship for free after dropping the van at the rental agency and we will have more freedom to get around Saturday evening

in Cape Canaveral if we need to pick something up or just get around and see the sights. We booked Thrifty for \$63 plus fees on Aug 1<sup>st</sup>. I think Teresa booked Hertz a little later for a little more since Thrifty showed no availability. If you don't have any discounts (AAA, etc.) take a look at the work in Cape Canaveral thread for a list of the discounts for various groups or you can email me and I will send you the list I copied from that thread into a Word document and email it to you. Also, the travel websites like [Priceline](#), etc can get you similar discounts but they do **not** do business with all of the car rental agencies.

➤ 'o hi o lady', Aug/14/09: We used Cocoa Beach Shuttle. They were great. We only took it from the airport last time because we had a tour on the way back but they give a cruise critic discount, \$52.50 for 2 each way. Not bad considering traveling from Orlando. Using it both ways this time.

➤ 'HaileyJordan', Aug/1/09: We were on the Freedom of the Seas in May 2009. We flew [into Orlando] the day before and rented a car at the airport from Avis, then we had the car for the day. We returned the car Sunday morning in Cape Canaveral (near the hotel) and [Avis] shuttled my husband back to the hotel. Then we took a taxi about 11 to the Ship. They had a shuttle from the hotel, but the taxi was so much easier. Also I think Avis will take you right to the ship if you want, ask them. We are going again next May and plan on doing the same thing. We stayed at the Radisson, but next time I am going to stay at the Comfort Suites.

➤ 'A2Mich', Aug/1/09: Having lived in Orlando for 18 years, I can tell you that there are numerous shuttles from MCO to Port Canaveral/Cocoa Beach area, but it can be less expensive to simply rent a car. You may spend \$50+ renting a car, but you will spend at least that much taking a shuttle service from Orlando airport to Port Canaveral — and then still have no way around (to go for dinner, shopping, etc.). It is super easy to get to Port Canaveral from MCO: Take the North Exit out of the airport (towards 436/528), follow the signs for '528 Beachline East'. The drive is about 45 minutes. Once you get near the port, there are plenty of signs to point you in the right direction. Cocoa Beach area is not that big, and you might enjoy going to Ron Jon's Surf Shop for some unique t-shirts.

➤ 'Sky616', Aug/15/09: We are flying in the day before from Baltimore and renting a car from **Avis** at the Orlando Int'l airport. We are driving to the **Radisson**. It is like \$60 for the rental car. The morning of the cruise we are

dropping the rental car off at Avis in Port Canaveral and they have a shuttle that will take you to the ship free of charge.

On the day we get back, we are just taking the Cocoa Beach shuttle. It is \$62 for three of us. That is including a *10% discount because we mentioned CruiseCritic* when reserving.

➤ 'Dopey1956', Aug/17/09: We are flying in from Philadelphia to Orlando. We have 4 adults and will have to get a bigger car. Anyway, car rental with **AAA** will be at least \$70.00 for us to get **Country Inn & Suites**. Since we are coming in to Orlando at 5:10 PM, we will have to pay for 2 days because by the time we return the car they will be closed to return it till the next morning before we get on the cruise ship. Bummer. So if we get **Cocoa Beach Shuttle** to pick us up at the airport and take us to the hotel it will be \$75.00 for 4 adults total. I will sure remember to say *I heard it on CC to get a 10% discount*. Thank you for that tip. I think we will be doing this so we don't have to drive ourselves and let somebody else do the driving for us.