

July/August 2005

# U.S. Concedes To Demands

Just as we predicted in our April issue of Florida Homes And Travel, U.S. Congress has effectively granted another year's extension to the October 26<sup>th</sup> 2005 deadline for visa waiver countries to issue new passports containing biometric data. The announcement on June 15<sup>th</sup> came slightly earlier than we had anticipated given the strength of opposition to granting an extension, however this shows how the Government has listened to the tourism industry which has been expressing grave concerns of the potential impact on tourism were this matter not settled in a timely fashion. Unlike last year's blanket extension granted in May 2004, this year's postponement is slightly different. According to James Sensenbrenner, chairman of the House Judiciary committee, the law can be interpreted in a way that concedes many visa waiver countries are meeting the standard. The original standard set by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) in 2002 was for a digital photograph, rather than the current requirement for biometric information in a smart chip. Sensenbrenner has indicated that he was happy with that original requirement and has blamed the ICAO for demanding new standards and blasted Europe for choosing "an elaborate and expensive path" in meeting those standards. So the new date comes with a clause, that countries wishing to continue using the VWP, must issue passports containing digital photographs. This will apply to all passports, not just new ones issued after a certain date. New passports issued in Britain and Ireland of course already comply with this requirement, however those of France and Italy do not. Countries must also show an acceptable plan to begin issuing biometric passports within the year. Countries will have to submit their biometric or ePassports as they are becoming known, by September 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 to ensure validation by October 26<sup>th</sup> 2006. As we reported before, passports with digital photographs issued before October 26<sup>th</sup> 2005 will be grandfathered in until expired. If one's passport expires between November 2005 and October 2006 it may well be worth replacing it now before any deadlines take effect. However, a report in the Sunday Times has indicated that the U.S. may back down entirely on the demand for biometric data under growing concerns about reliability of machines to decode the information and civil liberty issues, both at home and internationally. Indeed, Ireland is so sure that this will happen that it has shelved its plans to include the information on passports.

## Early 2005 Shows Good Results

Estimates of the number of visitors to Florida in the first quarter of the year show promising signs of growth. The total number of visitors is 23.8 million, an increase of 11.5% over the first quarter of 2004. International visitors make up 4.7% of that number excluding Canada, down by 0.3% from last year. Of the 19,449,000 domestic visitors just less than half, 48.2% arrived by car or cruise ship, showing that the drive in market is just as important as the fly-in. Hotels, resorts and attractions right across Florida are continuing to report a strong start to the summer; South Florida in particular is very pleased with visitor numbers. Areas hit by hurricanes last year are also surprised to find that tourists are returning in strong numbers. One theme park analyst reports that the new ticketing policy at Walt Disney World by which daily rates become cheaper the longer one stays are encouraging domestic visitors to stay from

3 to 5 days instead of 2 to 3 days. Informal discussions with subscribers suggest that enquiries are thin on the ground for September, but the rest of the summer is no different to usual. Orlando International Airport was the busiest in the state during the first quarter with 4,352,997 enplanements, followed by; Miami, 4,034,785; Fort Lauderdale, 3,172,225; Tampa, 2,470,930 and Fort Myers 1,220,543.

Other Stories in This Issue	Page
Summer Holidays	2
Weather Watch	2
Car Rental News	2
State Digest & Regional Roundup	3
Homes	4
Gardens	5
Insurance	5
The Fun Has Now Begun	6



# Florida Homes and Travel

## July & August 2005

### Summer Holidays

Welcome to the summer double issue, we hope you have a wonderful summer wherever you are! We have had a fairly quiet “news” month, but we will continue to post important news as it happens on [www.floridahomesandtravel.com](http://www.floridahomesandtravel.com) to help you keep in touch. We will be back in September with our **BRAND NEW LOOK** Property Management Survey! There will be an enlightening article on Capital Gains Tax and how it affects you. In the coming issues we will look further at suitable trees and plants for your low maintenance, drought tolerant garden, and we will examine the issue of games rooms – “to have or to have not” and– how to have a games room!

### Weather Watch

June was a busy month weather wise in Florida. Hot on the heels of a 12-day sales tax holiday for hurricane preparation, came Tropical Storm Arlene, the first of the season. She brought with her huge downpours over Southern Florida before making landfall just west of Pensacola where there were power cuts and further rains. In fact South Florida was still under flood watch on the 20<sup>th</sup> June, with meteorologists reporting 19 days of rain in June. But the rest of Florida has not been spared. June was declared as the third wettest June on Record with nearly 14 inches of rain recorded at Orlando International Airport. The wettest June was in 1968 with 18.28 inches, then 1974 with 15.28 inches. But since 1999 – 4<sup>th</sup> with 13.84 inches there have been 3 of the top five wettest Junes’ with 2002 coming 5<sup>th</sup> with 13.70 inches. Is this a sign of global warming? As we go to press tropical storm Bret is gathering off the coast of Mexico. If any storms threaten Florida we will post regular updates on our Hurricane Watch page.

### Car Rental News

We are delighted to bring you new cars from Hertz. Immediately available are Hertz Neverlost, cars with state of the art Satellite Navigation Systems fitted. A Chevrolet Classic 4 door is available from £220 a week. Available from August 1<sup>st</sup> are highly prestigious vehicles such as Jaguars and Lincoln Navigators for that touch of class on your vacation. Also, brand new to USave is a Chevy Silverado 6 seater. This is a double cab pick up with a locked lid in the back. This could be ideal for those needing to purchase and transport larger items for the house. The Chevy is available from £130 a week. We have an exclusive special offer through Dollar for the autumn whereby you can book an Intermediate 4 door car for the same price as a compact 4 door - £129 per week all-inclusive - valid for travel from September 1<sup>st</sup> to December 15<sup>th</sup>. Should you ever need a car for Russia – well Dollar have opened their first location in Moscow, with St Petersburg (the original) to follow in 2006!

### Go Orlando Card

There is another new ticket in town, the Go Orlando Card. For one price, Go Orlando Card gives visitors unlimited FREE admission to over 50 Florida attractions—over 35 in Orlando, 15 in Miami and more than 10 others in Central Florida. The Go Orlando Card also offers extensive value and savings at shops, restaurants, and on specially selected tours, and includes a full-colour pocket guidebook to the area. The Go Orlando Card comes in 2, 3 or 5, or 7-day increments. The card is valid for *any* 2, 3, 5 or 7 days within a 14-day period beginning the first time you use it. Special offers may be redeemed at any time during the 14 days. Some of the attractions included in the ticket are Ripley’s Believe it or not! Wonderworks; Titanic — the Experience; Fun Spot Action Park; dolphin and snorkelling Cruises; Mini Golf; Go Cart rides; museums and airboat rides. The ticket is available for purchase from [www.goorlandocard.com](http://www.goorlandocard.com).

### Tight Fit?

If you like to shop when you visit Florida then Jeans may well be on your shopping list. Top brands have historically been cheaper there. But with so many cuts and styles these days, where do you start when looking for a new pair (or three). Intellifit can help. Looking rather like a state of the art glass lift, the fully dressed shopper can enter a chamber where a large vertical wand passes around the body, bouncing out radio waves, (of a far lower power than a mobile phone) and taking readings of the body. After a 10 second scan the Intellifit records all the vital measurements and produces a list of likely styles and sizes. Look out for the Intellifit at a mall near you, where it may be in the main walkway, with shops stocks and sizes preloaded and not just for Jeans!

### Fort Myers Climate Data - August 1948-2000

(All in degrees Fahrenheit)

The average high temp is	91.4°
The average low temp is	74.5°
The highest temp (on August 4 <sup>th</sup> 1942)	100°
The coldest night temp (on August 24 <sup>th</sup> 1957)	65°

### Exchange Rates \$ to £

June 08(high)	1.8363	June 13 (low)	1.8010
2005 High Mar 8	1.9284	2005 Low June 13	1.8010
2004 High Dec 20	1.9457	2004 Low May 11	1.7552

### Mortgage Rates

With zero points	April 27	May 27	Jun 29
Fixed 30 yrs	5.87%	5.75%	5.75%
Adjustable 1 yr	4.25%	4.25%	4.25%

Note: Mortgage rates are published as a service to readers to indicate trends and must not be relied on in entering into any agreement.



# Florida Homes and Travel

## July & August 2005

### State Digest

**Passengers on a Monarch** flight from Belfast to Sanford Airport were greeted with a security scare after Belfast Police received a vaguely worded bomb threat. The threat, described by police as “generic” referred only to a plane from Florida. As the Monarch flight was the only flight from Northern Ireland to Florida on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June, Police informed Sanford Airport of the possible threat. Passengers were disembarked away from the terminal, and luggage was unloaded on to the tarmac. After the plane and luggage had been checked by sniffer dogs and found to be clean, the 380 passengers were reunited with their luggage and allowed to leave the airport after about 3 hours.

**A fourteen-year-old** girl tourist was fatally wounded by a shark attack off the Panhandle coast on June 25<sup>th</sup>. She had been swimming on a boogie board about 100 meters offshore when the 8ft bull shark attacked. Pulled from the water by a surfer, the girl was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital. Just 3 days later a 16 year-old boy, was also attacked, 80 miles along the coast from Saturday’s incident as he fished in waist deep water. The boy needed his leg amputating following the attack in which his brother had fought off the shark.

**Planet Hollywood** has found itself with a lien of \$343,824 for lack of payment of \$52,414 in back states sales tax, penalties and interest.

**State plans** to embrace hydrogen fuelled vehicles will result in BP constructing a special refuelling station near Orlando International Airport on Boggy Creek Road which will utilise solar power to generate hydrogen fuel.

### Regional Roundup

**SeaWorld Orlando** has filed plans with the Orange County planning board for a new 58 acre park on the east side of International Drive. The Spartan plans show 5 attraction areas, 3 commercial areas and a 7,500-person capacity. Rumours are that the park will be a water park to rival Wet n’ Wild. SeaWorld are keeping mum, saying only that all will be revealed in a large autumn announcement, but the plans received a setback when the planning board pronounced the outline too sketchy and compiled a list of specifics that need clarifying.

**The 2006 Annual Bassmaster Classic** will be held on Lake Toho near Kissimmee from February 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>.

**The first 5** months of attendance at Cypress Gardens has exceeded all estimates, superseding the initial annual goal. Owner Ken Buescher is now projecting that the park will have received over 1.5 million visitors by November rather than the predicted 750,000. A new water slide attraction opens in July.

**A Tampa** Pizza deliveryman displayed dedication above and beyond when he was shot by a masked man demanding money as he made the first of 4 deliveries. Nursing a wound to his leg he continued to his next delivery before calling his boss, and then made 3 more deliveries before driving to hospital.

**Red Tide** closed several beaches from Siesta Key to Johns Pass during the third week in June as dead fish washed up on the beaches and reports were made of respiratory irritation.

**South Florida Water Management District** has sprayed Hydrilla weeds in Lake Cypress and Lake Kissimmee to try and free up waterways. The weed clogs propellers.

**The Silver Spurs Arena** has received the “Facilities and Event Management” magazine’s Prime Site Award which recognizes top entertainment venues in the U.S. and Canada. The award comes during the first year of opening.

**Polk County** will see most of I 4 open into 6 lanes during July as widening works are finally completed.

**Southwest Airlines** has announced service to Fort Myers commencing October 2005. This brings to six the number of airports in Florida served by Southwest.

**Marathon** played host to an unwanted guest on June 22<sup>nd</sup> when a tornado touched down over the Key. Classified only as a F-0, with 70 mile an hour winds the path was around 60 feet wide and 1,200 feet long causing damage to some trees and a car.

**African Honeybees** are spreading through the Tampa bay area and moving inland. The bees have been destroyed at ports for nearly 20 years, but it looks as though some of the highly aggressive bees have made Florida their home.

### Average Daily Hotel Room Rate

Area	May	June
International Drive	\$109.83	\$90.42
Lake Buena Vista	\$121.40	\$102.48
Kissimmee East	\$78.75	\$71.13
Kissimmee West	\$52.59	\$54.36

### Florida Lottery Winning Numbers

Date	Numbers	Winners	Jackpot \$m
06/18/05	01-05-18-20-22-47	2	\$6 m
06/15/05	02-20-22-30-31-51	Roll	\$3 m
06/11/05	02-07-09-12-20-23	1	\$6 m
06/08/05	17-21-22-40-43-45	Roll	\$3 m
06/04/05	09-11-16-22-44-52	1	\$12 m
06/01/05	18-19-21-34-36-49	Roll	\$9 m
05/28/05	07-18-23-25-31-32	Roll	\$6 m
05/25/05	13-32-33-34-47-49	Roll	\$3 m
05/21/05	02-16-17-18-20-29	2	\$6 m

Numbers are obtained from the Florida Lottery ([www.flalottery.com](http://www.flalottery.com)) as a service to readers. We cannot accept liability for any errors.



# Florida Homes and Travel

## July & August 2005

### Homes

**Kissimmee Utility Authority** has launched an interactive, voice responsive telephone service for customers wishing to pay their Utility bill by phone, available 24 hours a day. Customers can check account balances, update account information or pay their bill by credit card. KUA customers will be paying about 5% more on their utility bills from this month as the Utility attempts to make up a short fall of \$2 million from hurricane repair expenses not covered by the State and FEMA.

**First National Bank of Polk County** will be united with CenterState Bank of Florida in January 2006. Both banks are subsidiaries of CenterState Banks of Florida Inc, and the combined bank will be known as CenterState Bank with headquarters in Winter Haven.

**The Tourist Development Council** of Collier County have backed a plan for an increase in tourist tax from 3 cents to 4 cents in the dollar. The Collier County Commission will vote on the matter on July 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Pinellas County Tourism Development Council** is also pushing for an extra cent on the county tourist tax raising it from 4 cents to 5 cents in the dollar. There will be a public enquiry before a final vote as yet undated.

**Progress Energy** has received approval from the Public Service Commission for over \$231 million in rate increases, \$21 million less than had been sought. This will amount to an average surcharge of \$3.23 per month for 6 to 9 months. The surcharge is to pay for repairs carried out during last year hurricanes.

**According to figures released** by the Government Office of National Statistics 256,600 Britons bought a second home abroad last year. Of these, only 6% bought in the U.S. – a mere 15,396!

**City Utility** customers in Vero Beach face an increase of 3% on their bills effective July 1<sup>st</sup> to reflect the increasing cost of natural gas.

**The former Adam’s Mark Hotel** of Clearwater beach, which has been closed since last October, will now most likely be a condohotel development. After suffering extensive hurricane damage, it had been planned as a Radisson hotel, and then the owners sold the site to developers who planned to convert to exclusively condos. Now the plans have been modified to allow for 113 luxury condos and 78 hotel rooms.

**Also planning a change** to Condohotel is the Key Colony Bay Motel, formerly the Ramada Inn in Marathon. Between now and the end of the year the building will be razed to the ground and 72 new 2 bedroom condo hotel units will be constructed. The new development will be called Key Colony Bay Resort with the units individually owned.

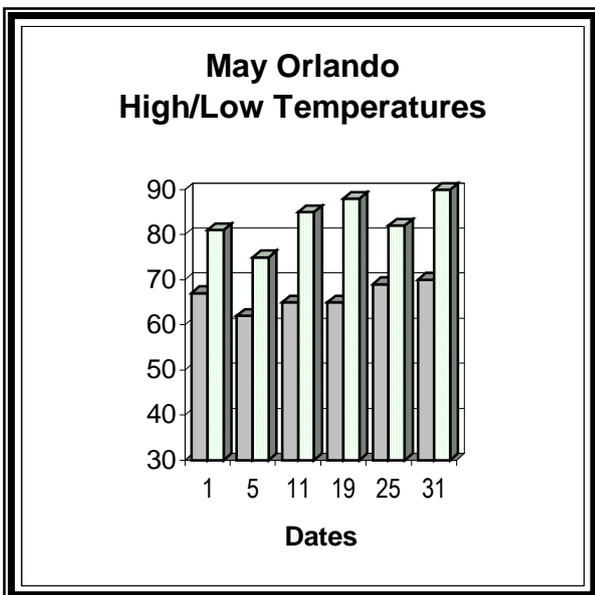
**SunTrust Bank** is undergoing its largest local expansion to date in Palm Beach County where 4 new branches will open before the end of the year and 6 new branches are planned for next year. The four locations for this year are: - Lake Worth Road and U.S.441; Okeechobee Boulevard and U.S.441; Lantana and I 95 and finally at Mirasol in Palm Beach County.

**Despite the nearly constant rain** in South Florida last month, Lee County still passed an ordinance restricting landscape irrigation to 2 days a week from the existing 3 days.

**Polk County** joined 22 other counties in Florida this year when it sold off the county’s tax debts by Internet auction à la Ebay. Rather than attracting the usual 125 or so local participants, bidders came from 37 different states. Last year only 4 counties tried the new style auction, it is now anticipated that as many as 40 may take part next year. Tax certificate investors expect delinquent tax account holders to pay the back taxes plus interest within two years. If that does not happen, the certificate investor can assume all the outstanding real estate property taxes due on the property and apply for a tax deed. The property can then be sold at auction where the investor recoups some or all of the return on their investment.

**A report** by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement shows that while crime in Osceola has increased by 7.1% crime in Kissimmee has decreased by 11.5% from 2003 to 2004. Once population growth is factored in the city’s crime rate fell by 16.4%.

**Should the worst happen** and another hurricane hit Florida this summer, expect to see FEMA agents armed with digital cameras. This is for conclusive proof that damage occurred and that payments of relief are legitimate. FEMA encountered considerable criticism last year after doling out \$40 million in aid to residents in and around Miami, which was not hit by a hurricane.





# Florida Homes and Travel

## July & August 2005

### Gardens

We are often asked about suitable plants for Florida's climate, particularly given that most owners will not be in residence for the majority of the year. The most suitable plants for Florida's climate are native, and drought tolerant. With a bit of research and careful planning it is possible to create a low maintenance drought tolerant garden, which will enhance your house and your pleasure when in residence.

Bulbs are an ideal choice, and planted during your summer or autumn vacation will be ready to welcome you back in the spring.

The warm and humid climate lends itself best to tropical bulbs such as caladiums, Amazon lilies, clivia and blood lilies, or gladiolus.

**Rain Lilies** live up to their name, popping up as the rainy season starts at the end of May with cheerful bright pink flowers that last for several weeks. Yellow and white flower varieties flower a bit later in the summer. When the flowers are not present the foliage is grass like, making attractive ground cover for beds and borders. Plant 4-6 inches apart, 2 inches deep in full-sun to light shade. Drought tolerant and semi dormant during the drier months. If around feed monthly between June and August.

**The Amazon lily** produces pure white flowers reminiscent of a daffodil just in time for Christmas which last until March. The leaves are deep-green hosta shapes, ideal for shady areas. They need the shade to prevent leaf burn, plant 10 -12 inches apart with the tips level with the soil. They like to be moist spring to fall and then watered by seasonal rains during winter. If possible feed occasionally during the spring.

**Caladiums** add colourful foliage and look great with a bed of ferns in a shady area. Coming in a variety of colourful leaves with patterns of red, pink, white and green, they can also tolerate full sun, but the foliage does decline as the plants go dormant in the autumn. Shoots come up from tubers planted 12 to 14 inches apart and 2 to 3 inches into the ground. Keep soil moist during warmer months and just rainwater during the cooler months. If possible a light feed in March, June and August.

**Ginger lilies** are dramatic plants ideal for planting near an irrigation system. The name covers a collection of lilies that includes the butterfly lily, hidden lily and pinecone gingers. The flowers can be colourful white, yellow, red or orange on top of 2 foot high upright stems, which can grow to as much as 6 foot high from March to November. Gingers like a moist soil and weekly watering. Plant the rhizomes in full sun to lightly shaded spots, 12 to 14 inches apart. Feed lightly when around from March to October.

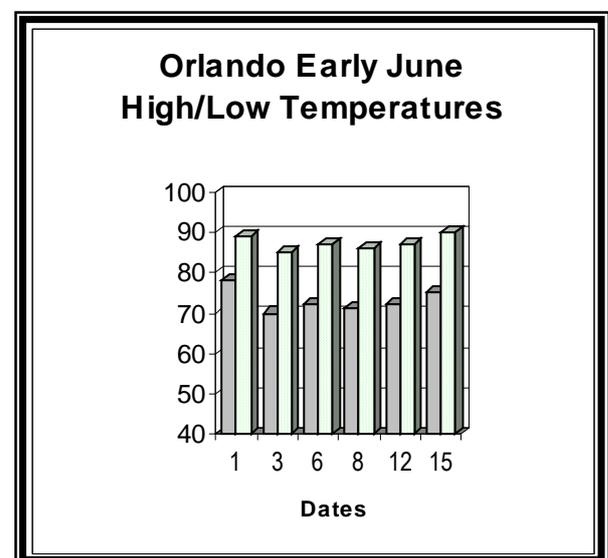
### Insurance

Governor Bush has signed into law a requirement for Homeowner insurance policies to be written in plain English. Allstate Insurance has attracted the ire of Tom Gallagher who launched a blistering public attack on their circumvention of the law following an announcement that premiums would rise by an average of 30% on August 15<sup>th</sup>. This disregards a new law that requires public hearings for rate hike requests exceeding 15%. This is also before the state insurance officials will have completed their regulatory review, which takes 2 -3 months. If the hike is refused, Allstate will have to refund the difference in the premiums to all customers. Homeowners in Manatee and Sarasota counties also face a 40% increase in premiums after Cincinnati Indemnity Co. and Cincinnati Insurance Co. filed a rate increase request. The companies claim it is a matter of simple arithmetic, for every \$1 received, \$2.7 is paid out in claims and that must be rebalanced. However homeowners are somewhat surprised as they escaped a direct hit in last years hurricanes, and have not seen a major storm for years.

### Top 10 Bank Holding Companies - 2005

2005 Rank	Name	Total Florida Deposits.
1	Bank of America	\$53,184,796
2	Wachovia	\$45,741,467
3	SunTrust Bank Florida Inc	\$30,716,027
4	South Trust Alabama Inc	\$9,794,918
5	AmSouth Bancorporation	\$7,618,434
6	Colonial Bancgroup	\$5,012,399
7	Union Planters Holding	\$4,314,249
8	Ocean Bankshares Inc	\$3,877,821
9	Northern Trust of Florida Corp	\$3,674,850
10	Branch Banking and Trust Co.	\$3,451,210

Source - Florida Trend





# Florida Homes and Travel

## July & August 2005

### The Fun Has Now Begun!

High-octane energy to rev-up thrill-seekers ... Royal frills to stir princess dreams ... A breath-taking flight for anyone who's ever wanted to soar like an eagle ... A hair-raising ride for folks who really want to make a splash.

With those new adventures -- and more -- Walt Disney World Resort has launched into the midst of the "Happiest Celebration on Earth."

For 18 months beginning in May 2005, the Florida Vacation Kingdom is premiering attractions and entertainment spectaculars as part of a globe-spanning commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the first Disney theme park -- Disneyland in California. It's the first time all the Disney theme parks around the world -- currently 10, with an 11th on the way -- have joined together for one celebration that promises to be the largest in theme park history.

At Walt Disney World Resort, the fun includes gifts from Disney parks around the world in the form of "E-ticket" attractions and shows that have thrilled millions of guests on three continents:

At Disney-MGM Studios, "Lights, Motors, Action! Extreme Stunt Show" spotlights the high-octane best of the movie industry's stunt masters. Inspired by the blockbuster show from Disneyland Resort Paris, this action extravaganza sends cars, motorcycles and watercraft careening and jumping across an enormous Mediterranean village set.

At Magic Kingdom, guests can enjoy "Cinderellabration," an enchanting musical spectacular direct from Tokyo Disneyland. Performed beneath the glittering spires of Cinderella Castle -- adorned for the anniversary with a swirling overlay of golden decorations -- the live stage show enacts the coronation of Cinderella. This royal event is attended by a coterie of Disney's most-beloved princesses.

At Epcot, guests can take flight aboard Soarin', an exhilarating hang-gliding journey over the magnificent landscapes of California. Appropriately enough, this incredible aerial tour of the Golden State comes to Epcot from Disney's California Adventure in Anaheim.

That's just for starters. There's also screaming, get-wet fun at Disney's Typhoon Lagoon water park, a sneak peek at the newest Disney theme park project nearing completion an ocean away, pre-hysterical hoots for summer 2005 at Disney's Animal Kingdom -- and yet another proverbial "E-ticket" ride rising on the horizon of the park, slated for opening in 2006:

At Disney's Typhoon Lagoon, "flash flooding" takes on a whole new meaning for Walt Disney World guests when they experience Crush 'n' Gusher, a new white-knuckle "water coaster." Guests are whisked away on inflatable rafts to experience the up-and-down sensations of a roller coaster -- made possible by some of today's latest water ride innovations. Powerful water jets propel guests through cavernous twists and turns, eventually spitting them out into the tranquil waters of Hideaway Bay.

At Disney's Animal Kingdom, Lucky the Dinosaur moves from the R&D labs of Walt Disney Imagineering to the streets of DinoLand U.S.A. This first-ever free-roaming Audio-Animatronics will meet and greet guests during a limited engagement (through July).

Later in the celebration, Walt Disney World Resort will present a new adventure of its own with the opening of the towering Expedition Everest thrill ride in the Asia area of Disney's Animal Kingdom. The legend of the yeti comes to life in a dramatic high-speed train adventure that combines coaster-style thrills with the excitement of a close encounter with the abominable snowman among the icy peaks of the world's highest mountain.

The far horizon for Disney parks worldwide is the coming of Hong Kong Disneyland. Epcot guests can visit the Hong Kong Disneyland Preview Center located in the China pavilion. Guests pass among showcases filled with plans and photos, costumes and models, maps and artwork of the newest Disney theme park, which opens Sept. 12, 2005.

The "Happiest Celebration on Earth" also heralds the return of a Disney theme park classic attraction to Walt Disney World Resort, plus new food, fun ... and more:

One of the most beloved attractions at Magic Kingdom, "it's a small world," has reopened following nearly a year of renovation and refreshment that promises to make it better than new. Guests will discover fresh, vibrant colors, detailed new costumes, and an enhanced audio system and soundtrack that combine to give the attraction a new richness. In addition to the renovation work, the celebrated "clockwork" art from famed Disney artist Mary Blair that dons the facade of the Disneyland attraction has been added to the Walt Disney World attraction's main inner queue area along with other fanciful, three-dimensional set pieces.

Little guests who just can't get enough "Cinderellabration" from the new live spectacular that is performed at Cinderella Castle can dress the part and





# Florida Homes and Travel

## July & August 2005

dine like a princess, too. The popular Disney character dining at Cinderella's Royal Table in Magic Kingdom expands June 10 with the debut of A Fairytale Lunch at Cinderella's Royal Table. The lunch will offer a family-style salad and dessert along with a choice of entrees and children's favourites and non-alcoholic beverages. And little girls can dress up like their favourite princesses in Cinderellabration-inspired gowns on sale at all four Walt Disney World theme parks and Downtown Disney.

During the 18-month "Happiest Celebration on Earth," guests can treat themselves to dozens of special desserts -- such as a chocolate slipper filled with rich chocolate mousse and served on a pillow of angel food cake with fresh fruit compote served at Cinderella's Royal Table in Magic Kingdom. The dessert is inspired by "Cinderellabration," the glittering new Magic Kingdom stage show.

Pal Mickey, an interactive Mickey Mouse toy that shares entertaining information in the four theme parks, is now in the form of a "Happiest Celebration on Earth" edition. Nattily dressed in a removable tuxedo jacket, the 10½-inch plush doll is updated with new fun facts about attractions, shows, character greetings, sing-a-longs and games. Other new merchandise for the celebration includes a gold Mickey ear hat, trading pins, a collector coin set, and a commemorative set of Disney Dollars.

July 4 guests at Disney-MGM Studios and Magic Kingdom will be treated to performances of fireworks shows that are part of the parks' heritage but rarely seen in recent times at Walt Disney World Resort:

Sorcery in the Sky, a dazzling fireworks show and symphonic serenade, celebrates the magic of motion pictures at 9 p.m. at Disney-MGM Studios. The spectacular was the park's "good-night kiss" for years following its premier in 1990 -- until the Disney entertainment wizards crafted "Fantasmic!" which has been captivating guests most nights since 1998.

Fantasy in the Sky, familiar to generations of Magic Kingdom visitors who "oohed" and "ahhed" its bursts of color above Cinderella Castle for more than a quarter century beginning in 1975, will be presented at 9 p.m. in a special edition that includes extra dazzling pyrotechnics. "Wishes" fireworks spectacular replaced Fantasy in the Sky in 2003.

Meanwhile, Epcot's night time spectacular, IllumiNations, will be presented at 10 p.m.

Walt Disney World theme park hours on July 4: Magic Kingdom (9 a.m.-12:30 a.m.), Disney-MGM Studios (9

a.m.-10 p.m.), Epcot (9 a.m.-10 p.m.) and Disney's Animal Kingdom (9 a.m.-6 p.m.).

More information about the "Happiest Celebration on Earth" and vacations at Walt Disney World Resort is available at [disneyworld.com](http://disneyworld.com), by calling 407/W-DISNEY, or by visiting local travel agents.

### Did You Know?

- Walt Disney World's 263 buses travel approximately 18 million miles a year.
- 15 million Gallons of water are used every day.
- Over 50 million soft drinks sold every year.
- Every year, 10 million hamburgers, 7 million hot dogs, 9 million lbs of French fries and 300,000 lbs of popcorn are sold.
- WDW has the largest wardrobe in the world with 1.5 million operational garments.
- A stack of all the buttons used by the costume department in one year would be 96 times higher than Cinderella's castle.
- In a year WDW uses: -
- 194,871 miles of toilet tissue
- 24,409 miles of paper towels.
- 319,353lbs of chocolate.
- 2.9 million lbs of eggs.
- 1.2 million lbs of watermelon.
- 1.5 million soft pretzels.
- 639,000 lbs of macaroni and cheese.
- \$1.7 million worms are fed to the animals at Animal Kingdom annually.
- 214,000 bandages were given to guests in 2004.
- 18,322,000 lbs of paper products were recycled during 2004.
- 3.8 million ballpoint pens are ordered annually.
- 337,000 pencils are ordered annually.
- There are 2,000 acres of turf, mowed 3 times a week, making 450,000 mower miles or 18 trips around the moon.



# Car Hire From Florida Homes And Travel



	Fully Inclusive Weekly £	Fully Inclusive Daily £
Economy 2 Door	116	24
Compact 2 Door	122	26
Intermediate 2 Door	129	30
Full Size 2 Door	146	35
Premium 4 Door	182	38
Luxury 4 Door	194	40
Convertible 2 Door	194	40
Luxury 7 Seater	179	40
4 Wheel Drive	194	44
Minivan 8 Seater	209	45
Chevy Silverado 6 Seats	130	30

These rates are subject to change, 4 door models are available – please call for prices

**Dollar Platinum rate for just £9 p/w extra, Alamo Gold rate for just £13 p/w**

**Valid for reservations up to and including 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006**

**Book your car secure in the knowledge that we are Bonded Agents**

**Last Minute? – No Problem! Under 25's? – No Problem!**

**We can provide Dollar, Alamo, U Save & Hertz Cars**

**We can quote for car hire anywhere in the world**

**Please call 0500 50 50 87 for details or email [elle@floridahomesandtravel.com](mailto:elle@floridahomesandtravel.com)**

We accept Visa, MasterCard, Switch/Maestro and Solo



**Copyright 2005 Florida Homes and Travel. Reproduction prohibited without written permission.**

Published since 1989. Available only by annual subscription.

Please give us four weeks notice of a change of address to ensure your copies are correctly addressed. If you plan to winter in Florida your copies can be forwarded to your Florida address if you advise us in advance of your travel and return dates.

The subscription reference on your mailing label comprises the first three letters of your surname, our reference number for your last subscription payment, and the month and year that your current subscription expires.

If possible please quote this in any correspondence or e-mails.

**Internet e-mail: [elle@floridahomesandtravel.com](mailto:elle@floridahomesandtravel.com) . Web site: [www.floridahomesandtravel.com](http://www.floridahomesandtravel.com)**

*No postage stamp required if posted in Great Britain, Channel Islands or N. Ireland.*

Florida Homes & Travel, FREEPOST SCE 15595, LIPHOOK, GU30 7BR UK

Tel: 0500 505087.Or: 01428 741438 To Phone from the US: 01144 1428 741438

