

industry with hopes of attracting more businesses, new residents and visitors.

THEME PARKS GALORE

Contrary to popular belief, Disney World was not the first tourist attraction in the Orlando area. Bok Towers (1927), Cypress Gardens (1936), and Gatorland (1949) were well-established before the mouse came along. Unequivocally, Roy Disney's construction of Disney World in 1972 made Orlando a world famous city. Soon after, the tourism industry boomed and many other attractions followed, such as Circus World in 1974 and Wet-n-Wild in 1977. Today, there is a plethora of theme parks to visit such as Universal Studios Resorts, which include City Walk, Islands of Adventure, and Volcano Bay, Disney World, Epcot, Disney's Hollywood Studios, Animal Kingdom, Blizzard Beach, Typhoon Lagoon, Gatorland, SeaWorld, Aquatica, Discovery Cove and Legoland. Today, Orlando boasts of 75 million visitors a year.

WHAT'S CLOSE TO THE CONFERENCE?

APCO 2020 will be held at the Orange County Convention Center. It is ideally located off International Drive (I-Drive) with plenty to do during conference downtime.

SHOPPING

Orlando International Premium Outlets at the dead-end of International Drive is a perfect way to enjoy a couple of hours of free time with plenty of shopping and restaurants in the open-air mall. Prefer an indoor mall? The Mall at Millenia and The Florida Mall are also a short distance away from the convention center with a ton of restaurants inside the mall and across the parking lots.

ENTERTAINMENT

Pointe Orlando, a 10-minute walk from the convention center, not only has a few shops to browse but also has multiple restaurants, a comedy club and a movie theater. There

Fun Fact

Did you know that Disney World is not located in the city of Orlando? In 1967, the Florida

Legislature in conjunction with the Walt Disney Company created a special tax district called Reedy Creek Improvement District (RCID). Reedy Creek has the same authority and responsibility as a county government. Although RCID does have the Reedy Creek Fire Department and security, it uses the Orange County Sheriff for law enforcement responses. The only theme park located within the city of Orlando is Universal Studios Resort. All other Central Florida them parks are in either Orange or Osceola counties.



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