



Kissimmee

Date of publishing: 6/22/2012



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About

Introduction

- Introduction

The city of **Kissimmee** is situated in **Florida, United States**. It is the county seat of **Osceola County** and has a population of approximately **50,000** inhabitants. Kissimmee is located just ten miles from **Orlando** and is known as the '**Gateway to the Walt Disney World**'. The city was founded in the mid-nineteenth century and incorporated in 1883. Traditionally, the economy was supported by animal husbandry. However, the opening of the nearby **Walt Disney World**

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as a significant component. The region is characterised by a **subtropical climate**, with warm, humid summers and regular thunderstorms. Winters are mild and sunny, with pleasant days and cool evenings.

Attractions

Travel Guide

- Travel Guide

The quaint, little town of Kissimmee greets its visitors with an endearing and delightful charm. The rustic brick-lined streets and cobbled alleyways impart an old-town feel to the place. It is an enjoyable experience to stroll down the streets, browse through the shops, interact with the locals and collect memorabilia and antiques. **Medieval Times in Kissimmee** is the replica of an eleventh-century European castle, replete with traditionally attired staff, knights competing in battles and equestrian drills. **Osceola Centre for Arts** promotes artistic expression and features a theatre and an art gallery. **Jungleland** and **World of Orchids** showcase the most exotic flora and fauna to interest nature enthusiasts. **Green Meadows Petting Farm** provides the visitors with an insight into farm life. Other attractions in the city include **Splendid China** and **Bok Tower Gardens**.

Landmarks and Historic sites

- Best Places

Whilst in **Kissimmee**, tourist can plan itineraries to see some of the best places in the world. He can opt for group itineraries, and enjoy his journey with family and friends. For this, he can take the help of suggested itineraries and know ideas about adventure and events. The professional itinerary service provider can help him know his group itineraries. Such suggested guidelines can be of assistance to him to get accustomed to the city's transportation and timings of specific destinations like parks and museums. Whether on a day trip or for two weeks trip, the tourist can get to see the historic buildings and know the historic background of such sites too. On group tours, it is helpful for the tourist as the places are visited with specific attention to all needs of the tourists and their requirements. On the tour, the tourist can get to eat at restaurants with best customer service.

- Osceola County Courthouse



Known as the **oldest working courthouse in Florida**, the **Osceola County Courthouse** was built in the late 1880s, with a grand opening ceremony in 1890. With striking red bricks and Romanesque-style architecture, it is three stories high and within walking distance of **Kissimmee's**



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Downtown area and Lake Tohopekaliga. Later known as a busy courthouse bustling with day-to-day activity, a fence was built around the premises when wandering livestock would make its way in the building over 100 years ago. The courthouse now serves as the south/central boundary of the **Central Florida** greater metropolitan area. Even though Osceola County has built a more modern courthouse, the older one still stands today. The third floor of the original courthouse is still used for courtroom purposes. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Tours of both the old and new courthouses are available upon request.

- The Bataan Corregidor Memorial



Created by **Kissimmee's** Filipino-American community along with Osceola County officials, the **Bataan Corregidor Memorial** is a tribute to the American and Filipino servicemen who died during World War II, mostly at Bataan and Corregidor in the Philippines, as well as those of civilian men and women whose heroism was notable. Situated in **Lakefront Park** on the corner of Lakeshore Drive and Monument Avenue in Kissimmee, the memorial is directly across from **Lake Tohopekaliga**

and the Lake Shore area, where visitors can take a stroll or bike ride down the path and to the playground area. Downtown Kissimmee is also close by and offers shopping and restaurant choices. Additionally, tourists can check out the nearby Osceola County Library as well as other monuments in the area. The landmark is open daily and admission is free. For more information, call (407) 846-6131.

- American Legion Home

The **American Legion Home in Kissimmee** is one of Osceola County's most important buildings. Also known as the Makinson-Carson Post 10, this historic building is named after two hometown heroes from Kissimmee who fought in World War II. A monument dedicated to the two servicemen – Billie Makinson and Nat Carson – stands in front of the building. The landmark is located on the north side of Lakeshore Boulevard, between Ruby and Monument Avenues in Kissimmee, and is within walking distance to the area's Lake Tohopekaliga area and **Downtown Kissimmee**. Other landmarks, such as the Bataan Corregidor Memorial, the Employees Monument and the Monument of States are also within walking distance. It's open free to the public everyday from sun up to sun down. For more information, call (407) 847-4193.

- War Veterans Monument

When you think **Kissimmee**, your first thought might be **Mickey's** neighbor, but there's more to this tourist town than just **alligators and Disney outlet stores**. The Downtown and Lakeshore area have a rich history of landmarks and historical monuments, including the **War Veterans Monument**. Located at the west corner of Lakeshore Boulevard and Monument Avenue in Kissimmee, the War Veterans Monument is a large obelisk created to pay tribute to the veterans of World War I, World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars. Situated among Kissimmee's many other monuments,



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it's a great visit for tourists looking for a relaxing break from **Orlando's theme park mania**. Other notable points of interest include Kissimmee's Monument of States and the American Legion Home. The monument is open daily and admission is free to the public.

Parking is generally **plentiful and free**, as well.

- The Monument of States



The **Monument of States** is one of **Kissimmee's** most interesting attractions with a bit of history behind it. In 1942, local businessman Dr. Charles Bressler-Pettis was looking to unite his fellow citizens of **Kissimmee** with a symbol of American unity in the midst of World War II. Bressler-Pettis wrote to every governor at the time (as well as President Franklin D. Roosevelt) to send him local rocks. One year passed by, and the Doctor received rocks of all different forms from the original 48 states, which he mortared into a 50-foot tall pyramid, thus creating the Monument of States. After sixty years of some of Central Florida's heat and humidity, the monument began to deteriorate in form, local employees gave it a much-needed facelift with a new flag and fresh coat of paint in 2001. Located **near Lakefront Park**, on the corner of Jonhston Street and East Monument Avenue,

admission is free of charge. For more information, call (407) 847-2821.

Museums

- Osceola Center for the Arts

The mission of **Oscela Center for the Arts** is to cultivate, promote and foster interest to participate in the arts. The museum has facilities which can encourage artistic expression at the minds of the visitors. This museum also provides classes for all age groups and presentations on each of the arts which are displayed at the museum.

- Air Museum



Located in the heart of Florida, the Kissimmee Air museum boasts attractions that include vintage aircrafts that date from World War II and the Vietnam War as well as an outdoor showroom. Florida's rich aviation heritage is on display at the museum, which includes aircraft displays, educational exhibits and aircraft restoration and training flights in World War II-era trainers.



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Visitors can interact with the planes, pilots and projects and participate in an authentic front cockpit experience. After having closed its doors in 2004 due to Hurricane Charley, the Kissimmee Air Museum reopened to the public in 2007. The museum is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Closed Sundays from July through October and Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Years Day and is located about 30 minutes from Orlando International Airport. For information, call 407-870-7366.

- The Veteran Tribute and Museum



For those looking for a little history lesson on the military, **Kissimmee** has the right place for you. Located in the **Osceola Square Mall** in Kissimmee, the **Veteran's Tribute and Museum** is a free exhibit for those looking to get a historical glimpse of the country's military heritage. The exhibit is home to hundreds of genuine artifacts, military relics, photographs and accounts by former soldiers. **Run by a group of veterans**, spouses and friends of veterans from all services, the good folks who volunteer at the museum do so to preserve military history and pay tribute to the nation's arm forces while educating the public. Located inside the shopping mall, the museum is **two miles west of John Yong Parkway and Kissimmee's Highway 192**. The exhibit is

open to the public Monday through Friday from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm (some Mondays are available as well, but call ahead of time). For more information or for volunteer opportunities, call (407) 931-3133.

- Osceola County Historical Society Pioneer Museum



By far one of the most interesting attractions that **Kissimmee** has to offer, the **Pioneer Village and Museum** features late 19th century structures and attractions that teleport visitors back during a time when Kissimmee was known as a sleepy, cattle town before Mickey moved in next door. Tourists will have an opportunity to visit the historic **Ross Lanier House** (built in 1889), as well as a one-room schoolhouse and a Citrus Packing House. Visitors will also be able to check out the day-to-day routine of a Florida Caracker Cow Man at the Cow Camp and browse the different exhibits and the museum, Tress Newsstand and Tyson General Store from 1887. The museum is also open to researchers who can browse genealogical records and historical maps and archives. Families looking to take a quiet break from the hustle and bustle of the theme parks in **Orlando**, can do so with a picnic on the ground's Orange Grove. The best part of the museum is admission is free. To schedule a tour appointment, call 407-396-8644.



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- Old Town

Old Town can be referred to as a fantastic entertainment destination adjoining Kissimmee. One would find everything over here; right from shopping to rides. These rides include kiddies' rides and family rides. This thing remains open for whole of the year. Every Sunday witnesses 'Family Day'. Saturday Night Cruise enjoys the pride of being the biggest weekly 'car cruise' all over the US. There are around 300 'classic cars' found at this place. Collection of antiques dating back to the year 1974 started in the year 1990. Cruise nights are, in actual sense, events which would be enjoyed by everyone; right from those aged 6 to the ones aged 96. On every Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday night, live bands go on to perform.

- Lakeshore Boulevard Area

Situated on **Kissimmee's** Lake Tohopekaliga, the **Lakeshore Boulevard** area has received a **facelift in recent years**, which includes a renovated bike path and extended playground area. An old favorite for local residents, the quiet neighborhood runs along Lakeshore Boulevard to the traffic-heavy Neptune Road and is great for those looking to **fish, bike, walk, or enjoy a picnic under the warm Floridian sun**. The area also boasts many of **Kissimmee's most important monuments**, with the city's courthouse just around the corner from Lake Toho. Historic Downtown Kissimmee is also within walking distance and is home to a new, renovated shopping district with stores and restaurants options. Additionally, **air boat rides** and **fishing charters** are available for tourists. Scenic/eco and nature tours are also on the list of things-to-do. For information, contact Kissimmee Outdoor Adventures at 1-800-247-1309.

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- Osceola Library

Osceola Library happens to offer variety of books based on any given subject. One can avail of this facility by getting a library card issued for oneself. Free cards have been made available to the ones aged sixteen and above. Those who own property in Osceola County can also apply for this library card. The validity consists of 1 year. One just needs to bring address proof regarding stay in Osceola County and photo ID.

Getting Around

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- Kissimmee Gateway Airport

Kissimmee Gateway Airport was formerly known as **Kissimmee Municipal Airport**. This airport is a public airport situated in **Kissimmee** and is owned and operated by the City of Kissimmee. It is spread over 892 acres of land and has two asphalt paved runways. It got opened in 1940. This airport accommodates general aviation air service of 24 hours a day and is 5,000 and 6,000 feet.

Things To Do

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- Scenic and Nature Tours

A 90 minute **Scenic & Eco Tours** in a 24 foot tri-toon **boat**, (the Quite Ride) narrated about the **Kissimmee chain of lakes**, plants, birds and other wildlife. **See the Real Florida** cruising up **Shingle creek** surrounded by cypress trees, palm trees and other tropical trees and plants. The wildlife you may see are gators, otters, osprey, eagles, owls, blue Herron, snowy egrets, rosette spoonbills, Snail kites, Swallow tail kites, and many



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other tropical birds. Prices: \$25 per Adult, \$15 for children 6 to 12 Years and children 5 and under are free. Discounts are \$3 for Adult and \$1 Children. We also offer **Fishing Charters**, (Florida fishing license provided at no charge) **Private Charters, Island Trips, and Gator Tours**. Scenic Tours times are 10am, 12pm, 2pm, 4pm weekdays and 9am, 11am, 1pm, 3pm on weekends. Call for reservation. For more information **call Captain Rick** at 800-244-9105 phones are open from 8am to 8pm daily.

- Boat tour on Lake Toho

There are scenic tours on **Lake Toho** at the **Big Toho Marina**. These are narrated tours for almost 90 minutes and on a 24 foot pontoon boat. On such boat, 13 passengers are taken on a tour on Lake Toho. Lake Toho is originally known as **Lake Tohopekaliga** and the boat is almost 30 foot covered pontoon boat. This boat is specially designed to accommodate six to more passengers who can comfortably view wildlife, fishing and enjoy their tour.

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- Kissimmee Oaks Golf Club

Kissimmee Oaks Golf Club offers its visitors a beautiful and natural golf experience. One can get to play 18 championship holes which are amidst the huge 100 year old oaks which are the signature of the course. There are also sloping fairways and crystal lakes at this golf course. There is also a comfortable Clubhouse which is the perfect place to start and finish a game of golf.

- Bonanza Golf & Gifts

The **Bonanza Golf and Gifts** are a miniature golf and gift shop which has two 18 hole championship miniature golf courses. This course is set in an old west mine theme. One advantage of the course club is availability of 2-18 hole courses, ice cream and snacks, flowing waterfalls having 21,000 gallons of water a minute and mini golf too.

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- Bob Makinson Aquatic Center

The amenities offered at the **Bob Makinson Aquatic Center** are two diving boards, waterslides, sand volleyball, lockers, children's play ground and also life jackets which are available. This center opened in 1995 and has received the makeover of addition of underwater fantasy mural which is painted along the walls. It operates year round as a training center for competitive swimmers and programs which teach every person of any age how to swim.

- Clarion Resort Water Park

The **Clarion Resort Water Park** is a unique resort in **Kissimmee** for families to relax and have fun. There is provision of many attractions like the water park which has comedy shows and such on site amenities. A guest can enjoy the sunshine at one of the two pools and State Of The Art Water Park. Moreover, one can ride into the river and escape to the spa. This is a



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perfect location to celebrate birthdays.

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- Capone's Dinner and Show

Capone's Dinner and Show is a fun place to enjoy and the food served is also good. There are also a great buffet choices for the visitors.

- Budget Night

To have a good time on a budget for a **Friday Night** with your mates the must is in real **Kissimmee-style!** There are plenty of dinner shows going on in town, like the **Arabian Nights Dinner Attraction** or the Medieval Times Dinner and Entertainment! This one is in 4510, West Irlo Bronson Memorial Highway. Also close to this spot is the club **Big Bamboo Lounge**: a cool place with a great atmosphere! As for clubbing, dancing the night through, well, check out the **Salsa Latina Night Club**; there's free entrance and free drinks for girls till 11 pm! Also great music, of all type. As for bars a good one for food as well and not so pricey in **Kissimmee** is the **Mulligan's Irish Pub**, located at the Water Tower Plaza on Highway 192; they offer drink specials every night, 10 beers on tap and karaoke, open mic and Texas Hold'em poker nights! Food choice, Irish of course, and English specials.

- Bar Hopping

Kissimmee's nightlife might not rival that of Downtown Disney or CityWalk in Orlando, but it does have its charms for those looking for an authentic, local night out in the heart of Central Florida. Mostly lined up on **Kissimmee's 192**, there's a good selection of local bars, British pubs and restaurants for those looking to kick back and enjoy a good pint of beer. For Europeans wanting a little taste of home, **Rover's Return Pub** is a traditional Irish pub that features video games and a large screen television for fans wanting to catch international soccer games. The

Official All Star Café is another sports themed restaurant and entertainment extravaganza that pays tribute to athletes and features memorabilia from some of sport history's finest moments. Additionally, **Hurricane Sam's Bar and Grill** is a great place to relax with pool tables and **Movie Rider** is a state-of-the-art motion theater where guests can enjoy a fantastic trip through some of your favorite movies. But that's only if you've made it this far in your Kissimmee bar-hopping experience!!

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- July Fourth Celebration

The **July fourth celebration** is known as the most popular events in **Kissimmee**. This is a family event which offers numerous stage entertainment, food festival, karaoke, water ski shows and such amazing shows. July Fourth Celebration is a local tradition and features games, entertainment, activities and some spectacular fireworks. There are also food and music, which are the centerpiece of the celebration.

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- Osceola Square Mall

Although not the premier **Kissimmee** shopping destination that it used to be many years ago, it still houses many **popular brand-name** stores such as **The Gap**, Bath and Body Works and Sephora. Still, many local shoppers and tourists are flocking to The Loop across town, which boasts larger shopping department stores such as TJ Maxx, Babies R Us and J C Penney along with eateries such as Macaroni Grill, Panera Bread and Johnny Rockets. The **Osceola Square Mall** has less to offer compared to its rival premium outlet malls in nearby Orlando and even less in its food court, with only about three eateries open to shoppers. The mall sees very little activity during the weekends and almost none during the weekdays. Unless your hotel is in close proximity, out-of-town tourists should skip this one



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and take their **wallets and vacation dollars elsewhere.**

- The Gold Hut

One of West **Kissimmee's** delights, **Old Town** has long been a wonderful tourist attraction that allows visitors to step in and step out of reality by being teleported to a time when life was much simpler and the town's General Store was where all the family's shopping was once done. Known for its rides, attractions, and great shopping, Old Town is **home to The Gold Hut**, a great one-stop fashion accessories store for costume jewelry, hair goods and fashion handbags. Situated on Old Town's main shopping street, the Gold Hut carries some of the most fashionable handbags available in Kissimmee at affordable prices along with **costume jewelry starting at \$1.** Shoppers will not be disappointed. The Gold Hut at Old Town is located **2 miles from Walt Disney World** and one mile east of Interstate 4 on the 192 in Kissimmee. Admission and parking are free year round and is open from 10:00am to 11:00pm. For more information, call 407-397-9995.

- The Loop

The Loop is amongst the best shopping centers in Kissimmee. It contains loads of stores and restaurants. Some of the stores include Embarq, Famous footwear, Hair Masters, Journeys, Justice, Kay Jewelers, Kirkland's, Kohl's Lee Spa Nails, etc. restaurants include Panera Bread, Wendy's red Brick pizza, Shane's Rib Shack, Macaroni Grill, Johnny Rockets, etc.

Restaurants

Restaurant Days Inn - West Maingate

7980 West Irlo Bronson Memoria

Restaurant Blimpie Subs &

Salads

3200 South John Young Parkway

Restaurant Club Freedom Restaurant

8600 West Irlo Bronson Memoria

Restaurant Lake Marion Clubhouse Convenience Store

687 Lake Marion Golf Resort

Restaurant Beef O Bradys

8687 West Irlo Bronson Memoria

Restaurant Churchills

8687 West Irlo Bronson Memoria

Restaurant Cracker Barrel Old Country Store

5400 West Irlo Bronson Memoria

Restaurant Olde Cuba Restaurant

2215 E Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy

Restaurant Garibaldi Restaurante Mexicano

1804 West Vine Street

Restaurant International House of Pancakes

2095 East Irlo Bronson Memoria

Restaurant Golden Corral

7702 West Irlo Bronson Memoria

Restaurant All Star Vacation Homes-Port Charlotte

26 North Bermuda Avenue

Restaurant Coconut Willy's

4944 West



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Irlo Bronson Memoria

Restaurant Chick-Fil-A of Celebration

6050 West Irlo Bronson Memoria

Restaurant Capone's Dinner & Show

4740 West Irlo Bronson Memoria

Restaurant Condotels of the Magic World

3186 South John Young Parkway

Restaurant Brother's NY Style Pizza

3501 West Vine Street Suite 119

Restaurant Amerisuites Lake Buena Vista

4991 Calypso Cay Way

Restaurant China Wok

1320 North John Young Parkway

Restaurant Baskin-Robbins-31 Flavors & Yogurt

1354 East Vine Street