



AAA Travel's
2012 Vacation Sale October 12-23
All locations

Book your 2012 vacation at 2011 prices!

SAVE up to \$100* on already-reduced cruises and tours plus:

- ▶ FREE upgrades
- ▶ FREE onboard credits
- ▶ Airline Service Fees Waived**
- ▶ & much more!

AAA Travel Store BONUS OFFER:
▶ SAVE 20% on all name-brand luggage

Special Event: Staten Island Travel Expo
Thu. Oct. 13, 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
Vanderbilt at South Beach,
300 Father Capodanno Blvd., Staten Island

Admission is free, but reservations are recommended

To RSVP, Call 888-780-8552 or
Email TravelShowRSVP@aaany.com



Book your next vacation with AAA Travel
Call 800/652-8329 Click AAA.com/Sale
Visit a branch office

*Valid on new cruise or vacation package bookings of \$3,000 or more made at AAA New York with AAA preferred cruise or tour operators. Other savings available. Sale ends 10/23/2011. Coupon code V51011. Other restrictions may apply. **Airline service fees will be waived for all airline tickets purchased in conjunction with the vacation package or cruise.



**HEY! HO!
LEGO!**

Take a peek inside Orlando's hottest new theme park

By JASON COCHRAN

It isn't very often that a theme park opens in Orlando. The last one was 13 years ago, with 1999's Islands of Adventure at Universal. It just so happens that when Legoland Florida opens on Saturday, it will not only be the newest Florida park, but also the oldest.

That's because it's on the grounds of the theme park that put Central Florida mass tourism on the map: 1936's Cypress Gardens.

The new iteration of that beloved park is a godsend for parents who crave high-quality family fun with none of the competitiveness and quasi-military tactical planning that a day at Walt Disney World demands.

The old Cypress Gardens

park, a lakeside idyll of Spanish moss and century-old banyan trees, was stripped of its dated antebellum references but still evokes Old Florida botanicals in a grandma-approved area. Meanwhile, the pyramids of athletic maidens, who once water skied in pyramid formation here, have been replaced by ski jumping, socket-headed "Minifigures" that look like Lego's iconic plastic people.

Legoland now operates five parks worldwide, and the experience shows in bold primary colors, whimsical flourishes (giant photo-op figures constructed from you-know-what), and fun foods such as "Granny's Apple Fries," dusted with sugar and cinnamon and served with whipped cream dipping sauce.

The core of the 150-acre lakeside park, and one that had kids

literally squealing with awe, is "Miniland," in which Lego artists have constructed sprawling, mechanized versions of American landmarks. New York City, which took eight builders 1,731 hours to make, has been done right, down to hippies on the lawn in Central Park and a 21-foot Empire State Building.

There's an assortment of unique rides, too, such as Aqua Wave Racers (twist your boat's rudder to catch the water and spin outward), the Royal Joust (a Coney Island Steeplechase affair), and a Ford-sponsored, rail-free auto course that teaches kids how to obey stops signs and traffic lights.

The ripply expanse of Lake Eloise (look out for gnats) typifies this part of Florida. There are still signs warning of alligators, which dwell in the waters. Cypress Gardens bequeathed Legoland with plenty of mature shade trees, a nice departure from new Florida development.

The distance from Disney's Epcot to Winter Haven, the home of Legoland, is 35 miles, as far as Hollywood is from Disneyland — and that distance never deterred people in California. But breaking out of the Walt Disney World's gravitational pull will be hard for tourists whom the Mouse tempts into vacationing without cars.

Mindful of that obstacle, Legoland has set up \$10, 45-minute shuttle service from Orlando Premium Outlets, on Disney's doorstep. In its first days, Legoland's parking struggled to cope with the influx of self-driven visitors at opening time, but the park quickly absorbed them.

The trip is worth it. No other theme park around Orlando — and there are nine now — caters as completely to kids aged 2 to 12, and none of its rides, not even the ones that imitate grown-up adrenaline thrills such as the floorless Flying School coaster, is too intense for the kids.

Tickets \$65 adults, \$55 children 3-12; florida.legoland.com.

**SCARY, SCARY
Halloween in Orlando**
Turn page (if you dare!)

■ UPPER CLASS All-biz flyer **Open Skies** is offering flights from Newark to Paris for \$699 each way based on round-trip purchase when you book by Oct. 25 and travel Nov. 1-Dec. 15 and Jan. 5-Feb. 25 (flyopenskies.com).

■ GET SOME COLOR Looking to see some leaves this weekend? We say hit the **Adirondacks**, particularly the stunningly beautiful High Peaks area, which includes Lake Placid. There, you have the not-bad-at-all Courtyard by Marriott and Crowne

Plaza hotels showing rates of under \$200 for Friday and Saturday. Stay up on what's peaking where with the color maps posted each week on the handy Web site, foliagenetwork.com.

■ LEAVE IT TO CHANCE Leon Logothesis takes budget travel to another level. In his wry and hopeful new book, **"Amazing Adventures of a Nobody,"** he reveals how he traveled from New York to Los Angeles on just \$5 a day, "relying on the kindness of strangers" and the mercy of lowlifes (pre-order for \$11.94 at amazon.com).

**NEWS
+
NOTES**

EXPERT ADVICE **CRUISE.COM** **LOWEST PRICE**
LOWEST CRUISE PRICES GUARANTEED!

Norwegian Cruise Line **Exclusive Deals** **NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE**
Receive up to \$900 Onboard Credit on select sailings

Enjoy Suite Amenities to Enhance your cruise experience

- Priority embarkation and disembarkation with personal escort to suite
- Exclusive Butler/Concierge Service, 24-hour room service & special suite menu
- Invitations to VIP breakfast & luncheons at Cagney's Restaurant + cocktail parties
- Flat-screen TV with DVD player, mini bar & coffee maker. Private Sundeck
- Luxury bedding from the Bliss Collection, fine linens with special pillow menu

7-Nts Suites start as low as **\$1299***

<p>7-Day Bermuda Cruise Sailing round-trip from New York</p> <p>Ocean View \$ 449* Balcony \$ 659* Fr. 399* Pp. 659*</p>	<p>7-Day Bahamas Cruise Sailing round-trip from New York</p> <p>Ocean View \$ 449* Balcony \$ 659* Fr. 399* Pp. 659*</p>
<p>10-Day Mediterranean Sailing round-trip from Rome</p> <p>Ocean View \$ 549* Balcony \$ 849* Fr. 499* Pp. 849*</p>	<p>7-Day Alaska Cruise Sailing Seattle to Vancouver</p> <p>Ocean View \$ 719* Balcony \$ 1199* Fr. 559* Pp. 1199*</p>
<p>10-Day Caribbean Cruise Sailing round-trip from New York</p> <p>Ocean View \$ 799* Balcony \$ 1179* Fr. 699* Pp. 1179*</p>	<p>7-Day Hawaiian Islands Sailing round-trip Honolulu</p> <p>Ocean View \$ 1029* Balcony \$ 1329* Fr. 929* Pp. 1329*</p>

800-284-7180

*Prices are pp/dbl. Cruise only on select sailings. Certain restrictions apply. Gov't taxes and fees are additional. Prices include NCF's. Prices are quoted in US dollars. All itineraries and prices are current at time of printing and are subject to change without notice. All exclusive deals are per cabin on select sailings. Ships' Registry: The Bahamas and Panama. CST #2015595-50