



Ricky Martin meets his double at Madame Tussauds

BEYOND ORLANDO'S THEME PARKS

CHECK OUT THESE THREE NEW ATTRACTIONS

By Sandra Chambers

Take flight high above Orlando; dive deep into three oceans; or take a selfie with famous stars. Merlin Entertainments, the second largest attraction operator in the world, is bringing three of its best-known attractions to Orlando: The Orlando Eye, Madame Tussauds and SEA LIFE Aquarium.

THE ORLANDO EYE

Similar to London's iconic landmark, this 400-foot-tall observation wheel is the largest on the East Coast. From atop, riders have views of Orlando attractions, the downtown area and, on a clear day, even the coast and Kennedy Space Center. With 30 air-conditioned, enclosed capsules holding 15 people each, guests will experience the 20-minute ride in total comfort. Pre-flight experiences, including a 3D film and in-theater effects with fireworks, wind, scents and lighting, enhance the fun for the entire family. Special events such as Champaign Flights and private capsules are also available. officialorlandoeye.com

MADAME TUSSAUDS

Millions of people have flocked through the doors of Madame Tussauds since the exhibit first opened 200 years ago in London. Today, Madame Tussauds has more than 2000 wax figures worldwide in 15 different outlets. Each figure takes approximately four to five months to create and costs about \$300,000 (U.S.). Orlando's 25,000-square-foot attraction features several themed rooms including A-List Party, History & Leaders, Sports and Music and will be home to Dan Marino, Ricky Martin, Michael Jackson, Selena Gomez, Taylor Swift, Brad Smith, Katy Perry and many more celebrities. There are no museum-style barriers guarding the exhibits so guests can get up close, touch, take photos and interact with the figures. You can even make

your own wax hand cast to create a 3D mold as a souvenir! madametussauds.com.

SEA LIFE AQUARIUM

At this 25,000-square-foot-indoor attraction, guests will experience an immersive journey into the oceans of the world with themed habitats representing the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans as well Florida's freshwater lakes and ponds and the Everglades. Floor to ceiling displays, bubble aquariums and a 360-degree underwater ocean tunnel feature more than 5,000 ocean creatures. In addition, SEA LIFE's focus is on conservation with a three-pronged approach to Breed, Rescue and Protect. Educational talks and feedings, interactive touch pools and a kid's soft play area make this a fun family outing. visitsealife.com



The Orlando Eye is the tallest observation wheel on the East Coast



Rendering of SEA LIFE Aquarium's 360-degree underwater tunnel

Photos courtesy of Merlin Entertainments