



## PLAYdates

Brave the Florida sunshine to explore a terrain of consumer excess; embark on a voyage to a past that never existed; feast upon the exotic tastes of manufactured experience... Dare to be playfully analytical in Orlando.

The 2013 ATHE Conference Committee has selected a band of adventurous members to participate in a series of facilitated excursions to local destinations in our host city of Orlando. Adventurers will leave the safety (and air-conditioning) of the conference hotel to visit five selected sites along with a facilitator and two tour guides/discussion leaders. Excursion groups will participate in three stages of activity:

- ✿ Stage 1, Study: Individuals will examine pre-excursion reading materials selected by the discussion leaders, two respected scholars whose research brings insight to the excursion site.
- ✿ Stage 2, Play: Individuals will travel to and experience the excursion site.
- ✿ Stage 3, Discuss: Individuals will reconvene at the hotel during a conference session to critique the site and analyze their experience in a roundtable discussion.

Participants in the PLAYdate excursions were selected through an application process, and the excursions themselves are now full. However, the post-excursion discussions are open to all and will take place at conference sessions on Friday, August 2 at 5:45 PM and Saturday, August 3 at 8:30 am, 2:15 pm, and 4:00 pm.

The five excursions are:

## Adventures in Fantastical Identity

Friday, August 2 12:00 PM – 3:30 PM: Excursion (*pre-registration required*)

Friday, August 2 5:45 PM – 7:30 PM: Discussion

*Regency 8, Ballroom Level*

**Tour Guides:** Jill Dolan, Princeton University, and John Fletcher, Louisiana State University

Enter a world where men and mice, women and warhogs, ducks in drag and princesses in petticoats become objects of desire, fantasy characters who both reinforce and exceed conventional notions of race, gender, and sexuality. Pack comfortable, gender-appropriate shoes, a recipe for mint juleps, and your worst impression of Scarlett O'Hara, y'all.

### Itinerary:

1. Downtown Disney Marketplace (World of Disney superstore, Bibbidi Bobbidi Boutique).
2. Sassagoula River Cruise dock
3. Port Orleans French Quarter (French Quarter Square lobby, Doubloon Lagoon pool, and Sassagoula Floatworks Factory for the optional but highly recommended beignets).
4. Port Orleans Riverside (Sassagoula Steamboat Lobby, Fulton's General Store, and the River Roost Lounge for an optional but highly recommended Bayou Bloody Mary).

## Adventures in Modern Globetrotting

Friday, August 2 12:00 PM – 3:30 PM: Excursion (*pre-registration required*)

Saturday, August 3 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM: Discussion  
*Poinciana D, Ballroom Level*

**Tour Guides:** Jennifer Brody, University of California Berkeley and Charlotte Canning, University of Texas, Austin

Get ready to explore luxury resorts via futuristic transport and experience the delight of world travel without the complications of...well, world travel. Pack comfortable, time-traveling shoes, a healthy sense of entitlement, and a love for pineapple.

### Itinerary:

1. The Grand Floridian Resort (Lobby/Atrium with shopping; Beachfront Pool with view of the Wedding Pavilion).
2. The Contemporary Resort (Lobby with view of Mary Blair tile mural; Glass wall with view of Magic Kingdom and Bay Lake Tower; Pool area on Bay Lake).
3. The Polynesian Resort (The Great Ceremonial House; Barefoot Pool Bar on Bay Lake; Captain Cook's for an optional but highly recommended Dole Whip).

## PLAYdates Continued

### Adventures in Post-Colonial Fantasy Worlds

Friday, August 2 4:00 PM – 8:30 PM: Excursion  
(pre-registration required)

Saturday, August 3 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM: Discussion  
*Regency 3, Ballroom Level*

**Tour Guides:** Jill Lane, New York University  
and Harvey Young, Northwestern University

Prepare to “go wild” at Walt Disney World’s Animal Kingdom, a theme park that conflates the diversity of the African and Asian continents into a delightful daytrip. Adventurers will take advantage of late entry fees for conference goers to brave the theme park experience in the Florida sun. Simulated safaris and rollercoasters through the Yeti-inhabited Andes Mountains excite and confuse while offering earnest messages of conservation alongside a healthy dose of fantasy. The authentic and inauthentic collide in a mixture of living animals and cartoon characters, international performers wearing bedazzled “ethnic” costumes, and tourists hoping to learn and escape at the same time. Bring sunblock, light clothing, comfortable shoes, a camera, a begrudging tolerance for humidity, and a pith helmet.

**Itinerary:**

1. Admission to Animal Kingdom theme park.
2. Kilimanjaro Safari
3. Other attractions and performances as determined by the group.

### Adventures in the American West

Friday, August 2 5:30 PM – 9:00 PM: Excursion  
(pre-registration required)

Saturday, August 3 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM: Discussion  
*Poinciana C, Ballroom Level*

**Tour Guides:** Stacy Wolf, Princeton University  
and Kirsten Pullen, Texas A&M University

Pull up your boot-straps and tuck a napkin in your shirt for the rootin’est, tootin’est, tackiest, and most over-priced Wild West dinner show in Orlando: The Hoop De Doo Revue. Pack a knee for slapping and clothing resistant to barbecue sauce.

**Itinerary:**

1. Ft. Wilderness’s Pioneer Hall, home to the Hoop De Doo Revue.
2. Optional perusal of the Settlement Trading Post for souvenirs and Ft. Wilderness beach on Bay Lake.

### Adventures in Brandscaping

Saturday, August 3 8:30 AM – 11:45 AM: Excursion  
(pre-registration required)

Saturday, August 3 2:15 PM – 3:45 PM: Discussion  
*Poinciana C, Ballroom Level*

**Tour Guides:** Marlis Schweitzer, York University  
and Susan Bennett, University of Calgary

Prepare for a fantastic experience at Walt Disney World’s outdoor shopping village, The Marketplace at Downtown Disney. In this brandscaping wonderland of magic and mice, narratives of capital and fantasy conflate into a colorful landscape where spectacular spending becomes spectacular entertainment. Pack comfortable shoes and your resistance to all things pink and cute.

**Itinerary:**

1. World of Disney superstore, with attention to themed rooms.
2. LEGO Imagination Center
3. Tren-D, or any other specialty souvenir shop.
4. The Classic Carousel
5. The Art of Disney, with attached Design-a-T shop
6. Optional, but highly recommended, Ghirardelli Soda Shop.

