



Waterpark Industry General & Fun Facts

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GENERAL STATS:

- **Number of waterparks in North America:** More than 1,000*

*These numbers comprise all waterpark facilities, including municipal/city-owned pools with waterpark features, as well as corporately owned waterparks, independently owned waterparks and indoor waterpark resorts/hotels.

- **Estimated attendance at North American waterparks during the Summer 2010 season:** about 79 million (includes United States, Canada and Mexico). On average the industry attendance total grows 3-5 percent each year. Since 2008, the industry has maintained 1-2 percent growth.

- **Estimated attendance at Top 20 worldwide waterparks in 2010:** about 22.2 million, up 7.3 percent from 2009. (These statistics compiled by TEA and AECOM for the 2010 Attendance Report. See the “Other Articles” section to view the whole report)

- **Number of waterparks throughout the rest of the world:** about 600

- **Average attendance growth per year (North America over last 5 years):** 1 to 3 percent

FUN FACTS:

(Note: The information that follows has been compiled from facts supplied to the WWA by outside sources. If discrepancies are noted, please contact the WWA).

- **First “official” waterpark created:** Wet ‘N Wild, Orlando, Fla., by **George Millay** (b.1929, d.2006) (creator and founder of Sea World); WWA officially proclaimed Millay as “Father of the Waterpark Industry” in 2004 and awarded him with the Association’s first-and only, to date-“Lifetime Achievement Award.”

- **First U.S. Indoor waterpark:** Polynesian Resort Hotel & Suites, Wisconsin Dells, Wis., 1994

- **First U.S. wave pool:** Point Mallard Park, Decatur, Ala., 1970

- **Longest indoor leisure river in the U.S.:** Zambezi River, Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells, Wis.
- **Tallest, fastest single-person, free-fall waterslide in the world:** 120-foot tall “Summit Plummet,” Blizzard Beach, Walt Disney World, Lake Buena Vista, Fla.
- **Tallest raft-ride waterslide:** 11-story-tall “Insane” at Beach Park, Fortaleza, Brazil
- **Largest outdoor wave pool in the U.S.:** Typhoon Lagoon, Orlando, Fla., at 500 feet wide by about 450 feet long, it is the largest in terms of bather capacity, annual visitors and water volume.
- **Largest outdoor wave pool in the world:** Siam Park, Bangkok, Thailand, at 13,600 square meters and 10,000 cubic meters.
- **Largest indoor waterpark in the United States under one roof:** Kalahari Resort, Sandusky, Ohio (173,000 square feet)
- **Largest indoor waterpark square footage at one resort in the United States:** Wilderness Hotel, Wisconsin Dells, Wis. (seven waterparks at one resort totaling 470,830 square feet).
- **Largest indoor waterpark in North America:** World Waterpark, West Edmonton, Alberta, Canada (5 acres and 2.7 million gallons of water)
- **Largest indoor waterpark in the world:** Tropical Islands, Brand, Germany (710,000 square feet)
- **Largest outdoor waterpark in the United States:** Noah’s Ark Waterpark, Wisconsin Dells, Wis. (90 acres)
- **“The Waterpark Capital of the World” (largest concentration of waterparks in one area):** Wisconsin Dells, Wis. (20 waterparks within 19.5 square miles, with more than 200 waterslides and 16 million gallons of water) *Source: Wisconsin Dells Visitor & Convention Bureau*
- **Fastest-growing segments of the waterpark industry in North America:** Municipally-owned/city-owned waterparks and indoor waterparks attached to hotels or resorts
- **Fastest-growing regions of the world:** Asia, Middle East, specifically the United Arab Emirates and South America.

POPULAR TOP-WATERPARK LISTS:

Best waterparks in U.S.

(according to The Travel Channel, 2006)

1. Schlitterbahn Waterpark, New Braunfels, Texas
2. Blizzard Beach at Walt Disney World, Lake Buena Vista, Fla.
3. Raging Waters, Sam Dimas, Calif.
4. Water Country U.S.A., Williamsburg, VA
5. Splish Splash, River Head, N.Y.
6. Knott's Soak City, Buena Park, Calif.
7. Water World (Hyland Hills), Federal Heights, Colo.
8. Six Flags White Water, Marietta, GA
9. Noah's Ark, Wisconsin Dells, Wis.

U.S. waterparks with the highest attendance*

(according to TEA/AECOM Attendance Report 2010)

1. Typhoon Lagoon (2,038,000), Walt Disney World, Orlando, Fla.
2. Blizzard Beach (1,872,000), Walt Disney World, Orlando, Fla.
3. Aquatica (1,500,000), Orlando, Fla.
4. Wet'n Wild (1,223,000), Orlando, Fla.
5. Schlitterbahn (882,000), New Braunfels, Texas
6. Water Country USA (784,000), Williamsburg, Va.
7. Noah's Ark (637,000), Wisconsin Dells, Wis.
8. Adventure Island (626,000), Tampa, Fla.
9. Hyland Hills Water World (545,000), Denver, Colo.
10. Schlitterbahn (530,000), Galveston, Texas
11. Splish-Splash (510,000), Riverhead, N.Y.
12. Six Flags-White Water (500,000), Marietta, Ga.**
12. Six Flags Hurricane Harbor (500,000), Arlington, Texas**
14. Raging Waters (466,000), San Dimas, Calif.
15. Six Flags Hurricane Harbor (450,000), Jackson, N.J.
16. Wet 'n' Wild Phoenix (425,000), Phoenix, Ariz.
17. Wet 'n Wild Emerald Point (410,000), Greensboro, N. C.
18. Dollywood's Splash Country (400,000), Pigeon Forge, Tenn.
19. Soak City Cedar Point (387,000), Sandusky, Ohio
20. Camelbeach (368,000), Tannersville, Penn.

**Indicates a tie.

Top waterparks in the World with the highest attendance*

(according to TEA/AECOM Attendance Report 2010)

1. Typhoon Lagoon (2,038,000), Walt Disney World, Orlando, Fla.
2. Blizzard Beach (1,872,000), Walt Disney World, Orlando, Fla.
3. Chimelong Water Park (1,800,000), Guangzhou, China
4. Caribbean Bay at Everland Resort (1,736,000), Gyeonggi-Do, Korea
5. Aquatica (1,500,000), Orlando, Fla.
6. Ocean World (1,375,000), Gangwon-Do, Korea
7. Wet'n Wild (1,223,000), Orlando, Fla.
8. Wet 'n Wild Water World (1,175,000), Gold Coast, Australia
9. Aquaventure at Atlantis The Palm (1,040,000), Dubai, U.A.E.
10. Sunway Lagoon (1,000,000), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
11. Summerland (925,000), Tokyo, Japan

12. Schlitterbahn (882,000), New Braunfels, Texas
13. Atlantis Water Adventure (850,000), Jakarta, Indonesia
14. Water Country USA (784,000), Williamsburg, Va.
15. Beach Park (739,000), Fortaleza, Brazil
16. Ocean Park Water Adventure (700,000), Jakarta, Indonesia
17. Wild Wadi (690,000), Dubai, U.A.E.
18. Noah's Ark (637,000), Wisconsin Dells, Wis
19. Adventure Island (626,000), Tampa, Fla.
20. Deoksan Spa Castle (583,000), Chungcheongnam-Do, Korea

This information has been compiled by the World Waterpark Association (WWA) from a variety of sources. Please credit WWA for its use unless otherwise indicated.