



ILLINOIS. MILE AFTER MAGNIFICENT MILE.

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MAKE A SPLASH THIS SUMMER AT AN ILLINOIS WATER PARK

Illinois offers family fun at indoor and outdoor water parks throughout the state

Beat the heat this summer with a trip to one of Illinois' more than 20 skin-drenching water parks. Over 70 million travelers¹ will hit the waves at a U.S. water park this year and Illinois has no shortage of wet and wild good times. Illinois water parks feature exciting and innovative attractions such as America's first motion and sound adventure water slide at Grizzly Jack's Grand Bear Lodge and Indoor Water Park in Utica and the world's largest interactive water playground at Six Flags Hurricane Harbor in Gurnee. Whether travelers prefer the exhilaration of a free-fall down a raging waterslide or a relaxing trip down a lazy river, they will find that Illinois water parks make a terrific summertime destination.

Outdoor Water Parks

Splash into a world of fun in the sun this Memorial Day weekend at the season opening of **Six Flags Hurricane Harbor**, a year-old Caribbean-themed water park in Gurnee. Island music and lush landscapes provide the backdrop to Hurricane Harbor's 25 water slides, which are complemented by erupting water geysers, waterfalls, beach areas, lazy hideaways and a 500,000-gallon wave pool. Daredevils can ride the ultimate storm this summer with a trip into the Tornado, Hurricane Harbor's new 60-foot-wide giant funnel slide. Visitors of all ages can also enjoy Skull Island, the world's largest interactive water playground, which features swinging bridges, climbing nets and eight twisting water slides. (Chicagoland)

For more information, contact Six Flags Hurricane Harbor (847-249-4636, www.sixflags.com).

Invigorating thrills await at **Splash Country Water Park** in Aurora, opening June 3. Water park beginners can splish-splash in the six-lane zero-depth pool or play in an enclosed kid-friendly area packed with spray guns, a waterfall and other interactive features. Visitors seeking adventure can take the plunge down one of Splash Country's thrilling water slides, then relax with a ride down a lazy river. Later, guests can play a round of volleyball on either of the park's two regulation sand volleyball courts. (Chicagoland)

For more information, contact Splash Country Water Park (630-906-7981, www.foxvalleyparkdistrict.org).

Rated "Chicagoland's Favorite Water Park Hot Spot" in 2003 by "190 North" viewers, **Cypress Cove Family Aquatic Park**, opening for the season June 9 in Woodridge, features more than eight acres of exciting water park attractions. Park guests can zip down one of Cypress Cove's

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¹ International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions

three whirling body slides or soak up the sun while floating along a 600-foot lazy river. The water park also features a tube slide, a diving pool and a drop slide that will give riders a thrill by shooting them into the water from four feet above. (Chicagoland)

For more information, contact Cypress Cove Family Aquatic Park (630-985-5620, www.woodridgeparks.org/cypresscove).

Take a ride into The Abyss, a new five-story water slide, at **Magic Waters Water Park** in Rockford. The water park, scheduled to open for the season May 27, also features SplashBLASTER, a two-person water slide that descends a dizzying 80 feet, and Breaker Beach, Illinois' largest wave pool, with 707,000 gallons of heated water. Children will also delight in the thrill of SPLASHmagic's Island Castaway Adventure, a 50-foot-tall, interactive water entertainment complex featuring activities for all ages including a 1,000-gallon water bucket that tips to send water splashing everywhere. (Northern)

For more information, contact Magic Waters Water Park (800-373-1679, www.magicwaterswaterpark.com).

Surf's up this summer at **Knights Action Park and Caribbean Water Adventure**, opening for the season May 15 in Springfield. Guests can ride six-foot waves in the 400,000-gallon wave pool or take a ride down Pirates Plunge, which offers slides for both the timid and the daring. Visitors can also make waves with Knights' Bumper Boats, giant motorized inner-tubes, that provide hours of fun. When guests need a break from the water and still want to have a great time, they can enjoy go-karts, mini-golf, batting cages, laser tag and a driving range. (Central)

For more information, contact Knights Action Park and Caribbean Water Adventure (217-546-8881, www.knightsactionpark.com).

Scheduled to open Memorial Day Weekend, **Raging Rivers Water Park**, located along the Great River Road in Grafton, keeps visitors cool when temperatures rise. This "splashtacular" park offers a giant wave pool, the lazy Endless River, a shark-shaped waterslide, and much more. Thrill-seekers can also slide down the Swirlpool, where riders zip down a tunnel flume, whirl swiftly in a giant vortex and finally drop into a deep pool of water. Itty Bitty Surf City, Raging Rivers' children's pool, provides pint-sized water slides, splash pools and a rain tree for youngsters. (Southwest)

For more information, contact Raging Rivers Water Park (618-786-2345, www.ragingrivers.com).

Indoor Water Parks

When the weather doesn't cooperate with outdoor plans, visitors to Illinois can still enjoy a fun-filled day at **The WaterWorks** in Schaumburg. Open year-round, this indoor water park features hours of fun for the whole family, including three exhilarating water slides, an exciting water playground and a rapid water channel. Serious swimmers can also enjoy lap swimming and daily water aerobics classes. (Chicagoland)

For more information, contact The WaterWorks (847-490-2505, www.parkfun.com).

Pelican Harbor Indoor and Outdoor Water Park offers options for both sun-worshippers and those looking for a respite in the shade. Located in Bolingbrook, this indoor water park gives water lovers a chance to get wet and wild on two water slides, offers an indoor lap pool and provides a zero-depth activity pool with gradual beach entry for easy access. The outdoor park, opening over

Memorial Day weekend, features dual enclosed water speed slides, a fun spray area, a calming lazy river, and a plunging drop slide. (Chicagoland)

For more information, contact Pelican Harbor Indoor and Outdoor Water Park (630-739-1705, www.bolingbrookparks.org).

Visitors to the Holiday Inn Elmhurst can now enjoy the brand-new **Mayan Adventure Indoor Water Park**. This Mayan-themed park features bright colors, primitive-looking sculptures and multiple rock formations, providing an exotic setting for an exciting water adventure. Attractions inside the park include two giant water slides, a soothing lazy river full of twists and turns, and a fun-filled children's area with a family activity pool and arcade. (Chicagoland)

For more information, contact Holiday Inn Elmhurst (630-279-1100, www.hielmhurst.com).

Families can hit the waves year-round at **Grizzly Jack's Grand Bear Lodge and Indoor Water Park**, Illinois' first indoor water park complex and resort. Located just outside Utica's Starved Rock State Park, Grizzly Jack's offers a 24,000-square-foot indoor aquatic center with a wave pool, a rock grotto waterfall, a tot pool, and a lazy river. Visitors to Grizzly Jack's can experience America's first motion and sound adventure water slide which lets riders select from a variety of journey experiences, including encounters with animals, aquatic life and balloons, during their 330-foot descent. New this June, families will be able to play in Grizzly Jack's new outdoor pool and whirlpool. Guests can also enjoy Grizzly Jack's Enchanted Forest, a new indoor amusement park with nine carnival-style rides, including a carousel, Tilt-A-Whirl and bumper cars, along with midway games and more. After a long day of fun, visitors can unwind in the comfort of Grand Bear Lodge, a three-story, 92-room lodge featuring rustic décor and distinctive accommodations. Travelers who prefer a true home-away-from-home experience can rent a vacation villa each equipped with a fully-appointed kitchen, laundry facility and DVD player. (Northern)

For more information, contact Grizzly Jack's Grand Bear Lodge and Indoor Water Park (866-399-3866, www.grandbearlodge.com).

The Illinois Bureau of Tourism offers free travel resources with additional information on 3-Day Getaways, festivals, events and attractions. All are available by calling **1-800-2-CONNECT** to speak with an Illinois travel counselor or by visiting the Bureau's Web site at **www.enjoyillinois.com**.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Media materials and downloadable images are available on the Illinois Bureau of Tourism online media center at **www.illinoismediacenter.com**. Additional photography may be obtained by contacting Julie Connolly at julie.connolly@edelman.com, 312-233-1246, or Emma Douglas at emma.douglas@edelman.com, 312-240-2730.

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