

Splish, Splash... Come On, Make a Dash... To Splash Lagoon!

by Annette M. Testa

What do the Black Hole, Shark Attack, Python Plunge, the Big Kahuna, Hurricane Hole, Cyclone, and Maui Wauai have in common? How about the Tiki Tree House, the Lazy River, Monkey Shines Island, and the Frog Pond? If you don't know ... perhaps your children do! Yes ... they are all names of the awesome slides and attractions at the year-round family fun center Splash Lagoon Indoor Water Park Resort, located on I-90 at Exit 24 (Peach Street) in Erie, PA.

Built nearly 5 years ago, the 6 ½-story Splash Lagoon features the latest and greatest rides in the water park industry today ... all in a complex that spans more than 100,000 square feet. In fact, Splash Lagoon was recently ranked as one of the 10 highest-grossing water park resorts across the nation according to Waterpark Resorts Today's Annual it Book 2007-2008. And why shouldn't they make the top 10 ... their facilities are just remarkable!

"We tried to include something for everyone when we built the water park and hotel complex," stated Nicholas C. Scott, President and CEO of Scott Enterprises. "Although it was more expensive to build than we had planned [they originally budgeted \$8 million and spent \$20 million], it was well worth the money." And the complex will soon be expanding for the second time since it opened only a few short years back.

With more than an acre of water park fun, the Splash Lagoon complex is also conveniently connected to three hotels via overhead walkways (the Residence Inn by Marriott, the Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites, and the Comfort Inn), this allows guests the luxury of accessing the waterpark from their hotel without having to go outside. Guests choosing to enjoy accommodations at hotels not directly connected can access the water park via the complimentary Splash Water Taxi.

But just what makes this water park so unique? When you drive up to the gateway of Splash Lagoon fun, you are immediately transported to a tropical Polynesian island paradise, complete with palm trees, tropical plants and flowers, and a large exotic birds display that are indicative of the tropics. And if the birds, bright flowers, and palm trees don't immediately warm your spirit, the balmy 89-degree constant temperature of the complex will! To add to the tropical mystic, the walls of Splash lagoon are adorned with beautiful one-of-a-kind hand-painted tropical murals. From 100-foot long beach and tropical island scenes to a looming 30-foot high ravenous shark, the murals are just spectacular!

And who could miss the 5-story million dollar Tiki Tree House, with 12 levels of activities, that sits at the center of the fun. Kids ... this was my favorite part ... the Tiki Tree House features the massive Tiki Tipping Bucket. What is that you ask? Well ... every 10 minutes or so a loud bell goes off, signaling the start of the "tip." People, young and old, come running from all over the water park to get to the "soak zone" to get drenched by the contents of the 1,000-gallon bucket. As an added thrill, the Tiki Tipping Bucket is the only one in the world that can tip backwards ... surprising those swirling in the Cyclone Bowl Ride ... one of the two indoor bowl rides that sit side by side at the water park. Oh, what a sight to see from the arcade and observation deck when that huge bucket tips! And for those ...

ahem... not in the proper balmy attire... the mist is quite soothing and cooling.

For the younger crowd, Monkey Shines Island, with its zero-depth entry pool and variety of kid-friendly slides and interactive water activities, will surely make the getaway for families with young ones more enjoyable. This area is also more secluded from the activities of the older kids, creating a sense of ease for the parents of little munchkins.

Did you say hot tubs? Yes ... there are three! One for the kids, one for adults, and one for the whole family in the Frog Pond! And who



could miss the Activities Pool with its lily pad hop, log roll, and basketball center. And if a lazy after noon is what you had in mind, why not take a ride along the Lazy River in one of the free inner tubes.

Hungry? The complex offers the Laguna Grill and the Island Oasis Lounge ... not to mention the Boston's Restaurant & Sports Bar, which is also connected to the water park complex by walkways. Want to host a fun meeting or have an unforgettable birthday party for your child? Splash Lagoon has party rooms for all to enjoy. Just pick the date!

Although the water is quite enjoyable at a constant 84 degrees, even frogs like to enjoy the land at times. When your fingers start to prune up, why not take to the 6,500-square-foot Treasure Island Family Arcade with its more than 110 state-of-the-art video games, shoot a Dance Heads music video using green screen technology, or shop the Surf Shop for specialty items and gifts. If your child is interested in art, why not take her over to the Children's Activity Room to work on their next masterpiece. Or perhaps your family would be up for a rousing game of Lazer tag at the complex's brand new Lazer Tag Area and Arcade that is adjacent to the water park? See there really is something for everyone!

So ... now you know the best place to go for family fun! Pack up the kids and head to Splash Lagoon. Just check in and check out the fun. For more information, reservations, or directions to the Splash Lagoon Indoor Water Park Resort, call 1-866-3-SPLASH or check them out on the web at www.splashlagoon.com.