

Splash Lagoon, Erie, Pa.

by *Danny Brown*



Nestled near Lake Erie in Erie, Pa., Splash Lagoon is more than just a hotel with a waterpark. It's four. Whether guests are staying at the Marriott, Holiday Inn or Comfort Inn, they can amble over from each brand-name resort into the 65,000-square-foot waterpark; or if they're staying at the Econo Lodge, they can take a free shuttle.

"The different hotels cater to different demographics," says Nicholas C. Scott, Splash Lagoon's CEO/president. "Most of the guests enjoy separate indoor pools in addition to this beautiful waterpark."

While each hotel offers its own brand-name aesthetic, when guests step into the main indoor waterpark, they're transported to the tropical island of Splash Lagoon. Lining the walls are decorative fish, walking the floors are fire dancers and magicians, and surrounding one of the whirlpools are sculptures of colorful frogs. Open to the public whenever the number of resort guests does not reach maximum occupancy, Splash Lagoon attracts approximately 250,000 visitors annually, according to Scott.

Splash Lagoon might have lots to look at, but there's even more to do in terms of water attractions. Boasting two bowl slides and a smorgasbord of 20 other rides and attractions, the facility has something for every family member. And, as Scott points out, that's the idea: "We added the waterpark to be a generator of room business for our hotels."

Since its opening in 2003, Splash Lagoon seems to have done its job. Growing demand has prompted several expansions, including the addition of a Lazer Tag facility, as well as current plans to add a wave pool.

Year opened: 2003
No. of waterparks: 1
Square footage: 65,000
Amenities: Lazer Tag, Surf Shop, arcade, cocktail lounge, sports bar, party room, sun deck, tree-house, arts and crafts

