



Waterparks and Pools at Indian Casinos - 2017

by Matthew S. Robinson

As Indian casinos have evolved into stand-alone destination resorts, many properties have added certain family-friendly features to their swimming pools, including slides, lazy rivers, splash pads, kiddie pools, and zero-depth pool entries. These pools tend to be free and only for hotel guests. The majority of pools at Indian casinos, family-friendly or otherwise, are unsupervised and require an adult be present, at least for children under certain ages. Accordingly, a pool with a water feature or two, accommodates families, but also requires adult supervision – resulting in only one of two parents on the gaming floor (half the average gaming spend per adult for the two adults).

At the same time, an appealing family-friendly pool can potentially increase the length of stay, resulting in additional expenditures on and off the gaming floor. Many Indian casinos with pools have separate hours for families, offering a dedicated time for adults only, in order to separate families from adults seeking a childless romantic get-away. Other pools at Indian casinos have developed more of a “Las Vegas” pool model for those 21 and over with live DJs, dancing and happy hour.

Several Indian casinos have full-scale waterparks with multiple

pools, water slides, tube slides, mini-water slides, wave pools and other water-based activities. Waterparks charge an entrance fee (\$10 to \$35), although may be included in the room rate. Most waterparks have lifeguards on duty, yet still require an adult to be present, at least for children under a certain age. Depending on the age of the children, one or both parents may be able to visit the gaming floor at the same time (up to the average gaming spend per adult for each adult). Such facilities are family attractions in their own right, which may also increase the length of stay. Some tribes have built their own waterpark facilities, while others have partnered with outside developers and operators.

Other pool-related revenue sources – at full-scale waterparks or stand-alone casino hotel pools – include pool-side food & beverage, swim-up bars and chair, aqua lounge and cabana rentals. Cabanas may include televisions, refrigerators, food & beverage service, fire pits, etc. Depending on the length of time (1/2 day vs. full day) and the day of the week, cabana rentals range anywhere from \$50 up to \$400 or more.

The following tables present a summary of Indian casinos with waterparks, waterpark-type and pool attractions.

CASINO RESORT FACILITIES AND AMENITIES

Waterpark/Pool Name - Casino	City, State	Gaming Positions	Hotels	Rooms	Meeting Space (s.f.)	Other Amenities	Waterpark/Pool Type/Size
BlueWater Atrium Pool & Waterslide Park - BlueWater Resort & Casino	Parker, AZ	619	1	200	10,000	G,RV,M,C	Indoor/Outdoor
The Pool at Tachi Palace - Tachi Palace Hotel & Casino	Lemoore, CA	2,217	1	255	6,000	S	Outdoor (.75 acre)
Dive - Harrah's Resort Southern California	Valley Center, CA	2,055	3	1,087	50,000	G,S	Outdoor (1.75 acre)
Oasis Pool - Morongo Resort	Cabazon, CA	3,801	1	310	40,000	G,S,B	Outdoor (1.5 acre)
The Pool at Quechan Casino Resort - Quechan Casino Resort	Winterhaven, CA	1,098	1	166	22,500		Outdoor (1 acre)
Sky Ute Pool & Fitness - Sky Ute Casino Resort	Ignacio, CO	656	1	140	24,000	S/HC,RV,B,MG	Indoor
The Dream Pool and Lazy River - Coushatta Casino Resort	Kinder, LA	3,430	4	872	55,000	G,RV,KQ,CQ	Outdoor (1.25 acres)
Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel - Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort	Mount Pleasant, MI	4,099	2	755	75,000	G,S,CQ	Indoor (45,000 s.f.)
Indoor Water Playground/Pools Grand Traverse Resort - Turtle Creek Casino	Acme/Williamsburg, MI	1,275	5	751	91,000	G,S,KQ	Indoor (15,000 s.f.) / Outdoor
Waterpark at 7 Clans Casino - 7 Clans Casino Thief River Falls	Thief River Falls, MN	697	1	151	10,000	CQ	Indoor (40,000 s.f.)
The Lagoon Waterpark - Treasure Island Resort & Casino	Welch, MN	2,564	1	493	50,000	G,S,RV,M,B,KQ,CQ	In/Out (43,000 / 14,000 s.f.)
Dakotah! Sport and Fitness - Mystic Lake Casino Hotel	Prior Lake, MN	4,405	1	589	60,000	G,S,RV,B,KQ,CQ	Indoor (12,000 s.f.)
Geyser Falls Water Theme Park - Pearl River Resort	Choctaw, MS	3,120	4	1,214	40,000	G, S/HC	Outdoor (23 acres)
The Pools at Downstream Casino Resort - Downstream Casino Resort	Quapaw, OK	2,343	1	391	25,000	G,S,RV	Indoor / Outdoor (.4 acres)
The Oasis Pool - Choctaw Casino Resort	Durant, OK	4,907	4	700	120,000	S,RV,B,FEC,CX	Indoor / Outdoor (1.5 acres)
WinStar World Casino Resort Pools - WinStar World Casino Resort	Thackerville, OK	8,510	4	1,495	110,000	G,S,RV	Outdoor (1.5 acres)
Margaritaville Resort Pool - River Spirit Casino Resort	Tulsa, OK	3,471	1	483	30,000	S/HC	Outdoor (50,000 s.f.)
Adult Pool/Family Pool at Hard Rock Tulsa - Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa	Catoosa, OK	2,672	1	454	75,000	G,S	Outdoor (20,000 s.f.)
The Pool at Clearwater Casino Resort - Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort	Suquamish, WA	1,466	5	186	5,000	G,S	Indoor (3,500 s.f.)
Great Wolf Lodge - Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel	Grand Mound/Rochester, WA	1,367	2	755	65,000	S,RV,FEC	Indoor (56,000 s.f.)

Other Resort Amenities Key: G: Golf, S: Spa, HC: Salon, RV: Campground, M: Marina, B: Bowling, FEC: Family Entertainment Center, KQ: Childcare, CQ: Arcade, CX: Movie Theater, MG: Mini-Golf

Source: KlasRobinson Q.E.D.

WATERPARK / POOL FACILITIES AND AMENITIES

Waterpark/Pool Name - Casino (State)	On or Off-Site / Hotel Guests Only	Admission Guest / Non-Guest	Season	Waterpark/Pool Amenities
BlueWater Atrium Pool & Waterslide Park - BlueWater Resort & Casino (AZ)	On / Yes	Included / N/A	365/Seasonal	WS,IP(3),IJ,KP,SP,FL/WB,SB
The Pool at Tachi Palace - Tachi Palace Hotel & Casino (CA)	On / Yes	Included / N/A	Seasonal	C,L,R,OP,OJ,KP,ZP,SP,F&B
Dive - Harrah's Resort Southern California (CA)	On / Yes	Included / N/A	Seasonal	C,L,R,OP(2),OJ(8),F&B,SUB,AO,FP
Oasis Pool - Morongo Resort (CA)	On / Yes	Included / \$30	Seasonal	C,L,R,WS,OP,OJ(2),AQ,SB,F&B
The Pool at Quechan Casino Resort - Quechan Casino Resort (CA)	On / Yes	Included / N/A	Seasonal	LR,OP,OJ,ZP,F&B
Sky Ute Pool & Fitness - Sky Ute Casino Resort (CO)	On / Yes	Included / N/A	365	LR,IP,IJ,BC
The Dream Pool and Lazy River - Coushatta Casino Resort (LA)	On / Yes	Included / N/A	Seasonal	LR,WS(4),OP,SP,F&B,SUB
Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel - Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort (MI)	Off / No	Included / \$23.95	365	C,L,R,WS,TS,MS(4),IP(2),FR,CW,SS,SP(3),AO,SD
Indoor Water Playground/Pools Grand Traverse Resort - Turtle Creek (MI)	Off / Yes	Included / N/A	365/Seasonal	WS,IP(2),OP(2),IJ(3),OJ(4),CWR,SP(2),AO,SD
Waterpark at 7 Clans Casino - 7 Clans Casino Thief River Falls (MN)	On / No	\$6, \$11 / \$9, \$16	365	LR,WS(4),MS(3),IP,KP,IJ(2)
The Lagoon Waterpark - Treasure Island Resort & Casino (MN)	On / No	Included / \$14.95	365/Seasonal	C,L,R,WS(2),IP(4),IJ(2),OJ,KP,F&B,SUB,AO,SD
Dakotah! Sport and Fitness - Mystic Lake Casino Hotel (MN)	Off / No	Incl / Membership	365	WS(2),IP,IJ,ZP,SP
Geysers Falls Water Theme Park - Pearl River Resort (MS)	Off / No	\$26.99-\$44.99 (both)	Seasonal	C,L,R,WS(4),TS(5),MS(3),WV,OP(2),KP,ZP,SP(3),SB,F&B,SD
The Pools at Downstream Casino Resort - Downstream Casino Resort (OK)	On / Yes	Included / N/A	365/Seasonal	C,IOP,OP,IJ,OJ,F&B,AO,SD,FP
The Oasis Pool - Choctaw Casino Resort (OK)	On / Yes	Included / N/A	365/Seasonal	C,L,R,WS,IP,OP(3),OJ(7),AQ,XP,ZP,SP(2),F&B, SUB(2),AO,SD,FP
WinStar World Casino Resort Pools - WinStar World Casino Resort (OK)	On / Yes	Included / N/A	Seasonal	C,OP(2),OJ(3),ZP,F&B,SD,FP
Margaritaville Resort Pool - River Spirit Casino Resort (OK)	On / Yes	Included / \$25	Seasonal	C,OP,OJ,ZP,XP,SP,F&B,SUB,AO,SD,FP
Adult Pool/Family Pool at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa (OK)	On / Yes	Included / N/A	Seasonal	C,OP(2),OJ,ZP,F&B,AO,SD,FP
The Pool at (Suquamish) Clearwater Casino Resort (WA)	On / Yes	Included / N/A	365	IP,OJ,ZP,SB,SD,FP
Great Wolf Lodge - Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel (WA)	Off / Yes	Included / N/A	365	C,L,R,WS(2),TS(2)MS(2),WV,IP,OP,IJ,KP(2),SP(3),F&B,SD

Waterpark Amenities Key: C: Cabana Rental, LR: Lazy River, WS: Waterslide, TS: Tube Slide, WV: Wave Pool, TS: Tube Slide, IP: Indoor Pool, OP: Outdoor Pool, IOP: Indoor/Outdoor Pool, IJ: Indoor Jacuzzi, OJ: Outdoor Jacuzzi, FR/WB: Flow Rider/Wake Board, BC: Bubble Couch, CWR: Climbing Wall/Ropes, AQ: Aqua Lounger, SS: Sauna/Steamroom, KP: Wading Pool, XP: Infinity Pool, ZP: Zero Entry Pool, SP: Splash Pad/Other Kids Attraction, SB: Sand Beach, F&B: Food & Beverage Service at Pool, SUB:Swim-Up Bar, AO:Adults Only Area/Times, FP: Fire Pit, SD: Sun Deck

Source: KlasRobinson Q.E.D.

The \$19 million, 40,000 sq. ft. Lagoon at Treasure Island Resort & Casino in Welch, MN which opened in February 2016, completed a 3,200 sq. ft. addition to the new waterpark in June 2017, including a new activity pool and family hot tub, additional changing areas and other amenities. Currently under construction are two new hotel towers adding another 240 standard rooms and 60 suites.

The 50,000 sq. ft. Margaritaville Resort Pool at River Spirit Casino Resort in Tulsa, OK, including the Landshark Pool Bar and River Parks Trail opened in late April 2017. In nearby Catoosa, OK, the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa opened its all-new adult pool, as well as a brand-new spa in May 2017.

Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Resort in Maricopa, AZ, which already has a large, creatively-themed outdoor pool area with swim-up bar and large whirlpool, is currently undergoing a major expansion which will include a 230-unit hotel addition, more meeting and function space, new spa and fitness center and a parking garage. It will also include an improved adult pool and combination lazy river activity pool.

Pechanga Resort Casino in Temecula, CA is also undergoing a \$285 million expansion including 568 rooms and suites, additional ballroom and meeting space, two new food and

beverage outlets, a two-story luxury spa with 17 treatment rooms, fitness center and hydrotherapy pool terrace, and a four-acre resort-style pool complex including eight different pool areas with 13 pools and whirlpools – several with waterslides.

Sycuan Casino Resort in El Cajon, CA recently broke ground on a \$226 million development which includes a 300-unit hotel, 11,400 sq. ft. ballroom and 60,000 more sq. ft. of gaming space. Also planned are a pool with a lazy river, a separate pool for adults, a 1 1/2-acre garden, and new restaurants and bars.

Additionally, waterpark amenities and/or stand-alone waterpark hotels are being considered by several tribal casino hotel properties in the Pacific Northwest, Southwestern United States and the Great Plains. Depending on the competitive landscape, market position and/or desired demographic segment, waterparks and waterpark amenities will become increasingly common at Indian casino resorts around the country. ♣

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