

Splash Into Summer At America's Largest Waterpark

(NAPSA)—Noah's Ark Waterpark, America's largest waterpark, offers visitors a chance to cool down while summer heats up. Located in Wisconsin Dells, Wis., the park offers 70 acres of water fun and this season takes visitors to the "Point of No Return" with a new thrill ride.

What began in 1979 with just bumper boats and go-karts, has become one of America's favorite family destinations. Today, Noah's Ark offers the young and the "young at heart" a multitude of water activities to enjoy during its 100-day season.

"With 34 different water slides, wave pools, lazy rivers and areas designed just for the little ones, Noah's Ark has something for every member of the family," said Tim Gantz, co-owner of Noah's Ark Waterpark.

This summer Noah's Ark takes visitors to the "Point of No Return," offering riders the chance to be pitted against one another in a race to the bottom of the Midwest's highest dueling water slides. To challenge the park's newest thrill ride, riders first climb 100 feet to the top, then race to the bottom of the 300-foot-long side-by-side slides. Riders are timed, and the winner is rewarded with shooting water at the bottom.

"Point of No Return is definitely for extreme thrill seekers," said Gantz. "It's ten stories up, five seconds down. And hang on to your suits, because it's fast."

Another recent addition to the park is "Flash Flood," a thrill ride that is as much fun to watch as it is to ride. Visitors who want to get soaked climb aboard a 20-passen-



Visitors catch a wave on the Big Kahuna wave pool at Noah's Ark Waterpark in Wisconsin Dells, Wis. The park is America's largest with 70 acres of water activities.

ger boat, ascend a 50-foot hill and then take the plunge creating a 50-foot-tall splash. Those who can't quite stomach the drop, but still want to get drenched, can take in the view from the bridge over the "Flash Flood" splash pool. It's one of the fastest ways to cool off.

The thrill of the unknown is what draws many to the park's popular dark rides. Rated a favorite of guests is "Black Thunder," a complex of four speed slides that are packed full of special effects and waterfalls in the dark. "Dark Voyage" is a 600-foot-long dark tube ride that holds four people per raft. The popular family ride keeps passengers in the dark as the large tube twists and turns on the rapids.

Visitors who like big waves should head straight for "Kowabunga," a multiple-person tube ride that whisks riders over three drop-offs throughout the 500-foot

ride. "Congo Bongo," a popular family ride with its five-person raft, traverses 700 feet of turning and twisting. Water lovers can also catch a wave in one of the park's two wave pools or flop into an inner tube and float the afternoon away on one of two lazy rivers.

Also new at Noah's Ark for 2001 are season passes. For the first time ever, waterpark enthusiasts can enjoy a season full of thrills for \$79. A regular all-day unlimited-use pass is \$25.99 plus tax, and children 2 and under are free. Parking is free, and visitors are welcome to bring their picnic baskets to enjoy a family meal at one of the park's many pavilions.

The 2001 season at Noah's Ark Waterpark runs from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. For more information, call (608) 254-6351 or take a virtual tour of the park by visiting www.noahsarkwaterpark.com.