

9 Top Texas Water Parks

Katy Families Splash into Summer Fun



Kids will love Splash Attack at SeaWorld's Lost Lagoon



Race down one of Splashtown's many water slides



Enjoy Hawaiian Falls' tiki tower slides, full of twists and turns



Splashtown's many raft rides are sure to thrill



Water parks are a great way for the whole family to cool off

Looking for a way to cool off this summer while making a splash with the kids? In Texas, Katy families can find a wide variety of water parks full of fun for all ages. Here is a snapshot of 10 terrific water parks in the lone star state perfect for summertime getaways that both you and your Katy cuties will love. So, grab your swimsuit, sunscreen, and sense of adventure, and make some memories!

1 Hawaiian Falls

(3 locations)

4550 N. Garland Ave.
Garland
972-675-8888

490 Heritage Pkwy. S.
Mansfield
817-853-0050

4400 Paige Rd.
The Colony
972-370-4327

Hawaiian Falls is a water park in the greater Dallas area that prides itself on being family-friendly, while still having rides that are sure to satisfy any thrill-seeker. The newest attraction, The Torpedo, was just launched at each of its three water parks and is the first of its kind in the world. Riders step into a capsule at the top of the ride, and when activated, the bottom drops out - along with your stomach - as you free fall at speeds up to 40 miles per hour down the slide. Another popular ride is the Hawaiian half-pipe, where a three-person tube launches you straight up, then backwards, then down a 40-foot drop into the water. Hawaiian Falls is open all summer until Sept. 6. Visit hfalls.com.

2 Hurricane Harbor

Six Flags Arlington
1800 E. Lamar Blvd.
Arlington
817-640-8900

Sprawled across 47 acres, Hurricane Harbor is the largest water park in north Texas and offers exciting rides for all ages. A popular hit is the Bubba Tub, a four-passenger inner tube that

3 Lost Lagoon

SeaWorld San Antonio
10500 SeaWorld Dr.
San Antonio
800-700-7786

On a hot summer day, SeaWorld's Lost Lagoon offers adventure-seekers the perfect place to cool down, with tons of rides to choose from. If you're up for a jaw-dropping thriller, consider the Sky Tubin' ride, which is 12 feet wide and 500 feet long with slippery slopes, rapids, turns, and twists. The park is packed with kid-friendly rides and attractions, too, like the Lil' Gator Lagoon. With a prime location as an added bonus, Lost Lagoon makes for a great summer escape through Sept. 6. Visit seaworld.com.

4 Schlitterbahn

(3 locations)

2026 Lockheed St.
Galveston
409-770-9283

381 E. Austin St.
New Braunfels
830-625-2351

33261 State Park Rd. 100
South Padre Island
956-772-7873

A Texas family-favorite, Schlitterbahn's three locations each offer unique water park experiences. The park's main location in New



Take time out at Kristal Cove Beach at Schlitterbahn in Galveston



Experience the Master Blaster at Schlitterbahn in New Braunfels



Enjoy Schlitterbahn's kid-friendly rides

Braunfels offers unforgettable thrills like the Master Blaster, voted best water ride in the U.S., and the Dragon's Revenge Special Effects Family Thrill Ride, with twists and turns and one angry dragon. While at Schlitterbahn's Galveston location, be sure to check out the Dragon Blaster, which blasts riders both uphill and downhill, and take a relaxing break in the Wasserfest Hot Tub. If beachside fun is more your family's style, journey to the park's South Padre Island location, where you will enjoy exclusive beach access, the Boogie Bahn, America's largest surfing wave, and Sand Castle Cove, perfect for little beach-goers. All three parks are open until Sept. 19. Visit schlitterbahn.com.

5 Splashtown Water Park

21300 I-45
Spring
281-355-3300

Splashtown's convenient location is just one of the many reasons it is a favorite with the Katy crowd. Close to home, the park features out-of-this-world attractions, like the popular Tornado water ride, where riders spiral down a 132-foot-long tunnel before splashing down a giant, open-ended funnel. The Stingray Racer, new for this summer, promises thrills galore, with six high-speed slides that are each five stories tall. Race your friends for bragging rights! Enjoy fun at Splashtown throughout Sept. 19. Visit splashtownpark.com.

6 Splashway Family Water Park

5211 Main St.
Sheridan
979-234-7718

Splashway is a great place for fun in the sun, with a lazy river, Kids of the Caribbean splash pad and slides, and wave pool. Only a short drive from Katy, families can relax poolside or wind their way down exhilarating rides like Hurricane Hill and Tropical Storm. At the end of the day, unwind on Marimba Beach or with a quick snack at Flamingo Café. With plenty of kid-friendly attractions like Kiddie Cove, your Katy cuties are sure to make some great summer memories. The park is open through Sept. 6. Visit splashwaywaterpark.com.

7 Volente Beach

16107 FM 2769
Leander
512-258-5109

Volente Beach offers the best of both worlds – a variety of thrilling rides with a beach running throughout the water park. Sandy Beach, the park's most popular attraction, features real sand that feeds into Lake Travis, giving you the perfect beach experience in the middle of an exhilarating water park. Volente also offers a variety of rides like the Texas Twister, which twists and turns, until you splash through a hole at the end into the pool below. Enjoy the park's lakefront fun while relaxing with your Katy family. The park stays open all summer through Labor Day weekend. Visit volentebeach.com.

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Karen Beyer Photography

Dr. Tami Stout, husband Chris, and children

Dr. Tami Stout

707 South Fry Rd, Suite 280
Katy, Texas 77450

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8

Wet N' Wild Waterworld

8804 S. Desert
Anthony
915-886-2222

Wet N' Wild, located a short drive from El Paso, has many attractions to enchant the entire family. Their newest ride is the Alien Vortex, complete with G-force thrills. The most popular ride is The Old Woman and the Shoe. It is perfect for the little ones and serves as a real water park landmark, since the pint-sized water slides actually come out of a shoe! The Amazon water slide is the longest water slide to date as it cascades down 50 feet through water curtains and dark twists, finally turning to land next to the Wild Island Wave Pool. Open throughout the summer, the water park also allows families to grill barbecue under one of its many shade trees, while the kids have fun splashing around. Visit wetwild.com.

9

White Water Bay

Six Flags Fiesta Texas
17000 I-10 W.
San Antonio
210-697-5050

White Water Bay is connected to Six Flags Fiesta Texas and allows families to enjoy both parks for the price of admittance to one. The water park's special attraction is the Big Bender, a ride full of dips, dark and twisting tunnels, and waterfalls, complete with a 50-foot drop. Kids can enjoy an exciting day with one of the park's many child-friendly attractions. The Texas Tree House has long been a favorite and it's perfect for your pint-sized ones, but beware of the giant water tank that could tip over at any moment! White Water Bay is open through Sept. 7. Visit sixflags.com.

Test your skill surfing on
Schlitterbahn's Boogie Bahn

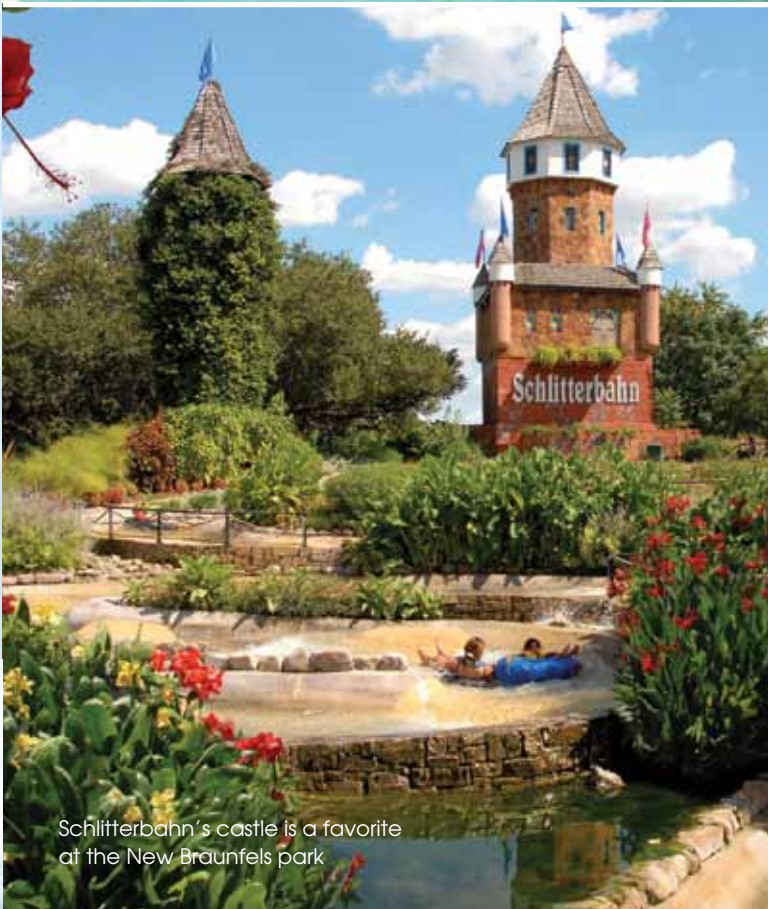


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The lazy river at Hawaiian Falls is a great way to see the entire park



Schlitterbahn's castle is a favorite at the New Braunfels park



The Squirt N' Sliden at Schlitterbahn is perfect for your Katy cutie

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