

Best Phoenix Resort Waterslides

Written by Emily Ward

Friday, 26 June 2015 14:18 - Last Updated Friday, 26 June 2015 14:33



Phoenix resorts are best known for their sunny golf courses and swimming pools. While the golfing may be top-notch, try a cooler option this summer and check out some award-winning pools. Whereas other resorts might offer a couple different swimming options, Phoenix resorts feature whole water parks complete with three, six, even 10 pools. And what water park is complete without a rushing waterslide, or two or three? Here are our top 10 picks for the best resort waterslides in the Valley.



Arizona Biltmore

The original Catalina Pool at the Arizona Biltmore may be known for being a favorite of Marilyn Monroe and its colorful tiles from California's Catalina Island, but the resort's Paradise Pool will be a favorite of any waterslide-enthusiast. A combination of three swimming pools, the Paradise Pool is the hub of poolside fun at the Arizona Biltmore. It features a 92-foot waterslide, Splash Cinema where family movies are watched from inner tubes, poolside dining and an in-water bar. Pool servers offering cooling Evian spritzes and sunblock while delivering refreshing drinks and snacks pamper guests. Nearby, guests can also enjoy a game of chess with the resort's giant chessboard and knee-high game pieces. For more information, visit arizonabiltmore.com.



Arizona Grand Resort

The Travel Channel voted the Oasis Water Park at the Arizona Grand Resort as one of the country's Top 10 Water Parks and it's easy to see why. The 7-acre waterpark features half a dozen swimming pools, a gigantic 10,000-sq.-ft. wave pool, relaxing river tubing, a 25-person hot tub and "wild cat springs" for the kids. The Oasis Water Park's true claim to fame, however, is its 8-story tower with three thrilling waterslides. (Resort guests must be at least 48-inches tall to ride any of the slides.) Find the perfect combination of fun and relaxation after hours of exciting aquatic recreation by grabbing a snack and drink from the Oasis Bar & Grill. For more information, visit arizonagrandresort.com.

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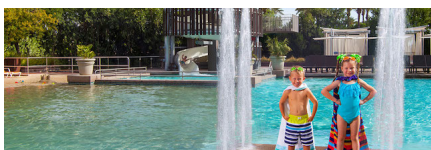
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Fairmont Scottsdale Princess

Sonoran Splash is the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess' 6,000-sq.-ft. luxury water oasis complete with two 200-foot twisting waterslides. Kids will be sure to enjoy a zero-entry deck area and large sandbox featuring Tonka trucks and beach toys, while parents relax in rentable cabanas with poolside butlers to assist with any needs. The South Pool shows family-friendly movies every Friday and Saturday night in the summer and the convenient hotel bar serves everything from juicy burgers to signature cocktails to a full kid's menu. For more information, visit scottsdaleprincess.com.



Hyatt Regency Scottsdale Resort at Gainey Ranch

The 2.5-acre water playground found at the Hyatt Regency Scottsdale Resort at Gainey Ranch is ready for action with its 10 different swimming pools, 20 fountains and 45 waterfalls of varying sizes. But the main attraction is the water playground's newest addition: a 3-story waterslide that can reach speeds of up to 25 miles per hour. This fun pool area also has a sand beach and summer activities including water basketball, water Ping-Pong, water volleyball, dive-in movies and Wii games on the pool's big screen. For more information, visit scottsdale.hyatt.com.



JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort

The water play area at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort spreads more than four acres and features four interlocking pools, the Revive Spa adult pool and a 1,600-foot-long winding lazy river. The fun continues down the Serpentine Waterslide, two whirlpools and the Kids Splash Pad. In the Sidewinder Pool, families can play basketball, compete in duck races and enjoy weekly dive-in movies. The water play area also has easy access to the resort's Nickelodeon Activity Zone, which offers games, activities and Dora the Explorer and SpongeBob SquarePants meet-and-greets. For more information, visit marriott.com.



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The Phoenician

The Oasis Pool Complex at The Phoenician offers guests not one, but seven recently made over sparkling pools. Two are shaped like grand pianos and the premier centerpiece, the Mother-of-Pearl Pool, is inlaid with handcrafted, iridescent mother of pearl tiles. Youngsters and the young at heart will most enjoy the 165-foot waterslide and Surge Splash Pad. Guests of the Phoenician can also take advantage of a children's wading pool, cascading waterfalls, a towel and water service and the Oasis Pool Bar & Grill. For the most aquatically inclined, water fitness classes including water aerobics as well as water volleyball and basketball are also offered. For more information, visit thephoenician.com.



Pointe Hilton Squaw Peak Resort

The Pointe Hilton Squaw Peak Resort offers families four acres of activities and fun known as the River Ranch. This waterpark includes a 130-foot waterslide, lazy river, kiddie pool, sports pool and a large, lagoon-style pool with a 10-foot waterfall. River Ranch also offers an 18-hole miniature-putting course that guests of all ages will enjoy as it strategically winds its way around the lazy river. Shopping, an old-style ice cream parlor and a kid's program for ages 4 to 12 can also be found at River Ranch. The resort's award-winning Coyote Camp offers a variety of educational events and activities as well as swimming excursions for the kiddos in all-day and half-day packages. For more information, visit squawpeakhilton.com.



The Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain

The Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain allows you to take a dip in three different swimming areas: the Aventura Pool, Turquesa Pool and Spa Serenity Pool. The Aventura Pool will be a family favorite with its 235-foot waterslide and splash pad. The Turquesa Pool features an infinity entry and offers yummy snacks and libations from its Turquesa Latin Grill. The Spa Serenity Pool is reserved for hotel and local guests ages 18 and over enjoying a spa treatment (named one of the top Arizona luxury spas by *Condé Nast Traveler*) and features a 10-foot tanning island. The Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain also offers an abundance of unique outdoor experiences, such as stargazing and scorpion hunts, as well as Ritz Kids half-day and full-day expeditions for ages 5 to 12. For more information, visit ritzcarlton.com.

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Westin Kierland Resort & Spa

One of Westin Kierland Resort & Spa's biggest attractions is its Adventure Water Park, which includes a 110-foot-long waterslide as well as a 900-foot snaking lazy river. The Kierland FlowRider allows resort guests to get a taste of the California surf life right in Scottsdale. "Flowboarding" looks like surfing, rides like snowboarding, has the tricks of skateboarding and involves boards derived from wakeboarding. The waterslide has the standard 42-inch height requirement while "FlowRiders" must be 42-inches to bodyboard and 52-inches to "flowboard." The Adventure Water Park also features a children's play area and shallow pool, J. Swilling's Pool Bar & Grill and the kid-centric OK Corral area complete with basketball, game tables, remote-control car racetracks and s'mores-ready fire pits. For more information, visit kierlandresort.com.



The Wigwam

The Wigwam realizes that to some swimming pools are lovely spots to soak up the sun, sip a cool drink and take the occasional refreshing dip. For others, pools are a Marco Polo-crazed free-for-all. As a result, the Wigwam offers four different pools and a Jacuzzi so that both types of people are happy and separated. For fans of fun like Marco Polo, there is a new 25-foot tower featuring two twisting waterslides, while the Oasis Pool is the perfect getaway for those seeking a quieter sense of r-n-r by the pool. Guests at the Wigwam can also enjoy two brand new, custom-built regulation bocce courts, tennis and hiking in White Tank Mountain Regional Park. For more information, visit wigwamarizona.com.