PRESENTING THE VERY BEST OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA FOR 30 YEARS

JACKSONVILLE

PETS
IN JAX, IT'S RAINING CATS & DOGS... & HEDGEHOGS

BLOCK PARTY
PUNCHY STRIPES & BOLD PATTERNS ARE HOT THIS SUMMER

Charitable REGISTER
ANNUAL GUIDE TO LOCAL FUNDRAISERS & SOCIETY HAPPENINGS

EDUCATION PRIMER
SCHOOL'S BACK IN SESSION THIS MONTH
ARE YOUR KIDS READY?

PLUS:
JAGUARS GM
DAVID CALDWELL

Splish Splash

SWIMMING POOLS AT FLORIDA RESORTS AND HOTELS are as common as Cracker Barrel restaurants along I-95. No respectable lodging in the Sunshine State can exist without catering to a guest's need to cool off with a refreshing soak in a pool, particularly resort properties that hope to lure families. And today's top vacation destinations are required to offer more than a rectangular hole in the ground filled with water. Discriminating guests have been spoiled by extras like spiraling water slides, lazy rivers, lush landscaping, private cabanas, swim-up bars and all the pampering services one expects at an upscale resort.

As the dog days of summer drag on into August, we thought it a fitting time to take a trip across the state for quick dips in some of Florida's best resort pools. There still may be time for a vacation before the new school year begins. Don't forget to pack the swimsuits and fun noodles.

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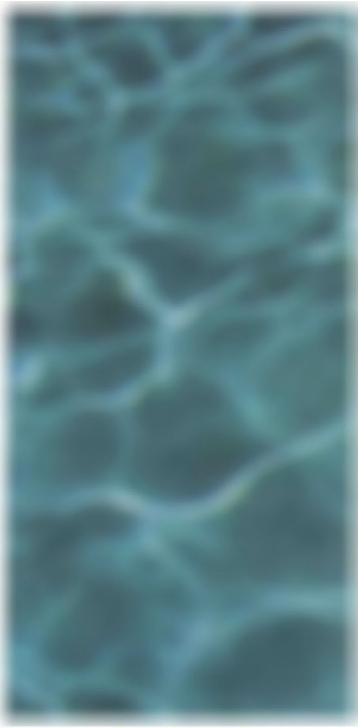

Orlando World Center Marriott

Orlando

"Big" is a constant theme in the state's theme park capital. And few resorts are bigger than the Orlando World Center, a 2,000-room property that also claims an equally impressive watery playground. Its enormous Falls Pool Oasis features two 200-foot winding waterslides and a zero-entry kids' splash zone with all sorts of fountains and interactive water nozzles. The signature element has to be the 90-foot "speed" slide, an arrow-straight thriller said to be among the fastest resort slides in Florida.

Nickelodeon Suites Resort

Orlando

The pool at Nickelodeon Suites is a kid's dream. There are two water parks that include a four-story interactive water tower, seven slides, flumes, climbing nets, water jets and a 400-gallon tank that spills water and slime sporadically. The Lagoon Pool hosts a daily Nick Live Poolside event—think messy games, contests and live entertainment. There's also a Mass Slimng held at 4:45 PM each day. The resort also offers relaxing poolside cabanas—each with lounge chairs, ceiling fans, flat-screen TVs, mini-fridge and a personal cabana attendant—so parents can have a little fun, too.

PGA National Resort & Spa

Palm Beach Gardens

Though most travel to PGA National Resort for golf, it would be silly to visit Palm Beach and not enjoy the water. In 2008, the resort underwent a $100-million renovation, including a new zero-entry pool and renovated poolside café. The resort's spa is home to an additional nine mineral pools, known as the Waters of the World. The Dead Sea pool mimics the affect of Israel's famed Dead Sea and The Salies De Béarn is based on the naturally occurring salt waters of France's salt pools, which are said to moderate fluid retention and mood swings. ●