

**BUSCH GARDENS® WILLIAMSBURG AND WATER COUNTRY USA®**  
**2019 MEDIA KIT**

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# BUSCH GARDENS® WILLIAMSBURG

## NEW FOR 2019

A new year always brings new reasons to visit Busch Gardens® Williamsburg and Water Country USA®, and park visitors are in for an exciting 2019. New attractions, events and expanded favorites will give the parks' guests something special to experience nearly every week at the Williamsburg theme parks.

### New in 2019

#### **FINNEGAN'S FLYER™ – opens May 3 at Busch Gardens**

Riders will soar high and swing out over the cliffs of the Celtic coast on Finnegan's Flyer™, a Screamin' Swing ride located in Busch Gardens® Ireland village adjacent the Loch Ness Monster roller coaster. This breathtaking attraction features two pendulum-like arms, seating 32 riders that fly progressively higher with each swing. Finnegan's Flyer will reach a staggering height of more than 80 feet with a speed of 45 mph. Riders can take in beautiful views of the park while being thrilled on this captivating attraction. The dueling arms sway back-and-forth, the ground plummeting into view with each swing. Only the bravest will prevail.

#### **CUTBACK WATER COASTER™ – opens May 24 at Water Country USA**

Cutback Water Coaster™, the only RocketBLAST® coaster on the East Coast and Virginia's first hybrid water coaster, is coming to Water Country USA®. This revolutionary water propulsion ride will merge two unique technologies – a water jet propulsion system and exhilarating saucer feature. With the RocketBlast technology, Cutback will drive bigger boats, at higher speeds, and move riders up longer, steeper inclines. Thrill-seekers will board a four-person raft, speed along an 856 ft. slide, jet through tunnels and slide onto the wide-open space of massive saucer-shaped features. The steep angles of the saucers provide a drop-and-dive sensation as riders race along the edges. Cutback Water Coaster features the latest in turbine technology and takes water propulsion coasters to a whole new level with heart-stopping turns, lightning-fast drops and thrilling speeds.

## 2019 EVENT SERIES

### **Sesame Street® Kids' Weekends: Apr. 5 – 28**

Everyone's favorite Sesame Street® friends are hosting a party just for kids on April weekends. Guests can join Elmo, Super Grover, Cookie Monster, Rosita and more for all the fun.

### **Food & Wine Festival: select days May 17 – June 30**

Park guests can unleash their inner foodie with over 60 specialty food items from around the world, 30 different wines, 25 craft beers and 20 unique cocktails not normally served at the park.

### **Summer Nights: June 28 – Aug 11**

Busch Gardens becomes a cooler place after dark during Summer Nights. Special entertainment, culinary experiences and a fun nighttime atmosphere will give guests a new reason to visit during summer evenings. The Royal Palace Theatre lights up with Spark presented by Coca-Cola®, a high-energy

spectacle featuring party-starters, laser lights, pyrotechnics and a custom soundtrack created by award winning musicians.

And to add to the fun of Summer Nights, acts from the hit show America's and Britain's Got Talent will take the stage every week during the summertime event. Visit

<https://buschgardens.com/williamsburg/events/> for performer details and dates.

**Bier Fest: select days Aug. 16 – Sep. 2**

More than 200 years of Oktoberfest traditions come to life this fall. Sample traditional German food, listen to live local music, and experience all this unique Bavarian celebration has to offer. From hoppy to bold, we have a craft beer to satisfy everyone. Prost!

**Howl-O-Scream™: select days Sep. 14 – Oct. 27**

Fill fall nights with fright at Busch Gardens Howl-O-Scream. Fear awaits in the Virginia theme park's collection of elaborate haunted houses, immersive themed scare zones, challenging escape rooms and darkly entertaining live shows.

**The Count's Spooktacular: select days Oct. 5 – 27**

Young guests can celebrate silly, not-too-spooky fun on Saturdays and Sundays in October. Children (under 9) are invited to come dressed up and join in our costume parade during this daytime event. There are other family-friendly activities, too, like a fun-filled hay maze, trick-or-treating locations and an interactive show.

**Christmas Town™: select days Nov. 16 – Jan. 5**

The world's most beautiful theme park is one of the largest Christmas light displays in North America. Festive food and drink, holiday shopping and heart-warming shows make the spirit of the season come alive.

**Celebrating Birthdays in 2019:**

This year marks special birthdays for a few of the park's popular attractions; Apollo's Chariot® turns 20 and Sesame Street® Forest of Fun™ celebrates 10 years.

## THRILL RIDES

**Apollo's Chariot® Hypercoaster**

Hold on to your seats when you ride this amazing award-winning hypercoaster. Apollo's Chariot® plummets guests a combined 825 feet over nine scream-inducing air-time hills. Guests sit in elevated seats, creating a "free-flight" sensation as the train traverses more than 4,882 feet of track in two minutes and reaches speeds of 73 miles per hour. This year mark the 20<sup>th</sup> birthday of this fan-favorite coaster.

**Battle For Eire™:** Immerse yourself on a 360-degree virtual reality motion simulator and join Addie, Ireland's last fairy guardian, on a thrilling mission in Battle For Eire™ – *Action VR Ride*. Slip on your magic lenses, hop aboard a dragon and join the battle to rescue the sacred Heart of Ireland. Test your courage and send your spirit soaring on this one-of-a-kind thrill, Battle For Eire – *Action VR Ride*.

- Situated in Ireland, opened April 2018

- Battle For Eire is a marriage of a motion-based theater simulator with state-of-the-art 360-degree virtual reality headsets, creating an innovative experience unlike any other in the attraction industry.
- The current motion-based simulator has been used to bring multiple adventures to life in your world (Europe in the Air) and many other fantastical places (Corkscrew Hill).
- This time around the team is reprogramming it to work simultaneously with proprietary head gear that will let you experience Addie's home – The Otherworld – in an immersive experience that surrounds you.
- Riders will be completely immersed within the story and be able to see, hear and feel actions happening all around them, both through the VR headsets and within the motions of the simulator.

**InvadR™:** Hold on to your Viking helmet and feel the wind in your beard on the park's first-ever wooden coaster. Blaze through the tunnels and let the world hear your battle cry as you race through the high-banked turns. Grab your family and run for the hills aboard InvadR.

- Situated in New France, opened April 2017
- Reaches speeds of 48 mph
- Featuring a 74-foot drop and nine air-time hills
- Situated near the trapper's village in New France
- Height requirement of 46 inches

**Tempesto®:** In the rich tradition of the classic Italian daredevils, no single man wowed the crowds like Tempesto®. Busch Gardens' daring roller coaster, Tempesto, lets riders take center stage and recreate his signature stunt. The same hills and thrills that made the people cheer "Tempesto!" are waiting for guests at Busch Gardens.

- Multi-launch coaster with a high-speed station experience and a 154-foot inversion.
- Reaches speeds of 63 mph
- Height requirement of 54 inches
- Situated in Festa Italia, opened April 2015

**Verbolten®:** Busch Gardens' multi-launch, indoor/outdoor roller coaster will send guests on a fun and mystifying family adventure through the Black Forest. Situated in the park's Oktoberfest village, a German tourist center serves as the ride entrance and as the launching point for an autobahn touring experience that will keep the whole family on the edge of their seats.

- Multi-launch coaster with environmental theme elements, sounds and light effects, high speed turns and an 88-foot final drop to the water
- Reaches speeds of 53 mph
- Height requirement of 48 inches
- Situated in Oktoberfest, Verbolten® opened May 2012

**Mäch Tower®:** As guests enter Busch Gardens' Oktoberfest, they will see the massive spire known as Mäch Tower®. This thrill ride takes guests on the ride of their lives. The tallest attraction in the park, Mäch Tower lifts up to 30 riders nearly 240 feet above Oktoberfest. After rotating at the top of the tower and getting a few seconds to take in the view, riders drop at breathtaking speed. State-of-the-art special effects including enhanced audio and other surprises elevate Mäch Tower to new heights in ride design and engineering.

- Drop Tower attraction that raises riders up to a height of 240 feet, then drops them into a 60 mph free-fall
- Other elements include: rotating carousel, on-board audio and seat vibrations
- Height requirement of 48 inches
- Situated in Oktoberfest, Mäch Tower opened Aug. 2011

**Griffon®:** Busch Gardens® defines a whole new generation of roller coasters with the addition of Griffon®, one of the world’s tallest - and first floorless - dive coasters. The park’s steel marvel plunges thrill-seekers 205 feet at 75 miles per hour. Named for a mythical beast that is part eagle and part lion, Griffon is an adrenaline-pumping adventure that’s unlike any coaster experience in the world.

- A 205-foot initial dive, 90 degrees straight down
- A second drop of 130-feet
- Water feature
- Height requirement of 54 inches
- Situated in France, Griffon opened May 2007

**Alpengeist®:** A snow monster notorious for once stalking the French and German Alps, Alpengeist® is rumored to be lurking in the shadows of Busch Gardens’ Germany. Marks of its mischief are evident as the ski-lift-style roller coaster careens uncontrollably, propelling riders on a dynamic, high-speed journey.

- Hurtles riders down 3,828 feet of track
- Riders experience six inversions at speeds up to 67 mph
- Highest point is 195 feet
- Inversion elements include the Immelmann, 106-foot vertical loop, cobra roll, zero-G roll, flat spin, and high-speed spiral
- Situated in Germany, Alpengeist opened April 1997

**Loch Ness Monster®:** Continually rated a favorite by park guests, this classic interlocking, double-looping roller coaster gives guests a peek at Scotland’s most infamous serpent. “Nessie” hurls its passengers along 3,240 feet of steel track into the air, over water, and through a dark cave.

- World’s first, and currently only, interlocking, double-looping, steel roller coaster
- Coaster takes riders 13 stories up before racing down a 114-foot drop
- Reaching a speed of 60 mph, “Nessie” carries 1,700 passengers per hour
- Situated in Scotland, the Loch Ness Monster opened in June 1978
- Since its debut, nearly 60 million guests have challenged the interlocking, double-looping roller coaster

## ADDITIONAL THRILL RIDES AND ATTRACTIONS

### ENGLAND

The Aeronaut Skyride

This sky-high mode of transportation provides guests with a scenic tour of the “World’s Most Beautiful Amusement Park.” Passengers enjoy views of all six European countries while relaxing 80 feet in the air. The skyride stops in England, France, and Germany.

Sesame Street® Forest of Fun™ at Busch Gardens®

Elmo, Cookie Monster and many of their Sesame Street® friends have come to Busch Gardens® and are here to stay. At Sesame Street Forest of Fun, every day is cause for a Sunny Day Celebration.

- **Elmo's Castle** - Interactive stage and wet play area
- **Prince Elmo's Spire** - shot-n-drop ride
- **Grover's Alpine Express** - roller coaster
- **Bert and Ernie's Loch Adventure** - flume ride
- **Oscar's Whirly Worms** - rock-n-tug ride
- **Oscar's Yucky Forest** - dry play area
- **1-2-3 Smile with Me!** - character and guest photograph experience

## **SCOTLAND**

Tweedside Train Station

All aboard! Busch Gardens' three steam-powered locomotives whisk guests through 134 acres of lush landscaping with stops in Scotland, Italy, and France for a breathtaking tour of the park.

Li'l Clydes

For young riders, horsing around has never been this fun. A classic ride for younger guests.

## **FRANCE**

Le Scoot Log Flume

In a rustic French village, guests looking to cool off on a warm day head to Le Scoot log flume where a refreshing 50-foot vertical plunge through an old saw mill awaits.

Le Catapult

Undulating far and wide, guests are propelled on Busch Gardens' catapult.

## **GERMANY**

Der Autobahn, Der Autobahn Jr.

A Busch Gardens' classic, Der Autobahn provides the whole family with bumper car fun. Adjacent to Der Autobahn, Der Autobahn Jr. is child-friendly and perfect for younger drivers.

Rhine River Cruise

A relaxing cruise on the Rhine River showcases the beauty of the 134-acre park.

Der Wirbelwind, Wirbelwindchen

Der Wirbelwind classic swings propel guests to harrowing heights. Wirbelwindchen, the child-friendly version of Der Wirbelwind, is perfect for the park's younger guests.

Land of the Dragons®

Land of the Dragons® is a magical play area designed especially for kids. Featuring a three-story treehouse, a Ferris wheel, and children's show, this entertaining area offers tons of fun for little ones. Land of the Dragons celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in spring 2014.

Kinder Karussell

Restored to its original condition, this antique Herschell Carousel features 36 hand-carved ponies and two double-bench chariots. It's perfect for the entire family.

### Roto Baron

Children get a taste of freedom while piloting these miniature red planes.

### ITALY

#### Escape from Pompeii®

A seemingly serene boat ride through the ancient ruins of Pompeii turns explosive as Mt. Vesuvius begins erupting. Fiery effects end with a splash finish as the boat plunges riders into the lagoon pool below.

#### Da Vinci's Cradle

Da Vinci's Cradle offers passengers anything but a peaceful rocking experience. This cradle defies the laws of gravity as it plunges to the ground and soars to the skies.

#### Roman Rapids®

Visitors looking for a white-water adventure need look no further than Roman Rapids®. Ancient Roman ruins, erupting geysers and waterfalls create a thrilling family water ride.

#### Battering Ram

Renowned Italian inventor Leonardo Da Vinci would have been pleased with this creation. Guests brave enough to board the oversized gondola encounter a powerful pendulum swing.

#### Flying Machine

The Flying Machine is one twisted ride, situated in Da Vinci's Garden of Inventions.

#### Turkish Delight

Tea parties were never this fun. Riders may take turns controlling the "spin-factor" of these life-sized teacups.

#### Trade Wind

A park classic, guests who board this music express are bound for adventure.

#### Little Gliders

Younger guests get a taste of flying on this uplifting adventure.

#### Little Balloons

Up, up, and away. Colorful balloons take children on a lofty ride.

#### Elephant Run

A child's version of Trade Wind, the tame Elephant Run will have kids running back for more fun.

### WORLD-CLASS ENTERTAINMENT

In addition to exhilarating roller coasters and rides, Busch Gardens® is recognized for award-winning entertainment. Main stage shows offer park guests live musical performances and animal antics.

## **ENGLAND**

### **Let's Play Together**

Come have a play date with your Sesame Street® friends, and enjoy a heartwarming show all about the beauty of Friendship. The show is full of good times and will always bring back fond memories—especially when the audience gets in on the act. Join Elmo, Cookie Monster, Grover, Rosita, Bert, Ernie, and of course Abby Cadabby, as they play, sing, and dance while learning all about the wonderful things that friends do together.

## **IRELAND**

### **Celtic Fyre®**

Celtic Fyre® took the number one spot in USA Today's 10Best Readers' Choice Awards in 2018. This award-winning Irish dance show celebrates Irish culture with a show filled with singers, musicians and Irish dance. Guests become a part of the celebration as our storyteller invites them into his inn to see how the Irish celebrate life.

### **More ... Pet Shenanigans®**

This lively and hilarious show features wacky shenanigans and amazing tricks from dogs, cats, birds and other animals. Performed daily at the Shenanigans Theatre, these animal celebrities will astonish and amaze audiences.

## **ITALY**

### **Mix it Up!**

Italy's Il Teatro di San Marco comes to life as a team of chef-inspired musicians cook up fabulous fun in Mix It Up!. Exciting sounds fill the air as Busch Gardens' amazing musicians perform some of Italy's most popular songs. Watch the plot thicken as our crazy chefs and waiters compete to serve up their musical menu. It's a fast-paced feast for the ears and the eyes. Enjoy fresh-made Italian favorites from Ristorante della Piazza, grab a seat in the outdoor dining theater and enjoy a hilarious mixture of cuisine and creativity.

## **GERMANY**

### **OktoberZest**

This new show, performed in Das Festhaus® in the Oktoberfest village, features German music and dances with a modern and new approach. Guests can enjoy a German meal in the large dining hall while being entertained by cultural singers, dancers and musicians.

## **A TOUR THROUGH EUROPE**

The European countries of England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Germany and Italy serve as the setting for Busch Gardens' 134 acres of fun-filled exploration. The Williamsburg adventure park is committed to authentic and accurate themes based on European culture. To create old-world European flare throughout its six countries, Busch Gardens® carefully depicts each detail from quaint cobblestone

streets and building facades to designer landscapes and beautiful statuary. Adding charm and authenticity, many plants in the park are native to Western Europe.

### **ENGLAND**

The gateway to a Busch Gardens' adventure begins in England. Guests receive the royal treatment where unique shops, a delightful bakery, and replicas of Big Ben and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre reside. Attention to detail throughout the picturesque hamlet is evidenced in period door handles, cast-iron mailboxes and flickering streetlamps enhancing the European feel of the park.

### **SCOTLAND**

The fearsome Loch Ness Monster® roller coaster resides in Busch Gardens' Scottish countryside. Celebrated as the world's first steel roller coaster to debut with interlocking loops, the Loch Ness Monster remains a guest favorite. In addition, Scotland features a host of activities for the entire family.

Busch Gardens' Highland Stables feature Scottish black-faced sheep, Border collies, Clydesdales and birds of prey. This exciting exhibit highlights Scottish traditions dating back hundreds of years. Guests can interact with the Scottish animals and see them in action as they perform traditional herding and hunting techniques.

### **IRELAND**

Busch Gardens® captures the essence of Ireland, from the country's warm-hearted people and lush landscapes to ancient castles and fine Irish wares. Guests visiting Busch Gardens get a taste of true Irish spirit. This adaptation of an authentic Irish hamlet features a brightly-colored tavern, shops, stone castles, blooming flower boxes, and contemporary Celtic music. Building facades incorporate elements dating from Ireland's Megalithic Stone Age (circa 2400 BC) through the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The Emerald Isle® shop charms guests with its lavish giftware as well as its 19<sup>th</sup>-century rural Irish portico and authentic thatch roof.

In Celtic Fyre®, guests will take an unforgettable journey with the cast of singers, Irish dancers and musicians as we celebrate this unique and intriguing culture. Strolling balladeers throughout the marketplace add to the unique theming of this area.

Busch Gardens® is dedicated to the conservation and preservation of wildlife through numerous educational programs and shows. Discover how adventurous learning can be at Jack Hanna's Wild Reserve. This interactive wildlife area offers a fascinating and up-close look at some amazing species including gray wolves, American bald eagles, lorikeets and other animals from around the world.

### **FRANCE**

The picturesque country of France transports guests to another time and place with its street cafes, French-provincial architecture and sidewalk artisans. From the style of its slate-roof buildings and colorful café umbrellas to village square statuary and bountiful window boxes, theming through this hamlet embraces French culture.

Old-world charm meets modern adventure with the addition of Griffon®. Named for a mythical creature known for its power and speed, Griffon is one of the world's tallest and first floorless dive coasters. Living up to its name, Griffon sends thrill-seekers on the ultimate adrenaline-pumping adventure as it twists, turns and plunges 205 feet.

Back on solid ground, a rustic French trader's village showcases the finest leather, candle and wood craftsmanship and barbecue. Le Scoot log flume provides cool relief on a hot summer's day with its 50-foot vertical plunge. Trappers Smokehouse is a 650-seat restaurant featuring a mesquite-fired show grill, three rustic dining areas and an unprecedented theme park menu selection.

Hold on to your Viking helmet and feel the wind in your beard on the park's first-ever wooden coaster. Blaze through the tunnels and let the world hear your battle cry as you race through the high-banked turns. Grab your family and run for the hills aboard InvadR.

## **GERMANY**

European charm highlights Germany. The town center Glockenspiel is a unique representation of a 17<sup>th</sup>-century German original. Three stories high, the Glockenspiel enchants guests every 15-minutes with its marching knights, soldiers and dancing criers. The old-world hamlet highlights brown-timbered buildings with plastered walls and tiled roofs, all representatives of medieval Germanic styles.

Germany's fine gift shops feature hand-painted beer steins and carved wooden cuckoo clocks. From delectable dessert shops and a cruise down the Rhine River to an antique Herschell Carousel, Germany is home to many rides and attractions. Alpenggeist®, an awarding-winning inverted steel roller coaster, and Land of the Dragons®, a magical play area designed for children, are just a few of the adventures awaiting passersby in this bustling village.

The Bavarian-influenced hamlet heralds an authentic Festhaus, traditional German fare, and all the makings of a festival complete with rides and games. Guests can take a thrilling tour of the legendary Black Forest aboard Verbolten®, a fast-paced multi-launch coaster.

Busch Gardens' Oktoberfest village features restaurants, games and performance venues that follow a traditional German Oktoberfest theme. Guests can enjoy hand-made pretzels, new dining areas and performance spaces set amid canopies of colored maypoles and festive banners that depict the rich heritage of Bavaria.

## **ITALY**

No European adventure would be complete without a trip to Italy. Busch Gardens' quaint Italian village fuses world-class rides with romantic song and dance, master craftsmanship and authentic cuisine. Beautiful street-side statues, fountains and lush gardens enhance the Italian ambiance of this marketplace.

Brave visitors may tour the ruins of Mt. Vesuvius on Escape from Pompeii®, a thrilling water ride with special effects. Da Vinci's Garden of Inventions features a variety of rides for adults and children alike.

Across a bridge, vibrant colors and light-hearted attitudes encourage guests to share in the carefree fun of Italy. Themed activities abound in this exuberant village. The towering landmark is Apollo's Chariot®, Busch Gardens' high-speed hypercoaster. Next door is the brightly-colored multi-launch coaster, Tempesto™.

## **LUSH LANDSCAPES**

Busch Gardens® has been named the "World's Most Beautiful Amusement Park" every year since 1990 by the National Amusement Park Historical Association (NAPHA). This outstanding accomplishment is due partly to the lush terrain of Virginia's native countryside, but also to the dedicated landscapers and

grounds crew that beautify the park's 134 acres of gardens, walkways, and flowerbeds. More than 30,000 plants and flowers are grown in the park's 18,000 square feet of "behind-the-scenes" greenhouses and cold frame growing space. In addition, Busch Gardens is committed to environmental preservation. The park's greenhouse staff releases tens of thousands of beneficial bugs into the park each year as a natural form of pest management, while ground crews pull thousands of weeds by hand each season. In fact, landscape artists spend nearly six hours each day pruning, planting and weeding the adventure park.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Busch Gardens® is an action-packed European-themed adventure park with 17<sup>th</sup>-century charm and 21<sup>st</sup>-century technology, boasting more than 134 acres of fun-filled world exploration.

- Home to top-rated roller coasters including Griffon®, one of the world's tallest and first floorless dive coasters
- More than 50 rides and attractions
- Voted the "World's Most Beautiful Amusement Park" every year since 1990
- Live stage shows
- Wide variety of culinary experiences and world-class shopping
- Sesame-themed children's area

### Location

- Three miles east of historic Williamsburg, Va.
- 50 miles from Richmond, Va. and the Virginia Beach resort area
- 150 miles from Washington D.C.
- 210 miles from Raleigh, N.C.
- 275 miles from Philadelphia, Pa.
- 360 miles from Charlotte, N.C.
- 400 miles from New York, N.Y.
- 490 miles from Charleston, S.C.
- 600 miles from Atlanta, Ga.

### How to Get Here

Williamsburg is served by air, bus and rail transportation.

- Airports - Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport in Newport News (15 miles), Norfolk International Airport (50 miles) and Richmond International Airport (50 miles).
- Bus and Train - Williamsburg is served by bus lines and Amtrak.
- Car - Interstate 64 leads to Williamsburg.

### Lodging

More than 11,000 hotel rooms are available in the Williamsburg area.

- To book a Busch Gardens® vacation, visit [www.buschgardens.com/bgwtrip](http://www.buschgardens.com/bgwtrip) or call Busch Gardens Vacations at (757) 229-4386.

### **Additional Services Available**

Busch Gardens® is dedicated to quality family entertainment and guest satisfaction. Visitors with disabilities may receive helpful information at the park's Guest Services and Information Center or may download a park accessibility guide prior to their visit by logging onto [www.buschgardens.com/va](http://www.buschgardens.com/va).

- Manual and electric wheelchairs and strollers may be rented near the main entrance.
- Climate controlled pet kennels are available for a nominal fee at the Pet Center in the England parking lot near the main entrance.
- Busch Gardens' First Aid station is situated between Jack Hanna's Wild Reserve and the park's France section. Registered nurses and emergency medical technicians staff this facility during park hours.
- Trained service animals are welcome at Busch Gardens®. Thrill rides may not accommodate service animals; however, they may ride along on the Aeronaut Skyride, Busch Gardens Railway, Rhine River Cruise and Kinder Karussel.
- Assisted listening devices are available at select areas of the park. Guests may inquire at the park's Guest Assistance Center for assistance.

The Guest Services and Information Center situated just inside the park entrance offers a variety of services for guests:

Height Check Station offers children the option of getting measured for the day. Kids receive a colored wristband, based on their height, with a sheet of kid-friendly rides.

Ride Accessibility Program matches guests with disabilities with rider requirements. The program also can provide more information about additional services offered for guests with disabilities.

Lost & Found Center

### **AWARDS**

Busch Gardens® has received many prestigious honors, including:

“World's Most Beautiful Amusement Park”: The National Amusement Park Historical Association (NAPHA) named Busch Gardens® the “World's Most Beautiful Amusement Park” since 1990.

Readers' Choice Awards by Theme Parks Magazine: Placing in nine of 17 categories, including most beautiful park, top 10 steel roller coasters, with Griffon® placing second in the favorite “New for 2007” category. Other notable placements include best food, best live entertainment, cleanest park, best seasonal event, best water ride and best themed ride or attraction.

Best Landscaping every year since the category's inception in 1998 (Golden Ticket Award)

Busch Gardens ranked top 25 amusement park in the U.S. (Trip Advisor Travelers' Choice Awards)

Celtic Fyre ranked No. 1 Entertainment Performance (2018 *USA Today* Reader's Choice)

Busch Gardens - top theme parks for the holidays (*US News & World Report*) (no ranking, our park was among the 14 chosen)

Christmas Town ranked one of the Best Family-friendly Attraction (*Coastal Virginia Magazine*)

Busch Gardens - Gold Award for Best Theme Park (Charlottesvillefamily.com)

Marco Polo's Marketplace ranked 2nd "Best Theme Park Restaurant" (*USA Today* Reader's Choice Awards)

Apollo's Chariot® ranked 9th for "Best Roller Coaster" (*USA Today* Reader's Choice Awards)

Brass Ring Award for Best Performer – Celtic Fyre

Busch Gardens received the prestigious Applause Award in 2002 from the International Association of Amusement Parks & Attractions (IAAPA) and Amusement Business Magazine. The Applause Award is given in honor of a park's "management, operations and creative accomplishments that have inspired the industry with foresight, originality and sound business development.

## 2018 BUSCH GARDENS® ADMISSION RATES AT THE PARK

### Day Tickets:

**1-Day Ticket - \$86.99A/\$76.99C**; save \$12 online

**2-Day Ticket - \$109.99 gate price**; save \$30 when you buy online and visit Busch Gardens Williamsburg and/or Water Country USA for two days.

**3-Day Ticket - \$119.99 gate price**; save \$30 when you buy online and visit Busch Gardens Williamsburg and/or Water Country USA for three days.

Children (ages 2 and under) FREE

### Historic Area Tickets

**Spring Bounce Ticket – starting at \$105**; enjoy unlimited visits to Busch Gardens & Colonial Williamsburg during your stay. Visit for up to seven consecutive days from date of first visit through May 12. Includes general parking at Busch Gardens plus select areas of Colonial Williamsburg.

**Membership plans:** Visit [www.buschgardens.com/joinBGW](http://www.buschgardens.com/joinBGW) for pricing, \*EZ Pay down payment information, plan benefits and rewards

### Basic Membership (Busch Gardens only, Water Country USA only or two-park)

Highlights: low price + discounts + select blackout dates

Flexibility equals savings with this plan. Benefits include 50 percent off general parking, 10 percent off in-park purchases, access to exclusive events, monthly rewards and guest ticket discounts. Blockout dates apply with the Basic plan.

### Unlimited Membership (Busch Gardens only, Water Country USA only or two-park)

*Highlights: unlimited admission + free parking + 10% discounts*

Members will enjoy limitless fun and perks with this plan. Benefits include free general parking, 10 percent off in-park purchases, two free guest tickets, access to exclusive events, monthly rewards and discount guest tickets.

### **Premier Membership** (Options: Busch Gardens or two-park)

*Highlights: 15% discounts + free friend tickets + Preferred parking*

The ultimate in fun and accessibility, the Premier Membership offers free preferred parking, 15 percent off in-park purchases, three free guest tickets, access to exclusive events, monthly rewards and discount guest tickets.

### **Platinum Membership** (11 parks)

Highlights: biggest benefits + richest rewards + 11 parks

This plan is for ultimate theme park enthusiasts. It features unlimited visits to Busch Gardens, Water Country USA and nine other world-class theme and water parks in the SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment™ family. Other enhanced benefits include free VIP parking, 15 percent off in-park purchases, three free guest tickets, a free PhotoKey subscription, ride again privileges, access to exclusive events, monthly rewards and discount guest tickets.

*(Memberships can also be purchased with a one-time, one-year payment option)*

*\*EZpay requires a down payment of (\$25-30 depending on membership type) and 12-monthly payments plus service fees. First monthly payment due at time of purchase. Once your initial 12-month EZpay commitment is satisfied, your Membership will continue and your credit card will be charged on a monthly basis, subject to your right to cancel at any time. SEA reserves the right to change your monthly payment amount after the expiration of the initial term. Please refer to the EZpay contract for full terms & conditions.*

### **Best deals for residents:**

**Busch Gardens Fun Card, \$89.99:** unlimited admission to Busch Gardens, valid March 23 - Sept. 8, 2019

**Free 2-Park Preschool Pass:** children ages 3-5 can enjoy unlimited admission to Busch Gardens and Water Country USA all summer for free through Oct. 27. Must be redeemed at the park by May 31, 2019.

## **VACATION GETAWAYS**

Flexibility and convenience are important when planning any vacation and Busch Gardens® Vacations offers both. Featuring the excitement of two world-class adventure parks, Williamsburg is the ultimate family retreat.

### Busch Gardens® Vacations

- Quality lodging at affordable prices. Guests can choose from budget-friendly accommodations to luxurious resorts. Extensive hotel descriptions, amenity information and pictures are available at [www.buschgardensvacations.com](http://www.buschgardensvacations.com).
- Customized packages include admission to Williamsburg's best attractions. Ticket options allow unlimited admission to Busch Gardens® and Water Country USA®.
- Online booking and vacation confirmations are performed in real time.
- A dedicated call center features trained sales professionals to assist in vacation planning.
- Attraction tickets are emailed to the guest prior to arrival.
- For more information, call (757) 229-4386 or visit online at [buschgardensvacations.com](http://buschgardensvacations.com)

## WATER COUNTRY USA®

Get your pulse racing as you take on our mega-slide or kick up your feet and relax as you float along our lazy river. There's tons of fun for your little ones, too, with themed play areas, child-sized water slides and shallow pools.

### THRILL RIDES AND SLIDES

#### Coming in 2019

On Sept. 5, 2018, Water Country USA® revealed exciting details about an exciting new thrill attraction set to open May 24, 2019. Water Country USA will debut Cutback Water Coaster™, Virginia's first hybrid water coaster.

**Cutback Water Coaster™**, the only RocketBLAST® coaster on the East Coast and Virginia's first hybrid water coaster, is coming to Water Country USA®. This revolutionary water propulsion ride will merge two unique technologies – a water jet propulsion system and exhilarating saucer feature. With the RocketBlast technology, Cutback will drive bigger boats, at higher speeds, and move riders up longer, steeper inclines. Thrill-seekers will board a four-person raft, speed along an 856 ft. slide, jet through tunnels and slide onto the wide-open space of massive saucer-shaped features. The steep angles of the saucers provide a drop-and-dive sensation as riders race along the edges. Cutback Water Coaster features the latest in turbine technology and takes water propulsion coasters to a whole new level with heart-stopping turns, lightning-fast drops and thrilling speeds.

#### Colossal Curl™

Hurtle high above Water Country USA® and experience a feeling of weightlessness aboard Colossal Curl™, a thrill ride for the whole family. True to its name, this mega-slide promises to deliver an action-packed adventure with a unique combination of high-adrenaline elements. The ride starts with a funnel feature, which will swish and swirl guests before whisking them through the ride's enclosed colorful tubes on their way to a wave element that hurtles them high above the park.

- Each cloverleaf-shaped raft fits up to four people
- Riders must be at least 48 inches tall to ride
- Group of four riders must collectively weigh less than 700 pounds

**Vanish Point®**: Guests are in for the slide of their lives at Water Country USA's epic drop slide, Vanish Point®. Inspired by the point on a wave where water and gravity form a perfect partnership, this summit supplies two wicked-wet ways to drop out of sight.

- Slide Tower
- 75-foot drop
- Nearly 40 mph
- 2 Super loop slides
- 2 Free-fall slides

**Aquazoid®:** Join Aquazoid® and Super Duck on this dynamic family raft ride with an extraordinary underground finale.

- Five water curtains
- Ride length of 864 feet plunges riders more than 20 feet per second

**Big Daddy Falls®:** This white-water rafting trip is the ultimate family adventure.

- Waterfalls, caves, “cannon blasters,” curves and drops
- Ride length of 670 feet
- Four guests ride in a family tube

**Jet Scream™:** Four dynamic slides let rafters choose their own adventures.

- Twisting, turning flumes
- Ride length of 415 feet with speeds exceeding 25 mph

**Hubba Hubba Highway®:** This radical river adventure features a quick current and several action elements.

- Largest Water Country USA® attraction measuring 1,500 feet in length and covering 3.5 acres
- Free-floating river ride through drenching coconuts, water-spraying effects and cool geysers

**Rock ‘n’ Roll Island’s Jammin’ Jukebox:** This slide tower is situated in the park’s Rock ‘n’ Roll Island section.

- Three body slides – The Twist, The Hully Gully and The Funky Chicken – shoot from the top of this 33-foot-tall slide tower
- Nearly 600 feet of twisting and turning tubes
- A 700-foot lazy river surrounds a 9,000-square-foot pool
- Younger guests can take a ride on the Little Bopper while in Rock ‘n’ Roll Island

**Malibu Pipeline®:** Two totally groovy tubes spin riders through tunnels of fun.

- Water jets
- Surprising directions and waterfall exit
- Mostly enclosed ride length of 468 feet with a maximum drop of 55 feet
- Two person tube ride that recreates the experience of surfing Southern California’s Malibu Pipeline

**Nitro Racer®:** Families and friends blast off in a race to the finish line on this super-speed slide. Ride length of 320 feet takes only four seconds to complete.

**Rampage™:** Ultimate thrill seekers plummet 75 feet aboard “surf-boggans.”

**Surfer’s Bay:** Guests can catch a wave of fun in this wet and wild wave pool. Splash the day away in the largest wave pool in Virginia.

**Wild Thang:** This two-person flume sends guests zooming through cool mists and waterfalls in a tropical setting.

## DINING, CHILDREN'S AREAS AND EXTRAS

**Dining:** Whether guests need something cool and refreshing to quench their thirst or have worked up a monster-sized appetite, Water Country USA's nine eateries are sure to please the palate.

### **Burgers, Tenders & Hot Dogs**

Indulge in an all-American summer with freshly made burgers, entrée salads, chicken tenders and hot dogs at **The Catalina Grille Diner**. Then top it off with a slice of chocolate cake, cheesecake or strawberry shortcake.

### **Burritos, Nachos & Bowls**

Browse our fresh made-to-order menu of delicious Tex-Mex food including burritos, chicken tenders, salads, nachos and rice bowls. **Boardwalk Southwest Grill** is our designated allergy-friendly location.

### **Sandwiches & Wraps**

Customize your subs, Panini's and wraps the way you want with just a few taps of the screen at **Launch Pad Express Cafe**. Or find fruit, salad or yogurt cups for a grab 'n go snack.

### **Save with All-Day Dining Deals**

Save time and money when you purchase an **All-Day Dining Deal** or **All-Day Dining Deal + Drinks** and eat all day long. Valid for one day at Water Country USA only.

## CHILDREN'S AREAS

**Cow-a-Bunga®:** A 4,500-square-foot pool is the centerpiece of this children's fantasyland.

- Unique and interactive water activities and heated pools
- Water slides and falls, gushing fountains, water cannons and a bubble area
- Cow-a-Bunga's esteemed mascot is a comical cow on skis

**H2O UFO®:** The park's largest interactive children's play area, H2O UFO® offers sci-fi fun with wacky characters, an array of slides, spray jets, and a waterfall. This kid-zone also features a ride for parents and children to enjoy together.

**Kritter Koral™:** Tons of fun for the tiniest of tots complete with scaled-down water slides, play equipment and fountains.

### **Classes**

The **Lifeguard** class, taught by experienced American Red Cross lifeguarding instructors, gives participants the knowledge and skills needed to prevent and respond to aquatic emergencies. Participants learn to recognize and respond quickly and effectively to emergencies and prevent drowning and injuries. Visit [buschgardens.com/williamsburg](http://buschgardens.com/williamsburg) for more information.

Water Country USA also offers several other **American Red Cross** classes. **Junior Lifeguarding** is a great start for children 11-15 who are interested in becoming a lifeguard later or just want a fun week of learning what it takes to be a lifeguard. **CPR/AED** classes are great for parents, caregivers, or people who want to know what to do in an emergency. **Babysitting** is another class for new babysitters ages 11 - 15, this class includes a Pediatric and Infant CPR certification.

**Cabana and Lounger Rental:** To make the most of their day at Water Country USA® guests can rent one of the park's cabanas or enjoy one of the park's 1,500 free lounge chairs that are available in various locations throughout the park.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Description:** Water Country USA® is Virginia's largest family water park and features:

- State-of-the-art water rides and attractions  
Retro surf theme
- Summertime entertainment, dining and shopping

**Special Features:**

- Pools are climate-controlled for guest comfort
- Locker rentals are available in several areas of the park
- Private cabanas are available for rent throughout the park
- Diaper changing stations are available in each of the park's children's areas. Swim diapers are required at Water Country USA® and may be purchased at any of the diaper changing stations or at WC Duds gift shop.
- More than 1,500 lounge chairs are available throughout Water Country USA® for sun worshippers or those needing a shaded break from all the excitement.

**Location:** Three miles west of Busch Gardens® Williamsburg, 150 miles from Washington D.C., and 50 miles from Richmond, Va. and the Virginia Beach resort area.

**Additional Information:** The latest news and special event information can be found by visiting additional links on [watercountryusa.com](http://watercountryusa.com) or calling (757) 229-4386.

**History:** Water Country USA® opened in 1984. SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment® acquired Water Country USA in 1992.

## 2018 WATER COUNTRY USA® ADMISSION RATES AT THE PARK

**Day Tickets:**

**1-Day Ticket - \$61.99A/\$54.99C; save \$17 online**

**2-Day Ticket - \$109.99 gate price; save \$30 online and visit Busch Gardens Williamsburg and/or Water Country USA for two days.**

**3-Day Ticket - \$119.99 gate price; save \$30 online and visit Busch Gardens Williamsburg and/or Water Country USA for three days.**

**Children (ages 2 and under) FREE**

**Membership plans:** Visit [www.buschgardens.com/joinBGW](http://www.buschgardens.com/joinBGW) for pricing, plan benefits and rewards

**Basic Membership** (Water Country USA only)

Highlights: low price + discounts + select blackout dates

Flexibility equals savings with this plan. Benefits include 50 percent off general parking, 10 percent off in-park purchases, access to exclusive events, monthly rewards and guest ticket discounts.

### **Unlimited Membership (Water Country USA only)**

*Highlights: unlimited admission + free parking + 10% discounts*

Members will enjoy limitless fun and perks with this plan. Benefits include free general parking, 10 percent off in-park purchases, two free guest tickets, access to exclusive events, monthly rewards and discount guest tickets.

*\*EZpay requires a down payment of (\$25-30 depending on membership type) and 12-monthly payments plus service fees.*

*First monthly payment due at time of purchase. Once your initial 12-month EZpay commitment is satisfied, your Membership will continue and your credit card will be charged on a monthly basis, subject to your right to cancel at any time. SEA reserves the right to change your monthly payment amount after the expiration of the initial term. Please refer to the EZpay contract for full terms & conditions.*

### **Busch Gardens & Water Country USA Preschool Pass**

FREE admission to two great parks for children ages 3-5, Mar. 23 - Oct. 27

Valid at Busch Gardens Williamsburg & Water Country USA

Proof of age (birth certificate or passport) is required

Must complete registration by May 31, 2019

### **Best deals for residents:**

**Water Country USA Fun Card, \$61.99:** Enjoy unlimited admission to Water Country USA ALL Summer.

Valid May 18 - Sept. 8, 2019.

### **FREE Busch Gardens & Water Country USA Preschool Pass**

FREE admission to two great parks for children ages 3-5, Mar. 23 - Oct. 27

Valid at Busch Gardens Williamsburg & Water Country USA

Proof of age (birth certificate or passport) is required

Must complete registration by May 31, 2019

## **WILLIAMSBURG AREA ATTRACTIONS AND ACCOMODATIONS**

From American History to European Adventure, Williamsburg Offers an Exciting Vacation Experience Families seeking a vacation filled with diverse entertainment will find Busch Gardens® and the surrounding historic area of Williamsburg, Va. just the ticket. Nowhere else can families experience a record-breaking roller coaster, visit an Irish village, catch a cool wave, chat with Thomas Jefferson and explore a Powhatan Indian village all in the same day. It's a vacation where families can experience American history and tour Europe without jet lag.

**Kingsmill Resort & Spa** is a luxurious, contemporary resort situated on 2,900 acres along the majestic James River. One of the country's finest resorts and Virginia's largest golf resort, **Kingsmill Resort** offers upscale accommodations, three 18-hole championship golf courses, a luxurious spa and fitness center, and six restaurants and lounges.

**Colonial Williamsburg** represents the restored capital of 18<sup>th</sup>-century England's largest and most important colony in the New World. This vast outdoor living-history museum, with public buildings, private homes, stores, taverns and gardens, is brought to life with tradesmen and historical interpreters in full-period costume.

The **National Park Service** operates two national parks within a short distance of Busch Gardens and Water Country USA. **Yorktown Battlefield** is the site of the final, major battle of the American

Revolutionary War and symbolic end of Colonial English America. **Jamestown National Historical Site** consists of 22.5 acres on the western end of Jamestown Island and was the first permanent English colony in North America.

**Jamestown Settlement** tells the story of America's first permanent English settlement, established in 1607, 13 years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, Mass. Re-creations of the colonists' fort, three ships and a Powhatan Indian village depicts life in the early 1600s. In 2007, Virginia's and America's first permanent English settlement commemorated its 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The commemoration began in May 2006 and encompassed 18 months of festivities, ten signature events, and hundreds of community projects and programs.

**The Yorktown Victory Center** is a museum of the American Revolution that chronicles America's struggle for independence from the beginning of colonial unrest to the emergence of a free nation. Gallery exhibits provide eyewitness accounts of the revolutionary era and tell of "Yorktown's sunken fleet," ships lost during the 1781 siege of Yorktown.

Less than an hour's drive from Williamsburg, **Norfolk** and **Virginia Beach** are two cities packed with family fun. Norfolk is well known for its military presence and is the site of the world's largest naval base. **Nauticus**, the National Maritime Center situated on the downtown Norfolk waterfront, harnesses the power of the sea in this interactive showplace. Nauticus also is home to the *Battleship Wisconsin*, open daily Memorial Day through Labor Day. Virginia Beach coaxes sun-worshippers to its shores each season for rest and relaxation. The three-mile oceanfront boardwalk includes larger-than-life sculptures, entertainment stages, and a designated boardwalk bike path. This popular East Coast beach offers deep-sea fishing, sailing, water skiing, and scuba diving. Nature lovers will enjoy hiking, biking, or kayaking excursions that take them into Virginia Beach's many parks and refuge areas.

**Additional Information:** To learn more about Busch Gardens® and SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment®, visit [buschgardens.com](http://buschgardens.com) or call (757) 229-4386.

## COMMUNICATIONS CONTACT INFORMATION

### Communications Department

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*If you're working under a deadline and it's after-hours or on weekends, please call (757) 253-3330 to have a member of our team contacted.*

*"Like" Busch Gardens on [Facebook](#), and follow @BuschGardensVA on [Twitter](#), [Snapchat](#) and [Instagram](#).*