

MAKING LIFE MORE FUN

Consumer Tips For Visiting An Amusement Park

(NAPSA)—In 2001, more people visited theme parks and amusement parks throughout the world than ever before. In the U.S. alone, over 319 million people packed the nation's 450 amusement parks, and millions more visited its numerous other attractions.

According to the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA), families will have even more exciting places to visit this year, with the opening of such attractions as:

- **H2Oasis**—Alaska's first (and only) indoor water park, complete with a wave pool, pirate ship and water coaster.

- **Delirium**—North America's first pendulum ride that will send 32 riders spinning deliriously—their legs dangling freely—at the end of a giant arm that swings 65 feet high. (At Paramount's Great America, Santa Anna, Calif.)

- **Big Bad John**—A runaway mine train rollercoaster on a half-mile of steel track that cuts loose from its mine shaft and careens through a newly wooded ravine. (At Magic Springs and Crystal Falls, Hot Springs, Ark.)

- **Roller Soaker**—An aerial water ride with squirt guns, water sprayers and squirting geysers. (At Hersheypark, Hershey, Pa.)

- **X**—The world's first fourth-dimensional rollercoaster. Riders race in prototype vehicles that spin independently, 360° forwards and backwards on a separate axis for 2½ minutes, at speeds reaching 76 mph along a 3,600-ft. twisting steel maze. (At Six Flags California, Valencia, Calif.)

When traveling to these or any other amusement parks or attractions, you can make your visit a safe and fun one by following these safety tips:

- Dress comfortably, but avoid open-toed shoes, dangling clothing and jewelry. Protect yourself from the sun with sunscreen and headgear, even on cloudy days.

- Observe all rules that are posted at each attraction, and follow the verbal instructions given by ride operators.



“Safety first” is an important rule to keep in mind when exploring amusement parks.

- Obey listed age, height, and weight restrictions, as well as those concerning health matters such as heart conditions, back/neck trouble, pregnancy, recent surgery and high blood pressure.

- Keep your hands, arms, legs, and feet inside the ride at all times, and remain in the ride until it comes to a complete stop and you are instructed by a ride operator to exit the ride. If a personal item falls outside the vehicle while you're on the ride, do not try to retrieve it yourself, instead, ask the ride operator for assistance after you have exited from the ride.

- Always use the safety equipment provided on a ride and *do not* attempt to wriggle free of the seat belts or other restraints in search of a “bigger thrill” or the opportunity to show off.

- Parents must take an active safety role with their young children; observe the ride in operation first to ensure that your child can ride it safely and then explain to your child about the appropriate behavior on a ride.

- Don't overeat or consume a significant amount of alcohol prior to riding. Stop riding before you become excessively tired.

IAAPA is the largest international trade association for permanently situated amusement facilities worldwide. The organization represents over 5,000 facility, supplier, and individual members from more than 100 countries. To learn more, visit www.iaapa.org.