

WATER PARKS & RECREATION

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Aqua Planet welcomes guests to newest water park in the Philippines

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PAMPANGA, Philippines — **Aqua Planet**, the newest park in the Philippines opened to the public on February 24. The nearly 25-acre property cost more than \$49 million (2.5 billion PH Pesos) to construct and claims to be one of the largest water parks in the Philippines. The facility can accommodate up to 3,500 guests on 25 water attractions including a FlowRider, spiral slides, a bowl slide, tornado-style slide, multilane racing slide, lazy river, wave pool, and a children's interactive water play structure.

Aquatic Development Group of New York designed and developed the property for resort owners **BB International Leisure and Resort Development**, along with locally based **Morris International Recreation Technology** serving as consultants.

In addition to design and planning, ADG provided the equipment required for wave generation, water filtration, water flow pumps and a Flow Rider surf simulator.

Water quality management is automated by computer systems that monitor the PH level, chlorine, and other chemicals to ensure the water inside the park is safe and clean. Four state-of-the-art filtration systems run 24-7 making sure that on average, all of the water in the facility is cycled through the system 16 times per day.

The wave generation equipment supplied by ADG for Boogie Bay, is capable of producing eight different types of waves. The Bubbly Bay children's area includes an interactive water-play structure and a wave pool



This aerial (above) gives a nice view of the park layout, its 38 waterslides and attractions as well as its location within the Clark Freeport Zone. The six-lane octopus racing slide (right) offers a quick thrill and keeps lines moving. COURTESY AQUA PLANET



specifically for children. The pool features three different types of gentle waves. The backdrop of the Boogie Bay wave pool includes a 600-inch LED television screen that is bright enough to display video day and night. Comfortable chairs, umbrella tables and 24 beach cabanas line the front, shallow end of the pool.

Chengdu Tailong Amusement Industry of Chendu, China, supplied the waterslides. Most appear to be copies of attractions that were designed and developed by the well-known Canadian waterslide suppliers. Even the attraction names are similar: Aqua Loop, Super Bowl, Octopus Racers, and Tornado.

The beach cabanas, located in front of the wave pool, Boogie Bay, are available for rent and feature a sofa, chairs and table, a fan for ventilation and a safe to secure valuables. Each can accommodate up to 15 people.

Additional cabanas are placed throughout the park; 13 Bubbly Bay cabanas are conveniently placed in the children's

area, Bubbly Bay, so families with small children can set up a home base there. The island and palmera cabanas are ideal for large families or groups, as each can accommodate up to 25 guests.

In addition to the cabanas, the park has seating for more than 3,000 provided by umbrella tables with chairs and lounge chairs that are free for guests to use. 600 lockers are available for rent and WiFi is available throughout the park.

Aqua Planet is cashless and the facility partnered with **Semnox Solutions** of Karnataka, India, to provide RFID wristbands to each guest purchasing an admission. Wristbands are used to access lockers, and to purchase food, beverages and items at the gift shops and boutiques. The wristbands are also color coded by height. Adult guests receive a green wristband; those under 48 inches are given an orange wristband, indicating they are prohibited from riding certain high-thrill attractions. Kiosks are strategically located throughout the park to reload wristbands once the bal-

ance gets low or is depleted.

Safety Skills Training of Dubai, UAE, provided risk management and safety consultation as well as training and certification of the staff and more than 100 lifeguards. SST offers globally recognized safety training programs such as those from **Ellis & Associates**.

An extensive guest services and front line staff training program was incorporated to make certain that employees who interact with customers are friendly, accommodating and courteous. The focus is on delivering exemplary customer service in order to create the best possible water park experience.

Aqua Planet is in the **Clark Freeport Zone**, a redevelopment of the former **Clark Air Base** which the U.S. Air Force closed in 1991 after the eruption of Mount Pinatubo. Four years later, following the clean-up and removal of the volcanic ash, the base reemerged as **Clark International Airport** and the **Clark Special Economic Zone**. The former base

is now home to a golf resort, a number of industrial buildings, casinos, landmarks, and retail establishments.

The park has been in soft-opening mode since November 2017. The first guests to visit the park were children brought in from local orphanages. They were given access to Bubbly Bay. Since then the park has held a number of special preview events including visits by Philippine celebrities. One lucky man got to try out the gigantic LED television by proposing to his girlfriend via a message on the screen — she said yes.

To prevent overcrowding, attendance at the park is limited to 3,500 guests. For the time being, the guests are accommodated on a first-come first-served, walk-up basis. On several normally busy operating days such as holidays and weekends, the park has reached capacity, resulting in guests being turned away at the gates. The park is expected to implement an on-line advance reservation system in the near future.



The bowl slide and tornado both utilize four-person rafts and share the same lift system. COURTESY AQUA PLANET



The split wave pool includes a peninsula for lifeguards, as well as a 600-inch LED television screen. Eight different types of waves keep guests engaged all day long. COURTESY AQUA PLANET