



Make a SPLASH!

by allison ellis

Venture beyond the backyard pool this summer to some of America's most alluring lakes, rivers and natural swimming holes.

Photography: Getty Images

EMERALD POOL, WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST, N.H.

It's easy being green. In the heart of the White Mountains, Emerald Pool swimming hole lives up to its name with crystal-clear green waters that beckon despite their icy temperatures. An easy three-quarter-mile hike in from New Hampshire Route 113 takes you and your family to this popular mountain-stream-fed pool. You'll hear plenty of yelps and gasps as swimmers acclimatize to its chilly waters.

LAKE BEMIDJI, BEMIDJI, MINN.

Land of 10,000 lakes? You betcha! If you believe the legend of Paul Bunyan, Lake Bemidji and neighboring Lake Irving were formed in the giant lumberjack's footprint. A popular family resort and recreation destination—swimming, boating, fishing, you name it—the surrounding area is home to 25 percent of Minnesota's waterways. So if you tire of one lake, there's always another, and another, and another...

BARTON SPRINGS POOL, AUSTIN, TEXAS

How do you spell relief? Barton Springs Pool, a three-acre reservoir in the heart of Austin, is a cool 68 degrees year-round, making it a popular place during sizzling Texas summers. Fed by natural underwater springs, this freshwater swimming pool on the grounds of Zilker Park is open from Friday through Wednesday and is accessible in summer for a nominal fee.



LAKE CHELAN, CHELAN, WASH.

This 55-mile North Cascades lake has two distinct personalities: a southern end with popular resorts, campgrounds, wineries and waterskiing, and a quiet, untamed expanse of shoreline up north. A word to the wise: the farther down-lake you swim, the warmer it gets.

SLIDING ROCK, BREVARD, N.C.

Put on some cutoff jeans and glide down this 60-foot natural rock waterslide into a seven-foot-deep pool below. It's a bit of a bumpy ride but well worth the plunge. This swimmer's playground just off Highway 276 is run by the Pisgah National Forest Service, meaning lifeguards in summer, guardrails and viewing areas, a \$1 entrance fee, restrooms—and occasional long lines.

INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE, CHESTERTON, IND.

Kick back with the dunes this summer. With 15 miles of sandy shoreline boasting eight different swimming areas, this southern Lake Michigan hot spot is as close to an ocean experience as you can get inland. Oh, and don't forget your hiking shoes: there are over 45 miles of rugged dune trails to explore. At the end of the day, the waves lapping at your feet will feel oh-so-sweet.

Did you know?

THE DEEPEST LAKE IN THE UNITED STATES IS CRATER LAKE IN OREGON AT **1,949 FEET**.

Wade in SWIMSUIT FASHIONS THROUGH HISTORY

- **500-400 B.C.** Bathing in the buff is the norm.
- **1700s** Heavy canvas waistcoats and drawers make for some seriously bulky swimwear.
- **1850s** Carriage-like “bathing machines” wheel swimmers into the sea.
- **1880s** Victorian bathing costumes for women consist of wool dresses, bloomers and black stockings.
- **1910s-20s** Formfitting one- and two-piece outfits hit the beach. Men and women begin to reveal arms and legs. Scandalous!
- **1940s-50s** The arrival of quick-drying nylon. Stylish halter tops and skirted bottoms are all the rage among Hollywood pinups.
- **1960** Men’s swimming trunks get seriously skimpy with the arrival of Speedo’s very first leisure-style swimming briefs.
- **1960s** The “Itsy Bitsy Teeny Weenie Yellow Polka Dot Bikini” ups the ante for the ladies. *Sports Illustrated’s* inaugural Swimsuit Issue fuels the bikini craze.
- **1970s** Farrah Fawcett, Christie Brinkley, Cheryl Tiegs and string bikinis. Need we say more?
- **2009-12** The age of performance-enhancing swimwear. Speedo’s LZR Racer suit is introduced—and then banned from competition before it’s redesigned to meet regulations.



Did you know?

AN HOUR OF VIGOROUS SWIMMING
CAN BURN UP TO **650 CALORIES**.



SWIM AT YOUR OWN RISK DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT TAKING THAT PLUNGE UNTIL YOU READ THIS.

- 1. Test the waters.** How deep is that lake you’re about to jump into? Find out before you leap.
- 2. Always swim with a buddy.** They’ll be your best friend if you run into any trouble.
- 3. Wear water shoes or sneakers** to protect your feet from rocks, glass, slime and everything in between.
- 4. Keep children under constant supervision.** And no matter how old they are, weak swimmers should wear U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets.
- 5. Don’t drink the water.** Natural water can get contaminated. Keep your mouth shut, please.

Source: American Red Cross



DON'T MISS THE BOAT

If you think swimming and boating go hand in hand, make sure your boat or personal watercraft is protected through the GEICO Insurance Agency (GIA).

Our boat insurance partner, Seaworthy—another trusted Berkshire Hathaway company—provides the same care and 24/7 claims service you’ve come to rely on with your GEICO auto policy, and you could save up to 10 percent with a Multi-Policy Discount. GIA can provide you with superior coverage options designed for boaters. From your brand-new pontoon boat to your tried-and-true bass boat, we’ve got you covered.

You can even get insured on the go: GEICO’s mobile-friendly site now offers free rate quotes for watercrafts. Visit m.geico.com on your mobile device. You can also receive a quote anytime at geico.com or call GIA 24/7 at 1-800-841-0728.

DID YOU KNOW?

America holds two prestigious swimming records you may not have heard about:

1. The world’s largest gathering of people wearing swim caps **Where:** South Beach of Tybee Island, Ga. **When:** Jan. 1, 2012 **Who:** 2,049 participants
2. The largest swimming lesson in a single venue **Where:** Disney’s Typhoon Lagoon, Orlando, Fla. **When:** June 14, 2011 **Who:** 611 participants

Photography: Getty Images



Water Worlds

Scan this code or visit geiconow.com/water-parks for a slide show of the world’s wackiest water parks. Turn to page 2 for how to scan.

