



Submitted photos

Family Kingdom is a Myrtle Beach amusement park and water park geared toward families and younger children.

FAMILY KINGDOM = FAMILY FUN

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As temperatures continue to rise, people all over the country will pack their bags and head to the coast for a few days of relief in the ocean.

One of South Carolina's most popular destinations, drawing visitors from all over the world, is Myrtle Beach, and no family vacation is complete without a trip to an amusement park.

The hype this year has brought Myrtle Beach's newest addition, Hard Rock Park, into the spotlight; however, Family Kingdom continues to offer family-oriented fun. With two separate parks including a water park and the main amusement park, Family Kingdom offers a central location, affordable rates, a family-oriented environment, flexibility, convenience and years of tradition.

Family Kingdom first opened its doors for business at 300 South Ocean Blvd. in Myrtle Beach during the summer of 1965. The park underwent major transformations after 1989's Hurricane Hugo forced it to close,

Family Kingdom amusement park rides:

- ▶ 4x4
- ▶ Antique-Electric
- ▶ Berrago Round
- ▶ Bumblebee
- ▶ Bumper Cars
- ▶ Canoes
- ▶ Swamp Fox Roller Coaster
- ▶ Cycles
- ▶ Dark Ride-Pitole-ro
- ▶ Galleon
- ▶ Giant Wheel
- ▶ Go Karts-Oval
- ▶ Go Karts-Figure 8
- ▶ Hampton Combo
- ▶ Hurricane
- ▶ Kiddie Coaster
- ▶ Kiddie Swing
- ▶ Kiddie Speedway
- ▶ Kiddie Wheel
- ▶ King's Model T
- ▶ Log Flume
- ▶ Mini Bumper Cars
- ▶ Mini Enterprise
- ▶ Rod Barron
- ▶ Scrambler
- ▶ Sling Shot
- ▶ Thunderbolt
- ▶ Tilt-A-Wheel
- ▶ Train
- ▶ Wet Boats
- ▶ Yo-Yo

reopening in 1992 under the ownership of the Ammons family. During the closure, the park was almost completely rebuilt.

Family Kingdom reopened for the season in March with the water park scheduled to open May 29. The amusement park offers rides of all kinds but caters to younger children.

"We are geared more toward families and their children rather than teenagers and adult thrill seekers," said General Manager Donnie Sipes.

Keeping with the family atmosphere, park admission is free. The only charges are for riders, so if a parent simply wants to accompany a child, there is no fee.

Each year, an estimated 700,000 people visit the park, and 2008 is expected to see the same numbers. Many of the park's guests walk from their hotels as Family Kingdom is situated in the heart of Myrtle Beach. Last year, for the first time in the park's history, Fam-

ily Kingdom served as the only theme park in Horry County as the Pavilion closed and Hard Rock Park was under construction.

The park will be open every day during the summer season and remain open until Sept. 27. The hours will vary depending on the season and the day of the week.

General admission to Family Kingdom is \$22.95 for an all-day amusement pass. Water park admission for people more than 48 inches tall is \$17.95 and \$16.70 for those less than 48 inches tall. Combination passes are available for \$32.35 and include one all-day amusement park pass and one all-day water park pass. Individual ride tickets range from \$2.10 to \$6.30. Discounts are offered for locals and military personnel. Call Family Kingdom for more information at (843) 448-1123.

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