

THE JOURNAL RECORD



Oprah Daily named OKANA a top 2025 beach getaway due to the resort's 4.5-acre lagoon venue, home to the fourth largest pool in the country. (Photo /OKANA)

OKANA resort named a top beach getaway in 2025

OKLAHOMA CITY – OKANA Resort & Indoor Waterpark earned a spot on Oprah Daily's list of 30 top resorts for a "perfect beach getaway," proving an ocean is optional.

The magazine called the resort with its white-sand outdoor adventure lagoon "a game changer for land-locked Oklahoma."

The 4.5-acre venue is home to the fourth largest pool in the country, an outdoor waterpark, an adult-only swim-up bar and tanning pool, food and beverage options and 34 personal luxury cabanas.

"It's the heart of the whole operation and the main attraction in the summer," Managing Director Gerson Velasquez said. "It's an amazing experience our guests are experiencing."

In future winter seasons, the area will be converted to ice tubing and a skating rink, offering year-round entertainment.

The Chickasaw Nation opened the \$400 million resort on Feb. 21. Velasquez said business was very good during spring break but, with the opening of the lagoon, the resort was "solid sold out" through the summer.

The outdoor oasis is the centerpiece of the resort property, which also features an 11-story, 404-room hotel; conference center; indoor waterpark; family entertainment center and 13 dining establishments.

OKANA unveiled its final restaurant in December, [Bullseye Kitchen](#), described as “an upscale entertainment speakeasy,” featuring axe throwing, darts and digital putt-putt challenges. Bullseye Kitchen joined Smokehouse Social, Curveball Kitchen and The Spa at OKANA at the lagoon venue.

Both hotel guests and locals are invited to enjoy the beach and all its amenities, as well as the two-level, 100,000-square-foot indoor waterpark that is open year-round.

“It’s exciting to see the citizens of Oklahoma City embracing our resort,” Velasquez said. “A lot of locals stay with us or buy day passes.”

Local companies are booking events at the conference center, which is now competing for national rotating conventions, he said.

OKANA reports it served 300,000 hotel guests and 60,000 day-pass guests in 2025. It has 547 current employees and expects to have more than 700 staff members at peak times over the summer.

At the opening, Mayor David Holt said OKANA is the most expensive commercial development in Oklahoma City’s history, “represents a tipping point for our city’s visitor economy.”

Velasquez said the resort’s economic impact was in “the upper \$40 millions” in 2025 and is projected to nearly double that in 2026.

“In 2026 our main focus will be to continue developing the brand and services,” he said. “We don’t just focus on amenities; we focus on the service.”

Situated in the [Horizons District](#), OKANA sits next to [First Americans Museum](#), east of Interstate 40 and south of Interstate 35 along the Oklahoma River.