

## Office of the Governor

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### NEWS RELEASE

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### **Governor Kicks off Grand Re-Opening of Six Flags Great Adventure**

Gov. Christie Whitman today helped kickoff the grand re-opening of one of New Jersey's premier tourist attractions, Six Flags Great Adventure. The park recently finished an over \$42 million expansion that will offer more than 25 new rides and attractions for thrill seekers. The event marks the start of the summer season in New Jersey, a bustling state for tourism attractions and retreats.

Today also marks the grand opening of the Looney Tunes Seaport, a new six-acre section of the park for young children which features more than ten new rides and attractions.

"With all the new attractions," said Gov. Whitman. "the crowds are certain to flock here in the months ahead, and New Jersey's tourism industry will be the better for it."

"New Jersey is the perfect place to spend lots of time, whether you seek the thrills and excitement here at Great Adventure, or just want to walk on our sandy white beaches, hike our mountain terrain, visit our historic treasures, or play the slots in our glittering casinos," said the Governor.

Great Adventure is celebrating its 26th season and currently tops the Guinness Book of Records listing for the most rides at one park. More than 110 million people have flocked to the now "super park," since it opened.

Governor Whitman recently recognized the park with an Economic Development Award. The award honors companies that have produced significant economic growth, revenues and job creation through tourism expansion.

Great Adventure is New Jersey's largest employer of seasonal employees. Over 4,200 people work at the park.

New Jersey's tourism industry generates more than \$26 billion a year and employs 633,000 people. The New Jersey Commerce and Economic Growth Commission along with the Office of Travel and Tourism just developed "Team New Jersey USA", an initiative to help market overnight visits to the Garden State.