

Seoul Plans World's Biggest Spokeless Ferris Wheel

The world's biggest spokeless Ferris wheel is coming to Seoul.

Ferris wheels are usually built with spokes in the middle, so they look like the wheel of a bicycle.

But they can now be spokeless, meaning they have nothing in the middle. These wheels usually work either by turning the whole wheel from the bottom, or by having the passenger compartments move around the wheel like they're on a track.

The spokeless South Korean wheel will be named the "Seoul Ring," and will be built in Haneul Park by the Hangang River.

It will be 180 meters high when it's finished. Right now, a 143-meter-high Ferris wheel in Shandong, China, is the world's biggest spokeless wheel.

The Ain Dubai wheel in the UAE is even higher — at 250 meters — but it has spokes.

Officials hope both tourists and local people will enjoy the Seoul Ring with its views of the river, the city and Namsan Mountain.

But they will have to wait. Work on the wheel won't begin until 2025, and it may not open until 2027.

By then, it should have 36 carriages, which will each be large enough for 25 people.

The local government says the wheel should be able to carry almost 1,500 passengers every hour, and nearly 12,000 passengers a day.

Ferris wheels are named after the man who designed the first one in the late 19th century — the American George Washington Gale Ferris Jr.