

= SkyLoop =

SkyLoop is a type of steel roller coaster manufactured by Maurer Söhne . There are currently 10 SkyLoops operating worldwide ; 9 of which are identical XT 150 models with only one being the extended , XT 450 model . The first SkyLoop to open was Sky Wheel in 2004 (XT 150) while the first and only XT 450 , Abismo opened in 2006 . There are also 3 other models available ; XT 900 , Custom , and Launch , those have not been built yet .

= = History = =

The world 's first SkyLoop , Sky Wheel , opened in 2004 and is currently located at Skyline Park in Germany . Sky Wheel is a XT 150 model . This would continue to be the only model of the SkyLoop to be built until 2006 when Abismo at Parque de Atracciones de Madrid in Spain was built . Abismo is a SkyLoop XT 450 (an extension to the XT 150) and continues to be the only XT 450 built as of November 2012 . Since then , only XT 150 's have been built around the world . Maurer Söhne also have 3 additional models of the SkyLoop ; XT 900 (extension to XT 150) , Custom , and Launch (uses the XT 150 layout where the train gets launched up the lift hill) , although as of November 2012 none have been built .

= = Models = =

Currently , the SkyLoop consists of 5 models ; XT 150 , XT 450 , XT 900 , Custom , and Launch .

= = = XT 150 = = =

SkyLoop XT 150 is a short , 492 @-@ foot @-@ long (150 m) roller coaster that reaches a maximum height of 171 feet (52 m) (the actual track reaches 164 feet (50 m)) and a top speed of 65 miles per hour (105 km / h) . This model also has two inversions and uses a single train featuring 2 X @-@ Cars that seat 6 people each .

After the train departs from the station , it immediately begins to climb the vertical (90 degree) lift hill . Upon reaching the top of the lift , the train turns 45 degrees backwards putting the train and its riders in an upside down position . Then , as the train exits the lift , it goes through a heartline roll before going down the only drop in the layout of the roller coaster . The train speeds through the station going back up the lift . Once it loses momentum the train then returns down passing through the station again . It then proceeds back up the drop and partially into the heartline roll before once again losing momentum and returning to the ground . After passing the station for the third time , the train is stopped near the top of the lift hill . It is then lowered back down to the station where the next riders board the train . The XT 150 has the option of sending riders around a second cycle at the operator 's discretion . When the train stops on the lift hill at the end of the ride , instead of lowering slowly back to the station , the chain will raise the car up and send it through the ride again .

= = = XT 450 = = =

SkyLoop XT 450 is a 1 @,@ 345 @-@ foot @-@ long (410 m) roller coaster that reaches a maximum height of 171 feet (52 m) (the actual track reaches 151 feet (46 m)) and a top speed of 65 miles per hour (105 km / h) . This model is an extension of the XT 150 ; the beginning is the same . The XT 450 has 4 inversions and also uses a train made up of 2 X @-@ Cars that seat 6 people each .

The roller coaster begins the same way that the XT 150 model does . After the train departs from the station , it immediately begins to climb the vertical (90 degree) lift hill . Upon reaching the top of the lift , the train turns 45 degrees backwards putting the train and its riders in an upside down position . After , as the train exits the lift , it goes through an heartline roll . The train enters the first drop where it reaches its maximum speed of 65 miles per hour (105 km / h) before traversing a

tight left overbanked turn . After the turn , the train goes over the only camelback hill followed by another left overbanked turn . The train then follows a flat section of track before going down a small drop leading into the station and back up the lift where the train stops . The train is then lowered back down to the station where the next riders board the ride .

== XT 900 ==

SkyLoop XT 900 is a concept that has yet to be built . The design of model begins the same way as the XT 150 does as the lift , first inversion , and first drop are all present in both models . Along with the elements from the XT 150 model , the XT 900 includes a series of turns , overbanked turns , a loop , and a cobra roll .

== Custom ==

SkyLoop Custom is a concept that also has yet to be built . The design of this model is based on the SkyLoop XT 150 with an extension of what the particular amusement park wants . Roller coasters of this model can vary from one another .

== Launch ==

SkyLoop Launch is a concept that has also yet to be built . This design can be incorporated with the XT 150 , 450 , 900 , and Custom models as the " launch " takes place where the normal lift would be . The top speed of the launch would be 27 miles per hour (43 km / h) and is driven by linear synchronous motors (LSM) . If this concept were to be built , not only would it have the world 's highest inversion , but also the world 's highest vertical launch .

== Installations ==

Maurer Söhne has built ten SkyLoops as of 2012 . Nine are SkyLoop XT 150 's while one is a SkyLoop XT 450 . The roller coasters are listed in order of opening dates .

== Similar Rides ==

Premier Rides have made the Sky Rocket II model like Superman : Ultimate Flight , which is similar to the SkyLoop . In addition , several Chinese SkyLoops have been made .