

= Storm Coaster =

Storm Coaster is a Water Coaster located at the Sea World theme park on the Gold Coast , Australia . The ride is designed by German firm Mack Rides and combines the flume and splashdown elements of a log flume , with the chain lift hill and drops of a steel roller coaster .

Original plans for a Water Coaster at Sea World were released by the local council in 2008 ; however , they were put on hold . In 2010 , the Bermuda Triangle ride closed , sitting dormant until mid @-@ 2012 when construction for the Storm Coaster began . After demolition works were completed , track for the Storm Coaster arrived at Sea World , taking five months to erect . Storm Coaster officially opened to the public on 6 December 2013 .

Storm Coaster is themed to the effects of a Category 5 Tropical Cyclone at a coastal shipping port . The 470 @-@ metre @-@ long ( 1 @,@ 540 ft ) ride stands 28 metres ( 92 ft ) tall and features a top speed of 70 kilometres per hour ( 43 mph ) . The ride has been well received , with praise for it being both fun and thrilling .

= = History = =

In January 2008 , the Gold Coast City Council released plans for a Mack Rides Water Coaster at Sea World . The ride would have been located at the front of the park , with the ride 's station situated where the Penguin Encounter exhibit exists and the main track extending out and over the car park . These plans were shelved . In December 2008 , Sea World opened Jet Rescue , an Intamin JetSki Coaster .

In June 2012 , Sea World applied for a permit to demolish the Bermuda Triangle water ride system and the interior of its show building . The Bermuda Triangle had been sitting dormant since its closure in October 2010 and had been earmarked by the park as a site for a future attraction . On 12 July 2012 , Christian von Elverfeldt from Mack Rides revealed Australia would be receiving a water roller coaster in 2013 ; leading to speculation that Sea World might have revived its plans . Further development application filings , and reports by the Roller Coaster DataBase and the Gold Coast Bulletin , confirmed this speculation . In September 2012 , Sea World asked Austrian firm Dynamic Motion Rides ( DyMoRides ) to develop a theming and show design concept for the yet @-@ to @-@ be @-@ announced Storm Coaster . DyMoRides was ultimately contracted for the full turnkey project in April 2013 . DyMoRides subsequently contracted PEL Creative for creative direction , Full @-@ On Lighting for lighting design , Volume One for audio and visual effects , and Sculpt Studios for theming design .

Prior to the commencement of construction , Sea World announced a new attraction for 2013 and released a promotional image on their Facebook page which read " The storm is building . It 's gonna be a big one . " . Demolition works began in August 2012 . Due to this construction , nearby attractions , including Viking 's Revenge Flume Ride , Jet Rescue and the Skyway , were intermittently closed throughout the latter part of 2012 and into 2013 . The first pieces of ride track arrived on site in April 2013 , with vertical construction commencing in the following month . An official announcement for Storm Coaster made by Sea World in May 2013 detailed the ride would feature 470 metres ( 1 @,@ 540 ft ) of track and a series of water and fire effects . Although an opening date of September 2013 was initially set , Sea World later revised this to be Summer 2013 . By September 2013 , the ride 's track was complete , with focus moving towards theming and testing the ride . On 2 December 2013 , Storm Coaster soft opened to the public , with an official opening held four days later .

= = Characteristics = =

Storm Coaster is a Water Coaster designed by Mack Rides . The 470 @-@ metre @-@ long ( 1 @,@ 540 ft ) track layout is identical to Skatteøen at Djurs Sommerland in Denmark . The ride stands 28 metres ( 92 ft ) tall and features a top speed of 70 kilometres per hour ( 43 mph ) . Unlike most roller coasters which have two rails and a wheel assembly to wrap around the track , Storm

Coaster features six rails where the wheels run within the track . The ride features six Coast Guard @-@ themed vehicles that each seat eight riders in four rows of two . Riders are restrained through the use of both lap bars and seat belts . Storm Coaster is reported to have cost \$ 20 million , making it the single biggest investment in an Australian theme park attraction .

= = Experience = =

Storm Coaster is themed around the effects of a Category 5 Tropical Cyclone at a coastal shipping port . Theming surrounding the ride depicts a path of destruction from the storm , with boats , cars , shipping containers and other debris strewn throughout . However , the port is in the eye of the storm and everyone must evacuate via Coast Guard rescue boats .

Riders enter the queue area by passing through a shipping container with a rusty Storm Coaster sign on it . A short outdoor path leads riders towards a stack of containers . Riders enter the containers through a series of black rubber flaps , before emerging into a warehouse . Once at the station riders board one of the Coast Guard boats .

After departing the station , the boats travel through a short flume section before emerging from the building and ascending a 28 @-@ metre @-@ tall ( 92 ft ) chain lift hill . Once at the top of the hill , the track dips and turns 180 degrees to the right , entering a mid @-@ course brake run . A sweeping 180 degree downward turn to the right is followed by an upward turn into another brake run . The ride then drops below ground , passing under the queue path before emerging over an air @-@ time hill , where riders experience a feeling of weightlessness . This hill drops into the hull of an upturned boat and is followed by the ride 's splashdown . On the boat 's return path to the station it passes a variety of lighting , fire , and water effects . Riders exiting Storm Coaster pass alongside the ride 's finale , with the chance to get soaked by other boats in the splashdown area .

= = Reception = =

The reception of Storm Coaster has been positive . Shaya Laughlin of the Gold Coast Bulletin described the air @-@ time hill and indoor splashdown as more thrilling than the rest of the ride . Laughlin concluded that the " Storm Coaster was definitely worth every cent Sea World spent " . Michelle Tapper of Seven News stated the ride was " really fun , but not as scary as [ she ] thought it would be " . Tapper suggested riders might want a spare change of clothes due to the extent of the final splashdown .