

= Batman : The Ride =

Batman : The Ride is a steel inverted roller coaster found in Six Flags theme parks . Built by consulting engineers Bolliger & Mabillard , it rises to a height of between 100 and 105 feet (30 and 32 m) and reaches top speeds of 50 miles per hour (80 km / h) . The original roller coaster at Six Flags Great America was partially devised by the park 's general manager Jim Wintrobe . Batman : The Ride was the world 's first inverted roller coaster when it opened in 1992 , and has since been awarded Coaster Landmark status by the American Coaster Enthusiasts . Its decorative theme is based on the first Batman film . Clones of the ride exist at amusement parks around the world .

= = History = =

The concept of an inverted roller coaster with inversions was developed by Jim Wintrobe , the general manager of Six Flags Great America , in the 1990s . To develop the idea , Wintrobe worked with Walter Bolliger and Claude Mabillard ? from Swiss roller coaster manufacturer Bolliger & Mabillard ? and engineer Robert Mampe . The ride soft opened to the public on May 2 , 1992 , with an official opening one week later . Although the full cost of the ride was never disclosed , it was the single biggest investment made by Six Flags Great America on one attraction .

Clones of the original ride , at Six Flags Great America in Gurnee , Illinois , became a staple at Six Flags theme parks around the world , and were opened in Six Flags Great Adventure (1993) , Six Flags Magic Mountain (1994) , and Six Flags St. Louis (1995) . Installation of the ride followed at Six Flags Over Georgia (1997) , and Six Flags Over Texas (1999) .

In 2002 La Ronde amusement park , Montreal , opened a clone of the ride under the name Le Vampire (The Vampire) , and Warner Bros. Movie World Madrid , under the name Batman : La Fuga (Batman : The Escape) . As La Ronde is not a branded Six Flags park , the licensing agreement with Warner Bros. and DC Comics for the name Batman : The Ride was not allowed . The La Ronde ride was expected to become Batman : The Ride when the park was scheduled to be converted to a Six Flags @-@ branded park in the mid @-@ 2000s , however , these changes were never initiated .

Other non @-@ Six Flags parks that installed Batman : The Ride clones are Diavlo at Himeji Central Park in Japan (1994) , The Great White at SeaWorld in San Antonio , Texas (1997) , and Lightning at Entertainment City in Kuwait (2004) .

One of the last installations of the ride was at Six Flags New Orleans in 2003 , having been relocated from the Japanese park Thrill Valley where it operated as Gambit from 1995 to 2002 . In 2005 the effects of Hurricane Katrina caused Six Flags to abandon its New Orleans park , and after standing but not operating for two years , the ride there was relocated to Six Flags Fiesta Texas , where it was refurbished and repainted . The ride reopened as Goliath on April 18 , 2008 .

On February 21 , 2013 , Six Flags Great America announced that their Batman : The Ride roller coaster would run backwards for a limited time during the 2013 season . Six Flags Magic Mountain and Six Flags Over Texas did the same during the 2014 season . Six Flags Over Georgia and Six Flags Great Adventure followed suit running theirs backwards for a limited time in 2015 .

= = Characteristics = =

= = = Structure = = =

The original installation of the ride at Six Flags Great America featured a maximum height of 100 feet (30 m) while the installations to follow reached 105 feet (32 m) . Each installation of Batman : The Ride has a track length of approximately 2 @, @ 700 feet (820 m) . The rides reach a top speed of 50 miles per hour (80 km / h) and exert up to four times the force of gravity .

Batman : The Ride clones operate with two steel and fiberglass trains , each containing eight cars . Each car seats four riders in a single row for a total of 32 riders per train .

== Ride layout ==

The ride 's layout was specifically designed to fit in the Yankee Harbor themed area at Six Flags Great America , although the layout for each successive attraction is identical or a mirror image of the original .

Batman : The Ride begins with the track floor descending . The train moves out of the station and up a chain lift hill . At the top of the hill the train dips down through a Bolliger & Mabillard " kicker " , coasts down a 190 @-@ degree swoop to the left , and drops into the first 360 @-@ degree vertical loop . It then flips through a Heartline Spin to the right , followed by another vertical loop . The train then travels upward around a tight spiral to the left , then through a wider turn to the right , drops slightly , and quickly turns through the first flatspin . Following this is a tight right turn and another flatspin , then a tight left turnaround before the train enters the final brake run .

== Color scheme ==

While some Batman : The Ride clones opened with dark blue track and supports , others featured gray and yellow . Over the years there have been modifications in Batman : The Ride color schemes , with more incorporating yellows , blues , and purples . The original ride at Six Flags Great America retained the original black color scheme until 2004 , when the track was painted yellow , and supports dark purple . Six Flags over Texas originally featured a black color scheme with yellow rails until 2004 , when the track was repainted yellow . For the 2010 season , the clone at Six Flags Magic Mountain was repainted medium blue with black supports .

== Experience ==

Six Flags designers ' decorative theme attempts to capture the spirit of Batman 's world for those queuing to board the ride . As the queue moves through Gotham City Park , the theme becomes more ominous . Modeled after Anton Furst 's award @-@ winning set design for the original Batman film , the atmosphere indicates a crime @-@ ridden and dirty environment , with wrecked cars , discarded pieces of equipment , crumbling concrete , and a Gotham City Police car riddled with bullet holes . The queue then enters the ride structure . The ride passenger loading area is modeled on Batman 's Batcave , and features a replica of the Batsuit from the 1989 film .

== Incidents ==

On May 26 , 2002 , 58 @-@ year @-@ old park employee working in the roller coaster 's restricted area at Six Flags Over Georgia was killed after being struck in the head by the dangling leg of a 14 @-@ year @-@ old girl riding in the front . The girl was hospitalized with a leg injury .

On June 28 , 2008 , a 17 @-@ year @-@ old South Carolina teenager was decapitated after being struck by the Batman roller coaster at Six Flags Over Georgia . The teen , who was on a trip to the park with his church 's youth group , scaled two fences with a friend into a restricted area and walked into the ride 's path . Although witnesses stated he was trying to retrieve his hat , a Cobb County police spokesman reported the teens were attempting to take a shortcut into the park .

== Reception ==

Batman : The Ride has generally received positive reviews . The Dallas Morning News stated the ride " is proof that new thrills on the cutting edge of technology generate excitement " . They also praise the theme of the " smooth @-@ riding coaster " stating " the mysterious crime @-@ fighter is a proven crowd @-@ pleaser " . American Coaster Enthusiasts have also praised the ride , awarding it Coaster Landmark status in 2005 . They describe the ride as a " revolutionary design " which offers " unprecedented intensity , while maintaining remarkable smoothness , comfort , and

pacing " . Ultimate Rollercoaster describes Batman : The Ride as " the ride of your life " . They state " the sensation created by an inverted coaster is very different from that of traditional roller coasters . It is a sensation that every coaster fan must experience " .

= = = Awards = = =

In Amusement Today 's Golden Ticket Awards for Best Steel Roller Coasters , Batman : The Ride ranked reasonably in the late 1990s before dropping off the poll , and returning once in 2005 . The original installation at Six Flags Great America was ranked 23 and 25 in 1998 and 1999 , respectively , before returning in 2005 at position 45 . In 1998 , the Six Flags Great Adventure and Six Flags St. Louis installations ranked 19 and 21 , respectively .

In Mitch Hawker 's worldwide Best Roller Coaster Poll , Batman : The Ride peaked at position 21 in 1999 (the first year of the poll) . The ride 's ranking dropped in subsequent polls and is summarised in the table below .

Notes :