

= Tatsu =

Tatsu is a steel flying roller coaster designed by Bolliger & Mabillard at the Six Flags Magic Mountain amusement park located in Valencia , California . Announced on November 17 , 2005 , the roller coaster opened to the public on May 13 , 2006 as the park 's seventeenth roller coaster . Tatsu reaches a height of 170 feet (52 m) and speeds up to 62 miles per hour (100 km / h) . The ride 's name comes from Japanese mythology and means Flying Beast in Japanese . The roller coaster is also the world 's tallest and fastest flying coaster ; is the only flying roller coaster to feature a zero @-@ gravity roll ; and has the world 's highest pretzel loop . It was the world 's longest flying coaster until The Flying Dinosaur surpassed it .

In the roller coaster 's opening year , it was named the 40th best roller coaster in the world in Amusement Today 's Golden Ticket Awards ; in Mitch Hawker 's Best Steel Roller Coaster Poll , the roller coaster placed at the 34 position .

= = History = =

Rumors of a new roller coaster being built at Six Flags Magic Mountain first emerged in the summer of 2004 . Land clearing began in mid @-@ 2005 around the Samurai Summit area of the park with track for the new roller coaster soon later beginning arriving from Ohio . Construction permits filed by Six Flags Magic Mountain and a trademark for the name Tatsu (filed on August 23 , 2005) were later found by the public . Tatsu was officially announced to the public on November 17 , 2005 . Both Revolution and Roaring Rapids were temporarily closed in order for the roller coaster to be built . After construction and testing was complete , Tatsu opened to the public on May 13 , 2006 .

Tatsu broke several records upon its opening . The roller coaster is the world 's tallest , fastest , and longest flying roller coaster . The roller coaster also holds the record for the highest pretzel loop which is 124 feet (38 m) high and is currently the only Flying roller coaster to have a zero @-@ gravity roll .

= = Ride experience = =

After the train has been moved into the horizontal position and is dispatched from the station , depending on which station the train is in (Tatsu has two stations) , the train will either make a left or right s @-@ bend towards the 170 @-@ foot (52 m) lift hill . Once at the top , the train makes a sharp 111 @-@ foot (34 m) downward right turn reaching a maximum speed of 62 miles per hour (100 km / h) . After the train makes it to the bottom of the drop , the train makes an upward right turn leading into the first inversion , a 103 @-@ foot (31 m) tall corkscrew . Next , the train makes a downward left turn immediately followed by an upward left turn into a 96 @-@ foot (29 m) zero @-@ gravity roll . After the train exits the roll , it drops back down before going through a 84 @-@ foot (26 m) horseshoe . Following a left turn , the train then enters the record @-@ breaking 124 @-@ foot (38 m) pretzel loop . Upon exiting the pretzel loop , the train makes a slight left turn before going through an inline twist . The train then makes a 135 degree downward right turn before rising back up slightly and going through the mid @-@ course brake run . After exiting the brake run , the train makes a slight downward and upward left turn leading into the final brake run . The train then enters one of the two stations where the trains are put back into the vertical position for the riders to load and unload . One cycle of the ride lasts about two minutes .

= = Characteristics = =

= = = Trains = = =

Tatsu operates with three steel and fiberglass trains . Each train has eight cars that can seat four riders in a single row for a total of 32 riders per train . Each seat has its own over @-@ the @-@

shoulder @-@ restraint and a pair of ankle restraints to hold the riders ' feet in place . The trains are painted green , yellow , orange , and red .

In the station , the trains are oriented in a vertical position in order to allow riders to board . Once the restraints are locked , the train seats are rotated forward 90 degrees into a horizontal position and the train is then dispatched from the station . When the train returns to the station , the seats rotate back down and the riders disembark for the next guests .

= = = Track = = =

The steel track of Tatsu is approximately 3 @, @ 602 feet (1 @, @ 098 m) long and the height of the lift is approximately 170 feet (52 m) . To slow the train down , air brakes are attached to the track throughout the two brake runs . The track was fabricated by Clermont Steel Fabricators in Batavia , Ohio , which manufactures Bolliger & Mabillard 's roller coasters . The track is colored red and yellow while the supports are orange .

= = Reception = =

Joel Bullock from The Coaster Critic gave Tatsu a nine out of ten for its close @-@ to @-@ the @-@ ground approaches and intense pretzel loop at the bottom of the element . Justice from Park Thoughts also gave the roller coaster a nine out of ten saying that , " The lift hill is one of the most suspenseful I have ever experienced . " Justice also praises the ride 's intense g @-@ forces experienced throughout the layout of Tatsu . In 2006 , Discovery Channel 's Mega Builders aired an episode which followed the construction of Tatsu . The episode showed how the coaster was assembled and the problems construction crews had to overcome .

In Tatsu 's opening year , it was named the 40th best steel roller coaster in the world in Amusement Today 's Golden Ticket Awards ; tied with Talon at Dorney Park . It peaked at 28th place in 2012 .

In Mitch Hawker 's Best Steel Roller Coaster Poll , the roller coaster placed 34th in its opening year and peaked at 30th place in 2008 .