

= The Incredible Hulk ( roller coaster ) =

The Incredible Hulk is a launched roller coaster located in the Islands of Adventure theme park at Universal Orlando Resort . As the name suggests , the ride is themed after comic book superhero character , the Hulk . The ride was positively received when it opened on May 28 , 1999 . It is the first Bolliger & Mabillard roller coaster to feature a launch design , primarily implemented by Universal Creative and MTS Systems Corporation . The launched lift hill accelerates the train to 40 mph ( 64 km / h ) in approximately two seconds and reaches a top speed of 67 mph ( 108 km / h ) . Riders experience seven inversions throughout the course of the 3 @, @ 700 @-@ foot @-@ long ( 1 @, @ 100 m ) ride . The roller coaster temporarily closed on September 8 , 2015 , for a major refurbishment and is expected to reopen in the summer of 2016 .

= = History = =

In 1991 , planning began for a new theme park adjacent to Universal Studios Florida . By the end of 1993 , it was decided that one area of the future Islands of Adventure theme park would be themed after Marvel Comics , with a Hulk theme being selected for a thrill ride . The designers of the ride wanted to simulate being fired out of a cannon and subsequently set about prototyping a launch system . Universal Creative and MTS Systems Corporation had a working prototype in January 1995 . Methods to achieve this acceleration were investigated into mid @-@ 1996 . On @-@ site construction of Islands of Adventure was underway in 1997 , with Superior Rigging & Erection being responsible for erecting the supports and track of the roller coaster . On May 28 , 1999 , Islands of Adventure officially opened to the public , with The Incredible Hulk being one of its debut attractions .

On August 14 , 2015 , Universal announced that the coaster would undergo major enhancement and refurbishment work . The ride closed on September 8 , 2015 , and is expected to reopen in the summer of 2016 .

= = Characteristics = =

The Incredible Hulk is a Sitting Coaster by Swiss firm Bolliger & Mabillard ( B & M ) . The 3 @, @ 700 @-@ foot @-@ long ( 1 @, @ 100 m ) ride features seven inversions including a zero @-@ g roll , a cobra roll , two vertical loops , and two corkscrews . The ride features a maximum height of 110 feet ( 34 m ) , and a first drop stretching 105 feet ( 32 m ) . Riders reach a top speed of 67 miles per hour ( 108 km / h ) on the 1 @-@ minute , 30 @-@ second ride . Each of The Incredible Hulk 's trains feature eight cars which seat riders four abreast , giving each train a maximum capacity of 32 riders . Riders , who must be at least 54 inches ( 140 cm ) tall , are restrained with ratcheting over @-@ the @-@ shoulder restraints . This train configuration allows the ride to achieve a theoretical hourly capacity of 1 @, @ 920 riders per hour . The ride features two subterranean dives , is partially built over water , and is illuminated green at night .

A unique launch system propels riders up the 110 @-@ foot @-@ tall ( 34 m ) hill . The system was developed by Universal Creative and MTS Systems Corporation . A prototype launch system was designed by January 1995 . The prototype consisted of a series of boxcars welded together to form a launch tunnel . A track @-@ mounted dune buggy was then propelled inside the tunnel through the use of a weight drop launch mechanism . The designers then experimented with different rates of acceleration , each emitting between one and five times the force of gravity . The final system which was implemented on The Incredible Hulk sees trains launch from 0 to 40 miles per hour ( 64 km / h ) in 2 seconds . Riders travel at an angle of 30 degrees through a 150 @-@ foot @-@ long ( 46 m ) tunnel , pulling 1 G. To power this launch the designers investigated a variety of systems ranging from hydraulic , pneumatic , cable , steam catapult , and conveyor belt . In the end a drive tire system was selected , where 230 electrical motors power a set of tires that pinch the train 's underside to provide propulsion . As this system required eight megawatts of power to launch a train , the park built several customized motor generator sets with large flywheels . Without these stored

energy units , they would have had to build a whole substation and risk browning @-@ out the local energy grid with every launch . The launch system made The Incredible Hulk the only B & M ride to feature a launch , until Thunderbird opened at Holiday World in 2015 . Unlike The Incredible Hulk , Thunderbird uses a Linear Synchronous Motors ( LSM ) launch system that was designed by B & M.

= = Experience = =

= = = Queue = = =

Riders enter the science laboratory of Dr. Bruce Banner with many televisions showing the story of the Hulk . Bruce is now trying to find a way to reverse the effects , which the guests are about to take part in . While walking through the lab they encounter items including the generator , the gamma core and the towers of power . Riders are also able to watch the roller coaster through large holes in the walls as well as listen to the ride as it does a number of passes .

= = = Ride = = =

Once riders have boarded the train , it departs the station entering the gamma @-@ ray accelerator , where the anxious voice of Bruce Banner issues from speakers in the walls : " Everything looks good ... I think ... I think this time it 's ... going to work ! " On cue , a female voice announces that there has been a malfunction . Klaxons begin to sound inside the tube as Dr. Banner screams in terror : " No . No ! No ! ! ! " The last " No ! " is synchronized with the launch mechanism , which propels the train from 9 to 40 mph ( 64 km / h ) in 2 seconds . Upon exiting the gamma @-@ ray accelerator , the train immediately goes into a zero @-@ g roll , down a 105 @-@ foot ( 32 m ) drop , and into a cobra roll over the park 's main lagoon . Riders complete a vertical loop , then enter a subterranean tunnel full of mist . The train encircles the gamma @-@ ray accelerator and is sent into the back area via corkscrew . A smaller vertical loop wraps around the mid @-@ course brake run , which is flanked by two over @-@ banked turns . The train is slowed down by the mid @-@ course brakes before being sent down another hill to a corkscrew and turn @-@ around . Riders then travel sideways through an on @-@ ride camera zone and then to the ride 's final brake run after a helix .

= = Reception = =

The Incredible Hulk has been well received . In its debut year , the ride was voted the # 1 roller coaster by Discovery Channel viewers , appearing on the Thrills , Chills and Spills documentary . Amusement Business described The Incredible Hulk as one of Islands of Adventure 's two world @-@ class roller coasters ( the other being Dueling Dragons , now known as the Dragon Challenge ) . Dewayne Bevil of the Orlando Sentinel rated the ride as his eighth favorite attraction in Orlando . He states the ride is " too intense to take back @-@ to @-@ back trips . It rattles our nerves , in a good way . " Arthur Levine of About.com gave the ride 9 out of 10 stars . Levine describes the ride as " both terrifying and exhilarating " and " not for the faint of heart " .

In Amusement Today 's annual Golden Ticket Awards , The Incredible Hulk was consistently ranked until 2013 . It debuted at position 19 in 1999 before reaching its peak ranking of 9 in 2001 .

In Mitch Hawker 's worldwide Best Roller Coaster Poll , The Incredible Hulk entered at position 3 in 1999 , before slowly declining to a low of 65 in 2013 . The ride 's ranking in subsequent polls is shown in the table below .