

= Raptor (Cedar Point) =

Raptor is a steel inverted roller coaster designed by Bolliger & Mabillard at Cedar Point in Sandusky , Ohio , United States . When built in 1994 , it broke many records and held many firsts when it opened . Instead of having a short layout designed to fit into a compact area like Batman : The Ride , Raptor was designed with a larger , 3 @, @ 790 @-@ foot (1 @, @ 160 m) layout , making it the tallest , fastest and longest inverted roller coaster in the world when it opened . It features six inversions , including a cobra roll , a first for inverted roller coasters . At its opening , it was the largest investment in Cedar Point history . The ride is themed as a bird of prey .

= = History = =

On August 19 , 1993 , Cedar Fair Entertainment Company filed a trademark for the name Raptor . Raptor was then announced on September 1 , 1993 during a press conference . Regarding the design of the attraction , Cedar Point management , said : " Raptor will be the most exciting and ambitious project ever ... a project that will challenge the boundaries of imagination and change the Sandusky , Ohio amusement park / resort like nothing before it . "

Construction started after the 1993 season with the site clearing of the Mill Race log flume water ride . The Midway Carousel and Calypso were relocated in October to other areas of the park to make room for Raptor . Footers also began to be poured that month . The lift hill was topped off in December with track construction continuing through January 1994 . The first trains were tested about two months later in March . Final preparations were made in March with the entrance plaza being built and 85 @, @ 000 square feet (7 @, @ 900 m²) of midway replaced . Media day was held on May 6 before the ride opened to the public the next day for the first time . The ride was originally painted with dark green supports , bright green track and unpainted rails . It was repainted for the 2002 season and the rails were painted dark green , matching the supports .

= = Ride experience = =

Raptor is located on three acres (1 @. @ 2 ha) at the front of the park near Blue Streak . The ride travels over the pathway to Blue Streak then passes by the Cadillac Cars and Cedar Downs Racing Derby . The queue features a DJ booth that is used on the weekends . They take requests from people in the queue for family friendly songs . They can also be found daily in Millennium Force 's queue . Raptor is themed as a bird of prey , not a velociraptor .

= = = Layout = = =

The ride begins with a left @-@ hand turn out of the station to the lift hill that ascends 137 feet (42 m) . Riders are pulled up by a 9 @, @ 000 lbf (40 kN) chain lift . At the top , the train dips slightly into the pre @-@ drop before turning 90 degrees to the left as it drops 119 feet (36 m) down the first hill . From the bottom the train immediately enters a 100 feet (30 m) vertical loop . The train then enters a zero @-@ g roll followed by the cobra roll which inverts riders twice . The cobra roll was a first for inverted roller coasters . After the cobra roll , the train climbs through an upward spiral and enters the mid @-@ course brake run . Next , the train dives down to the right transitioning into a brief straight section of track . Riders then enter the first of two corkscrews which rotates the train 360 degrees to the left . The track straightens briefly again before turning to the right and entering a short dip before taking riders into the second corkscrew . The ride finishes with a 1 @. @ 5 revolution flat helix where riders encounter strong positive G @-@ forces before making one last left turn into the final brake run . One cycle of the ride lasts about 2 minutes and 16 seconds .

= = = Track = = =

The steel track is approximately 3 @, @ 790 feet (1 @, @ 160 m) in length and the height of the lift

is approximately 137 feet (42 m) . The first drop is 119 feet (36 m) . When the coaster first opened , it was painted with dark green supports , bright green track and unpainted rails . 1 @, @ 500 gallons of paint were used to originally paint it . Raptor was repainted for the 2002 season and the rails were painted dark green , matching the supports . Most of the 117 sections of track were manufactured by Clermont Steel Fabricators in Batavia , Ohio . The roller coaster will be repainted again for the 2016 season with its original colors .

== Trains ==

Raptor operates with three steel and fiberglass trains . Each train has eight cars that have four seats in a single row for a total of 32 riders in Ski lift like trains . Riders are secured by an over the shoulder restraints with a locking belt . The trains were manufactured in Switzerland at Bolliger & Mabillard 's headquarters .

== Operation ==

Raptor is adversely affected by unfavourable weather conditions as both a high altitude and high velocity ride . " Rain , high winds , and / or lightning " may result in the closing of the ride depending on the severity . It closes in high winds and any type of precipitation .

There is no minimum age requirement , but passengers must meet the miniumum height requirement of 54 inches (1 @. @ 4 m) to ride . Some persons over a certain weight / waist size are not be permitted to ride if the seat and lapbar harness cannot accommodate them . Passengers on Raptor may not bring any loose articles onto the train and are required to wear shirts and footwear . Headphones must be removed before boarding .

Passengers are advised that they must not ride Raptor if they have " a history of recent surgery , heart trouble / high blood pressure , neck trouble , back trouble , or any other condition that may be aggravated by riding , or who are pregnant " .

== Incidents ==

On July 6 , 2009 , a guest complained of feeling faint after the ride . Raptor was immediately shut down as the guest was transported to a local hospital . The ride remained closed for the remainder of the day , reopening the next afternoon after a thorough inspection was completed . The guest was later released from the hospital .

On June 21 , 2015 , a 37 @-@ year @-@ old man 's leg was gashed by the ride 's loading platform gates . He was taken to a local hospital where his wound was sutured .

On August 13 , 2015 , a 45 @-@ year @-@ old man entered the ride 's restricted area to retrieve a cell phone he lost while riding . He was then struck by a moving train and died on the scene . The ride was immediately closed for inspection and reopened the next day .

== Awards ==

Raptor is one of the first inverted roller coasters built in the world and is still considered a top steel roller coaster supported by the Golden Ticket Award rankings .