

= Diamondback ( roller coaster ) =

Diamondback is a steel roller coaster designed by Bolliger & Mabillard at Kings Island in Mason , Ohio , United States . The ride is located in Rivertown just behind International Street and the Eiffel Tower . When built in 2009 , it was the first hyper coaster to feature a splashdown and the first Bolliger & Mabillard roller coaster at Kings Island . Diamondback was previously the biggest investment in Kings Island ' s history at \$ 22 million ( ahead of The Crypt and Son of Beast , each of which cost \$ 20 million ) until surpassed in 2014 by Banshee , an investment of \$ 24 million . The coaster has a 230 ft ( 70 m ) lift hill with a 215 ft @-@ drop , featuring 10 total drops and a top speed of about 80 mph ( 130 km / h ) . It is similar to Behemoth at Canada 's Wonderland in statistics , layout , and seating .

= = History = =

Construction of Diamondback began on October 11 , 2007 , with the removal of a tree . Swan Lake was drained and filled with concrete before opening day in 2008 , this turned out to be location for the splashdown element . Kings Island started teasing visitors during the Fourth of July weekend in 2008 with signs saying , " Ride sally ride " and " Steep incline ahead . " Diamondback was announced on August 6 , 2008 as the largest investment in Kings Island history . The ride was topped off with the 230 feet ( 70 m ) lift hill on October 30 . The last piece of track was installed on January 26 , 2009 . Diamondback started testing about a month later on February 26 . Diamondback officially opened on April 18 , 2009 . The 1,000,000th rider was on July 20 , 2009 . On July 21 , 2014 , Diamondback gave its 10,000,000th rider . The rider , Mike Brogan , was given a Diamondback gift package including T @-@ shirts , hats , keychains , coffee mugs , shotglasses , and a large sign proclaiming his ride .

= = = First rider auction = = =

On February 3 , 2009 , Kings Island announced they would hold an auction for the first riders on Diamondback . The winners of the auction would be given a commemorative first rider ticket , a special gift from the park , and an admission ticket . All proceeds from the auction would go to A Kid Again non @-@ profit organization , formerly known as Adventures for Wish Kids . The first rider auction raised \$ 102 @,@ 000 . The first eight trains , or the first 256 seats were auctioned off . The average bid was \$ 398 per seat .

= = Ride experience = =

= = = Layout = = =

After the train leaves the station , it begins its ascent up the 230 feet ( 70 m ) chain lift hill . Once reaching the top of the hill , the coaster drops 215 feet ( 66 m ) at 74 ° over the Rivertown midway reaching speeds up to 80 miles per hour ( 130 km / h ) . It then curves to the right up a 193 feet ( 59 m ) hill and down the drop into the ravine , curving again to the left . The ride then ascends a 131 feet ( 40 m ) camelback hill and drops , curving left into the hammerhead turn . After dropping out of the hammerhead , the train travels up a 129 feet ( 39 m ) hill ( which has a trim brake ) . After the fourth hill , the train turns into down into a 287 ° counter @-@ clockwise helix ( on @-@ ride photo camera is here ) and into the mid @-@ course brake run . After the short brake run the train drops down into the ravine , raising into a bunny hop hill , then into another bunny hop and into the final clockwise helix of 323 ° . After the final helix , the train passes over the Rivertown midway a second time and drops into the splashdown finale , slowing the train down and leading it into the final brake run . After braking , the train takes a left U @-@ turn and heads back into the station . One cycle of the ride lasts about 3 minutes .

### == Splashdown ==

Diamondback is the first hyper coaster to feature a splashdown . Scoops positioned at the back sides of the last car on each train send water soaring at heights of 50 ft ( 15 m ) as the train passes . The riders don't actually get wet in the splashdown . Splashdowns are used for a visual effect as well to slow the train down . The splashdown is located in the former Swan Boat pond .

### == Trains ==

Diamondback operates with three open @-@ air stadium style steel and fiberglass trains . The trains are the same prototype trains seen on Behemoth at Canada 's Wonderland , Intimidator at Carowinds and Shambhala : Expedición al Himalaya at PortAventura . Diamondback was the first roller coaster in the United States to feature the new trains . Each car seats four passengers , with two front seats set near the middle of the car and two rear seats set closer to the sides of the car . The front car of each train features a yellow / orange snake head with long fangs , while the inside of the trains are black , red , and orange . Riders are restrained by a single T @-@ shaped lap bar and a seatbelt . There are three trains total , each train featuring a different fin color : green , red , or brown . Under the sides of the last car on each train are the scoops for the splashdown at the end .

### == Track ==

The steel track is 5 @, @ 282 feet ( 1 @, @ 610 m ) in length and the height of the lift is approximately 230 feet ( 70 m ) . The supports on the first lift hill and part of the second hill are yellow while the rest of the supports are tan . All of the track pieces are red . The track was fabricated at the Ohio @-@ based Clermont Steel Fabricators .

### == Awards ==

Won the award for " Best New Attraction in 2009 " from NAPHA