

= Kraken (roller coaster) =

Kraken (named for the fictional sea monster of the same name) is a steel floorless roller coaster located at SeaWorld Orlando in the United States . Manufactured by Bolliger & Mabillard , the ride features a total of seven inversions including two vertical loops , a dive loop , a spiraling camelback (zero @-@ g roll) , a cobra roll and a flat spin Kraken opened on June 1 , 2000 . It is also the world 's second longest floorless coaster at 4 @, @ 177 feet (1 @, @ 273 m) .

= = History = =

In 1999 , Six Flags Great Adventure spent \$ 42 million on new attractions including a prototype Floorless Coaster by Bolliger & Mabillard , Medusa (later Bizarro) . The immediate popularity of the ride , led to SeaWorld Orlando and three other amusement parks to announce plans to install Floorless Coasters in 2000 ; aside from the announcement of Kraken on May 6 , 1999 , Six Flags Discovery Kingdom announced Medusa , Geauga Lake announced Dominator , and Six Flags Fiesta Texas announced Superman : Krypton Coaster . Kraken was announced as costing approximately \$ 18 ? 20 million . Kraken 's announcement more than one year out from its opening was an attempt by the park to drive international attendance .

Construction for the ride was well underway in January 2000 . During construction , Superior Rigging & Erection was responsible for erecting the supports and track of the roller coaster .

On June 1 , 2000 , Kraken officially opened to the public . At the time of opening Kraken held the record for the tallest and longest roller coaster in the state of Florida . It held this record until 2006 when Disney 's Animal Kingdom opened the 4 @, @ 424 @-@ foot @-@ long (1 @, @ 348 m) Expedition Everest .

= = Characteristics = =

= = = Statistics = = =

The 4 @, @ 177 @-@ foot @-@ long (1 @, @ 273 m) Kraken stands 153 feet (47 m) tall . With a top speed of 65 miles per hour (105 km / h) , the ride was the fastest roller coaster at SeaWorld Orlando until the opening of Mako in Summer of 2016 . The ride features seven inversions including two vertical loops , a dive loop , a spiraling camelback (zero @-@ g roll) , a cobra roll and a flat spin (corkscrew) .

= = = Trains = = =

Kraken operates with three floorless trains . Each train seats 32 riders in eight rows of four . This gives the ride a theoretical hourly capacity of 1500 riders per hour . The open @-@ air trains feature seats which leave riders ' legs dangling above the track . Riders are restrained with over @-@ the @-@ shoulder restraints (OTSRs) . As the trains are floorless , the station has a retractable floor for safe boarding .

= = = Theme = = =

Kraken is themed after the mythological sea monster of the same name , kept caged by Poseidon . Much of the ride is located above water , with three sections featuring subterranean dives . The ride 's station and surrounding area are themed as Kraken 's lair . Eels are said to be Kraken 's young and therefore feature throughout the ride 's queue . A SeaWorld Orlando spokesman stated " although it 's a roller coaster , the theme of the ride brings it back to the sea , and to our (SeaWorld Orlando 's) core " .

= = Ride experience = =

After riders have boarded the station floor is retracted and the front gates open , Kraken departs with a right U @-@ turn out of the station . This leads directly to the 153 @-@ foot @-@ tall (47 m) chain lift hill . At the top , the train crests the lift hill and follows a fairly level turn to the right before dropping 144 feet (44 m) towards the ground . The ride then enters the first vertical loop followed by the dive loop . A spiraling camelback (zero @-@ g roll) , where riders experience a feeling of weightlessness , is followed by a cobra roll . A banked turn to the left leads into the mid @-@ course brake run . The exit from the mid @-@ course brake run drops down directly into the second vertical loop . A subterranean dive into Kraken 's lair is followed by a flat spin The ride concludes with a final brake run and a short path back to the station .

= = Reception = =

The Orlando Sentinel commended the ride for " perfect timing and keeping folks guessing " , giving the ride ratings of 4 out of 5 for both thrill and theming . Sentinel reporter Dewayne Bevil , ranks the ride at number 7 in his Top 50 Orlando Theme Park Attractions list . Although it was reported that the ride would be more exciting than The Incredible Hulk at the nearby Islands of Adventure theme park , Mike Thomas of the Sentinel concluded that " Hulk clobbers the competition " , with Kraken taking the number two spot . In an interview for the Los Angeles Times Jerry Dane of the Florida Coaster Club described the floorless experience like " you are hung out there open and free " . Dane also commended the ride 's ability to provide different , yet equally good experiences in a variety of seats . In 2012 , Kraken was featured on the Travel Channel TV series Insane Coaster Wars , and received first place in the public @-@ voted " Wrong Way Up " category . Theme Park Review 's Robb Alvey shared the view the Kraken was better than the competition which included Dollywood 's Wild Eagle and Dorney Park 's Hydra the Revenge .

In Amusement Today 's annual Golden Ticket Awards , Kraken was ranked in the top 50 steel roller coasters numerous times since its opening . It debuted on the poll at position 48 in 2003 , peaked at position 26 in 2005 , before it off the poll in 2009 .

In Mitch Hawker 's worldwide Best Roller Coaster Poll , Kraken entered at position 12 in 2001 , before peaking at 10 the following year . The ride 's ranking in subsequent polls is shown in the table below .