

## = Wild Eagle =

Wild Eagle is a steel Wing Coaster built by Bolliger & Mabillard at the Dollywood amusement park in Pigeon Forge , Tennessee . It is the first of its kind in the United States and opened to the media on March 23 , 2012 before opening to the public on March 24 , 2012 . The roller coaster reaches a height of 210 feet ( 64 m ) and reaches speeds of 61 miles per hour ( 98 km / h ) . In September 2012 , the ride was voted as the best new ride of 2012 in Amusement Today 's Golden Ticket Awards .

## = = History = =

Speculation of Wild Eagle began in March 2011 when plans to discuss Dollywood 's 2012 attraction were submitted to the Pigeon Forge Planning Commission . On March 24 , 2011 , those plans were approved and though city officials could not tell exactly what the plans were , some believed it looked to be a roller coaster . On September 4 , 2011 , Wild Eagle was officially announced to the public as the first wing coaster to open in the United States . On October 7 , 2011 , the lift hill was completed , and by the end of October 2011 , the track layout was complete . On February 28 , 2012 , Dollywood unveiled a steel sculpture of an eagle with a wing span of 42 feet ( 13 m ) and a total weight of 8 @, @ 000 pounds ( 3 @, @ 600 kg ) that would be placed near the entrance of the ride . The ride soft opened to the media on March 23 , 2012 , before officially opening to the public on March 24 , 2012 .

## = = Experience = =

After departing from the station , the train makes a left turn leading into the 210 @-@ foot ( 64 m ) chain lift hill . Once at the top , the train drops 135 @-@ foot ( 41 m ) , reaching a top speed of 61 miles per hour ( 98 km / h ) . The train enters a 110 @-@ foot ( 34 m ) vertical loop followed by a slight left then a zero @-@ gravity roll where riders experience the feeling of weightlessness . Upon exiting the roll , the train immediately enters an immelmann loop . The train then goes through a trim brake , before entering a corkscrew , then a camelback hill which is a common way of achieving air @-@ time on roller coasters . The train then makes a sharp left turn before making a sharp right turn which leads into the brake run . The train then makes a left turn into another set of brakes before entering the station where the next riders board the train . One cycle of the ride lasts about 2 minutes and 22 seconds .

## = = = Trains = = =

Wild Eagle operates with two open @-@ air steel and fiberglass trains , each with seven cars which have four seats each , with two on each side of the track for a total of 28 riders per train . Riders are restrained by flexible over @-@ the @-@ shoulder restraints and interlocking seat belts . Also , because the seats are on the side of the track , a cantilevered steel arm is used to support the wings . The front of each of the seven train cars is shaped to resemble an eagle with outstretched wings adding to the theme of the ride .

## = = = Track = = =

The steel track is 3 @, @ 127 feet ( 953 m ) in length and the height of the lift is approximately 210 feet ( 64 m ) . The track is painted blue and the supports are painted tan . Both friction and magnetic brakes are used on the roller coaster to control the trains speed .

## = = Reception = =

Joel Bullock from The Coaster Critic gave Wild Eagle a nine out of ten for its unique experience .

He also stated that , " It ? s smooth , has some fun inversions , and is meant to be a wide @-@ reaching crowd pleaser and it fully delivered " but mentions that the restraints can become uncomfortable from time to time .

In Amusement Today 's Golden Ticket Awards , the roller coaster was voted as the best new attraction for 2012 and 15th best roller steel roller coaster in the world . In Mitch Hawker 's worldwide Best Roller Coaster Poll , the ride placed 87th .