

= Magnum XL @-@ 200 =

Magnum XL @-@ 200 , colloquially known as simply Magnum , is a steel roller coaster built by Arrow Dynamics at Cedar Point in Sandusky , Ohio . When built in 1989 , it was the tallest , fastest , and steepest complete @-@ circuit roller coaster in the world as well as the first hypercoaster ? a roller coaster that exceeds 200 feet (61 m) in height . Some have credited Magnum with starting a period in the industry known as the roller coaster wars , in which amusement parks competed with one another at a rapid pace to build the next tallest and fastest roller coaster . More than 40 million people had ridden Magnum as of 2009 .

Magnum XL @-@ 200 held the title of tallest roller coaster in the world until 1994 when Pepsi Max Big One opened at Blackpool Pleasure Beach in the United Kingdom . Amusement Today presented Magnum with its " Best Steel Roller Coaster " Golden Ticket Award for three consecutive years in a row from 1998 to 2000 . As of 2014 , it was ranked thirteenth in the world by the same publication .

= = History = =

= = = Background = = =

By the mid @-@ 1980s , Cedar Point had grown into a successful collection of roller coasters and other smaller rides on the shores of Lake Erie . Dick Kinzel took over as president and CEO of Cedar Fair , the company that operates the park , in 1986 . In 1988 , Kinzel saw a report on CNN about the opening of a new coaster in Japan called Bandit at Yomiuriland that emphasized height and speed but had no inversions . Kinzel wanted to introduce a similar coaster that emphasized steep drops and negative g @-@ forces over inversions and spins , which were common at the time . It had been 10 years since the last major addition , Gemini , was introduced . Cedar Point asked for proposals from TOGO , Dinn Corporation , Intamin and Arrow Dynamics to build a roller coaster without inversions or over @-@ the @-@ shoulder restraints . They chose Arrow , which proposed a 187 feet (57 m) -tall coaster . That got Cedar Point 's management interested in breaking the 200 @-@ foot (61 m) barrier , partly because of the publicity to be gained from building the first roller coaster to do so . The name Magnum XL @-@ 200 was chosen because Magnum , P.I. was popular at the time and Cedar Point 's management wanted to incorporate the height into the name . The original proposal was to cost \$ 7 @. @ 5 million , but was raised to \$ 8 million after the height was extended to 200 feet (61 m) .

= = = Opening = = =

Magnum XL @-@ 200 was announced on August 16 , 1988 , and construction began shortly thereafter . Following its completion in 1989 , Kinzel was one of the first people to ride the coaster , boarding the train after one test cycle . It officially opened to the public on May 6 , 1989 as the world 's tallest , fastest and steepest complete @-@ circuit roller coaster . It was measured for the Guinness Book of World Records on June 2 . Cedar Point set a record attendance in 1989 , due in part to the introduction of the Magnum .

Magnum was awarded the ACE Roller Coaster Landmark award on June 21 , 2004 . Magnum has been repainted once in its history . The original track color was scarlet red , but the park started painting Magnum Molly orange in 2005 . The job was completed in 2006 . Cedar Point celebrated Magnum 's 20th anniversary on opening day in 2009 with a ceremony and an appearance by Ron Toomer , its designer . A new entrance sign was also introduced .

Magnum XL @-@ 200 has been the target of false rumors since 1998 claiming the structure was sinking due to unstable ground . The rumors supposedly started as an April Fools Day joke in an Ohio newspaper , but quickly spread via the Internet . Cedar Point quickly denounced such rumors .

= = Ride experience = =

== Queue ==

The queue is in a shaded area surrounded by trees and shrubs , and is filled with posters listing facts about the ride . Music from the 1980s is typically played in the queue area , true to the decade in which the ride debuted . There is a DJ booth next to the queue , but it is no longer in use . The Fast Lane entrance is near the exit of the ride ; it joins the regular line near the bottom of the stairs leading to the station . The queue used to have a staffed refreshment stand where people waiting in line could buy soft drinks . At some point in the mid 1990s this stand was removed and replaced with vending machines as seen in the queue entrance photo .

== Layout ==

Magnum XL @-@ 200 is classified as a hypercoaster and an out and back roller coaster . After the train departs the station , it travels west over the walkway leading to Soak City and Challenge Park . It then makes a 90 @-@ degree turn to the right and begins the 205 @-@ foot (62 m) climb to the top of the lift hill . It drops 194 @-@ 7 feet (59 @-@ 3 m) at a 60 @-@ degree angle , reaching a top speed of 72 miles per hour (116 km / h) . The train then ascends a 157 @-@ foot (48 m) hill , curving to the left into the first tunnel . Coming out of the tunnel , the train ascends a third , 80 @-@ foot (24 m) -tall hill . After the third hill , it enters a " pretzel " turn @-@ around (a set of trim brakes can be found in the first curve of the turn @-@ around because there is no mid @-@ course brake run) where it curves to the left toward the beach and then left again into another tunnel . From the turn @-@ around to the station , there are seven " bunny hops " and two tunnels . After the last tunnel , the train turns left and goes back over the walkway to Soak City and Challenge Park . It then turns right and enters the brake run . One cycle of the ride lasts about 2 minutes .

== Trains ==

Magnum XL @-@ 200 has three white @-@ and @-@ black trains . Each train has red , black or blue striping at the front . Each train has six cars ; riders are arranged two @-@ across in three rows for a total of 36 riders per train . Magnum was the first coaster in which Arrow Dynamics used its Hypercoaster trains , which were subsequently installed on dozens of other new rides . Riders are secured by a single lap bar and a seat belt .

When Magnum XL @-@ 200 opened , it used pads similar to those still in use on Gemini . Shortly after its debut , however , these up @-@ stop plates were replaced with more traditional up @-@ stop wheels that keep the train from flying off its rails .

== Track ==

Magnum XL @-@ 200 's steel track is 5 @-@ 106 feet (1 @-@ 556 m) in length , and its main hill is approximately 205 feet (62 m) high . Magnum XL @-@ 200 originally had a scarlet red track with silver supports . The track was repainted Molly orange in 2005 , but the supports remained silver . The track consists of a tubular steel spine connected by struts to tubular steel running rails . When it opened , a steel out and back roller coaster without any loops was unheard of . Magnum is not a smooth @-@ riding roller coaster , partly because its pieces were welded together , unassisted by computer design . The track sections range from 2 feet (0 @-@ 61 m) to 200 feet (61 m) and 157 support columns were used .

== Accident ==

On May 26 , 2007 , one of the coaster 's trains collided with another at less than 10 miles per hour (16 km / h) , causing minor damage to both trains and minor injuries to at least three passengers .

Two people were taken to a first aid station , and a third person was taken to a local hospital because of an asthma attack . The ride reopened the next day and park spokesman Robin Innes said the accident was caused by rain : " We think it was just caused by excessive moisture on the tracks due to the heavy rain storms we had in the morning " he said .

= = Awards and rankings = =

Magnum XL @-@ 200 was awarded the ACE Roller Coaster Landmark award on June 21 , 2004 at the 27th Annual Convention of the American Coaster Enthusiasts . It won the award for inspiring more than a dozen similar rides on three continents and for being the first hypercoaster .

= = Records = =