

"Loch Ness Monster" Finally Sighted

After six months of mystery, the wraps have come off "the most awesome, frightening and extraordinary thrill ride in history."

The ride, appropriately dubbed 'The Loch Ness Monster,' debuts this summer at The Old Country, Busch Gardens European-style theme park at Williamsburg, Virginia.

Like its Scottish namesake, the true identity of the Busch Gardens monster has been surrounded in secrecy and speculation for months.

Now, however, there has been an official, certified sighting. No longer is there any doubt about the prodigious predator.

"There has never been anything like it," proclaimed John B. Roberts, general manager of The Old Country. "For openers, it's the tallest and fastest coaster-style ride with the steepest drop in the world... and the only one with interlocking loops. On top of that, part of it's in total darkness.

"What we have done is engineer together in one ride the best elements of certain existing rides, plus some new features, to create the ultimate thrill experience. In that sense, you might say we have created a sort of technological mutation," Roberts said with diabolic emphasis.

Roberts described the Loch Ness Monster experience in heart-stopping sequential detail:

Home base for the ride is in the 'Heatherdowns' (Scottish) section of the park. From there a massive steel skeleton extends out through dense woods, filling a steep chasm above a winding lake.

Riders board the monster 24 to a car and make a long, slow climb to a point approximately 130 feet above the lake below. "By then, there's no turning back," said Roberts, as the car explodes down the longest, steepest drop in the world, reaching a speed of nearly 70 miles per hour (+3.5 G-force), pulling out just a few feet above the water surface.

From there it's back up in the air again for a long trip out on the monster's arm, and a quick drop into and through the first of two interlocking vertical 360-degree loops.

Then it's back up again, a couple of whoop-de-dooos and into the 'Monster's Lair,' a sinister looking edifice which appears like a mountain from the outside and inside doesn't appear at all -- it's in total darkness. The rider rockets into the Lair near its summit into instant, complete blackness. The car shoots around a jarring 20-second, highly banked spiral track...round and round...blasting out the bottom of the peak into sense-shocking daylight.

After that, it's back to the treetops for another steep drop followed by a spin through the second of the twin interlocking loops. From there it's a straight shot down the deceleration lane into the station and 'home, sweet home.'

"It's two minutes and ten seconds of absolute mayhem on a scream seeker's dream machine...the most insidiously conceived contraption of its kind on or under this earth," Roberts stated.

#

(Fact Sheet Attached)

The Loch Ness Monster
Fact Sheet

Highest Point: Approximately 130 feet above lake level

Lowest Point: Approximately five feet above lake level

Top Speed: Greater than 60 m.p.h.

Elapsed Time: Two minutes, ten seconds

Track Length: 3,240 feet (300 tons of steel)

Ride Capacity: 2,000 people per hour

First Drop: 114.2-foot vertical drop at 55 degrees. Speed during first drop accelerates from 12 to more than 60 m.p.h. in 2½ seconds (+3.5 g.). Momentum carries train back up to a point 91 feet above lake.

Second Drop: 57 feet at varying angles. Pullout is just before first loop.

First Loop: 43 m.p.h. entry speed, 23 m.p.h. at top of loop. Height of loop is 82 feet. Diameter of loop is 30 feet.

Monster's Lair (Dark Part) Top speed 27 m.p.h. Track banked at 45-55 degrees. Diameter of spiraling track is 40 feet. Total time in Lair, 18 seconds (2-¾ revolutions). Acceleration +1.5 g. After exiting Lair, train travels to a point 75 feet above lake.

Third Drop: 66 feet at varying angles. Pullout is just before second loop.

Second Loop: Identical to first loop, with which this one interlocks, except that total height of the (30-foot diameter) loop is 57 feet.

Builder: Arrow Development Co., Mountain View, CA