Amusement Parks Part 2: Amusement Parks Around the Workd

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Overview

- Today, we will be discussing amusement parks around the world
- Focus on 3 main areas
  - North America (esp. USA)
  - Europe (esp. Germany, UK, Western Europe)
  - Asia (esp. Japan, South Korea, and China)
- Looking at traits of area as well as some notable parks
- We will be ignoring international chains (e.g. Disney)
Overview
North American Parks
Cedar Point

- Cedar Fair’s flagship park
- Located in northern Ohio
- Over 3 million visitors annually
- Voted Best Park in the world 15 years in a row by Amusement Today
Cedar Point

Located on a peninsula in Lake Erie
Cedar Point

Located on a peninsula in Lake Erie
Cedar Point - History

- Opened in 1870 as a bathing resort with picnic groves, dance halls, and first coaster in 1890
- More rides were added, but focus was resort
- Survived the depression due to diverse entertainment
Cedar Point - History

- Park began growing in the 60s. Originally planned to be turned into a Disneyland-like resort, but plans fell through
  - The railroad there today is a remnant of the plan
- 1964, Blue Streak opens (oldest operating coaster)
Cedar Point - Height Record

Cedar Point often goes for the roller coaster height record

- Gemini (1978) - 125ft
- Magnum XL-200 (1989) - 205ft
- Millennium Force (2000) - 310ft
- Top Thrill Dragster (2003) - 420ft
Cedar Point - Today

Today operates 16 coaster, 72 rides, a water park, 4 hotels, a campsite, a marina, and other amenities.
Cedar Point - Millennium Force (2000)

Intamin Giga Coaster; voted #1 steel coaster by Amusement Today 8 times
Cedar Point - Magnum XL-200 (1989)

Arrow Hyper Coaster (1st one); old school favorite
Cedar Point - Maverick (2007)

Intamin Blitz Coaster; 95 degree drop and 70mph launch
Amusement Parks Around the World

Cedar Point - Raptor (1994)
B&M inverted coaster; 6 inversions; high force
Cedar Point - GateKeeper (2013)
B&M Wing Coaster; 164ft Dive Drop; double key hole over park entrance
Six Flags Magic Mountain

- Six Flags flagship park (sorta)
- Located north of Los Angeles
- Opened in 1971 with mostly Arrow rides; because Six Flags in 1979
Six Flags Magic Mountain

- Currently 19 coaster (world record)
  - Criticism for coaster focus
- 2.8 million visitors annually (year round park)
Six Flags Magic Mountain - Goliath (2000)
Giovanola Mega Coaster; 255ft drop; powerful helix finale
Six Flags Magic Mountain - Tatsu (2006)

B&M Flying Coaster; uses terrain; features large Pretzel Loop
Arrow 4th Dimension Coaster (Prototype)
Busch Gardens Williamsburg

- Opened in 1975 in eastern Virginia
- Themed after Europe, with areas for Germany, England, Ireland, Scotland, Italy, and France
Busch Gardens Williamsburg

- Heavy focus on landscaping
  - Golden Ticket for Best Landscaped Park in the world
  - Most Beautiful Park award by NAPHA
Busch Gardens Williamsburg

- While only six coasters, three at or near 200ft
- Most well known
Busch Gardens Williamsburg - Apollo’s Chariot (1999)
B&M Mega Coaster; ranked 4th in the world (Golden Ticket)
Busch Gardens Williamsburg - Alpengeist (1999)
B&M Inverted Coaster; tallest / fastest in the world (without a launch)
Holiday World

- Opened in 1946 in Santa Claus, Indiana
- Areas themed after holiday, including Christmas, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Fourth of July
- Also a large water park
Holiday World

- Family owned by the Koch Family
- Has won the Golden Ticket for Friendliest Park and Cleanest Park many times
- Famous for free soft drinks
Holiday World - Raven (1995)
CCI woodie; runs through backwoods and along lake; #1 wooden coaster on Golden Ticket 4 times
Holiday World - Voyage (2006)

TGG woodie; 163ft tall; three 90 degree banked turns, #1 wooden coaster on Golden Ticket 5 times
Holiday World - Thunderbird (2015)
B&M Wing Coaster; will be B&M’s first launch
Other Notable North American Parks (not exhaustive)

- Six Flags Great Adventure (in central New Jersey)
- Kings Island (near Cincinnati, Ohio)
- Kings Dominion (central Virginia)
- Dollywood (Pigeon Forge, Tennessee)
- Canada’s Wonderland (north of Toronto)
- Six Flags Great America (just north of Chicago)
- Hersheypark (near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania)
- Knott’s Berry Farm (south of Los Angeles)
European Amusement Parks
European Parks - Traits

- Many amusement parks are older than American park, generally because they began as gardens and later became amusement parks.
- In general, focus more on scenery and park atmosphere, rather than being full of roller coasters and thrill rides.
- Sometimes more spread out than American parks (e.g. Alton Towers); other times more compact (e.g. Grona Lund).
- Can contain strange features which would never exist in America due to legal issues:
  - Self-Operated Rides
  - Adult Playground Equipment (swings, slides, trampolines)
  - Weird or offensive theming
European Parks - Traits

Can be older; for example Tivoli Gardens (opened in 1843)
European Parks - Traits

More focus on scenery and atmosphere
European Parks - Traits

More spread out; for example Alton Towers
European Parks - Traits

Or more compact; for example Grona Lund
European Parks - Traits
Strange features like self operated rides
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Strange features like trampolines
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European Parks - Traits
Strange (and sometimes offensive) theming
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European Parks - Traits

Like this dark ride at Bobbejaanland, where you...
European Parks - Traits

...shoot Mexicans...
European Parks - Traits

...and women...
European Parks - Traits

...and Native Americans...
European Parks - Traits

...and Confederate soldiers...
European Parks - Traits

...and witness a wife hitting her husband with a pipe
European Parks - Traits

Things you might recognize from Roller Coaster Tycoon
European Parks - Traits

Things you might recognize from Roller Coaster Tycoon
Alton Towers

- Name refers to the castle in central England that existed where the park is today (towers pictured below). Opened as a garden in 1860 and as an amusement park in 1980
- Very spread out, with 13 themed areas
- 2.7 million visitors in 2011, making it most visited park in UK
Alton Towers

- Zoning ordinance forbids construction above 100ft; requires Alton Towers to be creative with coasters, building them into the ground.
  - Oblivion is 65ft tall, but has a 180ft drop
Alton Towers - Nemesis (1994)

B&M Inverted Coaster; famous for terrain usage and reversed inversion order
Alton Towers - Smiler (2013)
Gerstlauer Eurofighter; most inversions in the world at 14
Europa Park

- Opened in 1975 in southwest Germany
- Built by the Mack family (Mack Rides) to showcase rides and coasters; mostly contains Mack rides
  - Exceptions like Silver Star (B&M Mega) and Wodan Timbur Coaster (GCI woodie)
- Most popular resort in Europe by number of visitors after Disneyland Paris
Europa Park

- Features themed areas for different countries and regions of Europe
- Theming on par with Epcot
Europa Park - Silver Star (2002)
B&M Mega Coaster
Europa Park - Wodan Timbur Coaster (2012)

GCI wooden coaster; 62mph; polyurethane wheels rather than steel
Europa Park - Blue Fire (2009)

Mack launch coaster; similar to Intamin’s Blitz Coasters, like Maverick and iSpeed
Tivoli Gardens

- Second oldest amusement park in the world, opening in 1843
- Attracts about 4 million guests a year, more than any seasonal American park
Tivoli Gardens

In the heart of Copenhagen, Denmark
Tivoli Gardens

A beautiful amusement park
Tivoli Gardens - Rutschebanen (1914)
Classic scenic railway style wooden coaster
Tivoli Gardens - Rutschebanen (1914)
Still uses a brakeman
BonBon-Land

- Opened in 1992 in eastern Denmark
- Started by a candy company to market their products
- Is frankly one of the strangest parks ever
BonBon-Land
Lots of cartoon characters throughout the park...
BonBon-Land

...doing weird things
BonBon-Land

...doing weird things
BonBon-Land
...doing weird things
BonBon-Land
Even incorporated into the rides

A “normal” coaster; Gerstlauer Eurofighter
BonBon-Land - Hundeprutterutchebane (1993)

Their most infamous ride; a small children’s coaster themed after...
BonBon-Land - Hundeprutterrutchebane (1993)
...dog farts; its name translates to “Dog Fart Coaster”
BonBon-Land - Hundeprutterrutchebane (1993)

It even has a speaker which plays a fart noise
BonBon-Land - Hundeprutterutchebane (1993)

And it, like all their rides and themeing, is based on their candy o_O
Other Notable European Parks (not exhaustive)

- Grona Lund (Stockholm, Sweden)
- Blackpool Pleasure Beach (northwest UK coast)
- Thorpe Park (outside London, UK)
- Heide Park (northern Germany)
- Parque Warner Madrid (Madrid, Spain)
- Port Aventura (near Barcelona, Spain)
- Mirabilandia (northeast Italy)
- Parc Asterix (near Paris, France)
Asian Amusement Parks
Asian Parks - Traits

- Before the new millennium, mostly just Japan
- Some variance based on where you are
  - In Japan, lots of amusement parks and coasters. Generally better landscaping than American parks. Sometimes an “RCT” effect is visible.
  - In South Korea, parks are not common, but a few parks with large coasters (e.g. Everland)
  - In China, tons of sketchy parks that are run down, but some examples of exciting new parks with high quality coasters
Japanese Amusement Parks

Example of “RCT” effect; lots of straight lines, 90 degree turns, and coasters on top of each other.
Japanese Amusement Parks

Japanese coasters have the **slowest** lift hills imaginable.
Japanese Amusement Parks

Less finicky than American parks about the weather sometimes :P
Fuji-Q Highland

- Located in south-central Japan; opened in 1961
- Some big ticket roller coasters
- Terribly mis-managed
Fuji-Q Highland - Fujiyama (1996)
Togo hyper coaster; tallest coaster in the world for 4 years
Fuji-Q Highland - Eejanaika (2006)
S&S 4th dimension coaster; improved variant of X2 at SFMM
Nagashima Spa Land

- Located in Nagoya, Japan; opened in 1966
- Resort complex like Cedar Point (also on a body of water)
- Lots of coasters, but not too many large scale ones

Morgan giga coaster; world’s longest coaster at 8,133ft
Nagashima Spa Land - White Cyclone
Rare non-prefab Intamin woodie; large and beautiful structure
Everland

- Located outside of Seoul; opened in 1976
- South Korea’s largest amusement park, 6.6 million visitors annually
- Quite a beautiful park; less of a ride focus
Everland - T Express (2008)

Massive Intamin prefab woodie; South Korea’s first wooden coaster, cross between El Toro at SFGArd and Balder at Liseberg
Chinese Amusement Parks

Many early Chinese coasters were Jungle Mouses, like this
Chinese Amusement Parks

China is the king of sketchy amusement parks
Chinese Amusement Parks

China is the king of sketchy amusement parks
Chinese Amusement Parks

Here is a coasters that need a push to get on the lift hill
Chinese Amusement Parks

Here is a coaster you need head gear to ride
Chinese Amusement Parks

And this strange ride...
Chinese Amusement Parks

...has someone living under it
Chinese Amusement Parks

China is also king of coaster copyright infringement, especially Vekoma SLCs for some reason.
Chinese Amusement Parks

Golden Horse, a Chinese manufacturer, blatantly uses B&M designs (none built yet)
Chinese Amusement Parks

However, some Chinese parks have impressive Disney level themeing

![Image of Chinese amusement park themeing](image-url)
Chinese Amusement Parks

However, some Chinese parks have impressive Disney level themeing
Chinese Amusement Parks

However, some Chinese parks have impressive Disney level themeing
Chinese Amusement Parks

A tenancy for terrible park operations though
Ocean Park

- Located in Hong Kong; opened in 1977
- Highly attended; over 7 million visitors annually
Ocean Park

Built up on a hill; beautiful view
Ocean Park

Built up on a hill; beautiful view