Headline: New Cedar Point coaster a rising star

Deckhead: Top Thrill 2 world’s best triple-launch ride; debuts next year

Cedar Point is synonymous with thrill rides – particularly roller coasters. It’s arguably the No. 1 thrill-ride destination in the U.S. Heck, it’s even called The Roller Coaster Capital of the World®.

Located in Sandusky, the theme park boasts 17 roller coasters. They rank from death-defying to moderate; excitement is a given.

Cedar Point will add to its arsenal in 2024. Top Thrill 2 will debut. It will be the world’s tallest and fastest triple-launch strata roller coaster. It redefines roller coaster innovation.

Cedar Point first pioneered the strata coaster – known as a roller coaster eclipsing a height of 400 feet – in 2003. Top Thrill 2 has not one but two 420-foot-tall towers – the equivalent of 39 stories – putting riders in the driver’s seat an unparalleled theme-park experience.

Top Thrill 2’s formula allows riders to immerse themselves as they join the CP Racing Team and climb one of three sleek, high-performance racing vehicles. Each of the coaster’s trains will feature open-air seating, providing heart-palpitating views on the world’s first and only dual-tower vertical speedway.

Fueled by an all-linear synchronous motor (LSM) launch system, riders will burst down the straightaway, reaching speeds of 74 mph, racing toward the sky on Top Thrill 2’s original 420-foot-tall “top hat” tower. After experiencing weightlessness during the “rollback” – the coveted fan-favorite moment when the train’s momentum isn’t great enough to make it up and over the tower – the train shifts into reverse and into its second launch, reaching speeds of 101 mph.

Riders will speed into a backward climb at a 90-degree angle on the track tower. Following a flash of weightlessness, the train shifts into drive and races forward into its third launch, clocking in at the ride’s top speed of 120 mph.

It’s an unprecedented experience that is only getting started.

Crossing over the top hat tower, the train decelerates momentarily before diving into a 270-degree spiral and crossing the finish line. It’s the ultimate ride – but would you expect anything lesser from Cedar Point.

“Top Thrill 2 will be the boldest and most advanced roller coaster Cedar Point has ever introduced. It’s another one-of-a-kind that could only be built at Cedar Point,” said Carrie Boldman, vice president and general manager of Cedar Point. “Our stamp on the industry is in roller coaster innovation, and that’s solidified as we redefine the strata coaster into a mega-thrill that our guests will come from far and wide to experience.”

Cedar Point has spent decades setting the standard in roller coast innovation, having introduced many of the tallest and fastest rides worldwide. It’s the first park to introduce the first roller coasters 200-feet tall (the Magnum XL-200 hyper coaster), more than 300-feet tall (the Millennium Force giga coaster) and more than 400-feet tall (the former Top Thrill Dragster strata coaster).

Seekers of the greatest thrill rides on the planet needn’t look further than Sandusky. Their mecca awaits on the shores of Lake Erie.

Cutline: DROP IT – Cedar Point’s newest roller coaster, Top Thrill 2, includes a pair of 420-foot towers. It will debut in 2024. Image: Cedar Point.