

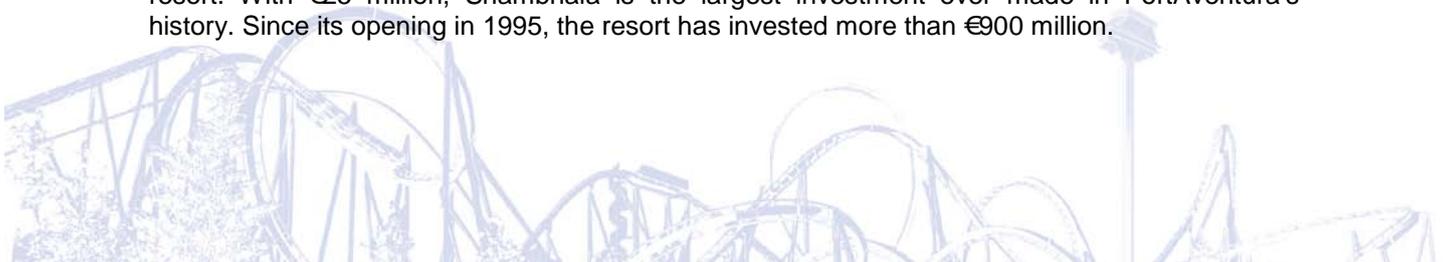
PortAventura finishes the construction of Shambhala

## Spain already has Europe's highest roller coaster



- The first test drive will run up next week and the decoration works are about to finish, already covering 14.000 m<sup>2</sup> of the surrounding area
- With an investment of over €25 million, Shambhala becomes the new symbol of PortAventura, reshaping its skyline
- The constant commitment to innovation makes PortAventura the leader in Spain with the largest number of visitors (3.7 million in 2011)

**Vila-seca – Salou (Costa Dorada), 19th April 2012.** The construction of the **Shambhala's** structure has been finished with a symbolic signing event and placing the flags of the different countries that have participated in the project. The last section of the track in the highest roller coaster in Europe (76 metres) is finally set, and a series of test drives will be done soon. After more than 9 months of works, the new roller coaster defines a new skyline in the theme park resort. With €25 million, Shambhala is the largest investment ever made in PortAventura's history. Since its opening in 1995, the resort has invested more than €900 million.





**Shambhala** is a great work of engineering with 1,650 m length, 1,600 tons of steel used in its structure, and 4,000 m<sup>3</sup> of cement in its 18 meters deep foundations. *“When we started to design Shambhala, we thought about an attraction to represent the magnitude and leadership of the Park, and providing people unique and unforgettable experiences. Since the very first sketch we have been modifying and adapting every detail in order to surprise the visitors. Shambhala consolidates PortAventura’s philosophy which is aimed to offer very strong and powerful sensations,”* Luis

Valencia, PortAventura’s Director of Development, says.

**Shambhala** is also the fastest in Europe roller coaster, reaching a maximum speed of 83 miles/hour, with 78 metres length in its longest drop and up to 86° inclination in its first drop. During the ride, the train goes through a tunnel and 5 camelbacks, one of them as high as a 7-floors building.

The new roller coaster has a new system of safety harness, which gives more freedom of movement to the passengers. Three trains, with 32 people capacity in each one, will run at the same time and transport over 1,000 passengers every hour. Moreover, a special seating arrangement allows the rider to enjoy a beautiful view during the trip. *“The sensation felt by a passenger is known as air time, or zero gravity, and is referring to the moment when they are lifting out of their seats. It’s like a change of course but much more intense,”* Luis Valencia comments.

**Bolliger & Mabillard**, Swiss engineering company, pioneer in designing roller coasters with more that 77 structures built worldwide, and also the company that worked with Dragon Khan, took part in the construction of Shambhala’s structure



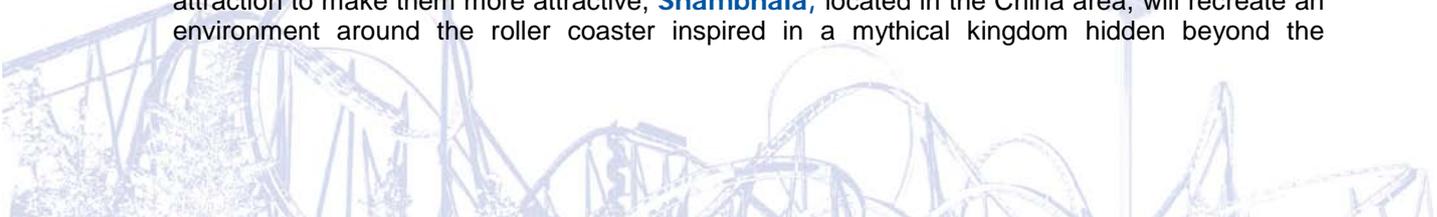
The association of companies **PGI-BOMA** participated also in the engineering and architecture work, as well as in the calculation of structures; it adapted the B&M’s design to the ground of PortAventura and developed the foundations that reach the depth of 18 meters in some points. These companies have many years of experience and have worked in more than 2,500 projects, such as the high-speed train station AVE Zaragoza or the new stadium of the Spanish football team FC l’Espanyol.

More than 300 people from several countries such as Germany, France, Hungary, Poland, Switzerland and USA have participated in the construction of the attraction.

### The challenge of creating a legend

Luis Valencia, who has been working in PortAventura for over 5 years as project engineer, says: *“The leisure world is a fascinating side of the engineering because the scientific technical knowledge is applied to the public’s entertainment. This, together with the satisfaction of creating unforgettable experiences for the public who will enjoy the project, makes the work even more rewarding”*

In addition, according to the resort’s tradition of creating a themed environment for every attraction to make them more attractive, **Shambhala**, located in the China area, will recreate an environment around the roller coaster inspired in a mythical kingdom hidden beyond the



mountains of the Himalaya. In that sense, Shambhala is not only the highest roller coaster in Europe, but also *“an opportunity of walking through a new theme area with more than 14,000 m<sup>2</sup> that brings us closer to the mysterious and unknown Bhutan kingdom, mixing indescribable sensations with a spectacular and magic trip around the majestic Himalaya”*, Luis Valencia remarks.

### The model of PortAventura

The strong focus on innovation and the investment made by PortAventura through the years are examples of the resort's strategy. Since the opening in 1995, PortAventura has worked to become something more than a theme park. PortAventura offers a wide range of tourism services, which turns it into a very complete vacation destination. For that reason, with more than 3.7 million visits in 2011 (16% more than the previous year) PortAventura is the most visited theme park in Spain, and the third in Europe.

**About PortAventura.** PortAventura is a theme resort located between Vila-Seca and Salou, in the Costa Dorada. In 1996 **PortAventura** started its activity and became the first theme park in Spain, with the hope of offering to its clients the opportunity of traveling around the world in just one day journey. In 2002, PortAventura decided to expand its offer with the opening of two new hotels and an aquatic park in order to become a complete tourist destination. The six thematic areas **“Mediterrània, Far West, México, China, Polynèsia y SésamoAventura”** cover 119 hectares and have 30 attractions, 100 performances every day, 75 catering points, and 27 craftworks and gifts' shops. Nowadays, the theme resort has **4 hotels**: Hotel PortAventura, Hotel El Paso, Hotel Caribe, Hotel Gold River. There are also an aquatic park, **PortAventura Acuatic Park**, and a **convention centre** with 4,000 people capacity. Furthermore, PortAventura is a unique family and leisure destination in Europe thanks to its excellent location in the Costa Dorada as well as the unbeatable transport connections, close to the Barcelona and Reus airports, as well as the high speed train Station.

**Photo:** PortAventura

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