

The construction of Shambhala – PortAventura’s new roller coaster reaches its pinnacle



- **With an investment of over €25 million, the new roller coaster will be the theme park’s biggest gamble to strengthen its position in the family sector.**

Vila-seca – Salou, 8th February 2012. - PortAventura continues the construction of **Shambhala**, the theme park’s principal new attraction for the upcoming season: a fantastic voyage of legends on a new ride that will allow the passengers to experience the excitement and adventure of the Himalayas and feel like they can touch the sky. This week the building works have hit a milestone by reaching the highest point of the future roller coaster (a height of 76 metres). This marks the completion of one of the most complex phases of construction.

During an on-site visit, Luís Valencia, PortAventura’s Director of Development, explained that the engineering work is “*almost like surgery*”. There are 1600 metres of track, 1600 tons of steel and around 18 metres of underground foundations to support the structure of the new roller coaster.

Mr. Valencia also commented that the new roller coaster would provoke “*very strong and powerful*” sensations, not only for the riders on board but even in the general public, which will be able to contemplate the climbs and descents of the trains from the new theme area that is being built around Shambhala.

Shambhala will be the tallest roller coaster in Europe, containing a perfect mix of ingredients for a great expedition: scaling the highest summits, descending into abseil chasms and journeying through dark tunnels and mountain lakes, all on a ride featuring an outline reminiscent of a real mountain range.

The new roller coaster will be situated in the area of China, next to Dragon Khan that up until now has always dominated the skyline of the park. Valencia has stated that although both rides are side-by-side, “*Shambhala does not overshadow Dragon Khan but complements and accentuates it*”. The new attraction will cross Dragon Khan at four different points and the latter has been repainted in red and blue, to stand out against the light tones of Shambhala.

The launch is planned for spring 2012, although it will not coincide with the start of the park's season, scheduled for 30th March.

Shambhala: la recreation of a legend

In addition to the actual roller coaster, PortAventura's project is to recreate the backdrop of an imaginary Himalayan kingdom, covering **more than 14,000 m² of theme area**. The designers have taken particular inspiration for this mountain range from Bhutan, one of the most isolated and less well-known countries in the world. Shambhala's decor/setting will be a great attraction, not only for people wishing to try the new ride but for all visitors to this area. In fact it will be possible to get very close to the structure of the roller coaster, observe the decor of adjacent buildings and even come close to the ride's own lake, one of the most crucial elements of the journey and where the carriages come into contact with the water.

However, the main attraction of the Shambhala experience will still be the roller coaster itself. Nobody will be left indifferent. Unlike the other speed attractions within the park, the new roller coaster will offer the visitor a veritable catalogue of emotions as well as spectacular views of their surroundings.

This new attraction is set to become the new icon of PortAventura, rising up in a svelte and majestic steel formation that will completely change the park skyline, characterised up until now by Dragon Khan, a symbol of the park since its opening. PortAventura's new "mountain range" will be visible for miles around, and will be situated in the area of China, at the highest peak of the park. It has been built just behind Dragon Khan and the structures of both roller coasters cross each other.

Technical data

- It will be a "hypercoaster", which are typically large, high, with a long track and the capacity to reach impressive speeds.
- The track length will be over 1650 metres and more than 1600 tons of steel will be used in its structure. More than 4000 m³ of concrete have gone into the foundations, some of which are up to 18 metres deep.
- The ride will set **three new European records**:
 1. **Tallest roller coaster** on the continent (76 metres)
 2. Roller coaster with **the longest drop in Europe** (78 metres)
 3. **Fastest** European hypercoaster, reaching 134 km/hr on the first descent. The speed will vary along the rest of the journey as, just like Dragon Khan, the complete trajectory is dependent upon the inertia from that first drop down.
- It will have 5 camelbacks (elevations in the track), the shortest of which is as high as a 7-storey building. On each of these camelbacks the rider will experience an effect known as *air time*, losing contact with the seat. It will feel similar to hitting a bump in the road but far more intense.
- It will have three 32-seater trains that may all be in operation at the same time.
- The design is the result of collaboration between PortAventura and the firm Bollinger & Mabillard, which also designed Dragon Khan.
- PortAventura is investing **25 million Euros** in this new attraction.





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