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Press Release



BOLT: World's first roller coaster sets sail

Finally: After the Corona-related delay, the innovative cruise ship Mardi Gras is on the high seas. Also "on board" is the first roller coaster on the high seas, however not in the hold but as an attraction on the top deck: "BOLT™: Ultimate Sea Coaster™" MAURER Rides built the spectacular ride with the cruise company, Carnival Cruise Line operating Mardi Gras.

Christine Duffy, president of Carnival, makes clear, "Mardi Gras is our most innovative ship with many really special attractions and venues. But the crowning glory of it all is BOLT, the first roller coaster at sea."

Imagine it: On the top deck of the luxury liner, you get on - or more accurately - get on the bike, because BOLT is a two-seater. The driver steps on the gas and, with an acceleration of 1.2 g, reaches 60 km/h in no time at all. With that, the drivers race along the track, with drops, dips, curves and a view of the endless horizon - and then probably has to brake at some point, because they come back to the start via a hairpin bend around the legendary Carnival funnel.

Then there is not only 220 meters (720 feet) of track behind them, but also a spectacular 360-degree panoramic view of the sea, Caribbean dream islands or ships and harbors. A unique roller coaster experience 57 m (187 feet) above sea level.

Patented Spike® drive

Technically, the whole thing is based on the innovative and patented Spike® drive from MAURER Rides. Spike® is, in simple terms, a further developed gear drive. Its special feature is that it turns roller coaster passengers into real drivers. They can brake or accelerate themselves anywhere on the track, with 100% traction and 1.2 g of propulsion.

"Whether passengers want an adrenaline rush or to take it slow and enjoy the breathtaking views, BOLT simply has it all," enthuses cruise director Duffy. Everyone designs their own personalized ride experience.

Riders' speeds are posted after the race. Cameras are mounted along the course so guests can receive a souvenir if they wish. The bikes, with two back-to-back seats, are designed in metallic red and blue, with a flash of bright yellow. A digital speedometer display and speakers with innovative sound effects promise an experience beyond previous cruise and roller coaster dimensions.

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[Carnival Cruise Line - Mardi Gras](#)



[BOLT™: Ultimate Sea Coaster™](#)



[BOLT™: Ultimate Sea Coaster™ - in action](#)

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Corona delayed maiden voyage

BOLT™: Ultimate Sea Coaster™ was manufactured by Maurer in Munich in 2019 and built on the ship at the Meyer Turku shipyard in Finland in 2020. The maiden voyage was scheduled for the same year, but due to Corona, the ship was berthed in Barcelona, Spain for months before finally heading to its home port in Port Canaveral (Orlando, Florida) in June 2021. From July 31, it will be cruising the Caribbean with passengers for the first time.

The Spike® roller coaster is the highlight of the amusement area on the new cruise ship. "BOLT will continue the Carnival tradition of offering exciting new options for our guests. We are so excited about this unique, groundbreaking, thrill ride attraction - and our guests are going to love it," Christine Duffy is confident.

The Mardi Gras is the 24th and largest ship in Carnival's fleet to date and is designed to accommodate 6,500 passengers. She is the first U.S. cruise ship to be powered entirely by liquefied natural gas (LNG). Like her sisters, this fun ship offers a variety of on-board activities. From waterslides and splash zones to miniature golf, a jogging track, basketball court and hanging rope course, to "Loft 19": a secluded retreat modeled after the world's best resorts, with bar service, private pool, sun loungers and spacious cabanas to discreetly retreat to.

Video

A unique view of the test setup of Carnival's BOLT
<https://youtu.be/kPOU0O2ldKE>

Projectpage

<https://maurer-rides.de/en/bolt>



[BOLT™: Ultimate Sea Coaster™](#)

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