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Verrückt (water slide)

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Verrückt, German for *Insane*, is a water slide at the **Schlitterbahn Kansas City** water park. At 168 feet 7 inches (51.38 m),^{[1][2][3]} the slide surpassed Kilimanjaro at Aldeia das Águas Park Resort to become the world's tallest water slide.

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History [edit]

In November 2012, Schlitterbahn Kansas City, announced plans for the world's tallest and fastest **water slide**, with no name or height specifications, set to open in Summer of 2013.^[4] The height was kept secret in order to ensure that it would set a world record.^[5] The still incomplete slide was officially named **Verrückt**, the German word for crazy or insane, in November 2013, with the ride expected to be open on at the start of the park's 2014 season (which started on May 23).^{[6][7]} However, the ride was still not ready as the park opened for the summer, with the opening date pushed back to June 5, due to the fact that it was "not working properly".^[8] After much of the lower portion of the ride was rebuilt, the opening date was announced to be June 29, to coincide with a TV special about the ride.^[9] On June 26, the park cancelled two days of media previews and the opening.^[10] The ride finally opened on July 10, 2014, after multiple delays.^[11]

Design [edit]

Designed by Schlitterbahn co-owner, Jeff Henry, Verrückt is a three-person raft slide with an uphill section. The initial drop is a 17-story plunge with a five-story uphill section, which makes it the tallest uphill water coaster section in the world. The starting point is taller than either **Niagara Falls** or the foot-to-torch portion of the **Statue of Liberty**.^[2] After the announcement of the ride's height and the certification of its world record on April 25, 2014, Schlitterbahn tore down most of the lower part of the ride after sandbags were seen flying off the ride during testing. The rebuilt and reengineered bottom resulted in the slope at the bottom of the large drop changing from 45 degrees to 22 degrees, as well as adding an extra 5 feet to the top of the uphill portion of the ride, in order to slow it down.^{[12][13]} The ride's 100 pounds (45 kg) rafts are carried by conveyor to the top of the slide, while riders climb 264 steps to reach the top.^[14] To avoid issues with rafts leaving the ride, rider groups are weighed at the bottom of the slide to make sure that their combined weight is between 400 pounds (180 kg) and 550 pounds (250 kg), with no single person over 300 pounds (140 kg), and weighed again once they reach the top.^{[15][16]}

Incidents [edit]

On August 7, 2016, Caleb Schwab, the 10-year-old son of Kansas state representative **Scott Schwab**, died riding Verrückt. Schwab was decapitated.^[17] He was one of three passengers on a raft with two women, one of whom suffered a broken jaw, and the other a broken bone in her face requiring stitches in her eye. The park was closed for two days following the incident, pending inspection results that took place during the time. The park reopened on August 10^[18] but the ride itself has been shut down indefinitely (at least for the rest of the season), pending further investigation.^{[19][20][21]}

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External links [edit]

- Official website

Categories: Water rides by name | 2014 establishments in Kansas | Buildings and structures in Kansas City, Kansas | World record holders

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