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At-a-glance:

- SeaWorld continues to find unique ways to bring guests closer to the mysteries of the sea.
- The park's expertise in thrills and animals have led to two other parks in Orlando -- Aquatica and Discovery Cove
- Manta -- the all-new flying roller coaster -- is the latest attraction to open at SeaWorld Orlando.

HOW SEAWORLD ORLANDO CHARTED THE COURSE TO MANTA

*Incredible history of ground-breaking shows and rides continues with
all-new flying roller coaster*

Throughout its 35-plus years, SeaWorld Orlando has showcased unique experiences, adventures and discoveries that can't be found anyplace else. Time and time again, since opening in 1973 with just two shows, a tropical reef aquarium and a few feeding pools, SeaWorld has opened windows to the mysteries of the seas.

Here's a list of recent highlights that helped guide the way to the creation of Manta, the park's latest and most extensive experience.

1995 _ "Wild Arctic" Heads North

SeaWorld has always sought to bring guests as close as possible to the sometimes-wild world around them. With the opening of **Wild Arctic** in 1995, SeaWorld charted new territory with an attraction that combined state-of-the-art ride simulator technology and up-close animal discoveries.

This motion-based, simulated jetcopter ride envelopes guests in the exhilaration and danger of Arctic exploration. Venturing from thrill ride to total Arctic immersion, guests enter a frozen wonderland and come face-to-face with live beluga whales, walruses, harbor seals and polar bears. Leading the industry with the ground-breaking concept, Wild Arctic – and its thrill ride+animal encounters experiences – defined a new direction for SeaWorld.

1998 and 2000 – Water Coasters and Roller Coasters

Journey to Atlantis debuted in 1998 and again, a unique combination of thrills could be found at the park. Orlando's only "water coaster" -- part water ride and part roller coaster – Journey to Atlantis plunges guests into the middle of a clash for the lost city of Atlantis and features two of the steepest, wettest, fastest drops of any theme park in the world.

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Charting the Course to Manta, Page 2

In 2000, SeaWorld opened its first full-on roller coaster, **Kraken**, themed after a mythological underwater beast. One of the few “floorless” coasters ever created, Kraken unleashed the latest in first-rate thrills. Known for its smooth ride and multiple inversions and twists, Kraken remains one of the world’s top coasters and certainly an Orlando favorite.

2005 – Reinventing Shows

Revolutionary rides, immersive attractions ... the time had come to extend this new generation of experiences to SeaWorld’s marine mammal performances. The park’s animal trainers and entertainment experts knew they could reinvent the way killer whale and dolphin shows are produced and experienced.

In 2005, SeaWorld introduced a breakthrough whale and dolphin show spectacular, “**Blue Horizons.**” Park show specialists collaborated with many of Broadway’s renowned artistic experts to fuse key theatrical elements with the awe-inspiring feats of divers, aerialists and of course, majestic animals – graceful dolphins, false killer whales and a rainbow of exotic birds. The audience experienced a young girl’s vivid imagination as she dreamed about the power of the sea and the elegance of flight.

And SeaWorld entered a new era of produced shows.

In 2006, SeaWorld premiered an even bigger show for its killer whale stars with “**Believe**” – a revolutionary production wherein the park’s entire family of killer whales perform choreography set to an original musical score. An elaborate 3-story set with an 80-foot-wide whale tail, four rotating LED screens and nearly 100 sound speakers round out the production. Trainers worked diligently with the killer whales to develop a repertoire of 100 new whale behaviors. Described as a breathtaking “killer whale ballet” of agility and grace, “Believe” was a hit and is now featured at all SeaWorld parks.

2000 – Swimming with Dolphins at Discovery Cove

Rides, attractions and shows don’t stand alone as SeaWorld’s only attribute. Since its opening, the park has expanded its brand, creating new discoveries only SeaWorld could make possible.

In the same year Kraken thrilled visitors, SeaWorld also debuted a 30-acre, all-inclusive paradise. **Discovery Cove** is an extraordinary family adventure where guests have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to swim with dolphins, rays and tropical fish.

At Discovery Cove, admission covers everything guests could ever want, including all meals and snacks, swim and snorkel gear, towels and lockers, and unlimited admission for 14 consecutive days to SeaWorld or Busch Gardens Tampa Bay. Plus, visitors never have to worry about overcrowding – the park’s capacity is limited to 1,000 guests each day.

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2008 – Playing With the Sea at Aquatica

SeaWorld's newest addition, **Aquatica**, doesn't just immerse families in the playfulness of the sea. At this waterpark, the sea plays back. Opened in 2008, guests jumped into waters ranging from serene to extreme, blended with exciting up-close animal encounters. The signature attraction, Dolphin Plunge, sends riders plummeting down clear, enclosed tubes through a lagoon filled with black and white Commerson's dolphins. A lazy river idly floats past a crystal-clear aquarium of tropical fish. At Aquatica, the fun was shown to be as endless as the sea itself.

2009 – Manta Tops the Must-See List

Manta is the next generation in a long line of SeaWorld thrills and unique adventures. And now, visitors to the Orlando park will find out what it's like to spin, glide, skim and fly like a giant ray as they experience the only flying roller coaster of its kind in the world. Building on the park's signature ability to blend of up close animal encounters with incredible thrills, Manta is a head-first, face-down thrills+animals experience, and an adventure that could only come from SeaWorld.

Park goers can continue to expect the best from SeaWorld in the years to come. Always seeking new ways to excite and enthuse, the park continues its never-ending journey to deliver premier rides, attractions and entertainment for Orlando visitors from the world over.

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A LOOK AT RECENT ATTRACTIONS THAT HAVE CHARTED THE COURSE TO MANTA

- December 15, 1973:** SeaWorld opens in Orlando.
- 1995:** Wild Arctic redefines the “SeaWorld experience” with a thrill ride+animal encounter experience.
- 1998:** Journey to Atlantis makes a splash as Orlando’s only “water coaster.”
- 2000:** Kraken quickly rises to the top as one of the world’s best coasters.
- 2000:** Discovery Cove immerses guests in a 30-acre tropical oasis where swim-with-dolphin dreams come true, forever changing the vacation experience.
- 2005:** “Blue Horizons” adds a produced, Broadway style to SeaWorld’s marine mammal shows.
- 2006:** The new killer whale show, “Believe,” is the most ambitious entertainment project in SeaWorld history.
- 2008:** Aquatica, SeaWorld’s waterpark, opens with fun as endless as the sea itself.
- May 22, 2009:** Manta – SeaWorld’s latest thrill ride+animal encounter experience -
- soars from sea to sky.

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