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THE RAY RISES AT SEAWORLD

Manta — an amazing double-launch coaster and stunning marine-life habitat — set to open May 26

SAN DIEGO (May 16, 2012) -- Manta, a new mega-attraction that seamlessly transitions guests from the awe of watching rays in underwater flight ... into the sensation of actually being one, opens May 26, 2012 at SeaWorld San Diego.

Swooping over sea and sky, Manta not only inspires riders with an amazing 100,000-gallon aquarium, but also takes them on an exhilarating ride on a coaster shaped like a giant manta ray, with dozens of twists and turns and a thrilling 54-foot drop.

"Manta delivers exactly what our guests want: a fun, family coaster complemented by an incredible hands-on animal experience," said SeaWorld Park President John Reilly. "We want our guests to feel immersed in the world of rays, like they themselves are a giant manta ray, twisting, soaring and diving through the ocean. Then, they'll even get the opportunity to reach in the water and touch and feed real California bat rays."

Manta sits on five acres just north of SeaWorld's Dolphin Point. Guests are first introduced to the attraction as 20-car trains zip around a striking 30-foot rock formation bursting with bamboo, ferns and a very prominent Manta sign. Guests feel as if they've landed on an exotic Southeast Asian island, sprinkled with flowers and featuring a variety of palm trees, Japanese black pines, a palm and cycad canyon and a succulent garden. Large trees line the perimeter of Manta, while small shrines, Japanese rockwork, potted bonsai trees and a stone pagoda and bell tower (two structures dating back to 1964 when the park opened!) blend into the landscape.

For those 48 inches and taller, the roller coaster at Manta will be the highlight of their experience. Known as a linear synchronous motor (LSM) launch coaster, Manta features ½ mile of track, with four trains (20 seats each) that take riders around banks and turns and a 54-foot drop where the cars skim a lake (without getting riders wet). The maximum height of the ride is 30 feet, but the drop is a total of 54 feet, achieved through a 24-foot excavation. Lasting one minute and 40 seconds, Manta features two separate launches and reaches maximum speed in just two seconds.

The first launch takes place in a tunnel with larger-than-life images of rays projected on a 270-degree enveloping screen. This stunning introduction to the world of the rays also visually enhances the physical acceleration as the ride launches down the track. This state-of-the-art projection system is the first of its kind in the United States.

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In developing and constructing Manta, SeaWorld worked with German ride design company MACK, which also engineered SeaWorld San Diego's popular ride, Journey To Atlantis.

Manta's 100,000-gallon aquarium is filled with three species of rays (California bat rays, diamond stingrays and shovelnose guitarfish) and hundreds of fishes native to the California coast. The reef-themed aquarium includes eight acrylic viewing windows where guests can see marine life above and in front of them, and a shallow above-ground pool where guests touch and feed California bat rays. This hands-on experience allows our guests to make a connection with rays that may inspire them to protect this amazing species by cherishing its ocean home, and the environment in general.

Plaques with messages and imagery hand-drawn by SeaWorld employees and annual Pass members line the walls of the queue line for Manta. This personalized decorative element is designed to evoke emotion and inspire guests to cherish their memories of the sea and to protect the sea for generations to come.

Manta also features two new eateries: Manny Ray's, where guests can enjoy a California-inspired menu including a chipotle turkey wrap, chicken Caesar flatbread, Kalua pork sandwich and a California cheese steak, as well as fruit, chips, energy bars and a variety of beverages; and Fusion Smoothies, where guests can get refreshed with a variety of delicious blended drinks, including the Manta Rider (strawberry-lemon-yogurt) and the Wild Fusion (strawberry-banana-yogurt), all with the option of adding boosts and bobas (also referred to as "tapioca pearls").

The Manta gift shop, an original building that was part of SeaWorld's Japanese Village when the park opened in 1964, features gifts and souvenirs that highlight the experience of the ride, as well as items that focus on the sea and the lifestyle associated with the sea, such as resort apparel, surf style apparel and sea-life gifts. In addition, photos taken of riders on Manta may be purchased afterward in the gift shop.

Guests at SeaWorld's sister park in Orlando have been enjoying a similarly-themed ride called Manta since it opened in 2009.

To learn more about Manta, visit [**www.seaworld.com/manta**](http://www.seaworld.com/manta).

SeaWorld San Diego is open year-round, including holidays. Park admission is \$73 for ages 10 and older; \$65 for ages 3-9. Annual Passes are available, as well as the 2012 SeaWorld Fun Card, seasonal ticket offers and promotions. Hours vary by season; starting May 26, the park will feature extended hours and special nighttime entertainment during Summer Nights at SeaWorld. For more information visit [**www.seaworldsandiego.com**](http://www.seaworldsandiego.com) or call (800) 25-SHAMU.

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SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment inspires people to celebrate, connect, and care for the natural world through the power of entertainment. The company owns and operates 10 parks across the United States, as well as the newly formed SeaWorld Pictures division. The parks play host to 23 million guests a year and provide lasting memories through up-close animal encounters, world-class shows and rides, and high-quality themed attractions. Locations include SeaWorld parks in Orlando, Fla., San Diego and San Antonio; Busch Gardens parks in Tampa, Fla. and Williamsburg, Va.; Discovery Cove and Aquatica in Orlando; Sesame Place near Philadelphia, Pa.; and water parks Adventure Island in Tampa and Water Country USA in Williamsburg.

A global leader in animal care and conservation, SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment cares for more than 60,000 animals including 200 endangered or threatened species. This commitment extends to animals around the world: The company has contributed more than \$50 million to conservation, wildlife rescue and environmental stewardship initiatives and operates one of the world's most respected animal rescue and rehabilitation programs. SeaWorld has rescued more than 18,000 orphaned, injured or ill animals over four decades.

SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment employs 20,000 people nationwide and is a portfolio company of The Blackstone Group (NYSE:BX).

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