



BUSCH GARDENS ASIA

-Robbie92-

This park is a journey over seven years in the making. One of my first advertised parks when I joined in 2008 was a Busch park themed to Asia and its vast wealth of cultures, architectures, environments, and experiences. Like any other ambitious park started by a relative newbie to the game, the concept soon died as other parks came to the forefront. However, no matter what I was working on, the park concept still brewed in my mind. The second attempt soon followed and was sooner scrapped. A third attempt saw a switch to LL and the addition of Louis! as a cobuilder, but that fell apart about as quickly as most briefly-planned duos do. A fourth attempt after the completion of SFSF was almost a last-ditch effort in a way; if I couldn't sustain a decent park from this concept after so much change in my style and building process, then was it really worth it? Fortunately, four-and-a-half years later and the park is ready for its "opening," despite numerous extended breaks, rebuilds, and NE competition disruptions. I only hope that it worth the wait...

PARK BACKGROUND

Busch Gardens Asia was constructed in 1977 in Southern California, intended as the new California flagship of the Anheuser-Busch brewery following the rebranding of their Los Angeles park into a bird sanctuary; rather than be situated in the semi-suburban setting of Pasadena, the new BGA would be built out in the scrub-covered hills outside of the Los Angeles urban core. Much like its early competitor Magic Mountain, the park was marketed as a family-friendly "oasis" outside of the city, where guests could come enjoy some exciting thrills, see amazing shows, and have a leisurely day in a naturally-beautiful area. As the third full-scale park in the Busch Gardens chain, the park was designed to feature another continental theme, in particular Asia. Due to the popularity of the San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park, built in 1972, the park avoided the same animal-centric focus of Tampa's Serengeti Plain, instead weaving smaller exhibits throughout the park.

The park's first coasters were the biggest draw of the opening seasons. Particularly standing out was Naga, an Arrow Dynamics multi-looping coaster that plunged guests over the park's central lake and underneath the ride's, and arguably the park's, centerpiece, the double loops. These paired loops were extensively advertised, and their trussed-up forms were an iconic image for the park. Alongside Naga was Bengal, a Schwarzkopf Jet Star

fairground coaster located in the Indian area, and Junior Dragon, a small kids' coaster located in the the Chinese area. Guests could also cool down in the California heat on Andaman Falls, a thrilling log flume located in the Thailand area, or on a leisurely cruise through the water gardens of Suzhou on the Suzhou River Cruise.

The park opened with five areas: Istanbul, China, Thailand, Japan, and India. Istanbul functioned purely as the entrance area, with solely shops and restaurants bar one station for the skyride. Japan was functionally similar to the entrance area, being an area solely consisting of dining and shopping experiences, along with an extensive garden. Despite the thrills initially offered, the park's primary draw was its lush, relaxed atmosphere where guests could wander and linger throughout faithful interpretations of Asia's best architecture and landscaping.

The park's first big coaster expenditure past opening started the summer of 1985 off with a bang. Samurai, an Arrow Dynamics suspended coaster, sent guests on a fast, dizzying journey over the rooftops of the previously-dormant Japanese area; the coaster would send trains swinging through a series of fast turns, over sweeping drops, and past the very village of the area itself. This marked the start of the park's gradual shift from an idyllic, leisure-based wandering park to the thrill-filled park that guests know and love today. Once the dust and novelty of Samurai had settled, it was time for the park to shake things up once again, this time creating a new area in 1988 between the Chinese and Indian areas. This new area, themed to Tibet and the general mystique of the Himalayas, became home to numerous flats; once a quiet area to transition between two themed areas, this new themed zone housed new shops, restaurants, a theatre, and numerous dizzying flat rides. Alongside this new area, the Suzhou River Cruise was altered into Suzhou Splashdown, its back half of the water gardens being redeveloped into a 50-foot, double-down plunge. Even guests off of the ride could cool off underneath its mammoth splash.

1991 brought another monumental addition to the park in China's Golden Dragon. This Arrow Dynamics multi-looper was a completely different beast from its older sibling across the lake; this coaster featured a 110-ft wraparound corkscrew drop that rocketed riders into a series of rapid loops, turns, corkscrews, and even a "cobra roll." The ride was notorious for both its thrilling course and its spine-altering roughness. However, with its addition came a new balance to the park; China, Japan, and Thailand all featured large thrilling coasters, with an additional family-friendly coaster in India. The following season in 1992 offered an extensive addition to the Thailand area through the addition of the Cambodia sub-area. The crowning jewel of the area was Angkor River Rapids, at the time the world's largest and most-themed river rapids ride. While the ride experience was largely similar to other rapids rides located in the region, the ride eschewed the simple concrete trough for an experience that took rafts under fallen trees, past plant-covered ruins, and down steep waterfalls into elaborate temple structures, culminating in a thrilling dive into a ruined temple complex to face off the various beasts that lurked within.

When Bengal was suddenly demolished in 1996, it seemed as if something big was coming to the India area for the first time since the park opened almost 20 years before. No one, however, could anticipate what arose in its place. Jagganath, a Bolliger & Mabillard inverted coaster, took riders on a journey that included two immense vertical loops, an

immelman, a cobra roll, a zero-g roll, and a wingover, totaling to seven inversions. Unlike the park's earlier layout, the coaster was unparalleled in its smoothness, whisking riders on a fast journey through its sweeping, immense, and snappy layout. The ride was a huge hit for the park, helping it garner record attendance for the summer of 1998 and upstaging the efforts of every other Southern California park. However, while Jagganath thrilled and dazzled riders, Golden Dragon had been steadily losing its draw since its opening as reports on its roughness turned away riders and maintenance costs skyrocketed. Thus, the park used the incredible draw of Jagganath to quietly and suddenly shutter and demolish the newer Arrow, leaving a large hole in the park.

However, the hole didn't remain for long, as 2000 saw the park open its second B&M coaster, Fenghuang. This coaster, utilizing Golden Dragon's now-unoccupied station, offered a completely different experience from the manufacturer's first addition to the park skyline; Fenghuang, which was named after a famed mythical Chinese firebird, took riders on Southern California's first hyper coaster, plunging riders down a drop 20-stories tall, immediately shooting them over various hills to produce maximum "airtime." The result was a smooth coaster that loomed over the park while providing guests with an experience that emphasized speed and height.

These two blockbuster additions provided the park with marketable momentum until roughly 2006, when the park started to call for the addition of another blockbuster ride to increase competition against its now-accelerating regional competition. The last portion of the park without a major addition, Tibet, became home to 2007's Garuda, the park's 3rd B&M coaster and the park's first and only dive machine. Garuda took riders to the almost Himalayan heights of 200' before plunging them down a vertical drop and into a sweeping immelman inversion. The ride, which featured two vertical drops, one inversion, and a water splashdown, called for an extensive update to the Tibetan area; the area's architecture was cleaned up and redesigned to provide a shiny new backdrop for the park's shiny new coaster.

While the park's recent additions drew hordes, the beloved Samurai, which had thrilled and swung guests over the Japanese area for over 20 years, had fallen into disrepair and soon met the wrecking ball. Despite a general love from the public, the coaster's maintenance became too much to bear for the park, making the ride more of an expense than an asset. With its removal, the Japan area shortly reverted back to the idyllic corner it had opened as. In addition to the creation of Garuda, 2007 saw the park's 30th Anniversary year, with plenty of cosmetic upgrades and renovations to the park's older original elements. Most notably was the small celebration around the 30th Anniversary of Naga, now the only coaster in the park that had existed on Opening Day; to bring the ride into a new era of the park, the station was upgraded into a more elaborate structure intended to once again draw guests to the coaster and its once-iconic double loops.

2008's demolition of Samurai left holes in the hearts of many longtime guests and coaster enthusiasts, along with a large hole in the ride lineup and the Japan area in particular. However, after 5 years of absence, the spirit of Samurai came shooting back in the form of Shinobi, a Mack multi-launching coaster that opened in 2013. While not the largest or flashiest expenditure in the park's history, Shinobi was an ambitious coaster nonetheless, featuring two high-speed LSM launches like its smaller cousin at SeaWorld San Diego nearby.

The first launch rocketed riders into a themed show building that mimicked the experience of weaving through a shogunate castle, with plenty of visual, audio, and light effects. The second launch, faster than the first, would shoot riders over an overbanked turn into a trench, where they would rise and circle around the area's centerpiece pagoda; the second half of the ride featured a series of airtime hills and swooping turns over the Japan area, an homage to the similar actions of Samurai before it. Shinobi became the park's biggest draw since Jagganath, undoubtedly ushering in a new era of the BGA experience.

Since 2013's big addition, the park has been relatively dormant, with its biggest addition being the Sesame Street Festival of Fun. This cartoon-filled addition to the Chinese area took Jim Henson's beloved television characters and updated them to the park-appropriate setting of a Chinese festival; families could now come to the park to experience the fun and wonder of a traditional festival with their favorite Sesame Street characters. Along with this addition came the park's latest coaster, the family-friendly Elmo's Dragon Dance, which echoes the park's initial kids' coaster, only with the additional fun of Sesame Street.

As of 2015, the latest announcement for the park's growth is Djinn, a family-friendly spinning coaster that takes riders spinning around turns and swooping down sudden drops. This coaster marks the park's first addition to the Istanbul area, and survey markers on the pathways and in the nearby lands suggest that the park's picnic grounds and large entrance plaza, some of the last holdovers of early, idyllic BGA, will be making way for another interactive thrill experience. While the park is straying away from its earliest goals, this latest addition will hopefully continue Busch Gardens Asia's trend of being at the forefront of immersive themed environments combined with incredible thrills.

PARK GUIDE

Istanbul

Guests enter the park at the famed historic link between the worlds of the West and East, the port of Istanbul. Amidst the stone walls, domes, and piercing spires of the city, guests can wander through exotic souks, beautiful courtyards, and tranquil gardens. As the first area guests arrive to, Istanbul sets the stage for Busch Gardens Asia's immersive, exotic environments, with plenty of attractions, dining, and shopping experiences to provide for a fun-filled day!

-ATTRACTIONS-

1. Skyride (56" Minimum or accompanied by supervising companion): Soar high above the treetops of Busch Gardens Asia with a stunning view of the park's rides and landscape. Enjoy the jaw-dropping scenery as you cross between the park's Istanbul area and the Japan area on the other side of the park. LOW THRILL
2. Battering Ram (48" Minimum): Now that the Walls of Constantinople have fallen, the battering ram is here for fun. Flip up and over yourself as the contraption rotates around itself, creating a thrilling and dizzying experience for riders. HIGH THRILL
3. Marco Polo: The Journey (May not be suitable for younger guests): Experience the magic and wonder of the famed journeys of Marco Polo in this theatrical spectacle.

Here in the Grand Souk Theatre, guests will become part of a thrilling adventure of discovery, experiencing the same excitement that the explorers of old must have felt during their expeditions eastward. Please note that some scenes include loud noises, sudden movements, and/or flashing lights. Please consult your park guide for showtimes.

Southeast Asia

Experience the mystique and excitement of the jungles of Southeast Asia along with the modern, world-class thrills that only Busch Gardens Asia can provide. Guests can explore crumbling temple ruins, quiet river villages, and the deepest reaches of the jungles all while experiencing some of the hallmarks of Cambodian and Thai culture.

-ATTRACTIONS-

1. Naga (48" Minimum): Over 30 years ago, a legendary monster came to stalk the shores of Busch Gardens Asia, tantalizing riders with its double loops and high thrills. Naga is still thrilling guests generation after generation, with its terrifying plunge straight down to the water and its top speed of 55mph, not to mention its iconic double loops. Its an enduring family-friendly thrill experience, and one of the park's most popular attractions. HIGH THRILL
2. Angkor River Rapids (42" Minimum): Experience the rush of whitewater rafting through a rushing jungle river. Rafts of six race along currents of water, passing under fallen trees, around ruins, and through the depths of the jungle. A final plunge soaks riders before plummeting them right into the heart of the ruined temple itself, home to mysterious creatures. MODERATE THRILL
3. Andaman Falls (46" Minimum): Prepare for a soak, as logs whisk guests away on a journey through the jungle complete with two large drops straight to the lake below. It's a perfect, family-friendly adventure that's sure to cool off. MODERATE THRILL
4. Royal Barge (42" Minimum): The King's barge is ready for guests, but it's no gentle boat ride. This pendulum ride swings guests up higher and higher towards a loop before gravity pulls it right back down again. MODERATE THRILL
5. Thai Twist (42" Minimum): Experience the dizzying grace of a classical dance on this thrilling twister of a ride. Guests board carriages that spin and twirl upon themselves, mimicking the intricate dances of the Khmer royalty. MODERATE THRILL
6. Birds of a Feather (Suitable for All Guests): Experience the wonders of the avian world at this show, featuring some of our finest feathered friends. Be amazed as our animal experts show you some of the most eye-catching birds to ever fly our skies. Guests will be awed as amazing, colourful birds do all sorts of aerial tricks, right over their heads. Please consult your park guide for showtimes.

Japan

Experience the idyllic grace and wonder of the Japanese countryside, as guests wander through quaint mountain villages and past awe-inspiring feudal castles. Guests can get lost amidst the charming village architecture and wander into the various artisanal shops, or can admire the landscape and gardens around them.

-ATTRACTIONS-

1. Shinobi (48" Minimum): This double-launch coaster allows for guests to experience the thrill of the hunt of the ninja. Riders are first launched into the shogun's castle, where a variety of light, video, and sound effects simulate a flight through the castle. A second launch of 60mph provides an escape for riders, who rocket around the area's centerpiece pagoda before speeding over and through the surrounding village and countryside. It's a high-speed thrill that's fun for the whole family and provides a coaster experience unlike any other. Please be noted that this ride features sudden movements, flashing lights, and loud noises. HIGH THRILL

India

Guests can explore the exotic realm of India, home to uncharted jungles, wild beasts, colorful architecture, and a vibrant culture unlike any other. Here, guests can get up close to the majesty of the tiger, experience the rush of one of the country's best coasters, and wander through a colorful, exotic village, experiencing the best sights, sounds, and tastes that India has to offer.

-ATTRACTIONS-

1. Jagannath (54" Minimum): Experience the thrill of six inversions on this inverted coaster named for the Hindu "Lord of the Universe." On this coaster, guests will experience dizzying drops, multiple 80' loops, a massive cobra roll, and a zero-g roll, all while hanging directly below the track. Guests experience the sensation of flying above the jungle in this relentless experience known to thrill guests and enthusiasts alike since its opening. HIGH THRILL
2. Maharajah's March (42" Minimum unless accompanied by a supervising guardian): This antique Herschend carousel sits underneath the ornate canopy of an Indian temple, complete with 36 hand-carved animals and two chariots. It's a perfect experience for the whole family to enjoy together. LOW THRILL
3. Tiger Trek (Suitable for All Ages): This interactive, highly-themed animal habitat allows guests to experience the majesty of the Bengal tiger while being immersed in an environment complete with habitat education stations, ruined temples, and other animal exhibits. Guest can follow the trek's path as it winds its way through caves, ruins, and observation stations, experiencing new views of the tigers and other animals from every twist and turn.

Tibet

In this area, guests can experience the awe-inspiring nature of the Tibetan plateau, from the magnificence of the Himalayas to the wonder and mystique of the monasteries and villages that grow from the mountainsides. Here, guests can wander through a bustling Tibetan city, experience the magic of soaring over the Himalayas, and tower over the rest of the park from a mountain perch.

-ATTRACTIONS-

1. Garuda (54" Minimum): Experience the thrill of plunging from the sky on Garuda, a thrilling floorless dive coaster. Guests will feel the rush of soaring over the Himalayas as they mercilessly stop peering over the precipice of a 200' vertical drop, before being plunged at speeds of over 70mph straight to the ground. From there, it's right into a soaring immelmann inversion, before a second vertical drop plunges you into darkness and out into

a water splash that drenches nearby guests. It's the rush and thrill of flying over the Himalayas, only offered at Busch Gardens Asia. HIGH THRILL

2. Chomolungma (Guests must be between 54" and 74"): New for 2015, this thrilling drop tower experience calls for guests to slowly soar up a 300' tower before being turned straight towards the ground at its summit. From there, riders plunge straight down at speeds up to 60mph before a smooth stop at the ground. Like its namesake, Mount Everest, this ride towers over the rest of the park, and offers views and thrills like no other! HIGH THRILL

3. Lhasa Loop (42" Minimum): Soar up and over the surrounding landscape on this exciting contraption. Riders embark on a swinging loop that speeds riders around like a pendulum, falling back down to earth before soaring again towards the skies. It's a thrill experience that's fun for the whole family! MODERATE THRILL

4. Mandala (48" Minimum): Hang on and watch the world around you start to scramble as you swing, rock and ricochet from corner to corner of a flat ride amusement park classic that provides a decidedly un-flat experience. MODERATE THRILL

5. Everest: The 4D Experience (Not suitable for younger guests): This thrilling 4d show offers the experience of ascending the summit of Mount Everest, from the thrills of the Khumbu Icefall to the rushes of the Hillary Step. It's a multidimensional experience, with multiple surprising experiences, from movements and sounds to smells and sensations. Please note that there are sudden movements, loud noises, and flashing lights that may not be suitable for younger guests.

China

Here, guests can experience the beauty of the idyllic Chinese countryside. Guests wander through a bustling village, home to many artisans, and experience the vibrant culture of China. Those looking for a thrill can soar over the park on Fenghuang, while the water gardens of Suzhou offer a chance to enjoy nature and cool off. For the animal lovers, China offers the opportunity to observe one of our most beloved and reclusive creatures, the panda.

-ATTRACTIONS-

1. Fenghuang (52" Minimum): Named after the legendary phoenix of Chinese legend, this coaster offers the experience of soaring on the wings of Fenghuang through the surrounding countryside. This coaster, an enduring favorite with enthusiasts since it first landed at Busch Gardens, races rides up and down daring heights. Riders climb high above the landscape, only to plummet back down to earth, racing over the surrounding hillsides. Here, riders will experience multiple moments of coveted airtime on one of the fastest, largest, and smoothest experiences offered in the world. HIGH THRILL

2. Suzhou Splashdown (48" Minimum): Cool off on a tranquil cruise through the water gardens of Suzhou, as guests embark on a cruise through the famed landscapes. However, that's not all that the gardens have in store, as a 50' drop lurks just around the corner. Nearby guests can experience the power of the ride's massive splash on the nearby garden bridges and outlooks. Ponchos can be purchased nearby at the Lijiang Marketplace next to the main bridge. MODERATE THRILL
3. Topsy-Turvy Tea Time (48" Minimum unless accompanied by a supervising guardian): Experience our take on this classic fairground ride as guests board tea cups that swirl and twirl around each other, each with a controllable pace and spin. Tea parties have never been this fun! MODERATE THRILL
4. Panda Grove (Suitable for All Ages): Get up-close and personal with some of nature's most elusive and beloved creatures, the panda, only at Panda Grove. On loan from Beijing, our pandas can be experienced in a large habitat where guests can wander through bamboo groves and into special lookouts, giving them a prime view of our panda population. It's a rare experience to get this close to pandas, and Busch Gardens is one of the few places to offer such a special opportunity.
5. Golden Dragon Acrobats (Suitable for All Ages): This show offers the amazing experience of viewing some of China's finest acrobats, the Golden Dragon Acrobatic Troupe. Here, guests can marvel at the amazing, gravity-defying tricks of the acrobats, all in an exciting, fast-paced entertaining show. Please check your park guide for showtimes.

Sesame Street Festival of Fun

Join all of your favorite Sesame Street characters as they celebrate the festival of the New Year. This colorful, cartoon village is just for children and their families, with plenty of kid-friendly attractions and playgrounds to keep any child occupied. It's the most fun and friendly village in China, and it's welcoming plenty of little visitors day after day.

-ATTRACTIONS-

1. Elmo's Dragon Dance (38" Minimum if accompanied by a supervising guardian, 41" Minimum alone): Join Elmo in his celebratory dragon dance on this family-friendly coaster perfect for anyone's first roller coaster experience.
2. Grover's Stormy Seas (42" Minimum unless accompanied by a supervising guardian): Experience the stormy seas in Captain Grover's junk on this twirling rock-n-tug ride, a fun kid-friendly experience.
3. Ernie's Duck Drop (42" Minimum unless accompanied by a supervising guardian): Take an exciting ride on our child sized shot-n-drop tower.
4. Grouchy Carousel (42" Minimum unless accompanied by a supervising guardian): Ride along with Oscar the Grouch in this carousel of spinning trash cans.
5. Ernie's Ducky Boats (42" Minimum unless accompanied by a supervising guardian): Relax in this fun-filled boat ride in one of Ernie's rubber ducky boats.
6. Slimey's Swinger (42" Minimum unless accompanied by a supervising guardian): Hop along with Slimey the Caterpillar on this swinging carousel.
7. Abby's Arcade (Suitable for All Guests): Join Abby Cadabby in her magical arcade filled with games for all ages.
8. Elmo the Dragon (Suitable for All Ages): Climb in and around Elmo's special costume for the big festival: his dancing dragon! This playground is made just for kids, and is a perfect place to be as crazy and energetic.

PARK NOTES

This version of BGA has taken me around four and half years to complete, with multiple breaks for various H2H competitions and other projects. My main focus of this project was to marry the NE-standard calibre for realism with its standards for theming, something which hasn't really been attempted at a large scale (park size and detail level) in recent years. I wanted to prove that you could build a heavily-themed realistic park without compromising theming quality or realistic details. Unfortunately, while ambitious, this pretty much led straight to the object limit. Because of this, the park isn't quite finished to the level of development that I had anticipated. However, I'm quite happy with what's there, and hope that it's enough to keep your attention. In particular, the park's foliage is a slight casualty of the limit; it's not as lush or thick as I had intended, but the necessity of sparser plant life led to the development of a drier surroundings for the park, perfect for it's Southern California setting.

While the park is peepable, it doesn't hold as many peeps as I would hope, stabilizing around 2000 guests. This is likely in part due to the smaller amount of operable rides in the park and the proliferation of single-wide paths over the path blocks. Still, it's an exciting thing to see the park flooded with peeps, and their activity provides some much-needed vibrancy to certain corners of the park.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, I'd like to thank the community for supporting me in this game throughout all of these years. I know that I would get nowhere in this game if not for the support and feedback from everyone at NE, and your passion for this game, and the strength of the community, has kept my interest in this park going. Streaming this park, posting screens, and constantly seeking advice from everyone led to it being something I can say I'm proud of, and something that is the worthwhile result of years of work.

In particular, there's a few people I'd love to give more specific mention to. If I forgot anyone, I'll make it up somehow:

-Liampie, Inthemanual, and Cedarpoint6: Your continuing advice, object-making, hacking, and layouts have been complete and utter lifesavers for me and this park, which would undoubtedly be incomplete without your help. Trevin and Liam, your objects allowed me to complete this park to a decent standard, and your hacks and peep work allow it to run better than I'd ever be capable of. Brian, your help with Shinobi's interior layout and your constant hacks and merges allowed for this park to function, and your innate sense of realism knowledge was invaluable for meeting my own personal goals of the park. You guys are the best.

-Maverix: Thank you so much for hacking the rapids ride for me. Without you, it'd be a lot more pathetic of a ride and nothing of note. Now finish KnoxVegas!

-FK+Coastermind: You're the best sculptor in the game, and your entrance for Naga made an unremarkable entrance all the better. Additionally, your constant in-depth, if sometimes scathing, feedback was absolutely invaluable throughout the entire process.

-Pacificoaster, Posix, Steve, Turtle, Louis, Airtime, Nin, Austin55, and BelgianGuy: Your constant feedback throughout the years has been incredible in helping me reach my goals with this park and become a better parkmaker. Your advice was all incredibly helpful and intelligent, and you all gave me hope with this park when times felt rough. Also, Steve, I'm sorry for deleting your little café. I'll make it up somehow.

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ENJOY THE PARK!