

New 'Astro Tower' opens in Coney Island



It's a tradition to remember those who've given the ultimate sacrifice for our nation — but it's also a time that friends and family gather to celebrate the unofficial start of Summer.

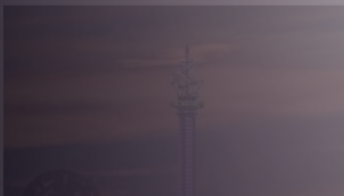
Luna Park on Coney Island is hoping to draw in some crowds with a new thrill ride.

Standing 137 feet tall, the Astro Tower gives riders the sensation of free falling.

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Luna Park's Astro Tower returning to loom over Coney Island

BY STEVE HEYER



One of the tallest rides at Coney Island's Luna Park, the Astro Tower, has returned in a new format — but opens after its dramatic demolition.

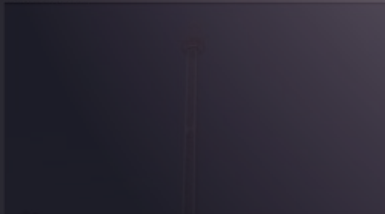
The 270-foot tower, which gave visitors a thrilling view of the sea and the city between 1964 and 2008, started swinging independently into oblivion in 2013, leaving a hole in the skyline of Luna Park and parts of Coney Island. Days later, it was demolished.

A new tower has finally taken its place, according to Luna Park officials.

The new "state-of-the-art" Astro Tower — standing 137 feet tall with more than 5,200 LED lights that put on a show once the two lights going down — opens to the public on May 26. With space for only 12 people at a time, the ride launches,

Coney Island's fun season begins

BY STEVE REGALATO



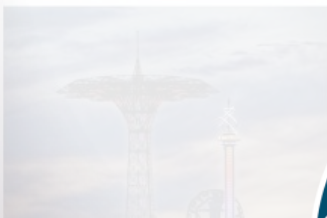
NEW YORK (WABC-TV) — From the sand to the boardwalk, Coney Island is getting in Memorial Day weekend with fireworks. The weekend was perfect for the event to announce the official start of beach season at the city's right location.

The mayor and local officials also unveiled the plaque designating the Coney Island Boardwalk a scenic landmark in recognition of its cultural and historic significance.

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Coney Island Summer: Astro Tower, Parties, Events

BY LUCIA ZAGARE



CONEY ISLAND — Memorial Day Weekend marks the official start of the summer at Coney Island. The rides and attractions will be open every day of the week, and take into the evenings.

This year there is a new ride — the "Astro Tower" — inspired by the Coney Island spectacular views and "provides thrill seekers with a mind-boggling experience that will surely leave them speechless," Luna Park promises.

One fun fall: New Coney attraction will lift riders into the sky — then drop them

BY JULIANNE SCHANE



Come along for the new ride!

Luna Park plans to open up for a new attraction on May 26 — the 135-foot-tall Astro Tower, which will lift thrill-seekers 14 stories into the Coney Island sky before dropping them in a free-fall punctuated by a series of bounces and landing.

NEW ASTRO TOWER WILL BRING ADDED THRILLS TO CONEY ISLAND

BY JIMMAN LENOIR



A 135-foot tall Astro drop tower will open at New York's Coney Island over the Memorial Day weekend.

The Astro Tower will be launched on May 26 and is the latest of many rides at Luna Park provided by Zamperla. It is pictured above together with the roller coaster's Thunderbolt coaster.

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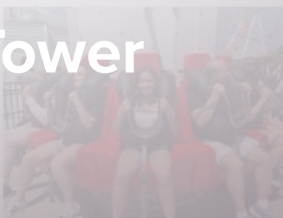
Standing 137 feet tall, the Astro Tower gives riders the sensation of free falling.

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Coney Island's Astro Tower brings riders to new heights

BY PAULA KUTCHAN



Imagine being strapped into a seat and then soaring nearly 140 feet into the air where you can enjoy breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean on one side and the majestic Manhattan skyline on the other.

Waiting to Luna Park in Coney Island don't have to imagine it. They can live it, thanks to a new ride that made its public debut on May 26.

Give a big welcome to Astro Tower, a new ride taking its place among the Cyclone, the Thunderbolt and other world

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New Coney thrill ride more view than vroom

BY CECILY MEDIN

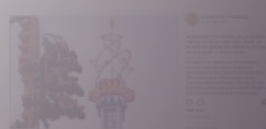


This Coney thrill ride keeps it under the hood.

Astronauts surely who soared nearly on the inaugural ride of Luna Park's new Astro Tower announcement on May 25, rolled away with their need for speed left unsatisfied, according to one thrill-seeker, who complained that the ride's top speed of 137 feet per second was "just a little bit slow."

What's new at NYC beaches this summer

BY DAVE COLON



Coney Island

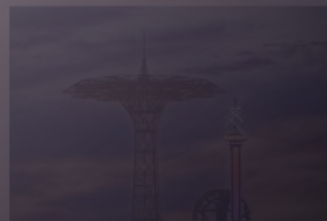
Have you really had a summer in the city if you haven't at some point had a bunch of money to a new game or one of those throw-the-car-at-a-bus game on the Coney Island boardwalk?

But beyond game-driven festivities, this summer will see a couple of new thrill rides joining classics like the Cyclone and the Wonder Wheel, or the looping coaster the Thunderbolt.

The Astro Tower, taking the name of the ride that ended service in 2008 — and was taken down in 2013 after a bit too much swaying — will rise in Luna Park, albeit not as high as the original 270-foot tower. The ride, which will take riders up 137 feet in the air before dropping and bouncing their backs down, will also be illuminated by over 5,000 LED lights.

Coney Island Summer: Astro Tower, Parties, Events

BY LUCIA ZAGARE



CONEY ISLAND — Memorial Day Weekend marks the official start of the summer at Coney Island. The rides and attractions will be open every day of the week, and take into the evenings.

This year there is a new ride — the "Astro Tower" — inspired by the Coney Island view, the 137-foot tower offers spectacular views and "provides thrill seekers with a mind-boggling experience that will surely leave them speechless," Luna Park promises.

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21

PIECES OF COVERAGE:

484M

ONLINE READERSHIP:

497K

ESTIMATED COVERAGE VIEWS:

4.02K

SOCIAL SHARES:

69

AVERAGE DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

MAY 1, 2018

Meet Luna Park's newest ride: The Astrotower!

BY ALLIE EARLY



When we think of summertime, we dream of Nathan's hot dogs, beachy breezes and Luna Park's thrilling rides, like the The Cyclone and Thunderbolt coasters, the Tickler and the Steeplechase. This summer, the park is rolling out another massive ride—the Astrotower! From the promo photos, it looks like the new attraction will offer an open air Tower of Terror-like experience where harnessed guests freefall together after reaching the top of a massive tower. The ride will open in May 2018. Will it be even taller than Deno's Wonder Wheel??

On Twitter, some folks are not exactly loving the name, which references Astroland, the space-themed 3.1-acre amusement park in Coney Island that closed in 2008 (and, for a time, operated the Cyclone) and the ride's predecessor, a tower of the same name.

Others are very excited about the new addition despite the name.

We'd like to extend a formal welcome to the new thrill ride—and we're sure our teens and tweens will be up there in no time!

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **17M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **22K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **91**


70


10





MAY 4, 2018

New “Astro Tower” rises in Coney Island

BY GREG MOCKER



CONEY ISLAND, Brooklyn — You can tell summer is almost here because Coney Island is open for business.

For the first time in a decade, you’ll be able to ride on an “Astro Tower.”

This will be a different experience. The original 49-year-old tower was dismantled in 2013 after it began to sway more than normal.

It had not been used since 2008 when it offered an enclosed ride to the top and a relaxed view of the skyline. The new one straps riders into seats and promises thrills as it drops and bounces.

Some social media posts have discussed a controversy over the new ride.

A number of new rides have recently been named in honor of older ones.

It’s expected to be open for the season which begins Memorial Day. Luna Park and Deno’s Wonder Wheel are now open on Saturday and Sunday.

Sorry, this content is not available in your region.

MAY 4 2018

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **2.24M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **9.76K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **69**

 **1.7K**

 **17**



SHEA
communications



MAY 5, 2018

Astro Tower returns at Coney Island after being closed for a decade

BY STEVE CUZZO



For the first time in a decade, you'll be able to ride on the "Astro Tower."

Astro Tower returns at Coney Island after being closed for a decade

MAY 5 2018

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **8.92M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **9.06K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **93**



One fun fall: New Coney attraction will lift riders into the sky — then drop them

BY JULIANNE MCSHANE



Come along for the new ride!

Luna Park-goers can line up for a new attraction on May 26 — the 140-foot-tall Astro Tower, which will lift thrill-seekers 14 stories into the Coney Island sky before dropping them in a free-fall punctuated by a series of bounces and twisting rotations.

But while they pause at the tower's peak, riders will enjoy a sweeping view of the People's Playground, and then a brief light show created by the attraction's more than 5,200 colored lights.

The ride — located on the Riegelmann Boardwalk at W. 15th Street, next to the Endeavor ride and across from the Thunderbolt roller coaster — was named after the park's historic rotating observation tower nearly double its size that was dismantled in 2013 amid fears that it would fall.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **51.7K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **348**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **52**



5



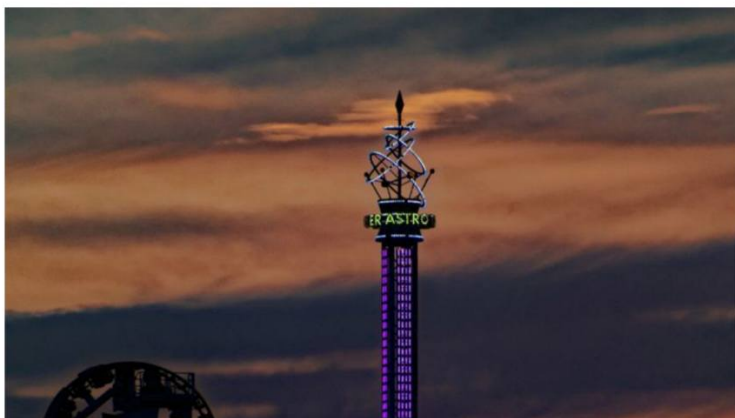
2



MAY 17, 2018

Luna Park's Astro Tower returning to loom over Coney Island

BY SHAYE WEAVER



One of the oldest rides at Coney Island's Luna Park, the Astro Tower, has returned in a new format — five years after its dramatic demolition.

The 270-foot tower, which gave visitors a thrilling view of the sea and the city between 1964 and 2008, started swaying dangerously one July day in 2013, causing a mass evacuation of Luna Park and parts of Coney Island. Days later, it was demolished.

A new tower has finally taken its place, according to Luna Park officials.

The new “state-of-the-art” Astro Tower — standing 137 feet tall with more than 5,200 LED lights that put on a show once the sun starts going down — opens to the public on May 26. With space for only 12 people at a time, the ride bounces, rotates and drops riders while giving them the same amazing aerial view that went missing with the old tower.

Thrillseekers can get in line across from the Thunderbolt at West 15th Street and Riegelmann Boardwalk.

Back in March, Coney Island marked the start of the season with its annual blessing of the rides and the egg-cream christening of the Cyclone.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **807K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **3.29K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **71**

 **190**

 **17**



MAY 18, 2018

NEW ASTRO TOWER WILL BRING ADDED THRILLS TO CONEY ISLAND

BY ADRIAN LENNOX



A 140-foot-tall (42m) drop tower will open at New York's Coney Island over the Memorial Day weekend.

The Astro Tower will be launched on May 26 and is the latest of many rides at Luna Park provided by Zamperla. It is pictured above together with the Italian manufacturer's Thunderbolt coaster.

The new addition will lift thrill-seekers 14 storeys into the sky. They will then rotate around the tower, enjoying a sweeping view of "the people's playground", before being released into a freefall punctuated by a series of bounce movements.

The thrill ride has been named after Coney Island's historic rotating observation tower, which was nearly double its size but dismantled in 2013 amid fear it would fall down. Now, riders can enjoy a freefall every time they ride the new Astro Tower.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **10.4K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **1.58K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **32**





Metro US

MAY 23 2018

MAY 23, 2018

Your Guide to Memorial Day Weekend in New York City

BY EVA KIS



From a new Coney Island ride to a Cuban brunch, cookouts and a DragonBall Z party, here are the best things to do on Memorial Day Weekend 2018 in NYC.

Ride Coney Island's newest thrill

Luna Park has a new thrillride for Summer 2018 opening on Saturday, May 26: the Astro Tower, a ride that hosts you up 137 feet high above the Boardwalk for a free-fall plunge back to Earth. Maybe save the hot dogs for afterward. The Coney Island History Project's new exhibit about the original attraction that drew people to the area, Coney Island Creek, also opening Saturday.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **1.84M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **6.48K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **75**



12



7



MAY 24, 2018

Luna Park unveils a spectacular new ride on Saturday

BY DAVID GOLDBERG



As warm weather returns, New Yorkers will be looking for new adrenaline fixes beyond slipping and falling on black sidewalk snow. Coney Island's Luna Park is due to provide our new fix, with a new ride launching just in time for Memorial Day weekend.

RECOMMENDED: Full guide to Coney Island, NY

Opening on Saturday, May 26, the 137-foot Astro Tower promises to deliver the live-action death drop rush you've been craving, all just around the corner from the Cyclone and the Thunderbolt. The tower references the Tower to the Stars Astro Tower from Coney Island's original years as Astroland. The original tower was taken down in 2013 due to concerns about structural integrity, but the new ride promises all the Steve Guttenberg/Kirsten Dunst thrills you could ever wish for.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **17M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **22K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **91**


87


20



MAY 25, 2018

New York Today: Spelling Stars of the City

BY ALEXANDRA S. LEVINE

The Weekend

Sticking around this weekend? You're in for a treat.

There's a new thrill ride — Astro Tower — opening on Coney Island.

The 137-foot tall addition to the Coney Island skyline has more than 5,000 lights and sends riders free falling, bouncing and rotating.

Astro Tower, located adjacent to Endeavor and across from Thunderbolt at West 15th Street and Riegelmann Boardwalk, opens to the public on Saturday.

But if amusement park antics are not your cup of Coney Island (iced) tea, you can check out the "Coney Island Circus Sideshow" on Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday; the "Becoming Bettie Page" show on Friday or Saturday; "Burlesque at the Beach" on Friday or Saturday; and "Magic at Coney" on Sunday.

And here are other fun things to do in New York for Memorial Day weekend.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **360M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **266K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **95**



170



95



MAY 25, 2018

New 'Astro Tower' opens in Coney Island

MAY 25 2018

New 'Astro Tower' opens in Coney Island



(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **995K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **3.78K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **73**



5



1

It's a weekend to remember those who've given the ultimate sacrifice for our nation -- but it's also a time that friends and family gather to celebrate the unofficial start of Summer.

Luna Park on Coney Island is hoping to draw in some crowds with a new thrill ride.

Standing 137 feet tall, the Astro Tower gives riders the sensation of free falling.

It officially opens to the public Saturday.

One other cool feature: at night, the ride is lit up with more than 5,000 LED lights.



MAY 25, 2018

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MAY 25 2018

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **995K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **3.78K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **73**



5



1





MAY 25, 2018

New ride debuts at Luna Park



CONEY ISLAND - Memorial Day weekend is the unofficial start of summer which made Friday the perfect day for Luna Park in Coney Island to unveil its new ride: the Astro Tower.

People of all ages can enjoy the new ride.

"It was scary at moments," says Yenna Butler. "Like when it would drop and then go back up. It was fun definitely for people who like rides."

That is just the beginning of what's to come this summer. Two more rides are opening this weekend: the Cozmo Jet and the Coney Clipper.

New ride debuts at Luna Park

MAY 25 2018

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **381K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **1.5K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **72**


61


3



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MAY 25, 2018

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MAY 25 2018

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **326K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **1.28K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **72**


170


2



SHEA
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MAY 25, 2018

How Donald Trump's dad transformed Coney Island forever

BY STEVE CUZZO



Coney Island, baby!

More than 40 years since Lou Reed's most romantic album, it's a pity the rocker isn't around to see the changes along the city's iconic ocean beach and boardwalk.

It's been a long, strange roller-coaster ride for Coney Island since Fred Trump, President Trump's dad, gleefully demolished Steeplechase Park in 1966 — the last of the boardwalk's trio of great amusement parks.

Fred, who wanted to build "Miami Beach-style" apartments, leveled Steeplechase before the city could declare it a landmark. So it's delicious irony that the Landmarks Preservation Commission this month designated the 2.4-mile-long boardwalk an official "scenic landmark," meaning it can't be altered without city approval.

The officially named Riegelmann Boardwalk, as the seaside promenade is called by no one, is on a roll from end to end.

Memorial Day weekend will see the opening of a new Luna Park thrill ride, **Astro Tower**, a 137-foot-tall scream machine that treats riders to "dramatic free-fall drops and rotation." Two more "family-friendly" rides will follow in coming weeks.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **85.8M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **99.1K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **92**

f
1.1K

t
52

p
2



The fabled Coney Island of 100 years ago can't return. The larger neighborhood of 50,000 mostly low-income residents remains tense and troubled.

But the smarter comparison is between the beachfront's seemingly irreversible decline of the 1970s-'90s and its rejuvenated current state — a heart-lifting story of New York's regenerative powers.

The boardwalk, originally constructed in 1923, is the safest it's been in generations. Steeplechase Pier, which juts 1,100 feet into the Atlantic, was rebuilt after Hurricane Sandy with shade canopies and a raised viewing platform. The Ford Amphitheater and an indoor-outdoor eatery brought the decades-vacant former Childs Restaurant building back to life last year.

A full-length boardwalk stroll offers an unrivaled urban spectacle of sky, sea and sand. (Be advised, there's virtually no shade.) Its gracious width varies between 50 and 80 feet, according to the Department of Parks & Recreation — broader than most boulevards. More than 170 cast-iron, twin-fixture light poles lend a handsome grace note.

The boardwalk's intense heart is the amusement zone near the Stillwell Avenue subway terminal, but it's rewarding everywhere. The only constant is the ocean, where swimmers' squeals mingle with cries of wheeling gulls.

Lonely and teeming by turns, the boardwalk brushes shoulders with the private Sea Gate enclave, the New York Aquarium, where a new \$146 million exhibition — Ocean Wonders: Sharks! — opens June 30, and open-air Russian cafes in Brighton Beach, where a gut-busting, four-course lunch is all of \$19.95.

The boardwalk's colorful, polyglot life today is a far cry from the years when it was largely abandoned by the middle class, and crime and decay reigned. The Parachute Jump's rusted hulk towered over empty lots like the totem of an ancient civilization.

"In its heyday at the turn of the previous century, Coney Island was the ultimate example of individualism and ingenuity. What's remarkable is its survival instinct," says Stephen M. Silverman, author of "The Amusement Park: 900 Years of Spills & Thrills," due out from Hachette next spring.

Silverman noted that Coney Island suffered "from fires, one after the other. Then from the ravages of the Depression, followed by almost unrivaled urban decay. Now, it's a great place to catch a ball game, dip into the past on the Cyclone and Wonder Wheel, and experience a polyglot experience steeped in American tradition. And I'm not just talking hot dogs."



Coney Island in the early 20th century boasted three distinct amusement parks: Luna Park, Steeplechase Park and Dreamland.

Luna Park alone glowed under 250,000 electric lights. Visitors enjoyed primitive, Las Vegas-style spectacles like rides to the moon, an entire "midget city" and fields of free-roaming wild animals.

The golden era, or the idea of it, has a mythic hold on the New York imagination. In Woody Allen's "Annie Hall," Alvy Singer recalls growing up under a Coney Island roller coaster.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

85.8M

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

99.1K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

92



1.1K



52



2



There really was a house under the original Thunderbolt, which closed in 1982 and stood fenced and forlorn until it was demolished in 2000.

The peninsula inspired poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti's "A Coney Island of the Mind," as well as "Coney Island Troubadour," Woody Guthrie's odes to Mermaid Avenue, where he once lived ("where the lox and bagels meet . . . where the beer flows to the ocean/where the wine runs to the sea").

But darkness, too, lurked behind the shimmering lights. The Spanish writer Federico García Lorca's posthumous 1940 collection, "The Poet in New York," included a cheerfully dystopian work, "Landscape of a Vomiting Multitude (Dusk at Coney Island)."

The surreal weirdness extended beyond freak shows featuring human oddities like "Four-Legged Girl" Josephine Myrtle Corbin, who also reputedly had two pelvises and two vaginas.

Violence-prone Topsy the Elephant was executed by electricity at Luna Park on Jan. 4, 1903. The poor creature was fitted with copper-lined sandals and fried to death in front of thousands of reporters and spectators, some of whom paid to watch from rooftops.

Grainy film of the sickening spectacle survives on YouTube. But no image exists of Coney Island's most notorious demise.

Modal Trigger

Topsy the elephant on her custom tricycle. Getty Images

FBI snitch Abe Reles was to testify against mobster Albert Anastasia. To keep Reles safe, he was guarded by a platoon of cops on the sixth floor of the Half Moon Hotel on the boardwalk at West 29th Street. But on Nov. 12, 1941, Reles either jumped or was pushed out the window — inspiring the famous line, "This canary could sing, but couldn't fly."

Coney Island started losing its juice after World War II. "Master builder" Robert Moses, to drive fun-seekers to his new Long Island beach parks via his new highways, promoted construction of low-income housing behind the boardwalk.

Two parks, Luna Park and Dreamland, closed. But it was left to developer Fred Trump to administer the near-fatal blow.

He secretly bought Steeplechase from its money-losing owners and held a "demolition party." As Politico describes it, "On a rainy Sept. 21, 1966, as models in bikinis posed for pictures in the oversized shovel of a bulldozer, a grinning Trump held an ax and prodded his guests to whip bricks through the signature stained glass 'funny face' on the facade of the park's pavilion."

Later that night, he bulldozed what remained to the ground.

Trump never got city approval to build apartments and sold the land. Coney Island soon tail-spun into chaos along with the rest of the city.



(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

85.8M

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

99.1K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

92



1.1K



52



2



But a handful of “pillars” had just enough appeal to get Coney Island through the grim years, says George Shea, the host and a producer of the annual Nathan’s July 4th hot dog eating contest.

The Wonder Wheel, the Cyclone, 100-year-old Italian restaurant Gargiulo’s and Nathan’s Famous “were the spine that still drew people,” he said.

When Shea first got involved with competitive hot dog eating in the 1980s, “there were lots of homeless people all around, it was a very gritty scene.”

Things started looking up when then-Mayor Rudy Giuliani dispatched the NYPD to restore order to the boardwalk. Not only the muggers were curbed — in 1998, I watched cops order a 30-foot-long snake back into its owner’s very large container.

Giuliani also brought baseball’s minor-league Brooklyn Cyclones to a new stadium. Even so, some of the creepy old spirit endured in the new millennium.

Shea recalls a ghastly “attraction” that opened in 2000 called Shoot the Freak — Live Human Target. “There was an empty lot between two buildings behind the boardwalk, like a gap tooth filled with rubble and cement,” Shea said. “In that area was a guy with a mask on and a horror outfit. He’d run around and you shot him with a paintball for \$5.”

It made violence seem like fun just 10 years after the city suffered a record 2,245 murders.

Shoot the Freak got the boot in 2010, when then-Mayor Mike Bloomberg lured Italian amusement park designer Zamperla to launch a new Luna Park and also to operate the Cyclone next door.

More thrills followed. A new Thunderbolt’s 115-foot vertical drop, 1,000-foot-long vertical loop and 80-foot-long zero-gravity roll made a Cyclone ride seem as smooth to some riders as an airport people-mover, although some still prefer the rickety wooden classic.

Mayor Bill de Blasio is trying to expand the amusement area even more. The Parachute Jump, although it won’t ever run again, is spectacularly lit at night. Wholesome tastes of the long-ago Coney can still be found at Tom’s Coney Island cafe, on the boardwalk since 1936, and Williams Candy Shop, which has been on Surf Avenue for more than 75 years.

New York Post

MAY 25 2018

(IMAGE 4 OF 4)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

85.8M

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

99.1K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

92



1.1K



52



2





WNYW

MAY 25 2018

MAY 25, 2018

Coney Island's fun season begins

BY STACEY DELIKAT



NEW YORK (FOX5NY.COM) - From the sand to the Steeplechaser, Coney Island is ushering in Memorial Day weekend with crowds. The weather was perfect for the mayor to announce the official start of beach season at the city's eight beaches.

The mayor and local officials also unveiled the plaque designating the Coney Island Boardwalk a scenic landmark in recognition of its cultural and historic significance.

But it is not just about old traditions by the boardwalk. Some new ones are here, too. Coney Art Walls is an open-air museum available for events. It opens Saturday with live music and food and drinks.

A new thrill ride has debuted. The Astro Tower brings riders 137 feet up into the air and then plunges them down.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **2.93M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **16K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **61**



37





MAY 25, 2018

What's new at NYC beaches this summer

BY DAVE COLON



Coney Island

Have you really had a summer in the city if you haven't at some point lost a bunch of money to a crane game or one of those throw-the-dart-at-a-balloon games on the Coney Island boardwalk?

But beyond carny-driven frustration, this summer will see a couple of new thrill rides joining classics like the Cyclone and the Wonder Wheel, or the looping coaster the Thunderbolt.

The Astro Tower, taking the name of the ride that ended service in 2008—and was taken down in 2013 after a bit too much swaying—will rise in Luna Park, albeit not as high as the original 270-foot tower. The ride, which will take riders up 137 feet in the air before dropping and bouncing them back down, will also be illuminated by over 5,000 LED lights.

In addition to the big thrill of the Astro Tower, Luna Park will be rolling out a combination virtual reality/interactive video game called the Cozmo Jet, along with the Coney Clipper, a swinging pirate ship ride giving 75-degree views of Luna Park.

If you somehow get bored of all the lights and rides, stroll along the newly-landmarked Boardwalk to the New York Aquarium, which is breaking out its new shark exhibit starting June 30th. Selachimorphaphiles can check out sandbar sharks, sand tiger sharks, white tip reef sharks, and 15 other species that call the New York region home, as well as rays and sea turtles doing their thing in a 57,000 square foot space holding 500,000 gallons of water.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **1.54M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **3.71K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **83**



36



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MAY 25, 2018

The Brooklyn Home Reporter

MAY 25 2018

(IMAGE 1 OF 2)

Coney Island's Astro Tower brings riders to new heights

BY PAULA KATINAS



Imagine being strapped into a seat and then soaring nearly 140 feet into the air where you can enjoy breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean on one side and the majestic Manhattan skyline on the other.

Visitors to Luna Park in Coney Island don't have to imagine it. They can live it, thanks to a new ride that made its public debut on May 25.

Give a big welcome to Astro Tower, a new ride taking its place among the Cyclone, the Thunderbolt and other world famous amusements at the seashore.

Local officials like Community Board 13 District Manager Eddie Mark joined representatives from Luna Park for a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the grand opening of Astro Tower Friday morning.

George Shea, the impresario who runs the Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest every July 4, welcomed visitors to the ceremony and sought to put the Astro Tower into historical perspective.

"Last year, we celebrated the 90th birthday of the Cyclone. This year we celebrate the birth of a great new ride," Shea said.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **65.7K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **6.25K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **39**



17



The Brooklyn Home Reporter

MAY 25 2018

(IMAGE 2 OF 2)

Luna Park boasts 31 rides, with two more set to make their debuts this summer.

"Each year, Coney Island gets bigger and better," said Alessandro Zamperla, president of Luna Park, who noted that the new ride was making its debut on the same day the Coney Island beach opened for the season.

Zamperla also noted that 2018 will mark the Reigelmann Boardwalk's first year as a city landmark. The New York City Landmarks Commission officially declared the boardwalk a scenic landmark earlier this month.

"It's time for the sun after a long winter. Let the fun begin!" Zamperla said.

Standing 137 feet tall, Astro Tower brings riders to the top of the tower and slowly rotates to give riders a panoramic view that extends for miles. While they are up in the air, riders are treated to a series of bounce and drop sequences to add to the excitement. At the end of the experience, riders are gently brought back down to ground level.

Several people couldn't wait for a chance to be among the first to try out the Astro Tower.

"It was amazing. The view is incredible from up there," said Yenna Betler.

Mark sampled the new ride, giving this paper a thumbs-up just before take-off.

The Astro Tower will be a beautiful sight at night, according to Zamperla, who said the ride contains 5,258 lights and will feature a spectacular light show each evening.

Alexandra Silversmith, executive director of the Alliance for Coney Island, said the Zamperla Family, which operates Luna Park, constantly strives to bring the playground into the future with new, more inventive rides, while at the same time paying homage to the park's glorious past.

Silversmith also took a ride on the Astro Tower. "It's not scary at all. I think a lot of people would enjoy it," she said.

The alliance is looking forward to a successful summer, according to Silversmith, who added that Coney Island is expected to welcome 5 million visitors this year.

Luna Park, located at 1000 Surf Avenue, is open seven days a week during the spring and summer.

The city spotlight was shining on Coney Island in a big way on May 25.

Mayor Bill de Blasio and City Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver came to Coney Island Beach in the afternoon to officially declare Coney Island and the city's other beaches open for the summer season. The city's eight public beaches will remain open through Sunday, September 9.

The mayor also celebrated the new landmark status of the Riegelmann Boardwalk, commonly known as the Coney Island Boardwalk. The boardwalk opened 95 years ago.

"Beach season is officially here, and there's no better way to kick it off than by celebrating our historic Coney Island Boardwalk's new landmarked status and 95th birthday," de Blasio said.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **65.7K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **6.25K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **39**


17



Coney Island Summer: Astro Tower, Parties, Events

BY LIENA ZAGARE



CONEY ISLAND – Memorial Day Weekend marks the official start of the summer at Coney Island. The rides and attractions will be open every day of the week, and late into the evenings.

This year there is a new ride – the “Astro Tower”. Inspired by the Coney Island icon, the 137’4 foot tower offers spectacular views and “provides thrill seekers with a mind-boggling experience filled with drastic free-fall drops and rotation”, Luna Park promises.

Astro Tower is located next to Endeavor and across from Thunderbolt at West 15th Street and Boardwalk and opens to the public tomorrow, Saturday, May 26th.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **277K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **6.39K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **48**



3



2





MAY 26, 2018

Astro Tower Opening Weekend



Age: height of 48" and up

Price: Ride Prices vary

The new state-of-the-art Astro Tower—standing 137 feet tall with more than 5,200 LED lights that put on a show once the sun starts going down—opens to the public on May 26. With space for only 12 people at a time, the ride bounces, rotates and drops riders while giving them the same amazing aerial view that went missing with the old tower.

Minimum height to ride is 48". Ride may be closed in the case of inclement weather.

Astro Tower Opening Weekend

MAY 26 2018

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **805K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **4.85K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **57**





MAY 27, 2018

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MAY 27 2018

Having fun at Coney Island's Luna Park

BY MAGEE HICKEY



CONEY ISLAND, Brooklyn — Mark Nieves said he was than a little apprehensive as he prepared to try out Luna Park's newest ride, the Astro Tower, inspired by the Coney Island icon.

"I am scared, scared, scared," Nieves told PIX11 News.

But he had to be brave for his much younger friend, Genesis.

Mark took spectacular cellphone video as the 137-foot tower offered breathtaking views with drastic, free-fall drops and rotations, a mind-boggling experience for thrill seekers.

However, Coney Island's newest ride is clearly not for everyone:

"Going up and down so fast," Mikayla Martin, nine years old, told PIX11, "It was so scary because it went down really fast."

With funnel cake in hand, the Tolosa family of Manhattan preferred riding the slingshot, the soaring eagle and Zenobia.

"A subway ride away from the city and there is something for every age group," Angela Tolosa said, "It's so diverse. No judgment here."

On the boardwalk, a surreal lightning show in the clouds as many thought a 25-minute wait for Nathan's was well worth it.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **2.24M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **9.76K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **69**



98



2



SHEA
communications

MAY 29, 2018

New Coney thrill ride more view than voom

BY COLIN MIXON



This Coney thrill ride keeps it under the limit.

Adrenalin junkies who scored seats on the inaugural ride of Luna Park's new Astro Tower amusement on May 25 walked away with their need for speed left unfulfilled, according to one thrill seeker, who complained that the ride's top speed of 21 miles per hour left much to be desired.

"It was a little slow," said Bensonhurst resident John Fuente.

At 21 miles per hour, the new drop-tower-style ride is practically street legal, not even topping the city's blanket 25-miles-per-hour speed limit that Mayor De Blasio set in 2014.

But the ride was meant to straddle the roles of observation deck and thrill ride, according to the amusement park's big kahuna, who described views from the peak of the rotating Astro Tower's 137-foot apex as the best in town.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **51.7K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **348**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **52**



2



"It's first in the world, the perfect balance between thrills and the best view of Coney island you can have from the beach," said Allesandro Zamperla, president of Central Amusement International, which manages Luna Park.

The amusement district's iconic Wonder Wheel, at 150-feet tall, remains the tallest attraction in town, but the views are still pretty sweet from atop the Astro Tower, according to one rider.

"It had beautiful views, and a nice breeze," said Mark Willnauer, a Long Island resident who won a contest to be among the ride's first passengers.

The ride was purpose-built for Coney Island by Zamperla Amusement Rides in Italy, and was shipped to New York in one massive piece, according to Luna Park spokeswoman Adriana Ball.

The ride takes its name from former amusement park Astroland's Astrotower, which graced the Coney skyline until 2013, when it was dismantled after it started swaying over Luna Park, forcing patrons to evacuate.

The Astro Tower will be joined by the kid friendly Cosmo Jet and Coney Clipper pendulum rides later this summer, and follows the Thunderbolt roller coaster that opened in 2014, and 2016's Endeavor spinning ride.

Brooklyn Daily

MAY 29 2018

(IMAGE 2 OF 2)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

51.7K

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

348

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

52



2

