

Saudi Arabia Opens Fastest Coaster

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. **claim** Verb /kleɪm/ to say something is true, usually without providing evidence or proof
Example: Several people from the town claim to have seen a UFO in the area.
2. **entirely** Adverb /ɛn'taɪrli:/ completely or fully
Example: The new factory is entirely solar-powered.
3. **investment** Noun /ɪn'vestmənt/ the action or process of putting money into something in order to make more money
Example: He made a fortune through early investments in companies such as Facebook.
4. **fund** Noun /fʌnd/ an amount of money collected or available for a particular purpose
Example: I put about a fifth of my earnings into a retirement fund.
5. **finance** Verb /fɪ'næns/ to provide money for someone or something
Example: The building project is being financed by an overseas investor.
6. **human right** Noun /ˌhju:mən 'raɪt/ a right that is considered to belong to every individual
Example: The UN considers basic healthcare a fundamental human right.



A massive new theme park has officially opened in Saudi Arabia, and it intends to **claim** several world records for its attractions. This exciting destination, known as Six Flags Qiddiya City, features the world's longest, tallest, and fastest roller coaster for thrill-seekers. This incredible ride reaches a top speed of approximately 250 kilometers per hour during its fastest sections. For comparison, it is now slightly faster than the famous Formula Rossa ride located in Abu Dhabi. This achievement marks a significant milestone in the history of amusement park engineering and speed.

This record-breaking new ride is named Falcon's Flight and offers an experience unlike any other in the world. Besides moving at high speeds, it also carries passengers up to a height of

195 meters into the air. Since the park only opened on December 31 of last year, only a small number of people have visited so far. The park is situated in the brand-new city of Qiddiya, which is currently under development. This location is conveniently placed just outside of Riyadh, the capital city of Saudi Arabia.

In addition to Falcon's Flight, the theme park features two other rides that have broken records for their height. While the park is famous for these extreme rides, it also provides many attractions for families and younger children. Visitors can find a wide variety of activities that are suitable for guests of all ages. Ticket prices for the park start at \$85 for adults and \$70 for children who want to visit. However, families with very young children will be happy to know that kids under four enter for free.

Qiddiya City is an **entirely** new project that covers a massive area of land in the Tuwaiq Mountains. This giant development is actually three times larger than the city of Paris in terms of total space. The project describes itself as the first city in the world specifically "built for play" for its residents. It is designed to be a place where sports, culture, and entertainment all exist in one location. Although the city is not finished yet, it aims to attract tens of millions of international tourists every year.

The construction of Qiddiya is being supported by Saudi Arabia's own public **investment fund**. This **fund** is responsible for providing the money needed to **finance** a huge number of national projects. While these developments are impressive, some people are unhappy with the way the country is using its money. Critics **claim** that these expensive projects are used to distract the world from various **human right** issues. They believe the government is trying to change its global image through entertainment and expensive building projects.

DISCUSSION

1. Would you be brave enough to ride Falcon's Flight?
2. Is a city "built for play" somewhere you would like to live or just visit?
3. Do you think theme parks are a good way for a country to spend its money?
4. What is the best theme park you have ever visited?
5. Do you think sports and entertainment can help improve a country's reputation?
6. How might the local environment of the Tuwaiq Mountains affect the experience of a "city built for play"?
7. If you were a government official, how would you respond to critics who say these projects are meant to hide human rights issues?