

# Ultimate thrillseeking

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Scream scene ... the world's tallest freefall thrill ride, the Supreme Scream drops you 77m at Buena Park, California

Grand Canyon Skywalk ... imagine standing on a piece of glass 1200m above the Grand Canyon. Picture: Reuters

Jungle canopy surfing ... soar through the treetops of the pristine Daintree Rainforest at Cape Tribulation

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WOULD you queue for a ticket to risk your life? Extreme rides, ultimate fantasies and sickening vertigo are now a popular way to unwind.

Holiday makers not content with a cocktail by the pool are searching worldwide for the ultimate bodybusting, near-death experience.

But forget the old-fashioned buzz of rafting a waterfall or the adrenalin shot of climbing a mountain: today's thrillseekers want manufactured thrills designed to satisfy the most extreme thrill junkies are the hottest ticket attractions.

So buckle up as we take you on a tour of the world's top 10 man-made extreme tourist attractions.

## 1. CRESTA RUN, SWITZERLAND

Risk your life on the original man-made extreme.

Switzerland's [Cresta Run](#) is a 1.2km ice run founded in 1887 by the British-owned St Moritz Tobogganing Club.

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From top to bottom, the drop is 156m and the course winds its way through 10 corners, including the famous Shuttlecock bend where many bones have snapped. If

you're still keen, consider the only way down is headfirst on a skeleton toboggan at speeds of up to 130km/h.

## **2. THE ULTIMATE 3SOME**

If you think the traditional Kiwi bungy jump is a tame hobby, dare yourself to tackle the 3Thrillology.

Designed by [AJ Hackett Bungy](#), the 3Thrillology promises even the fearless will break a sweat with a sequence of three bungy jumps including eight seconds of freefalling from the Nevis Highwire and a night bungy 400m above the Queenstown Skyline.

## **3. ZERO GRAVITY**

Dream of weighing one-sixth of what you do on Earth? For \$4500 you can experience five minutes of astronaut-style weightlessness with [Zero-Gravity Adventures](#) at Florida's Kennedy Space Center. A Boeing 727 traces huge parabolic arcs in the sky and allows even the heaviest of humans to float like a fairy. The walls are padded so you can flip injury free as you fall toward Earth, the only crucial advice from fellow floaters though: make sure you relieve yourself before you fly.

## **4. HOSTAGE RESCUE TEAM**

Have you ever wanted to be part of an Elite Special Operations team and control your own urban block?

The [Urban Training Centre](#) in Seattle will train you to conduct an urban hostage rescue mission. For \$3900 you will be issued with an M4 assault rifle, M9 missile and body armour. Then join other military minded men and women to infiltrate the area and complete your mission.

## **5. STARFLYER**

If your kids think rickety old Luna Park is a thrill, a trip to Vienna's [Prater Park](#) will terrify. Sit down and hang on as the 72m structure frantically spins and sends you flying,

legs dangling, into mid-air. Strapped in by a seat belt only the operator can release, you will thank the stringent safety once you reach the top and without warning free fall back to the bottom – only to begin your vortex ascent again. >6. VIRGIN GALACTIC

The most talked about manmade extreme is, of course, [Virgin Galactic](#). Richard Branson and American aerospace engineer Burt Rutan want to fly six passengers to the edge of the atmosphere (or 100km above the surface of our planet) in the world's most extreme ride.

Tickets for this cosmonaut attraction are \$241,000 and according to the company 150 people have already paid up.

## **7. RITA QUEEN OF SPEED, ALTON TOWERS, UK**

Faster than a shuttle take-off, speedier than a Ferrari and with more lift than a plane, [Rita](#)

[Queen of Speed](#) will blow your mind. Brace yourself as a massive G-force of 4.7 courses through your body and throws you from zero to 100 km/h in 2.5 seconds.

If that is not enough, get your heart beating really fast on the Oblivion. Sit tight as you plummet 61m into a deep, dark underground abyss.

## **8. JUNGLE FLYING**

This experience is close to home and tops the list if tropical jungle surfing gets your adventure juices flowing.

Hook on to a zipline flying fox cable 22 metres above the ground and soar through the treetop canopies of the pristine Daintree Rainforest at Cape Tribulation.

High platforms divide stretches of cable, the longest more than 75m long and more than 22m above the tree canopy. Award-winning [Jungle Surfing Canopy Tours](#) runs the ziplines.

## **9. GRAND CANYON SKYWALK**

If the [Eureka Tower Skydeck](#) will get your heart fluttering, imagine standing on a piece of glass 1200m above the Grand Canyon. Opened last month, the [Grand Canyon Skywalk](#) is the ultimate vertigo tourist attraction. The \$48 million horseshoe-shaped glass walkway is four times higher than the Eiffel Tower and for \$30 you can "walk on air" above the mighty Colorado River. The first intrepid walkers have described hearing the glass creak underneath them, but don't worry, engineers tested the structure to withstand the weight of 71 fully loaded Boeing 747s.

## **10. SUPREME SCREAM**

You may lose your stomach on this one. The world's tallest freefall thrill ride, the [Supreme Scream](#), drops you 77m at Buena Park, California. If one sickly drop isn't enough, the Supreme Scream immediately hoists you up again for another 80km/h fall.

The sudden upward rebound results in a force of up to 4 Gs, lifting you from your outward-facing seat. If it wasn't for your harness, you would be thrown into the air.

Standing at 100m, the Supreme Scream is the largest structure in Orange County.

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**Done one better?** Tell us if you know of an adventure more extreme. Leave your comments below.