

Swing Boat
A Boat Trip Into the Air

Manufacturer: unknown
Year of construction: after 1945
Owner: Josef Schaffrath, Vettweiß

In the 1890s, so-called "Schiffschaukeln" appeared at fairs for the first time. The swings, also known as "Amerikanische Luftschaukel", can be traced back to 1805.

Until the middle of the 19th century, swing boats were constructed in such a way that passengers sat on seats in the boats that were rocked by ropes or helpers travelling with the showmen.

In the case of travelling swings, a distinction can be made between the "Bodenschaukel", where passengers board the ships directly from the ground, and the "Podiumsschaukel", where the ships are boarded from a higher platform.

Among the travelling swing boats there were examples with up to 16 ships and a length of over 60 metres. They were often built by the exhibitors themselves.