

Press Release

Rotkreuz, July 11, 2024

Revamped funicular on Bern's local mountain

Garaventa has extensively modernized the Gurtenbahn, which has linked Wabern with Bern's local mountain the Gurten since 1899. To coincide with the funicular's 125th anniversary, technical upgrades and improvements in barrier-free access were carried out to make it easier to reach the popular Gurten Park recreational area.

Garaventa was appointed as the general contractor responsible for the ropeway technology. This included refurbishing the drive (gear unit and motor), installation of a diesel-hydraulic emergency drive, and replacement of the hydraulic unit for the braking system.

The newly designed car bodies from Calag Gangloff retain the 120-passenger capacity of their predecessors but offer an improved layout of the interior and level walk-in, which enables barrier-free access for strollers, mobility aids and wheelchairs. In addition, the central compartments have separate doors that can be used by bikers to reach the local downhill trail. Large panoramic windows give passengers a clear view of the city of Bern and the surrounding countryside. To ensure a comfortable travelling temperature despite the panoramic glazing, the train has five electrically controlled roof windows that open and close automatically thanks to temperature sensors. In addition, outside air can be blown into each compartment as required.

A new 32mm Performa rope from Fatzer reduces noise emissions in the urban environment. The ropeway control system has been upgraded by Sisag and now allows autonomous operation thanks to a monitoring system with 37 CCTV cameras, a passenger information system and passenger counting facility. The stations have also been equipped with platform doors to enable safe and easy boarding and disembarkation.

120-FUL Wabern–Gurten, Switzerland

Customer: Gurtenbahn Bern AG

Inclined length: 1,059 m

Vertical rise: 262 m

Capacity: 1,770 PPH

Speed: 8 m/s

Opened: May 2024

Images: <https://coco.doppelmayr.com/pinaccess/showpin.do?pinCode=iecGFscPZU3B>

About Garaventa AG

Garaventa AG is a Swiss company headquartered in Rotkreuz, with additional sites in Goldau, Uetendorf and Sion. It is the Swiss branch of the Doppelmayr Group and has established itself as the competence center with international reach for reversible aerial tramway, funicular railway and material ropeway systems as well as for complex rope installation work. Garaventa is also responsible for all ropeway projects of the Doppelmayr Group in Switzerland. All functions and competencies for special ropeways are made available to the Group worldwide from Switzerland. Garaventa employs 380 people in Switzerland.

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