

Media Information

Hungerburgbahn Funicular – the landmark of the capital of the Alps

**The mountain has never been so close – from the city
centre of Innsbruck to the high alpine terrain in only
20 minutes**

Since the 1st of December 2007 the Tyrolean provincial capital of Innsbruck is able to provide a new attraction. The Hungerburgbahn funicular, which was planned by the star architect, Zaha Hadid, was inaugurated and enabled for operation during a marvellous opening event. Both locals and tourists have the opportunity to travel directly from the city centre, which lies at 560 metres above sea level, to the high alpine terrain in only 20 minutes. The new Nordkettenbahnen system opens a door to new possibilities and carries locals and visitors to a natural landscape that was previously difficult to reach.

Alpine Fusion – Mankind. Nature. Architecture

The new funiculars on Innsbruck's Nordkette (Northern Chain) display an impressive example of the interplay between Mankind, Nature and Architecture – the Alpine Fusion "The connection between the city and nature with the nearby recreational area of Hungerburg and Nordkette is a theme that we strongly emphasise. Furthermore, the Nordkette has written many stories that need to be told", explains Thomas Schroll, the director of Nordpark. The contrast between the modern Hungerburgbahn – planned by the star architect, Zaha Hadid - and the historical Baumann Buildings of the Nordkettenbahn displays an ideal interplay between the traditional and the modern.

The valley station of the Hungerburgbahn funicular is located at the congress house in Innsbruck, around 200 metres distance from the Old Town. There you can board one of the two 17.7 metre long and 2.4 metre wide carriages. Each carriage is fitted out with five glazed cabins, which allow breath-taking panoramic views, and each of those cabins provides sufficient holding capacity for 26 occupants (total capacity 130 persons per journey). The maximum transport capacity amounts to 1200 passengers per hour.

The Hungerburgbahn carriages travel at a speed of 10 metres per second from the Congress Station into the first tunnel, which goes on until shortly before the Löwenhaus Station is reached. The funicular railway travels from the Löwenhaus Station along an S-shaped, cable-stayed bridge, which is supported by two approximately 30 metre high pylons, across the river Inn and into the Weiherburg Tunnel. The bridge displays an architectural masterpiece, as does the entire object of the Hungerburgbahn funicular that

was planned by Zaha Hadid. Each individual structure is unique and none of the elements are replicated. The carriages head continuously upward in the Weiherburg Tunnel until they reach the Alpenzoo Station. The route inclination has a 46 percent gradient along this section. The passengers don't even feel the change of inclination. Hydraulic level adjustment units ensure that the cabins remain in right angle positions throughout the entire journey.

The towering Alpenzoo Station is raised in six structural levels toward the sky. Passengers can go directly from here to the Alpenzoo, the highest zoo in Europe with more than 150 different kinds of animals that are native to the local Alps. After travelling approximately 8 minutes more toward the top station of the Hungerburgbahn funicular, passengers can immediately travel on to the Seegrube and the Hafelekar with the panorama cable car, which came into operation in December 2006.

Nordkette – Sport, Relaxation and Breathtaking Views

For many years now, the Nordkette has been a recreational area both for locals and tourists. It provides numerous possibilities for sport enthusiasts, as well as for guests who simply want to enjoy unspoilt nature and panoramic views that can't be put into words. The mountain is a real winter paradise for snowboarders and enthusiastic skiers. The high alpine ski routes, such as the "Seilbahnrinne" or the "Karrinne", with over 70% gradients, are particularly legendary. In addition to this, the Skylinepark attracts the snowboard and free-ski elite from around the world with various rails, boxes, kickers and the 25 metre long superpipe.

The mountain is an ideal summer location for climbers, hikers and mountain bikers. The Innsbruck fixed rope route that begins on the Hafelekar is, for example, a really worthwhile experience for summiteers. The magnificent mountain scenery of the Karwendelgebirge on the one side and the breathtaking view over Innsbruck and the Inntal Valley on the other side present unforgettable impressions of a crossover between the bustle of urban life and untouched nature. Hikers are provided many opportunities to stop for refreshments on the numerous mountain pastures within the Nordpark resort. The wonderful impressions of the Tyrolean mountain world can be enjoyed while having a first-class meal high above the clouds or a cappuccino at one of the restaurants on the Seegrube or Hafelekar.

The Nordpark also has much to offer with regard to culture. The Hafelekar has often served as a film setting. Film scenes for films, such as "Sissy", "Berge in Flammen" or "Die Geierwally" were filmed here. Only a few metres away from the Hafelekar mountain station stands the Geierwally Lodge, which is open for visitors to view the 50 year old scene of the legendary film. As of summer next year, each respective film scene and film location will be specified on the Hafelekar and special trails to the Hafelekar Cross and to the Geierwally Lodge will be prepared, so that they are walkable all year round.

Free parking included with tickets

Everything possible was undertaken to ensure ideal transportation conditions, so that our guests can easily reach the recreation area near Innsbruck. A large bus parking site and two underground car parks are available right next to the valley station. The parking fees for the Congress or City parking lot are already included in the tickets that take visitors to the Seegrube and onto the Hafelekar, as well as in the day tickets for skiing. Free parking is applied daily from 8.00 a.m. till 18.00 p.m.

Additionally, the public bus timetable and route were changed to suit the Hungerburgbahn funicular timetable, in order to ideally accommodate visitors who wish to use public transport.

The ascent and descent with the new Nordkettenbahnen system costs, depending on the distance, from 6.80 Euro for adults and 3.40 Euro for children. Children up to 6 years of age travel on the Hungerburgbahn free of charge. A special combi-ticket was created for visits to Innsbruck's Alpenzoo, which costs 9.00 Euro for adults and 4.50 Euro for children. The ticket price includes garage parking, the ride on the Hungerburgbahn and the Alpenzoo admission.

All of the stations, from the Congress right up to the Hafelekar, are designed in a handicapped accessible manner, so that everybody and anybody can enjoy the ride up to the 2256 metre heights. The Hungerburgbahn funicular is operated from Monday to Friday, from 7.00 a.m. till 19.30 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday, from 8.00 a.m. till 19.30 p.m. If you want to find out more about the Nordpark funiculars, rates and recreational possibilities, please visit our website under www.nordkette.com

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