

STORYLINES 2021

Major changes: 130 years of visionary work on the mountain

Yesterday's high achievements and pioneering spirit – today's innovation and investments: the Pilatus success story is rooted in a 160-year tradition of tourism. The first inn appeared on the Klimeshornjoch in 1858. Some 30 years later the Pilatus Railway, then steam-powered, began operations on 4 June 1889. It took 600 men 400 days to build the line – a pioneering feat. Still to this day it's the world's steepest cog railway and a masterpiece of engineering. Following a complete overhaul of the hotels and restaurants on the mountain in 2009 and 2011, PILATUS-BAHNEN AG has 2014/15 invested CHF 18 million in building a new aerial cableway between Fräkmüntegg and Pilatus Kulm. Featuring two modern, spacious cabins, a cockpit-like layout and an abundance of glazing, the new Dragon Ride cableway offers the sensation of flying and is due to commence operations on the Pilatus on 1 April 2015. Pilatus, the quintessential tourist destination of the Lake Lucerne Region, offers a wealth of eye-catching attractions – for families, epicures and people of vision alike. The next big thing is the rebuilding of the steepest cogwheel train in the world. Another investment of more than CHF 50 million and starting in 2023 it will be a new experience to drive up the mountain.

HISTORY / ENGINEERING

Hospitality first – conquest of the Pilatus

It was an inn that first conquered the Pilatus. Built on the Klimeshornjoch in 1858, it was soon joined in 1860 by the proud Hotel Klimeshorn with its neo-Gothic chapel. The Hotel Bellevue also opened around that time, the first such establishment on the Pilatus Kulm. The legendary Hotel Pilatus-Kulm opened in 1890, one year after the inauguration

of the cog railway. The historic establishment is opening for its 125th season on 1 April 2015. Switzerland's very first aerial cableway might have appeared on the Pilatus between the Kulm and the Klimeshorn. It was not to be: at the time, cantons Obwalden and Nidwalden were not keen on tourism, so the project by the Spaniard Leonardo Torres y Quevedo never saw the light of day. It was not until December 1954 that the north face of the Pilatus witnessed the inauguration of an aerial cableway: the Krienseregg gondola, stretching from Kriens up to the Fräkmüntegg. It was joined in March 1956 by the aerial cableway between Fräkmüntegg and Pilatus Kulm.

Hotel Pilatus-Kulm: Pearl on the mountain – 130th anniversary

The Hotel Pilatus-Kulm was erected in 1890 and is now heritage protected. Following its complete refurbishment in 2010 it now stands resplendent as a gem from the Belle Époque era – a pearl on the mountain representing a blend of history and contemporary Alpine style. The name of its restaurant, the Queen Victoria, commemorates the visit by the British monarch in 1868 – although she actually stayed the night at the neighbouring Hotel Bellevue.

Two unlike any other: one-of-a-kind from drawing board to finished cabin

The cabins of the Dragon Ride aerial cableway boast a unique design. The process from initial sketches to finished cabin took around nine months to complete. Designers and engineers at CWA Constructions in Olten conceptualised, debated and rejected until they were happy with the plans for the new cabins, which are unlike any other: aerodynamically perfect, they provide plenty of space, an abundance of glazing offering fantastic views, and a sensation of flying. What does it take to get an idea off the drawing board and end up with a finished unique product? What makes an aerial cableway distinctive?

Building in winter: despite wind, rain and snow

Building aerial cableways has to be done in all weathers. The engineers worked on the Pilatus in the wind, rain, snow. They used the Pilatus Railway to get to the building site with their materials until the snow arrived, at which point a winter camp was established

on the mountain. They got there by helicopter at the beginning of the week and were picked up again in time to spend the weekend at home. The evenings were spent all alone on the mountainside!

Keeping ahead – engineering on the Eselwand

The Locher rack system – a horizontally arranged cog-and-rack mechanism – was destined to remain a one-off: the Pilatus is the only place it can be found in the world. The system was exhibited at the 1889 World's Fair in Paris. That year also saw the building of the first steam locomotive equipped with the Locher rack system – a feat of the Swiss Locomotive and Machine Factory (SLM) in Winterthur. The line was converted to electricity before the Second World War in May 1937. This did away with the vast volumes of water needed on the Aemsgenalp, as well as the third of a tonne of coal required for each round trip. The only downside is that the overhead power lines on the Eselwand flank have to be dismantled every year – or at least hung higher – to make way for the winter avalanches.

Pilatus-Bahnen AG will be on the Drachenberg for the next 40 years. On February 2, 2021, those responsible presented the CHF 55 million project to the public: Starting in 2023, eight new railcars will gradually take off on the original route of the world's steepest cogwheel railway. The timeless, first-class design of the trains with 360-degree panoramic windows increases the driving pleasure and ensures even more heart pounding on Lucerne's local mountain. An innovative control system and other technological innovations bring more convenience and more sustainable operation - in future if needed even every half hour.

Everything has to go

Before the world's steepest cogwheel railway can resume service – usually in the early part of May – everything has to go. By that we mean the snow – up to five metres of it! This involves a two to four-strong team praying for good weather as they cut and plough their way through the white stuff. Sometimes they have to do the work twice in the event of a late snowfall. Some 3000 cubic metres of snow are cleared annually.

Myth Tour: fascination of the Dragon Mountain

The myths surrounding the Pilatus continue to enthrall. In her school-leaving exams, a young student from Kriens, Janine Heini, explored the cultural and natural history of Mount Pilatus and the role it played in the emerging consciousness of the Alps. Her work resulted in a book, *Pilatus – Eine sagenumwobene Natur- und Kulturgeschichte* (Pilatus – a cultural and natural history shrouded in legend), in which Janine Heini describes the gradual transformation of the Pilatus from feared peak to popular tourist destination. PILATUS-BAHNEN is organising Myth Tours under the title "From Pontius to Pilate" throughout 2015. Some of these will be led by Janine Heini in person.

From Pontius to Pilatus: how the mountain got its name

The most memorable and momentous legend involves the person who lent his name to the mountain. Even in death, Pontius Pilate appears to have suffered from a troubled conscience regarding Christ's crucifixion; he found peace only when his restless soul finally sought refuge in a small lake on the mountain's Oberalp basin. It was said that anyone disturbing his soul's rest would bear responsibility for the ensuing bad weather that immediately enveloped the mountain and its environs. That's why Lucerne's town council forbade anyone from stepping onto the mountain and the Oberalp, under penalty of draconian punishment. The Pilatus became a forbidden mountain. The edict was lifted only towards the end of the 16th century, since which time the mountain can be visited without fear of sanction!

Legendary – what the dragon is all about

The imposing appearance of the Pilatus and its isolation on the shores of Lake Lucerne have always fired the imagination and, already in early medieval times, generated myths and legends centred on Lucerne's landmark peak. Records from the 15th century on tell of repeated sightings of dragons on the mountain. Sure, they would abduct a maiden every now and then as dragons are wont to do, but these particular fire-breathing creatures were largely rather helpful, rescuing lost wayfarers and dispersing healing dragon stones. Even though dragon sightings on the mountain have become rather infrequent of late, the friendly heraldic animal of the PILATUS-BAHNEN company can



pop up anywhere at any time. You'll even find it in the beautiful Dragon Gallery on the mountain with its paintings by the world-famous artist from Lucerne, Hans Erni.

PEOPLE

Once pure luxury – now an inexpensive attraction

A century and a quarter ago, a round trip on the train cost 17 francs (10 to go up, 7 to go down – a vast sum at a time when the monthly wage was around 20 francs). It now costs 72 francs. Visitors are fascinated by the spectacular four kilometre-plus trip on the world's steepest cogwheel railway – still running along its original, hard-won route – and the carefully restored traction units. The price makes it worth it.

BUSINESS

Business on the mountain – no cheese

The Pilatus is surrounded by alps – high altitude pastures where cows graze in the summer and their milk is turned into cheese. It was this age-old 'corporation of alps', which still exists, that approved the building of the Pilatus Railway. Cheese is still made on the Aemsigenalp, the Mattalp, the Fräkmüntegg and the Chretzenalp. The longer this alp cheese is matured, the crumblier it becomes. It all bears the name Pilatus and can be found in numerous restaurants and inns.

MISCELLANEOUS

Postcode Pilatus – the special letterbox

Until 2000 the Pilatus had its own postcode: 6199. Visitors could have their letters and postcards – and philatelic specialities – stamped on the Kulm. Now SwissPost is issuing a commemorative stamp to mark the 125th anniversary.

Church service – once a year at the Bergchilbi fair

The neo-Gothic Klimsen Chapel on the Klimsenhorn halfway up the aerial cableway and directly on the footpath leading to the Pilatus calls the faithful to prayer at alt. 1864 metres. Once a year – on the third Sunday in August, to be exact – the traditional Bergchilbi fair is celebrated with a festive divine service. Those wishing to marry there must walk up. The owner is the Klimsenhorn Chapel Trust.

Focus on the little ones – the family mountain

Krienseregg with picnic spots and baby-buggy trails, plus Pilu-Land and adventure playground; Fräkmüntegg with Central Switzerland's biggest rope park and longest summer toboggan run: all very family-friendly. Families with kids love hunting the dragon stone and going on the ibex safari on the Kulm. The hotels offer children's portions and family packages – more reasons why the Pilatus is a family favourite.

Downhill backwards

You race downhill at a smart pace. And so that you don't have to shut your eyes on the summer toboggan run on the Pilatus, the designers have come up with something really special: you sit – comfortably and securely, of course – facing backwards! It means you can admire the steep panorama from a frog's perspective, as the saying goes.

ANIMALS**Regal estate – for the King of the Alps**

More than 120 Alpine ibex live in the stony wilderness of the Pilatus. Experienced rangers from the region – who know all there is to know about these survival experts in the mountains – can take visitors to observe this unique colony close-up. They can also point out the flora and fauna that manage to exist in this inhospitable terrain. Who could resist taking a snapshot of a proud ibex in the morning light – provided you know where they are. The Ibex Safari on the Pilatus offers unexpected glimpses into the life of these shy mountain creatures.

OFFERS

Golden Round Trip.

From May to mid-October, the Golden Round Trip shows the versatility of Lucerne's local mountain as a full or half-day excursion. After a boat trip on Lake Lucerne, the spectacular ride starts with the steepest rack railroad in the world. At 2132 meters above sea level, culinary delights await, while the panoramic view of the mountain range of the Alpine massif delights. The "Dragon Ride" aerial cableway and the panoramic gondola continue to Kriens and from there, after a 5-minute walk, bus No. 1 takes you back to Lucerne. The Golden Round Trip can also be done in the opposite direction.

Silver Round Trip.

The Zentralbahn runs from Lucerne to Alpnachstad in just 20 minutes. From there, it's high up on the world's steepest cogwheel railroad to Mount Pilatus. At 2132 meters above sea level, a wide variety of gastronomy is celebrated in the most diverse rooms and on various terraces. With a view of the breath-taking mountain range, the aerial cableway "Dragon Ride" and the panorama gondola lift travel to Kriens. The bus stop of bus no. 1 is only a five-minute walk from the valley station. The Silver Round Trip is also possible in the opposite direction.



Rope park in front of a mountain panorama
Largest rope park in Central Switzerland: The 10 courses on the Fräkmüntegg promise a special kick for every taste.



Flying experience for the little ones
In the PILU rope park, even the youngest visitors between four and eight years old try their first attempts at flying.

The largest rope park in central Switzerland. Young and young-at-heart adventurers in search of a special thrill will find the right challenge at Pilatus Rope Park - even without special training. A total of 10 courses with balance and climbing acts, exciting cable car rides and the passing of challenging obstacles guarantee lots of fun and action with their six to eleven stations each. At various "Monkey Trees," climbing enthusiasts climb up to 14-meter-high platforms on selected trees. Particularly daredevils fly 20 meters in free fall secured on a rope at the Powerfan. Since 2017, the youngest tots from four to eight years of age have not been neglected either: the new PILU rope park takes the brave climbers on a story with the Pilatus mascot "PILU", consisting of seven stations.

ibex Safari. For over 50 years, the kings of the mountains have populated Mount Pilatus. Between 1961 and 1969, 19 animals were released into the wild in the region on the initiative of Pilatus-Bahnen AG. Observing the ibex colony, which has grown considerably up to the present day, is an unforgettable and impressive experience. On selected dates from the end of May to the beginning of October, guests accompanied by local old gamekeepers learn more about the diverse flora and fauna on Mount Pilatus.



Up close and personal with ibexes

Ibex have been living in the Pilatus region for 50 years. On the ibex safari, gamekeepers give an insight into the life of the animals.



Heavenly pleasure

During the summer months, nature lovers are offered a floating overnight accommodation.

Pilatus Snow & Fun. Snow enthusiasts will find a wide range of winter sports on offer at Fräkmüntegg: winter sports fans can really get going on naturally snow-covered downhill slopes of various lengths and degrees of difficulty. At breakneck speed through the snow with a variety of equipment: Davos toboggans, "family flizzer" toboggans, Ghosky "Rebel" toboggans and snowshoes are available for guests to rent. The distribution of snow sports equipment is located directly next to the cable car station in Kriens.

Tree Tents. During the summer months, adventurers can look forward to a tree-like experience on Fräkmüntegg: an overnight stay in a tree tent suspended in the middle of nature. The 15 tents are attached to surrounding trees via tension belts at three anchor points and thus offer a dangling alternative to staying in the Pilatus-Kulm and Bellevue hotels.



Leisure fun in summer...

Together over hill and dale: hiking trails with incomparable views await you on Mount Pilatus all year round.



... and in winter

A leisurely winter hike or a speedy toboggan ride: Fräkmüntegg and Krienseregg cover the whole spectrum.

Hiking in the Pilatus region. With hikes ranging from leisurely to alpine, families, schools, seniors and clubs will always find the right path to breathtaking journeys of discovery on Mount Pilatus.

Family idyll halfway. The absolute family secret tip is called Krienseregg: the attractive local recreation area with its marked circular hiking trails, inviting picnic areas and the adventure playground "PILU®-Land" appeals to young and old alike. A popular fixed point is the large sun terrace of the family-friendly Krienseregg restaurant.

The PILU®-Land. The home of the friendly, fiery red dragon of the Pilatus cableways is divided into three themed areas: Dragon Castle, Dragon Forest and Dragon Land. Made of chemically untreated robinia wood, the individual play elements were left in their natural form as far as possible.

DragonMoor. Nature experience Krienseregg. The wonderful moor landscape and the babbling of the Pilatus brooks cast a spell over guests. Forest and reed meadows paint an idyllic picture. Those interested in history can take a look back to the ice age.



Barbecue fun for the whole family

After a thrilling scavenger hunt or hike, recharge your batteries when you stop at one of the many barbecue spots.



Fun with dragon PILU

At the adventure playground PILU®-Land, the little ones let off steam - sometimes together with the friendly dragon.

SPECIAL EDITION: THE NEW COGWHEEL TRAIN

Swiss Made: new design and engineering 2.0 for the world's steepest cogwheel train

Draft horses for the future: new railcars for Pilatus-Bahnen AG

Pilatus-Bahnen AG will be on the Drachenberg for the next 40 years. On February 2, 2021, those responsible presented the 55 million project to the public: From summer 2021, eight new railcars will gradually take off on the original route of the world's steepest cogwheel railway. The timeless, first-class design of the trains with 360-degree panoramic windows increases the driving pleasure and ensures even more heart pounding on Lucerne's local mountain. An innovative control system and other technological innovations bring more convenience and more sustainable operation - in future even every half hour.

So far, only insiders have seen it: the pioneering design for the new railcars from Pilatus-Bahnen AG. Chairman of the Board of Directors Bruno Thürig and CEO Godi Koch presented the new draft horses for the cog railway between Alpnachstad and Pilatus Kulm to the public for the first time on February 2, 2021. They are at the heart of a comprehensive technological renewal of the world's steepest cogwheel railway.

Better prospects than ever

The maximum size of glass fronts in the new car provides a 360-degree panoramic view and an even more spectacular driving experience. The renowned designer Thomas Küchler, who grew up at the foot of the Pilatus, designed the new railcars. He chose a timeless design with soft radii and elegant shapes. The cars come in classic Pilatus red, accompanied by iconic LED lighting on the fronts. In the passenger compartment, light, warm colors and high-quality flooring create a classy atmosphere. «We rely on first-class, stylish vehicles with high-quality materials. For us this is adventure travel in the 21st century combined with the most modern passenger safety », says Godi Koch, CEO of Pilatus-Bahnen AG.

New pioneering achievements for a heritage that is unique in the world

The unique rack system, which Eduard Locher and his team created over 130 years ago, shows hardly any signs of wear and tear and remains practically unchanged. The new locomotives will run in double traction in the future. A second platform is being built in Alp-nachstad. Thanks to this, the guests can board the eight railcars at the same time without additional maneuvering. Instead of transferring platforms, three new track reversers - made-to-measure, unique items from the Emmentaler machine factory in Steck - are being installed. These measures as well as the slightly higher travel speed make it possible to introduce the half-hourly service.

Quieter and more sustainable operation

Thanks to a new lift and a widened waiting hall, the Pilatus Kulm mountain station meets the latest standards for public transport suitable for the disabled. In addition, a future-oriented control system - developed by the Swiss company Actemium LeitTec especially for Pilatus-Bahnen AG - ensures even safer operation. The new vehicles are quieter and, thanks to recuperation, reduce electricity consumption by 30 percent.

Replacement of the train formations from the 1930s

The primary goal of the new building project is to replace the historic railcars with new draft horses: there are no more spare parts for the rolling stock, which is over 80 years old, the vehicles are more prone to malfunctions and maintenance becomes more complex. "A replacement of the old railcars is essential in order to guarantee our guests a safe and trouble-free journey to the Pilatus in the future", explains Godi Koch. Two railcars from the 1930s will be retained and will be used for extra trips in the future.

Groundbreaking decision for the next 40 years

Pilatus-Bahnen AG expects the project to cost a total of 55 million Swiss francs. This investment is largely financed by our own funds - not fully as originally planned due to the corona-related revenue shortfalls. Additional shareholder and bank loans secure the realization of the project. «We believe in quality tourism on Lucerne's local mountain. We

also invest in tough times, act in a visionary manner and consistently go our way - especially now," says Bruno Thürig, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Pilatus-Bahnen AG.

Three years for a new work of the century

The construction work, carefully tailored to the sensitive alpine environment, started on November 9, 2020. The manufacturer Stadler Rail is delivering the railcars piece by piece: The first new passenger railcar will start running in the summer of 2021 for test purposes. According to the plan, all construction work will be completed in May 2023 and the eight new railcars will be in use. All orders are carried out by Swiss companies.



Timeless, elegant and with 360-degree panoramic windows: the design of the new railcars for the steepest cogwheel train in the world. (Image: Pilatus-Bahnen AG)



In the passenger compartment of the new Pilatus-Bahnen AG railcars, light, warm tones ensure and a high-quality floor covering for a noble atmosphere. (Image: Pilatus-Bahnen AG)

Facts and figures about the redesign of the world's steepest cogwheel railway

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Route | Alpnachstad – Pilatus Kulm (Installation 1889) |
| Height difference | 1635 m |
| Length of railway line | 4618 m |
| Ascent | max. 15 km/h (so far max. 12 km/h) |
| Descent | max. 12 km/h (so far max. 9 km/h) |
| Frequency (new) | Half-hourly |
| Operating time (season) | May to November |
| Construction phase innovations | November 2020 till May 2023 (parallel to ongoing operations and in the winter months) |
| Rolling stock (new) | 8 passenger railcars in double traction for 48 people each 1 freight railcar (now separated from passenger transport) Step-by-step commissioning from summer 2021 to May 2023 |
| Weight railcar | 18 t (Gross weight) |
| Drive power | 210 PS or 154 kW per railcar |
| Railway system | Racksystem from engineer Locher (since 1889) |
| Freight transport | around 1000 t per year |
| Route | Track width: 80 cm / gradient: maximum 480 ‰, medium 380 ‰ |
| Project partner | General planner: Emch & Berger AG Railcar: Stadler Rail; Design: K uchler Design Cabins: Calag Carrosserie Langenthal AG Track turner: Ferdinand Steck Maschinenfabrik AG Guidance system: Actemium LeitTec |

FACTSHEET 2021 - PHOTOS

2,132 possibilities above sea level

With its wide range leisure activities, PILATUS-BAHNEN AG offers “2,132 possibilities above sea level”. Two cable cars, two hotels, five restaurants, the steepest cogwheel railway in the world, the largest suspension rope park in Central Switzerland and the Switzerland’s longest summer toboggan run promise exciting excursions and exceptional seminar and banquet facilities. Following a complete overhaul of the hotels and restaurants on the mountain in 2009 and 2011, PILATUS-BAHNEN AG has invested CHF 18 million in a new aerial cableway between Fräkmüntegg and Pilatus Kulm. The Dragon Ride is due to be launched on 1 April 2015. Featuring two modern, spacious cabins and an abundance of glazing, the cableway offers the thrilling sensation of flying across the mountain. The next big thing is the rebuilding of the steepest cogwheel train in the world. Another investment of more than CHF 50 million and starting in 2023 it will be a new experience to drive up the mountain.

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Photos

Graphic material for the media: <http://www.pilatus.ch/de/medien/bildmaterial/>.

Beautiful views



The most beautiful views wherever you look: the Pilatus offers the best views of the Swiss Alps and Central Switzerland (photo: view looking southwards)

Eye-catchers in every direction



2,132 possibilities around the Pilatus – including the attractive view looking northwards to Lucerne and its eponymous lake.

The world's steepest cogwheel railway



Built 125 years ago, the cog railway was and remains a unique pioneering achievement by Locher, the Zurich engineer.

A record achievement on the mountain



The spectacular route gives an idea of the challenges encountered 125 years ago when building the cogwheel railway, with gradients reaching 48 percent.

The new cogwheel train – starting in 2023



In 2023 new trains will start on the track. A century project for the Mt. Pilatus railway company.

Innovation on the mountain



«Dragon Ride»: you feel like you're flying thanks to the abundance of convex glazing.

2,132 magic moments above sea level



Pearl on the mountain: the heritage-protected Hotel Pilatus-Kulm was erected in 1890.

Come up high. Sleep deep.



A gem from the Belle Époque era: the historic Hotel Pilatus-Kulm represents a blend of history and contemporary Alpine style.

Expanding horizons



Clear your mind as you contemplate the mountains: the inspirational Hotel Pilatus-Kulm is the ideal venue for banquets and seminars for up to 300 attendees.

The height of enjoyment



Enjoy a princely seat at the summit: the restaurant Queen Victoria room (pictured), the Cheminée Saal and the Dohlenstübli are all very stylish.

A rope park set against a mountain backdrop



Largest rope park in Central Switzerland: the 10 trails on the Fräkmüntegg offer thrills for every taste.

Dragon Glider



The first Flyline in Switzerland built at Mt. Pilatus in 2018. A lot of fun for kids and adults as well.

Family mountain – Paradies on the Krienseregg



The Krienseregg has everything families could ever want: picnicking places, playgrounds, nature trails, footpaths, water points – and smiling faces.

ibex



For some 50 years, ibex have lived in the Pilatus region.

Winter walking & snowshoeing



Offering views of the bay and town of Lucerne are countless winter footpaths and snowshoeing trails in and around the Krienseregg and Fräkmüntegg all the way to the Eigental Valley.

Snow & Fun on the Fräkmüntegg: sledging



Offering views of the bay and town of Lucerne are countless winter footpaths and snowshoeing trails in and around the Krienseregg and Fräkmüntegg all the way to the Eigental Valley.