

Wolfurt, March 29, 2022

Doppelmayr urban ropeway to the University of Haifa New gondola expands public transport options

In Haifa, 20,000 students and commuters can now use a Doppelmayr ropeway to get to the University. It runs from HaMiFratz central railroad and bus terminal to the Technion, Israel's biggest research center, and on to the University of Haifa campus. As part of the public transport network, the gondola means a time saving of up to 25 minutes for passengers and gives them a direct route to their workplaces and education facilities. During their working visit to Haifa, Minister of the Economy Margarete Schramböck and Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg took a trip on the ropeway and were able to experience the comfort of this new mode of public transport at first hand.

The new ropeway to the University of Haifa is Israel's first urban gondola and forms an integral part of the public transport network. It incorporates six stations – three of which are being used for boarding and disembarkation from the start – and runs from HaMiFratz central railroad and bus terminal to the Technion, Israel's biggest research center, and on to the University of Haifa campus. Passengers cover the approximately four-kilometer route up Mount Carmel in just under 20 minutes – with a unique view of the sea and no traffic jams. This saves them up to 25 minutes each way.

20,000 passengers can use the gondola on a daily basis. It runs from mornings to evenings for up to 19 hours a day.

Transport hub for optimized passenger comfort

The base station of the gondola is part of the multimodal transport hub known as HaMiFratz. Local and regional buses, the Metronit bus rapid transit (BRT) system and the railroad all converge at this point. The HaMiFratz hub was modernized in 2018 with the aim of making operations more efficient and simplifying transfers for passengers. The ropeway is an integral part of the local transit system and represents a further step toward multimodal, barrier-free transportation in Haifa. This means that passengers can also use their public transport ticket to travel on the ropeway.

In addition to the multimodal transport facilities incorporating railroad, bus and ropeway, the HaMiFratz mobility hub offers passengers one of Haifa's biggest shopping malls: the Lev Hamifratz Mall – also known as the Cinemall.

Highlight for architecture fans

As well as being the destination for around 18,000 students at the university and 15,600 students at the Technion plus staff, the university campus also attracts large numbers of architecture fans. The University's Eshkol Tower was designed by the world-famous Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer in 1962. The new ropeway now makes it easier and more convenient to visit this building.

Urban ropeways in Haifa

Haifa was an early adopter of the ropeway as a means of public transport. The Carmelit–Haifa funicular was originally built in the 1950s and rebuilt by Garaventa in 2018 following a fire. It runs underground over its entire length and is therefore referred to as Haifa's subway. The 1.8-kilometer installation serves a total of six stations and is also integrated into the urban transport network and ticketing system.

Minister of the Economy Schramböck and Foreign Minister Schallenberg on the new ropeway:

“As well as making a valuable contribution to the regional transport network, the new ropeway in Haifa is also an impressive example of the worldwide demand for the technological know-how of top Austrian companies. Roughly six out of every 10 euros of Austria’s economic output are generated abroad. This is precisely where the Federal Government is placing the focus with our economic initiative ReFocus Austria, which is aimed at driving growth in Austria’s exports. This will play a pivotal role in attracting international investments, creating new jobs and strengthening Austria’s position as a business location, which will then maintain our economic prosperity and finance our welfare state,” says Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg. Margarete Schramböck added: “Austrian exports are a success story. The new Doppelmayr ropeway in Haifa impressively demonstrates the success of our companies in international markets. Our exporters and products made in Austria are in demand worldwide. The export sector safeguards every second job in Austria and ensures economic prosperity. An active trade policy is a crucial driver for the development of an international business location like Austria.”

Fact box

10-MGD Rakavlit

Location:	Haifa (ISR)
Customer:	Israeli Ministry of Transport
Length:	4,321 m
Vertical rise:	472 m
Capacity:	2,400 PPH
Speed:	5.0 m/s
Trip time:	19.0 min
Carriers:	150 10-passenger cabins

The Doppelmayr Group

The Doppelmayr Group represents quality, technology and market leadership in the construction of ropeway systems for passenger and material transport as well as high-tech intralogistics solutions. The company looks back on 130 years of corporate history and a century of experience in the planning, development, design, production, and construction of ropeways. This proven technology and the reliability it provides have made ropeways a popular and high-performance means of transport in skiing and recreation regions and, to an increasing extent, also in cities.

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