

Zeitschrift: Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal
Herausgeber: Swiss Railways Society
Band: - (2017)
Heft: 130

Artikel: Lugano - another funicular
Autor: Stone, Bryan
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-853886>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 26.01.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>



Lugano - Another funicular

Bryan Stone



The March *Swiss Express* contained a description of the opening of the completely rebuilt funicular linking Lugano FFS/SBB and the centre of the Old City. Many of today's visitors to Lugano do not know that another funicular, some 300m further south along the lake shore, had until 1986 ascended to the Via Maraini and that its track is still in place. This was built in 1913 by the proprietor of the Hotel Bristol, a luxurious hotel with mainly British clients, which stood in a dominant position on the Via Maraini and the upper station was within the hotel garden. The hotel opened in 1903, closing its doors in 1981, finally being converted to apartments in 1995. The lower station was at the Piazza Bernardino Luini, alongside the Santa Maria Degli Angioli Church. This superb building was built around 1500 and is graced with superb murals across the reredos portraying the 'Passion and Crucifixion' by the Italian artist Luini, a disciple of Leonardo, who subsequently had the Piazza named in his honour.

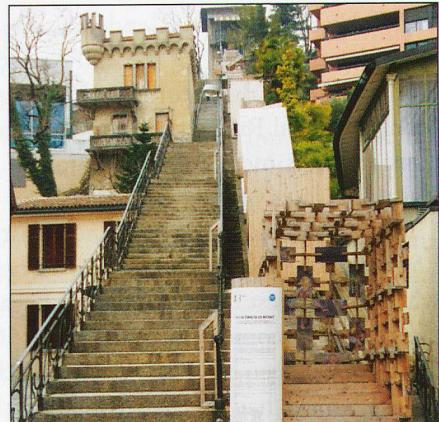
The line climbed 53m in a length of 142 m, with a maximal gradient of 4408 °/°°, and had a track gauge of 1,000

ABOVE:
The funicular prior to closure.

LEFT: The Lugano-Aangioli Funicular in early days.

RIGHT: Artworks up the track of the funicular in January 2017.

All images:
Bryan Stone



mm. As only one car was provided there was no crossing place, resulting in a curious system, where the car was balanced by a weight on a cable that was driven by an electric motor in a tower over the upper station. This balance weight descended into a deep vertical shaft as the sole car came up. In practice it was better described as an inclined lift rather than a funicular. The lift/funicular was originally reserved for hotel guests and those visiting St Edward's Anglican Church located across the Via Maraini from the hotel. It was later taken over by the Lugano Municipality as part of its transport system, but as the years passed it became little used resulting in its closure on 5th October 1986; however its infrastructure was never dismantled at the time. The equipment in the upper station was present until recently; the sole car was at the lower station until 2012, whilst the track was still in-situ during a visit in January 2017, at which time there were various art exhibits spaced out along it, that could be viewed from the adjacent set of steps that follow the course of the line. 