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RhB's 'Gliederzugs'

Neil Wheelwright

TOP LEFT: General view of Fotoabteil showing seat arrangement and windows in coach Bi57601. The roof blinds are operated by the touch pad to the left of the end door.
TOP RIGHT: The normal Gliederzug second class interior.
BOTTOM LEFT: View of panoramic roof windows showing blinds.
BOTTOM RIGHT: A new 'symbol'..... exterior camera icon.

The RhB has been taking delivery of six 7-coach push-pull sets called 'Albula-Gliederzug' (ADZ). By early September 2016 several sets had been delivered, although the driving-trailer cars had yet to arrive. The sets are fixed-formation with 'non-standard' couplings between the main six coaches. The coaches are built to the usual modern standard, including some low-floor access, air-conditioning and wider inter-carriage gangways.

In the early-autumn of 2016 my train from Klosters Platz to Zernez arrived, formed of one of these sets. Having recently read about them I headed directly to their unique feature, a 'Fotoabteil'. This takes up around a quarter of a coach that will usually be marshalled next to the locomotive. This section includes panoramic (i.e., roof level) windows, central, longitudinal tip-up seats and full height side windows with opening upper sections. A trip through the Vereina tunnel is not the best to sample the view, but I was able to check out the various features. The windows rise and fall electrically and include sensors to stop anything being caught in them on closure. To my surprise, the roof windows have blinds, which can be closed electronically. Whilst the feature is not obvious, I do wonder how long the feature will work, Swiss engineering or not.

The market stalls in Marktplatz.

The magnificent concourse of Basel SBB station.