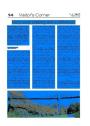


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Seite: 14 Fläche: 71'755 mm² Auftrag: 3009185

Referenz: 85948309

Fancy some climbing with a difference?

Clair Southwell

On Saturday 15th October, the unique climbing garden "Sunniberg Climbing" will be inaugurated on the Sunniberg Bridge on its 77-metre-high pillar No 2. This 526-meter-long, imposing Bridge, with its filigree pillars, designed by Christian Menn soon became the architectural landmark of Klosters when it opened in 2005 and is now set to cause a sensation in the climbing world.

The new climbing facility attracts spectacular exploration tours of the imposing structure of the Sunniberg Bridge. There are a total of 20 climbing routes as well as two so-called multi-rope routes with the longest climbing 57 metres. The difficulty levels range from easy (climbing scale 4a) to very difficult (climbing scale 8a). The route builders have installed 2,300 handles using 24 glue cartridges (around 10 litres of glue) for the climbing system which was started in June this year and carried out in all wind and weather conditions - usually hanging on a rope! As an impressive size comparison: the new climbing park is about a quarter of the length of the conventional route used to climb the north face of the Eiger.

Many a good idea is initiated over a beer (Jock Marden founded Grisons Ski Club, before it was re-named Marden's Club in his honour, over a beer in the Fluela Hotel in 1927). Local mountain guide Marco Benz already had the daring idea of a climbing facility on the iconic bridge when it was opened in 2005. Sitting with other climbing colleagues and a beer round a campfire he and his friends fantasized about this idea, but no one dared

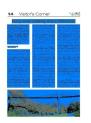
to believe that it could become a reality, the bridge was sacrosanct. Marco enthused about the unique lines and shapes that would captivate every climber. His first letter with the idea of a climbing garden was graciously declined but luckily, he did not give up hope of his enterprising idea. Some years later, as a mountain guide discussed it with a like-minded person,

Marc Bless then project manager of mountain sports for Prättigau Tourism, and a new attempt was started. The potential – also from a tourist point of view – of a climbing garden on such an imposing and well-known building was impressive. When the community looked for innovative project ideas in the preparations for the big anniversary year, the opportunity arose: Supported by Christoph Luzi, Project Manager 800 Years of Klosters, the Sunniberg Climbing project was included in the anniversary impulse programme.

Having successfully persevered through the rigmarole of red tape and permits, the signal to start the construction could be given. An experienced expert, Peter Keller and his Zurich based company «attactive», specializing in construction and development of climbing gardens were duly appointed for the job. Keller knew climbing routes at dam walls, but he thought this bridge was incomparable and with those involved managed to overcome all the hurdles and execute constructive exchange with municipal, cantonal, and federal offices and the accompanying engineering office. Respect for the building was paramount and all work was carried out in such a way that the effect and radiance of the bridge was not impaired. For example, only discreetly visible climbing handles in grey were



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mounted. Mountain sports have a long Serneus and from there it is about a tradition in the rear Prättigau village of 15-minute walk. There will be music from Klosters and mountain guides have al- «DD and myself» to set the atmosphere ways shaped the fate of the tourist resort and anyone who wants can test the new and now this is a modern way of showing facility for themselves. A limited amount a new project "Sunniberg Climbing". The of rental equipment will be available on impulse programme, as part of the anni- site. The climbing facility is free of charge versary celebrations, specifically sup- and open to the public but is done at your ports projects that contribute to an exci-own risk in terms of insurance. ting future of what Klosters offers and will carry an impact beyond the anniversary year.

your car at the Walki parking lot in 23rd issue of the Klosterser Zeitung.

www.klosters800.ch

Correction

Do come along and join in the festivities Apologies for the misspelling of the name on Saturday 15th October at 12.00 pm of the first violinist Assil Mahamid in the with the official opening at 1.00 pm. The caption under the picture of Ben-Gurion easiest way to reach the site is to park University Camerata in the September

