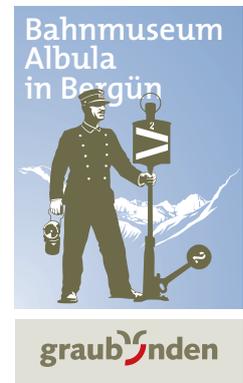


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Press Release

7 May 2012

Bergün. The museum takes railway enthusiasts, families and school classes on a journey which encompasses the social, technical, financial and cultural background of the railway – in a vivid, interactive and surprising manner. What difficulties had to be overcome? What were the construction costs like? How did the railway affect the valley? What is it like, to guide a train through the valley? For children, there is a special tour, which shows them the construction and operation of the railway in a playful way. There are also special guided tours and workshops for school classes.

Rob Neuhaus

From the railway enthusiast to the school class in a project week, the Albula Railway Museum offers a fascinating range of options to cater for all sorts of interests and age groups.

The Rhaetian crocodile – reloaded

The famous Rhaetian crocodile stands in front of the museum. This locomotive, after being in use for 50 years, served for around 30 years as a historical monument. Now, it has been equipped with a driving simulator, so that in the driver's cab, visitors can steer through a virtual Albula valley with the original switches and levers – a perfect alternative to a train ride, a hike or bad weather!

Bernhard Tarnutzer's model as open workshop

Bernhard Tarnutzer's model railway has found a new home in the museum. This O-gauge system (1:45 scale) shows the buildings along the Albula and Bernina lines as they were in the 1950s and '60s. When he is not carrying out maintenance work on this gem, Bernhard Tarnutzer can often be found in an open workshop, informing young and old about the construction of the system.

The exhibition depot – not just for nostalgics

Over 600 objects from over a hundred years of the Rhaetian Railway can be accessed here. The exhibition depot is a storage place and workshop combined. It accommodates a collection of rolling stock, railway construction equipment and communication technology. Tinkerers' meetings and seminars with active or retired Rhaetian Railway staff and all kinds of railway experts shall also take place here.

The topography simulator – how a railway line is built

The topography simulator, with virtual map table and a relief, shows how not only the geopolitical decision-making for the Albula railway took place, but also the geological and railway-technology-related fine adjustments to the routing through the terrain. Here, the considerations regarding route distance, vertical distance, rock properties, avalanche risk, minimum radii of curves, required capacity of rolling stock and construction costs are clearly explained.

The children's tour – a little journey on which a lot can be experienced

Children can go on a tour of their own – and if they wish, they can do so wearing specially made child-size railway uniforms and carrying a railway staff bag. Special ticket validators show the kids the way. In a playful manner, they learn why a stone viaduct arch is elastic and can thus carry the weight of a whole train. Or they can test how skilful they are when applying the brakes on a virtual train.

Special guided tours through the permanent exhibition are offered for children and school classes. The expert guides change the focus of each guided tour according to the school programme, for instance giving a detailed account of the electrification of Switzerland, which was driven forward by hotel pioneers.

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A visit to the museum with children can be extended by heading out on the Preda–Bergün railway experience hike, an easy hike with plenty of rest areas in an idyllic landscape.