

Ropeways On The Up

20 — 21



POMA ropeways provide an efficient solution to today's mobility problems in an ever-changing world. In China, three tricable gondola lifts connected in a triangle have become a leading attraction in an unusual leisure park. In India, the Pelling gondola lift is literally at the heart of a spiritual journey.

Ropeways are on the ascendant in urban settings as well. POMA, for instance, has already built its third urban gondola lift in the Dominican Republic within just six years—an important contribution to making public transport more sustainable.

POMA's operation and maintenance services remain a key asset to delivering high safety and availability rates—the gondola lift in Santiago, for instance is the 25th ropeway to be operated by the Group.

And in the mountains, it's been about efficient modernization. Take for example the Luchon Crémaillère Express gondola lift, which gives everyone access to the mountains at all times of year, and is part of an investment program to promote responsible tourism. The new gondola lifts in Valmorel and Serre Chevalier in the French Alps provide greater transport capacity thanks to adaptive speed, providing energyefficientoperation based on passenger volume.

Innovations by POMA have once again underlined the benefits of ropeways in 2023.

Ropeway Triangle in China’s Top Theme Park

The Chimelong Group runs an extensive leisure area which includes theme parks and hotel complexes in Guangzhou and Zhuhai, in the Chinese Province of Guangdong. Guangzhou Safari Park, one of the largest zoos in Asia, was equipped with three ropeways connected in a triangle in 2017. They have since become one of the zoo’s biggest attractions. More recently, another triangular installation featuring three detachable ropeways has been installed between two new business areas and the Ocean Kingdom, a park which can boast the world’s biggest aquarium and which was visited by 8.5 million people in 2016. The operators placed special emphasis on the design of the stations, innovation, and safety. This explains, for example, the tricable technology, which guarantees high

stability in high winds and a maximum capacity of 5,700 people per hour—365 days a year, 18 hours a day. The cabins are the Symphony model, with 32 seats and LED strips, designed by Pininfarina. These extremely comfortable vehicles have extensive glazing and facilitate breathtaking views over the Macao Bay Area.

TD35 Zhuhai	I	II	III
Inclined length (total):	1,629 m	967 m	1,737 m
Vertical difference:	364 m	117 m	247 m
Carrying capacity:	5,777 p/h	5,786 p/h	5,757 p/h



Zhuhai / CN



Zhuhai / CN



Santiago de los Caballeros / DO

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC – SANTIAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS

Third Urban Ropeway for Dominican Republic

Santiago de los Caballeros, the second-largest city in the Dominican Republic, is building SITS (Santiago Integrated Transport System), a sustainable mobility system that includes a monorail, bicycles, electric buses and a nearly four-kilometer-long 12-passenger gondola lift. As in Santo Domingo before it, the 12-passenger gondola lift in Santiago—which is the third POMA ropeway to be installed in the Dominican Republic in just six years—is equipped with DirectDrive and carries 4,500 people per

hour at a speed of 7 m/s. The ropeway passes over the most congested areas in the city, connecting a total of four stations in just ten minutes. This means that the ropeway node at the main rail station, where a monorail station will also soon be accommodated, has become an important intermodal hub. Teleferico lines 1 and 2 operate for 17 hours a day, 355 days a year. POMA has again been given the contract for operating and maintaining this new system.

FRANCE – LUCHON

Gondola Lift Promotes Tourism in the Pyrenees

The spa town of Luchon in the heart of the Pyrenees has a new gondola lift, which connects it with its ski resort at 1,800 meters above sea level. The old gondola lift had already been operating for 30 years, and the new Luchon Crémaillère Express gondola lift brings with it the benefits of a new generation of ropeways epitomizing modern, sustainable transport. Throughout the whole year, up to 2,000 people per hour can now easily get to the various activities in the ski resort and upon the Superbagnères plateau using the latest generation of 10-passenger cabins. This gondola lift climbs 1,150 meters in just eight minutes at an average gradient of 49%. Like in the neighboring municipality of Peyragudes, where the

Skyvall ropeway has been a resounding success since its opening in 2019, the new Luchon Crémaillère Express gondola lift is part of a plan to revitalize the spa towns of the Pyrenees.

GD10 Luchon Crémaillère Express	
Inclined length (total):	2,362 m
Vertical difference:	1,144 m
Carrying capacity:	2,500 p/h



Luchon / FR

Flying High Worldwide

FRANCE – VALMOREL
STUNNING VIEWS

In the heart of Valmorel, which is the gateway to the Tarentaise Valley in the high alps, the Sofival Group has equipped itself with a new gondola lift which acts as a feeder from the village to the rest of the ski resort via the Combe de Beaudin, operating all year round. The Planchamp ropeway is equipped with 75 modern 10-passenger cabins of the latest generation of X-Line EVO, and has a capacity of 3,600 people per hour. This ropeway offers a stunning view over the Savoyard Valley during its 4.5 minute journey. The ropeway is one of the first in France to achieve a rated speed of 7 m/s. It also achieves clear energy savings by precisely controlling its speed in relation to the number of passengers.

FRANCE – SERRE CHEVALIER
AT THE CUTTING EDGE

In Serre Chevalier, two aging ropeways have been replaced by a new 3.6 km-long gondola lift with Direct-Drive. The new 10-passenger Pontillas lift carries its passengers at a speed of 7 m/s more quickly, reliably, and comfortably than before. During the winter time, it strategically serves a new space dedicated to ski learning, innovatively relocated at an altitude of 2255 metres. By installing this new ropeway, the Compagnie des Alpes in Serre Chevalier has laid down another marker for sustainable tourism development at its ultra-modern ski resort.



ARGENTINA – CATEDRAL

NEW CONNECTIONS IN PATAGONIA

Ever since skiing began to establish itself in South America in the 1960s, POMA has supported the development of ski resorts in the Andes by installing around 50 ropeways. Most recently, the company has been busy in Argentina’s Cerro Catedral—the biggest ski resort in South America. Because of its enormous potential and the fact that this resort attracts more visitors than any other in South America year after year, the CAPSA investment company contracted POMA to undertake a major project for the modernization of the year-round ski area. During the past winter season, in summer 2023, skiers took to one of the new chairlifts for the first time, which carried them 1,000 vertical meters upwards. POMA replaced two older, fixed-grip chairlifts built in 1979 and installed a third ropeway which opens up the ridge at 2,040 meters. In 2024, another ropeway will be installed in the same resort, giving skiers even more opportunities, beginning in the winter season which starts in July.

INDIA – PELLING, SIKKIM

SPIRITUAL JOURNEY THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS

The tourism authorities in the Indian federal state of Sikkim launched the Pelling ropeway project in 2022. What is now the 12th POMA ropeway in India consists of a one-kilometer-long detachable ropeway with 14 cabins, each with 8 seats, and involving distances of more than 500 meters between each set of two towers. The ropeway arrives near the Sanghak Choeling monastery, making it easier for people to visit the Bodhisattva Chenrezig at the top of the mountain. This project will attract more people to Pelling, which is an important tourist destination in the mountainous state of Sikkim.

USA – ASPEN, COLORADO
NEW ACCESS

There are ongoing efforts to open up each of the four mountains at the world-famous ski resort of Aspen Snowmass. The latest drive applies to Aspen Mountain. In time for the 2023/24 season, 62 hectares of new terrain was opened up in what is known as the Hero’s Terrain, giving the area accessed by ropeway an additional 20 percent, which is the first major territory

gain on the mountain since 1985. The Hero’s Terrain is reached using the new Hero’s ropeway, a 4-seater chairlift made by LPOA. The next upgrade at Aspen will be the Coney Express on Snowmass Mountain, another LPOA detachable 4-seater chairlift with an angled station, to be completed in time for the 2024/25 winter season.

Aspen / USA



USA – TAOS SKI VALLEY, NEW MEXICO
CUTTING EDGE SKI EXPERIENCE

Taos Ski Valley, which hosted the World Pro Ski Tour World Championships, installed two new LPOA ropeways 2023/24 in time for the 2023/24 ski season as part of a long-term plan of modernizing the ski resort. Lift 4, a detachable 4-seater chairlift, replaces a fixed-grip POMA Alpha 4-seater chairlift and cuts the previous journey time in half. Taos has also replaced its Pioneer Lift with a fixed-grip LPOA Alpha 3-seater chairlift, which is designed primarily for skiing beginners and snowboarders.

USA – WINTER PARK, COLORADO
MORE COMFORT

Winter Park is one of the oldest and best-known ski resorts in Colorado and boasts more than 1,200 hectares of skiable terrain. The new Wild Spur Express 6-seater chairlift has a uniquely angled middle station, allowing people to get in and out. This makes it easier to use the slopes on the popular Vazquez Ridge.

USA – SNOW BASIN, UTAH
DOUBLE CAPACITY

The Snowbasin Resort got a new LPOA ropeway in 2023. The new DeMoisy Express is a 6-seater chairlift covering a distance of 2,100 meters. This ropeway has increased capacity significantly, because it doubles ascent capacity in the Strawberry Region of the Snowbasin Resort, provides access to new slopes, and makes it easier to reach the mountain from this area.

USA – KEYSTONE, COLORADO
ACCESS TO HIGH ALPINE TERRAIN

Areas of the Keystone Resort previously only accessible to ski tourers are now open to all winter sports enthusiasts, thanks to the Bergman Bowl Express, a new POMA 6-seater chairlift. Named after Bill Bergman, one of the people who founded the Keystone Resort, this ropeway provides comfortable, quick access to the Bergman and Erickson ski runs, which encompass over 220 hectares of high alpine terrain.

USA – STEAMBOAT, COLORADO
SETTING OFF FOR COMPLETELY NEW SLOPES

Following a major change in 2023, the Steamboat Ski Resort is now the second largest in Colorado. Extending it to include Mahogany Ridge and Fish Creek Canyon gives the resort an additional 263 hectares for advanced and experienced skiers and snowboarders. To provide access to this exciting new area, Steamboat installed the Mahogany Ridge Express, an LPOA 4-seater chairlift climbs 550 meters.

USA – BRECKENRIDGE, COLORADO
MORE POWER IN COLORADO

The Breckenridge ski resort has continued its upgrade program by installing its second LPOA ropeway in a space of two years. The ‘Five’ 4-seater chairlift on Peak 8 replaces the old Five Chair, which was installed more than 50 years ago, and doubles its carrying capacity. The new ropeway represents a major capacity upgrade for one of Colorado’s favorite and snowiest ski resorts.



Snow Basin / USA



Keystone / USA

Outlook 2024

CHINA – SHANGHAI

Two Ropeways for the New Ski Hall in Shanghai

A completely new complex which includes an indoor skiing area will soon be opened near to the Shanghai Disney Resort and the Haichang Skyway (a POMA gondola lift opened in 2018). Beginning in 2024, an 8-passenger gondola lift and a 4-seater chairlift featuring DirectDrive will carry up to 2,000 skiers per hour. These ropeways will be a world first, because this ski hall will be the first to have two detachable ropeways. For locals, the Shanghai skidome will offer an amazing new experience.

UK – SWANSEA

Through the Outdoor Park by Ropeway

On the slopes of Kilvey Hill near to the coastal town of Swansea in South Wales, an outdoor park focused on sports, adventure, and fun is due to open in 2026 and will be run by international SKYLINE company. The various areas of this adventure park will be serviced by two POMA ropeways in its heart. An 8-passenger gondola lift and a 4-seater chairlift will soon provide a convenient connection between the catering area, the ziplines, the luge, the sky swing, and the mountain bike trails. It will allow all of the visitors to take themselves and their equipment in comfort to the various activity areas spread across the facility.

CHINA – CHANGSHA

Peace and Quiet in the City Park

Daoxiang Park in the heart of the Chinese city of Changsha, with its seven million inhabitants, is an extensive, wooded area which provides the metropolis with a green lung. At the end of 2024, a new POMA gondola lift will provide direct access to the top of Yuelu Mountain, taking less than four minutes to carry people up to its panoramic viewpoint over the provincial capital. The Yuelushan (Yuelu Mountain) ropeway is being fitted with DirectDrive® technology so that the park, which is a popular romantic spot for couples, remains a relaxing and peaceful place to be. The city administration has also chosen POMA’s comprehensive services, as well as opting for its world renowned technology.

FRANCE – PARADISKI

En Route to a New Transarc

Les Arcs, a subsidiary of Compagnie des Alpes, will be replacing the famous Transarc in the 2024 season to service the descents from Arc 1800 in Paradiski. A new 10-passenger gondola lift will be fitted with EVO Wide cabins, providing space and comfort for passengers. It will be operating at a speed of 7m/s during the peaks of affluence. A longer station will also make getting in smoother. The new Transarc will carry up to 3,600 people an hour to an altitude of 2,100 meters, where passengers will enjoy a majestic view from Tarentaise all the way to Mont Blanc. The second leg covers 3.3 kilometers and will require 10 towers less than the previous ropeway. This investment, like the replacement of two fixed chairlifts by a gondola lift in Villaroger, is part of an upgrade plan aimed at improving access to the ski resort from the eponymous village.



FRANCE – LA PLAGNE

Four Gondola Lifts for La Plagne

SAP (Société d’Aménagement de la Plagne), a subsidiary of Compagnie des Alpes (CDA), has commissioned POMA to build four gondola lifts that will connect Plagne Bellecôte with the Glacier de la Chiaupe via the Roche de Mio plateau, forming a new backbone for the la Plagne ski resort. These four new ropeways will replace the aging 6-passenger gondola lifts at Plagne Bellecôte – Belle Plagne – Roche de Mio and Roche de Mio – Glacier de Bellecôte, which were also built by POMA between 1975 and 1978 along various routes. The new ropeways, featuring 10-passenger EVO 2 XLINE cabins, will provide a breathtaking 360 degree view over the entire terrain. Comfort, performance, availability, innovation, and sustainability are the main challenges of this overall project to upgrade access from Plagne Bellecôte to the glacier. The total number of towers will be 21 less than it was previously, while capacity will be almost doubled. The stations will also be equipped with LIFE roofs for the first time.

FRANCE – SAINT-GERVAIS-LES-BAINS

Flagship of Green Mobility

Saint-Gervais-les-Bains is the European municipality with the greatest variation in altitude: it is 4,200 vertical meters from Le Fayet to the summit of Mont Blanc. The municipal council appointed POMA to build three ropeways for delivery in summer 2024. The Fayet 10-passenger valley lift’s bottom terminus will be right inside the railway station, guaranteeing a fast, multi-modal connection to the center of St. Gervais and its ski resorts. As part of the overall project, the second part of the connection and the main route, which connects directly to the foot of the slopes, will be replaced by a 4.3-kilometer-long 10-passenger gondola lift. Both ropeways will have EVO XLINE cabins and the latest POMA technologies, including a world first: LIFE R’way. As the third project in St. Gervais’ new, sustainable mobility services, the new municipality is investing in an innovative, ecofriendly funicular which connects the center of the village with the thermal spa near Fayet. Unique in France, this innovative, ecofriendly system will be one of the few in the world to be run using waste water. In conjunction with a generator, up to 80% of the electricity used to operate it will be produced.



Les Arcs / FR