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YEAR 85

Highlights

- Europe Retrospective
- Ambassador Farewell
- Swiss Cycling Grossi
- Aareschlucht

Inside

Words from President and Editor	2
Ambassador's Farewell	3
OSA	4
SICPA	5
Swiss Cycling Grossi	6-7
Europe Retrospective	8
Pro Patria and John Webber	9
Aareschlucht	10
Reichenback Falls	11
Fricktal Cherry Trail	12
Fricktaler Cherry Pie	12
Furka Steam Railway	13
Annual Accounts	14
Club News	15-18
Obituaries and List of Officers	19
Photo Gallery	20

All Aboard the Rhb !



One doesn't usually associate trains with UNESCO Heritage sites, but of Switzerland's 11 sites, one is the Rhaetian Railway transalpine route (RhB), declared a heritage site in 2008 for its engineering, architecture and harmony with nature.

The Rhaetian Railway, Inaugurated in 1888 and expanded from 1896 onwards in various sections, the RhB network is located almost entirely within Graubünden, with one station across the Italian border at Tirano. It is comprised of two historic railway lines (Albula and Bernina), totally 128km running between Switzerland and Italy with awe-inspiring backdrops of the Swiss Alps, blue lakes, green meadows and white glaciers. The lines pass through dozens of charming alpine villages, through numerous tunnels and over viaducts. Initially the tracks carried classic steam-powered locomotives but the fleet of trains was later converted to electricity. For train enthusiasts, there are still special vintage steam trains that tour Graubünden and a Railway museum next to the Bergün railway station on the Albula line.

Now RhB, owns the largest network of all private railway operators in Switzerland. The Rhaetian Railway serves a number of major tourist destinations, such as St Moritz and Davos. One of the RhB lines, the Bernina Railway, crosses the Bernina Pass at 2,253

metres (7,392 ft) above sea level and runs down to Tirano, in Italy and has the fame of being one of the steepest in the world at a 7° incline. The Albula line from Thusis to St Moritz climbs more than 1,000m.

The Rhaetian Railway is acquiring 36 new separable multiple-unit trains from Stadler Rail. The first separable multiple-unit trains will be put into operation during the course of 2020 between Landquart and Davos (Filisur) following successful on-track trials and training. As soon as enough vehicles are available, separable multiple-unit trains are expected to start running between Landquart, Klosters and Davos/St. Moritz in 2021.

The procurement of these separable multiple-unit trains is the biggest-ever acquisition of rolling stock in the history of the Rhaetian Railway. The order consists of 36 four-part multiple-unit trains. The order volume amounts to 361 million Swiss francs. Equipped with automatic couplers, these multi-unit trains suppose a significant update of the RhB's fleet of rolling stock, and promise to increase greatly the productivity of the Rhaetian Railway overall. June 2019 marks the 10 year anniversary of the RhB joining the ranks of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

www.newlyswissed.com/event/rhb-world-heritage-railway-festival / www.nationalgeographic.com//RHB.ch