

The first glacier aerodrome in the World

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THE FIRST GLACIER AERODROME IN THE WORLD

The first glacier aerodrome in the world, which is shortly to be completed at an altitude of 10,000 feet on a glacier near the summit of the famous Diablerets mountain, hitherto reserved to hardy mountaineers, will revolutionize Alpine tourism, opening up new slopes to skiers and enabling them to ski all the year round, as well as offering a host of new excursions to tourists, both young and old, sedentary and energetic.

* * *

The glacier is an ideal landing-ground in a natural depression sheltered from the winds by the circle of peaks and walls of granite all round; its natural runways

Tourists will be able to fly here in small sports or commercial planes in a matter of minutes only from nearby Montreux, Lausanne or Geneva airports.

* * *

The aerodrome will be connected to the lower levels by means of a brand-new aerial cableway rising in three sections nearly 5,000 feet from the Col du Pillon to the top station just a few minutes' walk from the glacier. The 2½-mile ride will be an unforgettably beautiful experience through some of the grandest Alpine scenery. The Col du Pillon is easily accessible all the year round by road from the resort of Les Diablerets, with its excellent connections with the plain, and from Gstaad in the next valley, which will also be linked by a new aerial cableway starting from Gsteig. The first section of the new cableway rises in eight minutes from the Col du Pillon at 5,080 feet to Pierres Pointes at 7,220 feet, passengers travelling in comfortable four-seater cabins. The second section, using a large cabin holding thirty passengers, takes five minutes to reach the Tete aux Chamois at an altitude of 8,285 feet. Both these stops are starting points for excellent ski-runs of varying degrees of difficulty and, in summer, for delightful excursions amid glorious mountain scenery. The last section takes visitors in a fifty-passenger cabin to the top station at "Les Diablerets" in just under six minutes.

* * *

The aerodrome a few hundred yards away will be provided with a modern restaurant with sun-terraces and lounges for relaxing and admiring the view. An added attraction will be a fleet of polar track-vehicles taking holiday-makers to the Diablerets peak itself.

* * *

To the snow by plane!

(Photo: Swiss National Tourist Office)



are longer even than those of the international airports of Geneva-Cointrin or Zurich-Kloten. Hermann Geiger has made over a thousand landings on this glacier, and it is here, too, that the glacier pilots do their first training.

A vast number of new slopes will be opened up to experienced skiers and beginners alike, there being an almost infinite variety of runs, long and short, difficult and easy, and most of them suitable for ski-ing the whole year round.