

Up and Away Zugspitze Eibsee Cable Car

Say goodbye to the old Zugspitze Eibsee cable car and hello to its replacement the new Eibsee cable car – soon to be the world's tallest aerial tramway support tower.

Some things like wine get better with age, but after 50 years of operation, the Zugspitze Eibsee cable car built in 1963 to transport visitors to Germany's highest mountain has seen better days. By December 2017, we can say hello to a sleeker more modern Eibsee cable car. The new cable will include two cabins holding up to 120 passengers as opposed to the current one which only holds about 40 people.



Zugspitze Eibsee Cable Car. Wikitravel photo by Octagon

Zugspitze, Germany's Highest Attraction

Zugspitze is Germany's highest elevation at 2,962 meters located near Garmisch-Partenkirchen, a mountain resort town in Bavaria, southern Germany. Zugspitze, home to three glaciers, a unique 360° panorama including mountain peaks from four countries is easily accessed by the Eibsee cable car.

Sure, you can climb the mountain top like my friends in tip-top condition, but I prefer the cable car since I'm not fantastically fit (not yet at least). If you're like me and would rather get to the top of Zugspitze quickly, then the cable car connecting the lower station (973 meters or 3,192 feet above sea level) near Lake Eibsee with the top station at 2,950 meters (9,678 feet) above sea level is for you.

Whether you're an avid, skier, hiker, or lover of fantastic

views, a trip to the top of Germany's highest point offers breathtaking views every foot of the short 10 minute ride which expeditiously whisks you to the summit ridge of Zugspitze, Germany and the border to Austria.

DACH Engineering, Gotta Love it

The cabins of the current cable car are suspended from two track ropes and are moved by two haulage ropes, so you will definitely feel movement as you ascend to Zugspitze.

I thought the old cable car was an engineering feat with two support towers, but the new Zugspitze Eibsee cable car will have only one support tower. Yes, one 127 meter high support tower. Yikes! With construction from DACH (DE-German, A-Austrian, and CH-Swiss) construction companies, I'll feel safe riding the new Zugspitze Eibsee cable car knowing it will be built with the highest standards.

Riding the current cable car doesn't come cheap. A one-way ticket for adults costs around 31 Euros. Building the new Zugspitze Eibsee cable car doesn't come cheap either at 50 millions Euros. Hmmm. I'm curious to see how much a one-way ticket will cost in the future.

Out with the Old

Want to take a nostalgic ride on the existing Eibsee cable car? You still can since the current cable car will run parallel to the new system, so you'll be able to see the construction site.

It's out with the old and in with the new, but not until around May 2017 when the old final ascent of the 1963 cable car takes its last ride to the summit ridge of Zugspitze.