

# Accessibility Check at the Seiser Alm Ski Area

30.01.2024



## Portrait

My name is Hans-Peter Schraffl, and since 2017 I have been in a wheelchair, paralyzed from the thoracic vertebrae down. Monoskiing is my passion, and I support ski resorts in creating truly accessible offerings for everyone. In 2020, I completed training as a Barrier Scout, with the goal of removing architectural barriers in society.



## Parkplatz & Anreise

The parking situation at the base station of the cable car is very accessible for people with disabilities. In our test, two of the four available spaces were already occupied. The parking spots are located very close to the cable car and are perfectly level with the ground. The signage is also very clearly visible. You couldn't ask for more.

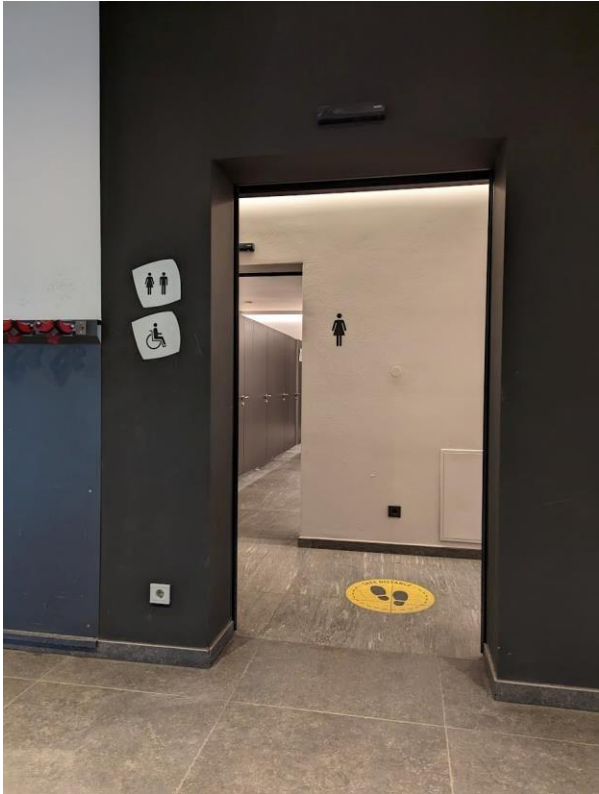


## Preparing for a day on the slopes

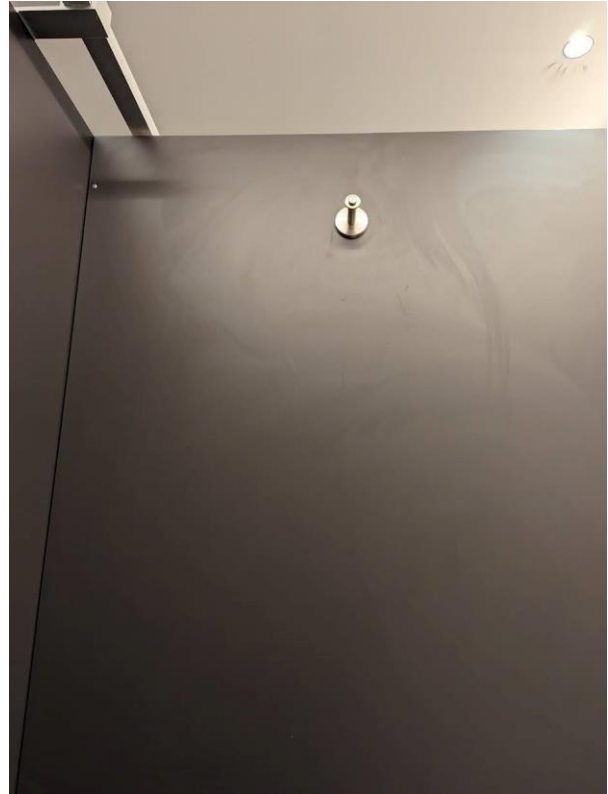
Monoskiers like to make a final check in the restroom before heading out onto the slopes. Accessible toilets are located directly at the base station and can be easily reached using the elevator for people with mobility needs. At the top station, the accessible restroom is also easy to reach, making preparation for a day on the slopes simple and stress-free.

### Suggestions for Improvement:

- › The signage at the base station could be improved. The accessible restroom is located inside the women's restroom, which is not immediately clear.
- › Additionally, it would be helpful to have a lower coat rack in the restroom for wheelchair users.



Accessible restroom signage



Coat rack in the accessible restroom

## Access/Start of the day on the slopes

Boarding the cable car is easy and smooth, thanks in part to the cable car staff, who are always helpful and attentive.



Turnstile at the base station



Cable car boarding at the base station

At the top station, the area is perfect for easily transferring from a wheelchair to a monoski, and the space dedicated to wheelchair storage is very functional. The accessible restroom at the Seiser Alm top station is clearly marked and fully equipped, leaving nothing to be desired.



Wheelchair storage



Wheelchair to monoski transfer

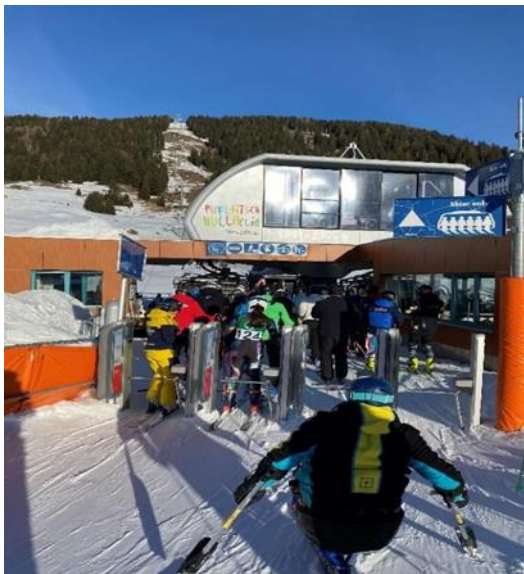
## Skiing

The chairlifts are generally very suitable for monoskiers, as a complicated transfer to a gondola is not necessary. All chairlifts can be easily secured with the safety bar, and the lift staff are always available, slowing down the chairlift at boarding and disembarking for added safety. Even the magic carpet poses no issues, making the skiing experience smooth and obstacle-free.



## Suggestions for improvement

The turnstile often represents an obstacle for monoskiers. The lower the turnstile, the more difficult it is to pass through. The so-called “Flap Gates” work best. It would be possible to install a “Flap Gate” at each lift. Of course, it is still possible to get through a turnstile, but a Flap Gate makes passing much easier for monoskiers



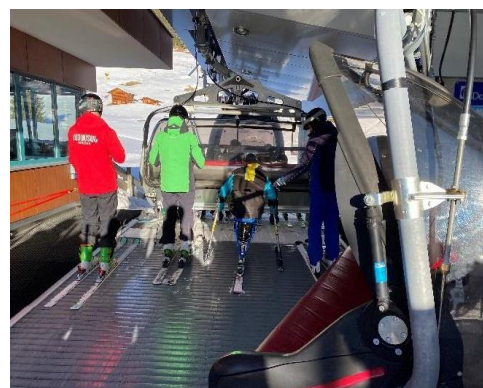
Chairlift with turnstile



Chairlift with flap gate



Chairlift boarding



Chairlift conveyor/approach belt

Additional Suggestion for Improvement: It would be helpful to provide another accessible restroom in a hut or hotel. This would give wheelchair users greater flexibility and prevent them from having to always return to the starting point to use the restroom. A space-saving, foldable accessible restroom would suffice, preferably with hard rubber wheels to reduce maintenance.

Perhaps there is a facility that could collaborate in this regard (Hotel Goldknopf?). It could also be indicated on the piste map. See here the example from the Civetta ski area.



## Conclusion

The Seiser Alm ski area is ideal for monoskiers. From the parking lot to the lifts, everything is genuinely designed with wheelchair users in mind. Even without the suggested improvements, the area can be considered extremely accessible and inclusive. In South Tyrol, it certainly represents a benchmark. Many ski resorts promote themselves as barrier-free: Seiser Alm can compete at this level without any difficulty.