Fascinating View of Bears and Gorillas

Ropeway from LEITNER ropeways in the Cabárceno nature reserve now in operation

Starting in September 2016, visitors to the Cabárceno Nature Park in Spain can enjoy their visit to the gigantic zoo from the air. They can float in comfortable cabins above 120 different animal species such as elephants or hippos as well as forests and lakes. Instead of sitting in the car, or traversing the park on foot or by bicycle, visitors can view animals directly through spacious panoramic windows. Cabins with glass floors are a special attraction. The environment is also spared due to the extraordinarily environmentally friendly drive system. The ropes were partially pulled with a drone to avoid disturbing the animals.

Zoo of superlatives

The world's largest elephant enclosure, encompassing over 21 hectares, as well as the largest bear sanctuary and largest gorilla compound in Europe: Cabárceno Nature Park, in the northern Spanish province of Cantabria, is no ordinary zoo, but rather a zoo of superlatives. The park is located in a karst region, which previously housed iron mines, and stretches over 750 hectares which house more than 1,200 animals from five continents, all of which enjoy extensive living space. Visitors can enjoy the fascinating natural spectacle of more than 120 species of animals and an impressive landscape of rocks, lakes and gorges. Until now, visitors could only visit the park via a drive of approximately 20 kilometers, on foot or on a bicycle. Both gondola lifts by LEITNER ropeways now provide a special experience. In addition to the spectacular view of the wildlife, visitors can also enjoy the marvelous sight of the nearby city of Santander. Since the stations are located on hills, the perspective can extend for kilometers.

Drones pull the ropes

In order to bother the animals as little as possible, special technical aids were employed at some locations. Thus a drone initially pulled a thin rope from support to support in places where the ground was not accessible. Attached was a somewhat thicker rope, which in turn pulled an even thicker rope. This technology allowed the bears or hippos to remain undisturbed when the ropes were pulled.

Reduced noise and emissions in the Nature Park thanks to DirectDrive and LeitDrive

Both independent, yet directly connected 8-passenger gondola lifts are 3,795 and 1,061 meters long, with vertical distances of 158 and 101 meters, respectively.

The passenger capacity is 1,000 people per hour at a speed of 4 meters/sec. Altogether the ropeways have four stations. One technical highlight is the inclusion of DirectDrive and LeitDrive in the ropeways. These innovative drive systems from LEITNER ropeways impress thanks to their reduced consumption, the resulting lower emissions and reduced noise. The first ropeway has three angle stations, thus forming a triangle enclosing three important points in the park. In addition, two gondolas with a glass floor offer a special attraction, thus allowing a more intensive perspective. The new ropeway thus offers noticeable advantages to animals, operators and visitors alike.

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