

# Access to the Sonnblick Observatory "SBO-Access"



Sonnblick Observatory: Left: Summer (@E.Ludewig). Right: Spring (@L.Rasser).

## Notes for visitors



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## 1 Mission of the Sonnblick Observatory (SBO)

The Sonnblick Observatory is a high alpine climate and environmental research station. It is embedded in the most important international monitoring programs and thus makes an important contribution to the national and international agendas of the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change).

The infrastructure is exclusively available for research purposes. The goal of the Sonnblick Observatory is to enable climate, environmental and ecosystem research in the high altitudes of the Alps.

Research priorities are summarized in the research program "ENVironmental Research and Monitoring SONnblick - [ENVISON](#)", which is revised every 5 years by the scientific advisory board of the Sonnblick Observatory.

Monitoring programs at Sonnblick Observatory take place within the framework of international programs of the World Meteorological Organization, European research infrastructures or similar international or national programs. This ensures that data comply with international standards and are used for research purposes. These data are, despite different ownership, freely accessible and can be obtained via the single-entry-point [Sonnblick data portal](#).

Research and monitoring at the Sonnblick Observatory shall contribute to show the actual state of the earth system, to better understand it with all its processes and to encourage us humans to live more consciously, climate and environmentally friendly.

Thus, the Sonnblick Observatory contributes to the UNFCCC, IPCC and similar national and international mechanisms.

## 2 Contact

### Owner:

GeoSphere Austria (formerly the Central Institute for Meteorology and Geodynamics (ZAMG)) has operated the research station since 1886 and has also owned the entire infrastructure of the Sonnblick Observatory since 2022.

### Address:

<u>Delivery address:</u> GeoSphere Austria Department Sonnblick Observatory Freisaalweg 16 5020 Salzburg, Austria	<u>Billing address</u> GeoSphere Austria Department Sonnblick Observatory Hohe Warte 38 1190 Vienna, Austria
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**Phone:** Tel.: +43 (0) 662 626301

**Web:** [www.sonnblick.net](http://www.sonnblick.net)

**Email:** [elke.ludewig@geosphere.at](mailto:elke.ludewig@geosphere.at)

### 3 Location & Accessibility

#### 3.1 Location:

The Sonnblick Observatory is located on the Hohe Sonnblick (3,106m) at the end of the Rauris Valley, on the main mountain of the Alps, on the border between the provinces of Salzburg and Carinthia.

#### 3.2 Places:

<b>Meeting point toll station</b> Kolmstraße 6 5661 Rauris, Austria	<b>Sonnblick Observatory valley station (next to Ammererhof)</b> Kolmstraße 34 5661 Rauris, Austria	<b>Sonnblick Observatory</b> Hoher Sonnblick 5661 Rauris, Austria
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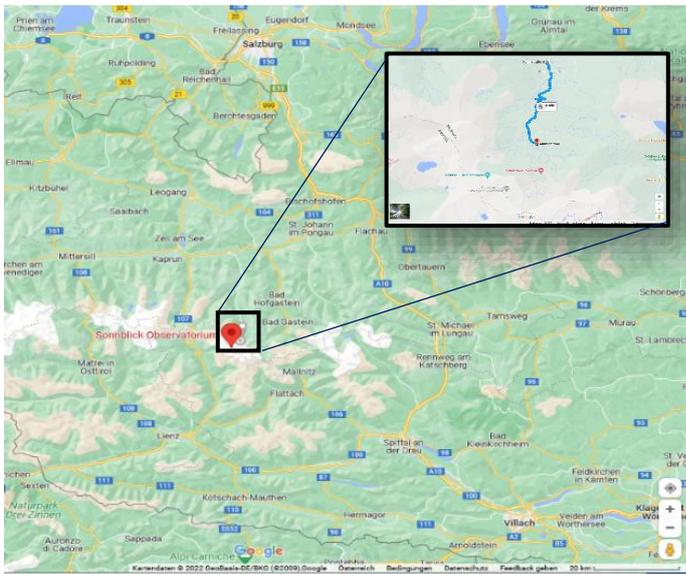
#### 3.3 Arrival:

The Sonnblick Observatory can be reached on foot from the south (via Heiligenblut) or from the north (via Kolm Saigurn). For the high alpine mountain tour 5-8 hours should be planned.

A private works cable car is available for persons working at the observatory. This cable car cannot be used for public passenger transport. The bottom station of the cable car is located in Kolm Saigurn, Kolmstraße 34.

- **Car:**  
The journey by car to the valley station of the observatory takes about 90 minutes from Salzburg city. Parking is available in front of the toll road, Kolmstraße 6. The toll road is usually passable from April to October. The toll road ends at the Lenzanger parking lot. The stretch from the Lenzanger parking lot to the Sonnblick Observatory valley station in Kolm Saigurn is only available to local residents and suppliers.  
Researchers receive a special permit from us to drive directly to the valley station.
- **Train:**  
The nearest train station is Taxenbach. From Taxenbach there is a bus in summer that goes to the valley station Sonnblick Observatorium in Kolm Saigurn. Rauris cab companies can drive to the valley station.
- **Bus:**  
In summer there is a regular bus service between Taxenbach/Rauris/Kolm Saigurn
- **Shuttle Service:**  
For scientists traveling to Salzburg or Taxenbach by public transportation, we offer a shuttle service. Please contact us in advance if you would like to use this service so that we can plan the appropriate trips. This service is also valid for logistical transports.

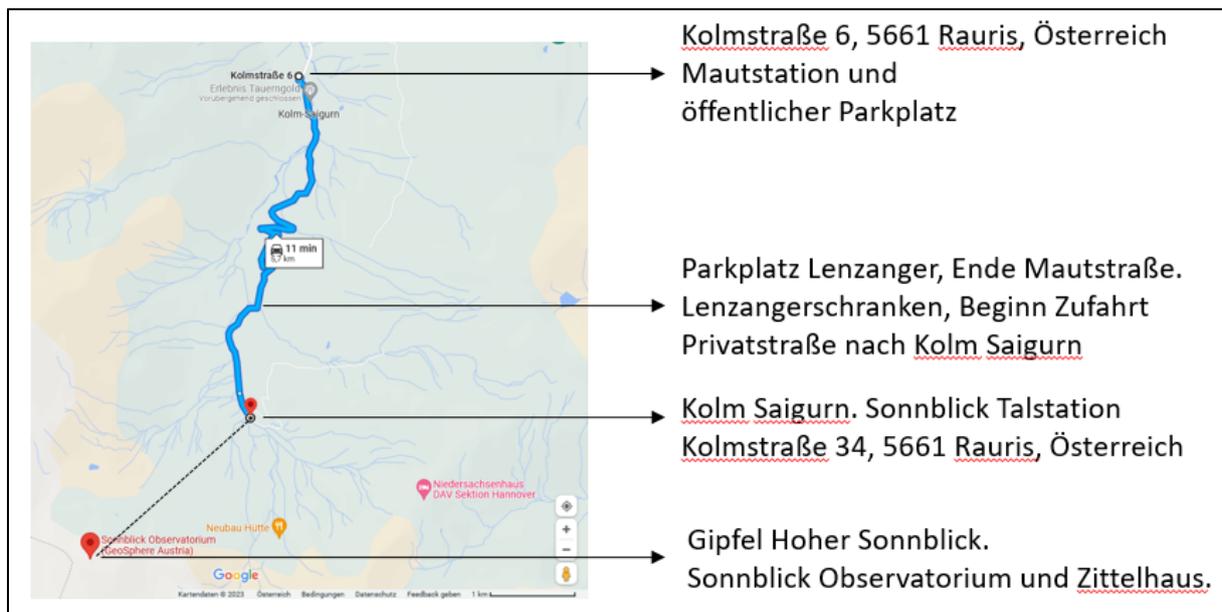
### 3.4 Map overview



Quelle:

<https://www.google.at/maps/place/Sonnblick+Observatorium/@47.2422955,12.5427383,9.17z/data=!4m19!1m13!4m12!1m6!1m2!1s0x47773c008cf260b3:0xd9edfbc57dcb2c52!2sKolmstra%C3%9Fe+5661+Buchebeben!2m2!1d12.9907691!2d47.1056371!1m3!2m2!1d12.9832464!2d47.0690723!3e0!3m4!1s0x47773f30f010ef49:0xcbccef100f061209d!8m2!3d47.0541492!4d12.9583015?hl=de>

**Overview Land Salzburg and position Sonnblick Observatory**



Kolmstraße 6, 5661 Rauris, Österreich  
Mautstation und  
öffentlicher Parkplatz

Parkplatz Lenzanger, Ende Mautstraße.  
Lenzangerschranken, Beginn Zufahrt  
Privatstraße nach Kolm Saigurn

Kolm Saigurn. Sonnblick Talstation  
Kolmstraße 34, 5661 Rauris, Österreich

Gipfel Hoher Sonnblick.  
Sonnblick Observatorium und Zittelhaus.

**Detailed view of Kolmstraße. Access road valley station Sonnblick Observatory**

## 4 Services of the Sonnblick Observatory

### 4.1 Interesting information

#### 4.1.1 Website [www.sonnblick.net](http://www.sonnblick.net)

Information about the Sonnblick Observatory can be obtained from the website [www.sonnblick.net](http://www.sonnblick.net). Current, unchecked data are also presented there.

#### 4.1.2 Sonnblick brochure

The Sonnblick brochure annually summarizes the activities around the observatory and focuses on science. Researchers active with us are asked annually to contribute to the brochure.

You can find the brochure online at:

<https://www.sonnblick.net/de/daten/download-portal/reports/>

#### 4.1.3 Virtual 360° tour

In 2021, the Sonnblick Observatory has created a virtual tour. Now you can log into the observatory from anywhere, walk through the rooms and get an insight into our work. The observatory offers three tours:

- A General Tour
- a tour for children
- a tour for people who want to use the observatory for scientific projects.

Here you will find the links to the three tours:

<https://www.sonnblick.net/de/das-observatorium/360-tour/>

#### 4.1.4 Defibrillator and first aid

The technical team at Sonnblick Observatory is trained in first aid. A defibrillator is stored in the observatory's residential office. There is close cooperation with the mountain rescue service. There is also a medicine box for emergencies.

#### 4.1.5 Sonnblick cable car

The Sonnblick cable car is a private factory cable car with a restricted passenger traffic. For this reason, we are only allowed to transport people who need to perform an activity at the observatory. The use for touristic purposes, as well as for guided tours is not allowed. Please also take into account that in the event of an emergency, the cable car can only be used when accompanied by the mountain rescue service.

#### 4.1.6 Meals and overnight stay

The Sonnblick Observatory is connected to the Zittelhaus alpine refuge. The Zittelhaus is managed in summer and regularly in spring. You can stop there and also spend the night. For this, please visit the Zittelhaus website: <http://www.zittelhaus.at/>.

For research projects, there is additional information on overnight stays listed under Service for Researchers.

## 4.2 Services for climbers, mountaineers, day guests

### 4.2.1 Tours

The observatory always opens its gates and offers guided tours of the station. **Prerequisite for** such tours is the ascent of the Hoher Sonnblick on foot, as well as a registration and declaration of consent. The use of the cable car is not possible.

Please **register for** guided tours via our contact form:

<https://www.sonnblick.net/de/kontakt/>

**Notice:**

Persons planning to enter the observatory must take note of the instructions under point 1.5 and confirm this in writing. Guided tours are free of charge. The research and monitoring operations of the observatory always have priority. If there are disruptions and problems with the operational business, we may have to cancel or postpone registered tours. We thank you for your understanding.

**Procedure:**

- After registration via our contact form we will check your request and try to accommodate your date wishes, which can also change due to weather conditions.
- You will then receive a confirmation of the date, as well as a link to the final registration.
- Please make the final registration via the registration link a few days in advance, at the latest on the day of the presentation. After successful registration, you will receive a confirmation via email, which will be checked on site. Please carry the confirmation email with you.
- You can then enjoy the mountain tour to the Hohe Sonnblick. On site, please inform the hut host that you have booked a guided tour.
- Tours take place in the evening before or after dinner, usually between 18:00-20:00.

### 4.3 Services for media

The Sonnblick Observatory supports media in their knowledge transfer. For this purpose, media can use the infrastructures of the Sonnblick Observatory, such as the cable car. Due to the high media interest in our work and the observatory, we ask you to contact us at an early stage. We will then send you a short questionnaire. Only in this way can we optimally support your production and prepare a service offer.

**Note:** The Sonnblick Observatory is located in the core zone of the Hohe Tauern National Park. Here there are legal regulations for filming with drones. Please inform yourself in time at the Hohe Tauern National Park to obtain a flight permit. The research and monitoring operations of the observatory always have priority. If there are disruptions and problems with the operational business, we may have to cancel or postpone registered appointments. We thank you for your understanding.

### 4.4 Services for research

The infrastructure of the Sonnblick Observatory is open for research. To make this possible, specific agreements have been made to support researchers on site in the best possible way.

#### 4.4.1 Use of SBO infrastructures

Research projects can use the entire infrastructure by arrangement. The plant cable car can be used for research purposes. The operating hours are from 08:00-20:00. Internet and communication facilities, as well as network, software and storage facilities are provided. Instruments can be installed in the laboratories or on the measurement terraces. For installations in the field, permission must be obtained from the landowners, as well as from the Hohe Tauern National Park.

#### 4.4.2 Personnel services

The Sonnblick Observatory is operational 24/7 and always manned by a technical staff. Therefore, we can support research projects in consultation with project leaders. For example, measuring instruments can be maintained and controlled, samples collected and processed, and events documented. Scientific services can also be provided if required.

#### 4.4.3 Grants for projects

The Sonnblick Observatory is committed to providing scientists with access to and use of the observatory. For this purpose, the SBO participates in so-called Transnational Access Programs (TNAs) of the EU. Through these TNAs, travel and accommodation costs, as well as on-site usage costs can be funded. In addition, there is the possibility to receive funding from the [Sonnblick Association](#). Please contact us if you see a need.

#### 4.4.4 Project requests and project process

Persons who want to carry out projects at and around the Sonnblick Observatory, please follow the following process steps

1. **Contact** the SBO via website or directly by email. We will then review your request and submit an application form.
2. **Application Form:** The application form includes specific requests for on-site research implementation. Please fill it out as accurately as possible.
3. **Review of application form:** The contents are checked for feasibility and implementation. If necessary, an additional meeting will be arranged with the applicant to clarify any ambiguities.
4. **Detailed planning and cost estimate:** If implementation is possible, a formal commitment with a cost estimate is sent. Detailed planning can then begin.
5. **Access/Grant access and start project:** After the planning phase, dates are firmed up and access to the SBO is granted. The project can start at the SBO.

#### 4.4.5 Overnight accommodation for science

##### 4.4.5.1 *Overnight stay on the Hohe Sonnblick shelter Zittelhaus of the Austrian Alpine Club*

The Sonnblick Observatory is directly connected to the Zittelhaus Hut. The Zittelhaus is occupied in spring (March, April) and summer (July, August, September). Overnight stays in the Zittelhaus have the advantage that the Sonnblick Observatory is accessible from here day and night. This means that you have no time restrictions for your projects.

**Sleeping:** Although the Zittelhaus is not operated year-round, scientists can use the Zittelhaus as a place to sleep all year round. For hygienic reasons, sleeping bags must be used in the Zittelhaus. Four-bed rooms or dormitories are available for sleeping.

**Catering:** The catering depends on the hut opening hours. When the hut is open, the kitchen facilities of the refuge are available. Outside of these times, science must provide for themselves on site. A small kitchenette has been set up for this purpose. Cooking utensils and crockery are provided. Upon request, the availability of the hut host can be checked outside of the official hut hours, and he can provide meals if needed. Once you inform us of the arrival and departure dates of your stay, we can reserve the accommodation for you, or you can contact the Zittelhaus yourself: <http://www.zittelhaus.at/>.

**Sanitary area:** Please note that due to the alpine location and the scarcity of water in the Zittelhaus there are no shower facilities. The sanitary areas are equipped with toilets and washbasins. Instead, the Sonnblick Observatory offers a shower facility in the valley station, which can be used by appointment. Unfortunately, daily showers are not always possible at the moment.

Overnight stays in the Zittelhaus have the advantage that from here the Sonnblick observatory is easily accessible day and night.

#### 4.4.5.2 *Overnight accommodations in the valley: Ammererhof, Naturfreundehaus*

In the valley, in Kolm Saigurn, the Ammererhof ( <http://ammererhof.at/> ) or the Naturfreundehaus ( <https://www.sonnblickbasis.at/> ) can also be used for overnight stays. Please book these accommodations independently. Please keep in mind that in this case there may be additional costs for the use of the cable car. Please note that the cable car is only available from 8 am to 8 pm, depending on maintenance and weather conditions.

#### 4.4.5.3 *Overnight stay in Rauris*

Overnight stays in Rauris are possible. Nevertheless, please note that the distance from Rauris to the Sonnblick valley station includes about 30 minutes by car and thus additional costs for cable car and road use, toll road may apply. Please keep in mind that due to sustainability principles, these overnight stays can usually not be subsidized. Please also keep in mind here that the cable car is available from 8 am to 8 pm, depending on maintenance and weather conditions.

## 5 Notes, guidelines and regulations

The stay in and around the Sonnblick Observatory requires the clarification of certain guidelines, which each visitor must confirm in writing before access.

Below we have compiled the guidelines that are relevant to us:

### 5.1 Disclaimer

By agreeing to the SBO Access, I agree to the disclaimer formulated herein.

#### **Disclaimer for persons entering and using the Sonnblick Observatory (SBO) and its infrastructures.**

"To the extent permitted by the law in force in the Republic of Austria, I waive all claims against the Central Institute for Meteorology and Geodynamics (ZAMG) and persons acting in fulfillment of an obligation of ZAMG with respect to any bodily injury, property damage, and pecuniary loss that may occur to me during my stay at the Sonnblick Observatory and its infrastructure, unless caused intentionally or by gross negligence.

I am liable to the extent permitted by law for any loss, damage or injury culpably caused by me during my stay at the SBO. For such damages, I will indemnify ZAMG against claims of third parties. Parents are liable for their children."

### 5.2 Guidelines House Rules & Security

By agreeing to the SBO Access, I agree to the House Rules as formulated herein.

#### **House rules for the Sonnblick Observatory (SBO)**

**Welcome to the Sonnblick Observatory! We wish you a pleasant stay and a successful working time. In order for everyone to get along well in a limited space, we ask you to observe the following rules:**

1. The permission to use the observatory is granted exclusively by the management of the Sonnblick Observatory.
2. The use of the material ropeway with limited public transport is regulated in the transport conditions and cableway guidelines.

3. In the absence of the management, the technical staff is responsible for the research station. Their orders are to be obeyed. Complaints about the behavior of the SBO staff, groups working at the SBO should be immediately addressed to the management of the SBO.
4. Each visitor must agree to the access regulations and register before entering the infrastructure of the Sonnblick Observatory. The registration must be done before each planned access. An exception are the employees of the SBO team, who have to register only once a year. The access regulations are summarized in an extra document, which also contains the house rules and security aspects. The approval takes place online.
5. Upon arrival, visitors and researchers are asked to pay close attention to the instructions given by the SBO staff on certain safety aspects and on how to behave in case of emergencies (e.g. health problems, fire, cable car, etc.).
6. Research and media projects must be applied for in advance in writing using a registration form. In this form, a group leader must be defined for each visitor group. The leader is the spokesperson of the group towards the other (research) groups working at the SBO, the technical supervisors, the management of the SBO and GeoSphere Austria. The leader is also responsible for the smooth running of the work of his/her group.
7. The doors to the observatory must be kept closed at all times. Care must be taken to ensure that no non-operating, non-registered person enters the premises without authorization. Should this be the case, the SBO staff must be informed immediately and the person removed.
8. Alteration to workplaces, permanent installations, relocation of lines, measuring equipment or other structural changes are only possible with the approval of the SBO management.
9. High alpine terrain:  
Outside the buildings, you will be in high alpine terrain with corresponding potential hazards. Appropriate training and equipment is required to visit the observatory and the surrounding area. Individuals, researchers going into the terrain or onto the glacier are asked to inform the supervisor in advance for their own safety. We strongly recommend the use of appropriate equipment and clothing, a cell phone, and a mountain guide if necessary. The research station cannot be held responsible for accidents resulting from activities on the glacier or in the field.
10. Exposed location:  
The Sonnblick Observatory is located in an exposed position on the Hohe Sonnblick. For this reason, there is a certain risk of falling if one acts carelessly. Therefore it is strictly forbidden to climb out of windows or over railings. Climbing activities require the permission of the observatory management, as well as appropriate equipment. External persons are not allowed to open windows.
11. In case of fire:  
The research station is particularly vulnerable to fire. Structural precautions are provided for fire prevention and fire fighting, such as dividing the building into self-contained, separate fire compartments. All fire doors are secured with a magnet that can be released with the push of a button. Shifting and wedging of doors and emergency exits is strictly prohibited. A fire alarm system is also installed in the research station. Extinguishing agents are sufficiently available. However, extreme caution is required to prevent fires. In the event of a fire, everyone will be alerted by a siren. Should any hazards arise in advance, SBO personnel should be alerted immediately. Firefighting should be done by the trained personnel. Fire suppression equipment is stationed throughout the research station.  
Please familiarize yourself with the emergency exits on site. In the event of an alarm, please exit the building immediately wearing appropriate footwear and warm clothing. These clothes should always be handy near the exit. Remain calm and avoid panic. To do this, follow the markings to the exit. After leaving the building, please go directly to the assembly point at the pendulum hut (small hut below the observatory), see graphic 1. A rescue can often take several hours, during which you must remain outside.



Rallying point!



**Graphic 1: Assembly point at Hoher Sonnblick in case of alarm: In front of the Pendelhütte. Please take warm clothing and sturdy shoes to the assembly point in case of an alarm!**

12. Premises:

The following premises are available:

- a. **SBO valley station:** living office with sanitary area (shower & WC)
- b. **SBO:** air and aerosol laboratory, guest WC, workshop, truss room.
- c. **Zittelhaus:** Directly connected to the SBO is the Zittelhaus of the Austrian Alpine Club. Here the following rooms can be used: Assigned sleeping area, Gaststube+Glocknerstube, Projektantenzimmer by arrangement, sanitary area. The house rules of the Zittelhaus apply.
- d. **Projektantenzimmer im Zittelhaus:** Outside the operating hours of the Zittelhaus, research groups can use the Projektantenzimmer. A very small kitchenette, refrigerator, dishes and cooking utensils are provided here. It is requested to pay attention to cleanliness, order and safety. The stove may only be used under supervision.
- e. **Note:** Showers are not available on the mountain because there is not enough water. The shower in the valley can be used by arrangement. In general, it is important to save resources.

It is requested that the rooms are left clean and tidy after use. Room inspections may take place during the day. Containers and bags are available for trash, which can be disposed of in the valley station. Cleaning supplies, vacuum cleaners, etc. can be borrowed from the SBO staff.

If two or more research groups are working at the station at the same time, it is expected that the groups will arrange the use of the kitchen, guest room, etc. among themselves. If no agreement can be reached, the decision of the SBO technical staff or SBO management is binding.

13. Drinking

water:

The entire infrastructure of the SBO on the mountain does not have drinking water from taps. Drinking water is provided in canisters.

14. Luxury

foods:

Alcohol and drugs or similar luxury foods are prohibited without exception at the SBO and its infrastructure. Alcoholized persons or persons under the influence of drugs are prohibited from entering the SBO. These persons may also not be transported on the SBO cable car.

Smoking is prohibited in all premises, on the terraces, in the cable car and in the entire cable car area. Smoking is allowed in front of the Zittelhaus (green door). It is requested to keep a list of smoking times, which must be given to the SBO technicians upon departure. This information is scientifically indispensable for checking the environmental data to detect local emissions.

15. Energy

supply:

Economy in the use of heating and electricity is required. For example, it is forbidden to run the heating with the window open.

16. Telecommunications:

The SBO provides cell phone reception and Wi-Fi for working.

17. **Photography and filming:**  
Photography and filming are permitted in the SBO with respect for personal rights until revoked. Recordings may not be used commercially. With media can get an exception here.
18. **Interaction with each other:**
  - a. Please remember that you are at an altitude of over 3,100m. As a result of the altitude, the remoteness and this extreme situation, concentration and self-control are sometimes impaired. Take this stressful situation into account in your work and in your interactions with other people. Please strive for restraint and self-discipline.
  - b. Researchers are also required to maintain confidentiality about the results of experiments and investigations of which they have knowledge from other researchers at the SBO.
  - c. In the Sonnblick Observatory, quiet and order are requested. It has to be taken into account that the working and recreation time of the different (research) groups can be very different. Each visitor is requested to be considerate of others and to move quietly through the building, especially at night, and to avoid slamming doors.
19. For the delivery and removal of heavy equipment and occasionally for minor services, the help of the SBO technicians can be called upon. The main task of the technicians is to maintain the research station and its infrastructure and to ensure an orderly operation. The assistance provided by The SBO team is without any liability for damages. Work by the SBO team in the context of projects must be clarified in advance in the project agreement.
20. The tools, machines and measuring devices in the workshops of the research station are to be used carefully. All equipment must be returned to its place after use. The machines and special equipment in the mechanical workshop may only be used with the permission of the SBO technical staff. Researchers wishing to use this equipment must demonstrate that they are capable of using it correctly. The instructions of the SBO technical staff and the appropriate safety rules must be followed. The coarse workshop may not be used without supervision of the SBO personnel.
21. Research projects must be coordinated with SBO management.
  - a. Research that interferes with other research must always be approved in advance. In particular, the work must be planned in such a way that the site environment is restored to its original condition after completion of the experiment or field campaign.
  - b. The implementation of research projects and instrumentation such as the laying of cables or measuring instruments are each contractually regulated in a project agreement or require explicit approval.
  - c. Work by Sonnblick employees within the scope of projects must be clarified in advance in the project agreement.
  - d. In case of technical or practical problems the management of the Sonnblick Observatory or the SBO staff has to be informed by project engineers.
  - e. Overnight stay: Overnight stay in the Zittelhaus must be arranged in advance to determine the cost. The Zittelhaus is available to scientists all year round. A small kitchenette with dishes is available for self-catering. Self-catering is only available when the cottage is closed. Sanitary facilities include toilets and washbasins. Shower facilities are only available in the valley and must be arranged in advance. Attention must be paid to cleanliness. For hygienic reasons, sleeping bags must be used in the Zittelhaus.
  - f. Upon completion of a campaign or project, a written statement from the project leader must be submitted to the SBO explaining the completion of the project and providing the record, a contribution to the SBO brochure and website.
22. Guided tours:  
Persons wishing to tour the SBO must register in advance. External persons may enter and visit the SBO only if accompanied by an SBO employee. In the event of a guided tour, the following must be observed:
  - a. Proof that guidelines have been accepted. You will receive this after registration.
  - b. Sturdy closed footwear, such as sneakers or hiking boots must be worn.
  - c. Sunglasses are necessary in outdoor areas and are recommended.

- a. Protective helmet in case of snow or ice load in the outdoor area is necessary. This is not provided by the SBO.
- b. The instructions of the SBO personnel must be followed.
- c. Photography is allowed with the verbal consent of all participants of the tour. Photographs may not be used commercially.
- d. Installations, knobs, plugs, switches must not be touched.
- e. Smoking is absolutely prohibited.
- f. In case of an alarm, follow your guide and go to the assembly point at the pendulum hut, see graphic 1 under point 10.

### 5.3 Guidelines Environmental Protection

By agreeing to the SBO Access, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the Environmental Guidelines.

The Sonnblick Observatory is located in the core zone of the Hohe Tauern National Park.

Drones: The use of drones requires permission from the Hohe Tauern National Park. Between drone days, up to 10 days of rest must be planned. Permission must be obtained independently from the national park administration. Drones may not be launched during guided tours. Drones are not allowed to fly over the summit and the buildings without registration.

Litter: Please do not leave any litter in nature. At the Sonnblick Observatory trash can be thrown in the appropriate containers.

### 5.4 Guidelines Children & Families

By agreeing to SBO Access, I acknowledge that I am aware of the Children & Family Guidelines.

Children under 5 years of age cannot be recommended to visit the Sonnblick Observatory. Children and adolescents under the age of 18 may only visit the Sonnblick Observatory with a parent or guardian or a person with appropriate supervisory responsibilities. Parents or guardians are liable for their children. Transportation by cable car is not intended for the general public and is prohibited for children under 14 years of age. Care must be taken that no buttons are printed, no levers are operated, no plugs are pulled or plugged in during a visit. Any modification of the system must be cleared with on-site personnel. Parents must take note that the observatory and all of its infrastructure are not childproof, this includes stairs and railings. There is a risk of tripping and falling. For this reason, we ask scientists not to bring children to measurement campaigns. Parents are liable for their children without exception.

### 5.5 Guidelines ethics

By agreeing to the SBO Access, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the Code of Ethics.

#### Accessibility:

The Sonnblick Observatory is not barrier-free. However, with enough advance notice, assistance can be planned to ensure safe access. Due to the centuries of development of the building, it is partly very winding, so that access with a wheelchair cannot be guaranteed everywhere. We apologize for this.

#### Drugs:

No tolerance for drug use.

#### Alcohol:

The observatory is an alcohol-free zone. Bringing or consuming alcohol is not permitted. Violation will

result in a ban from the house. Responsible consumption in the Zittelhaus is possible. For safety reasons, please avoid the observatory after consuming alcohol. Drunk people are not allowed on the premises of the observatory and are also not allowed to be transported by cable car.

#### Cigarettes:

Smoking is prohibited in all rooms and on the measurement terraces of the observatory. A smoking area has been set up at the Zittelhaus exit. Cigarettes must be disposed of properly. For the data check, each smoker must note down his smoking times with start and end and make them available. Notepads are available for this purpose.

#### Covid and general disease symptoms:

The 2G rule (vaccinated or recovered) applies. In consultation, an exception to 3G (vaccinated, recovered, tested) may be made. Person exhibiting general contagious disease symptoms (such as cough, cold, fever) will not be allowed to enter the observatory. We thank you for your personal responsibility.

### 5.6 Guidelines Sonnblick cable car (cable car of the Sonnblick Observatory)

The Sonnblick ropeway is a material ropeway with limited public passenger transport. External persons may not use the cable car alone without training. Therefore, a carriage attendant must always be provided. The instructions of the cable car personnel must be followed. The cableway guidelines must be agreed to in the case of transport. The agreement to the cable car guidelines will be requested separately during online registration and must be confirmed.

In summary:

- Minimum age for promotions: 14
- Sturdy footwear, such as mountaineering boots mandatory, so that in case of emergency a rescue can be carried out safely.
- Persons under the influence of drugs or alcohol cannot be transported.
- Smoking is strictly prohibited in the entire cable car area.
- Please read the cable car guidelines.

#### **Conditions of carriage and guidelines for the use of the Sonnblick material ropeway (version 08.11.2018, adapted on 01.03.2023 in relation to owner GeoSphere Austria).**

The cable car to the Sonnblick is a material cable car with limited public passenger transport, i.e. it is allowed to transport people who work at the Sonnblick Observatory, do research or have to use the cable car on behalf of GeoSphere Austria. In terms of safety, the term material ropeway can be misleading for a layman, because it is a facility with the highest safety standards, which was built in 2018 and about 100,000 euros are invested annually to ensure this safety (maintenance, inspections, etc.).

- Transmission of conditions and authorizations of trips by:  
**Observatory Management** Elke Ludewig  
Tel.: +43 66488414977, Email: elke.ludewig@geosphere.at and  
**Cable car operations manager** Gerhard Holleis  
Tel.: +43 66478679734, Email: gerhard.holleis@geosphere.at
- The transmission of the document can also be made the cableway manager deputies.
- The use of the cable car is reserved for persons who are working at the Sonnblick Observatory in the justified interest of GeoSphere Austria. There is no obligation to transport.
- Trips will be made only after approval.
- Trips must be announced at least one day in advance.
- The instructions of the cable car personnel must be followed without fail.

- Due to the exposure of this ropeway, it is still possible that in the event of excessive wind speeds or avalanche warning levels 4&5, planned rides cannot be carried out for safety reasons.
- The Terms and Conditions of Carriage are an integral part of the contract of carriage. They apply to the carriage of persons and property and to conduct in the railroad area.
- The fulfillment of the transportation contract and thus the effectiveness of these transportation conditions begins with reaching and ends with leaving the parts of the installation dedicated to the cableway operation
- By entering the facility, the passenger accepts the following provisions and undertakes to comply with them
  
- **Load capacity:** *maximum 6 persons or maximum 480daN =489,60kg.*  
The passenger is responsible for compliance with the restriction.
- Goods or luggage will only be accepted by separate agreement.
- The loading and unloading of the goods must always be carried out by the consignor or the consignee in compliance with the instructions of the management and its employees.
- The cableway company determines the time of transport at its own discretion. Carriage will only commence if, after notification by the railroad of the destination station, appropriate provision has been made for immediate unloading by the consignee. The consignments are to be accepted by the consignee immediately upon arrival at the destination station. The consignee shall not be notified of the arrival of the consignment. Acceptance or unloading of the goods shall be carried out by the consignee
- When transporting loads with the load hanger (load trolley), care must be taken to ensure that the loads do not protrude beyond the boundary of the trolley and that freedom of movement is maintained in the longitudinal direction; they must be well stowed and, if necessary, secured. Long loads must be transported and secured in the holder provided for this purpose.
- Transport trips with the cargo hanger must be announced at least one week in advance.
- Passengers may carry easily portable, non-bulky items up to a total weight of 10 kg, depending on the space available in the vehicle.
- Animals are permitted to be transported if the transport is not expected to impair safe operation, the owner keeps the animal safe during the transport and any passengers travelling with the animal do not raise any objections.
- Children over the age of 14 may only be transported if accompanied by a suitable person. An accompanying person is considered suitable in particular if he or she can act as a carriage attendant.
- The rocking, and standing up during the ride is prohibited
- Dropping objects, as well as smoking during the ride is prohibited.
- Smoking, swinging, standing up and similar things that could jeopardize the safety in the vehicle operating mechanism (FBM) are strictly prohibited.
- Drunk persons and persons who do not comply with the provisions of these Terms and Conditions of Carriage or with the instructions of the cableway company issued to ensure safety and order, or who are obviously unable to do so due to their particular physical or mental condition, are excluded from carriage.
- Despite this "pleasant" ascent aid, it is high alpine terrain. Appropriate clothing, footwear, gloves and hood are also necessary for the use of the cable car. Temperatures near the summit are up to 15° less than in the valley station!
- The carried radio is to be switched on, the instructions of the operation manager on site are to be followed absolutely. The largest button on the narrow side of the radio is the talk switch (Attention: No duplex device, i.e. either LISTEN or SPEAK !!!). The upper smaller button triggers a 5 tone signal, which triggers "ringing" at the observatory and basically "announces" a radio call. It is requested that radio discipline be observed and that calls be kept to a minimum. All radio calls start with "*radio*

*partner coming from radio operator*" (e.g.: "Sonnblick coming from valley station") and end with "end" (e.g.: after arrival at valley station, "car cleared, end").

- If the ride cannot be continued due to a technical defect, this will be communicated by the operations manager. Please remain calm and follow the instructions of the operations manager. In this case, in addition to an aerial rescue by helicopter, leaving the FBM by means of a descender may be recommended by the operations manager.

To do this, take the seat belts or the recovery triangle from the box in the FBM and the Bag with the mountain rope under the seats.

Put on the abseil harness (chest and seat harness) in a seated position and adjust it to the respective size.

The abseiling process is started after instructions from the operations manager or trolley attendant.

Hang the abseiling device on the eyelet in the FBM.

The first passenger is roped down using the "passive method" (rope is left in the trolley and brakes are applied from the trolley). Once on the ground in a safe position, the rope is pulled up again. After use, check the device for warmth, as when warm, the device is unusable and dangerous. Before self-rappelling, throw the remaining rope to the ground and check for any knots. Then start self-recovery and follow further instructions of the operating personnel on the ground. Care must be taken to ensure that appropriate arrangements are also made for the route from the abseil point to the nearest safe place.

- First-time users of the railroad are accompanied by a carriage attendant and familiarized with the local conditions.
- It is pointed out that a cable car operation is carried out between 08:00 and 20:00. If there is a need for operation outside these hours, this must be clarified with the observatory management at least one week in advance.
- Persons who damage or contaminate the cableway's facilities, operating equipment or other equipment must pay the repair or cleaning costs. Deliberate damage will also be reported to the police.
- Violation of the conditions of carriage may also result in liability consequences.

## 5.7 Privacy policy

Data protection is an important concern for GeoSphere Austria. Personal data is therefore processed exclusively on the basis of European and Austrian data protection and telecommunications regulations.

In the specific individual case, in addition to the provisions cited above, a contract or other legal obligation may also come into consideration. Insofar as you have given your consent to the processing of your data, this is the basis as well as the limit for the activities in this regard.

More details on data protection can be found [here "Data protection of GeoSphere Austria"](#).

## 6 Consent to SBO Access

Persons who are allowed access to the Sonnblick Observatory must agree to the SBO Access.

Those who agree to the SBO Access acknowledge the following:

- I agree to the privacy policy and allow my data to be processed for internal purposes and statistics. My data will not be shared with third parties.
- I have read and taken note of the document Access2SBO - Access to Sonnblick Observatory "SBO-Access" and will abide by the rules.
- By agreeing to the SBO Access, I agree to the disclaimer formulated herein.
- By agreeing to the SBO Access, I agree to the House Rules as formulated herein.
- By agreeing to the SBO Access, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the Environmental Guidelines.
- By agreeing to SBO Access, I acknowledge that I am aware of the Children & Family Guidelines.
- By agreeing to the SBO Access, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the Code of Ethics.
- In addition, I agree to the cable car transportation guidelines of the Sonnblick cable car if I want to and can be transported.

The SBO Access and Cable Car Transportation Policies can be agreed to online through an in-house registration portal.

Please use the [link SBO-Access](#) for this purpose.

**Note:** Violation of the use of the link may lead to a ban and block. We therefore ask to be careful with the use. In case of problems please contact us at any time. To prevent misuse, a valid email address is required for digital registration. We thank you for your support and understanding and wish you a productive and safe stay at Sonnblick Observatory.