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TOBOGGAN TRAIL

Celia Payne

PHOTOS: Celia Payne

As many SRS Members will know, each December the road between Preda and Bergün is closed to traffic for long periods each day when, at 6km, it probably becomes the longest toboggan trail in the world. The key to this activity is the RhB which provides the motive power to transport the many thousands of tourists who take part up the 400m difference between the two stations on the Albula line.

In addition to allowing the tobogganers and their equipment onto normal service trains, where the vestibules are filled with snow covered sledges, the RhB also runs a three coach shuttle train with a coach dedicated to carrying the machines on the 17 minute run up the hill.

The toboggan run finishes outside Bergün, leaving a 1km walk through the village to the station to make a return trip - as many people do. All along this section of the route there are stalls and cafes selling hot sausages, glüwein, and other refreshment. There is a great atmosphere at this winter festival all made possible by the little red trains of the RhB. It all starts again around the 12th December this year and runs through to March - snow permitting. Why not try it?

TOP: At New Year 2005, tobogganist join the shuttle RhB train at Bergün for Preda

RIGHT: No plastic trays, just traditional wooden sledges.

BOTTOM: Tobogganist leave the train at Preda, ready to ride back to Bergün

