

The Millennium Cross Cable Car System

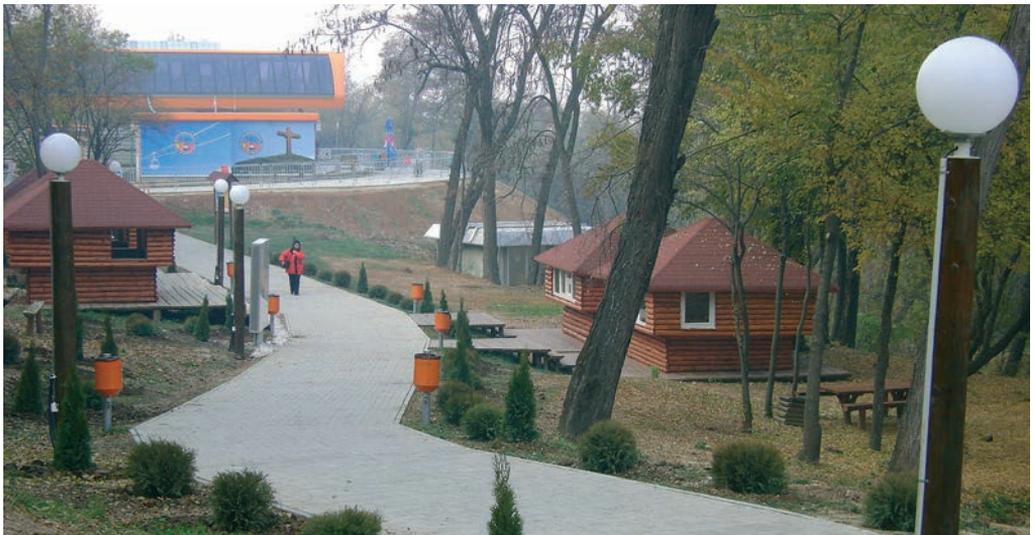
The natural beauties of Vodno Mountain have become even more attractive and its peak has become an everyday relaxation destination for the people of Skopje.



In June 2011, the Millennium Cross cable car system was put into operation; it is managed by the Public Transportation Enterprise Skopje. By linking the Millennium Cross that sits on the peak of the mountain to Sredno (or middle) Vodno, the Vodno peak is now visited by several thousand people every day.

There is a bus route starting from *Transporten Centar*, via *Kompleks Banki*, *Drvo Dekor* and *Rekord*, up to Sredno Vodno, and visitors can consult the cable car timetable on their website. Cable car tickets can be purchased only at the ticket booth located just before boarding a cable car, at the price of 100 MKD for adults, 50 MKD for children, or a monthly seasonal pass which costs 1,000 MKD for unlimited number of rides.

Log booths located around the cable car system entrance were built for vendors to offer drinks in the future so that visitors can refresh themselves on the hot summer days. Some booths will also feature souvenirs.



The urban plan of the City of Skopje includes a skiing terrain that stretches from Vodno's peak to the right side of the Millennium Cross, down toward the village of Nerezi. This would be one of the ways to attract tourists during the winter months to the city, and at the same time, provide an opportunity for the citizens of Skopje to enjoy winter sports, just a few kilometres away from the city centre.

The system's lower station is located at an altitude of 570 m and rises to its final station at an altitude of 1,060 m, spanning a total length of 1,600 m. The cable cars operate at a speed of 6 m/s and travel the route in 4 minutes and 18 seconds. The system has 28 cabins with a capacity of 8 passengers each, and 2 VIP cabins for 4 passengers. The total system capacity is 1,160 passengers per hour. Each cabin also provides room for transportation of bikes and skiing equipment.

The VIP cabins are equipped with white leather seats, a radio and a stand for a bottle of champagne and few glasses; these cabins are made available only if requested in advance. Recently, the VIP gondolas have become popular with newlyweds who rent them for the purpose of their wedding photo shoots.

The system was constructed by the



renowned Austrian company Doppelmayr, in joint cooperation with several Macedonian companies as subcontractors. Founded by the end of the 19th century, Doppelmayr is a world's leader in cable car production technology, with a strong tradition of quality. The system has passed all necessary tests and has acquired all the necessary licenses from Macedonian regulatory bodies. Further, it complies with all the relevant safety criteria applicable in the Republic of Macedonia and in the European Union.

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