



## The History of the Schnalstaler Gletscherbahnen AG

**1951:** Founding of the Ski-Club Schnalstal – Growth of skiing in the Schnalstal valley. The first ski tourists came to the valley after the war.

**1956-64:** Development of the first ski lifts in Schnals: a lift in Karthaus, and one each in Unser Frau and Maso Corto. However, due to lack of snow, these could not always operate.

**1967:** Founding of the first ski school in Schnalstal.

At the beginning of the 1960s, a small group of young entrepreneurs had the vision of creating a ski resort in the Schnalstal valley and established a company with the first plans. At that time, the ski resort was planned above the Gerstgras farms, in the lower Maso Corto.

The bold and capable young farmer Leo Gurschler from Maso Corto had his own vision of a ski resort in the upper Maso Corto, where he eventually built his lifts. The current "Sporthotel" in Maso Corto already existed at this time. His vision was to develop the Hochjochferner as a glacier ski resort.

**1968:** Inauguration of the Lazaun lift in Maso Corto.

**1970:** Inauguration of the Glockenlift in Maso Corto. Leo Gurschler had two partners for his project, the mayor Johann Rainer and the deputy mayor Richard Grüner. Together, they wanted to realize the idea and bring the desired economic boost to the valley.

**June 13, 1972:** Meeting of politicians and experts from South and North Tyrol to discuss Leo Gurschler's project. The commission of experts gave a positive assessment.

**July 3, 1972:** Preparations for the founding of a joint-stock company.

**July 6, 1972:** Official founding meeting of the *Gletscherbahn AG Schnalstal*. The shareholders came from the Merano and Vinschgau areas, while Leo Gurschler held about half of the capital.

**May-June 1972:** Surveying work on the Grawand conducted by Leo Gurschler and his technicians, engineer Hubert Zuegg and Dr. Ing. Dietmar Pohl.

**August 1972:** Leo Gurschler's adventurous bulldozer ride up the Grawand (3212 m above sea level).

**Spring 1973:** Construction of the material cable car to the Grawand and the beginning of work on the mountain station.

1974: Construction of the middle support as well as the valley and mountain stations. Erection of the drag lifts on the glacier.



**January 1974:** Organizationally complex and risky transport of the four carrying cables.

**July 12, 1975:** Inauguration of the Schnalstal Glacier Cable Car with the first official ride.

**1974:** A second ski slope from the Lazaun Alm was built.

**1977:** Start of construction of the sports village in Maso Corto.

**1977:** Construction of the glacier lake lift 1.

**1979:** The old Lazaun ski lift was replaced with a double chairlift. The Glockenlift was doubled, and later the Finale lift was also doubled.

**April 1979:** Opening of new hotel facilities.

**1986:** Construction of a hydroelectric power plant.

**1988:** Modernization of the electronics of the cable car.

**1991:** Construction of the Hintereis chairlift.

**1995:** Replacement of the Grawand drag lifts with a modern four-seater chairlift – 20-year revision of the cable car.

**1998:** Construction of a sewer system from the mountain station to Maso Corto.

**2001:** Construction of a modern detachable four-seater chairlift to Teufelsegg.

**2002:** Construction of a modern detachable four-seater chairlift to Roter Kofel. Renovation of the cable car cabins.

**2002:** Launch of the Eco-Audit EMAS certification.

**2003:** Modernization of the rooms in the Berghotel Grawand.

**2004:** Construction of the Teufelsegg hut.

**2004:** Automation of the snowmaking system at the Glocken lifts

**2004:** Renovation of the valley station, including administrative offices.

**2005:** Construction of the snowmaking system for the valley run, as well as improvements and widening of the valley run.



**2008:** Construction of a block power plant powered by renewable resources.

**2014:** In early 2014, the South Tyrolean Athesia publishing group, also active in the tourism sector, together with the entrepreneurial Schröcksnadel family from Innsbruck, took over the majority of the shares in Schnalstaler Gletscherbahnen AG.

**2015:** General overhaul of the Schnalstal Glacier cable car.

**2017:** After about seven months of construction, the new Lazaun cable car was inaugurated. For this, the Lazaun chairlift built in 1978 was dismantled and replaced with a modern cabin lift from the Doppelmayr company.

**2018:** Athesia became the majority shareholder of Schnalstaler Gletscherbahnen AG.

**2020:** Iceman Ötzi Peak platform at 3251 m on the Grawand peak.

**2021:** Construction of the Larix via ferrata and the Alpin Trail – Waalweg "the lower Bergwaal".

Leo Gurschler ski run.

Transhumance slope.

Lazaun race course.

**2023:** New construction of the Schnalstal Glacier cable car.