

Design and Technology - Cable Car Fact File

Learning Objectives:

- To read facts about the cable car and learn something new!

How many cable cars are there?

There are 12 cable cars in total, four sets of three cable cars.

How are the cable cars attached to the cable?

They are held on by large extra strong clamps.

When was the cable car built?

The cable car was first installed in 1984, though little of the original system remains today as it is constantly upgraded.

How long is the cable?

The cable itself is 1,136 metres long, or around two thirds of a mile.

How wide is the cable?

The cable is 40.5mm in diameter. It is made of lots of metal strips entwined together to make it super strong.

How strong is the cable?

The cable can hold up to 120 metric tonnes, with each cable car being able to hold up to half a tonne.

What makes the cable cars move?

The cable cars are driven by a 288 kilowatt, or 386 horsepower, electric motor which drives the bull wheel which in turn moves the cable cars up and down.

How many towers does the cable car travel over?

The cable car travels over 5 towers of differing heights, designed to give smooth ascent up the hill.

How high is the tallest tower?

The tallest tower is tower two, which stands at 23.5 metres high.

How high do you travel?

The height gain from the bottom to the top is 169 metres, or 554 foot.

Who built the cable car?

A team of French and English engineers erected the cable car after the idea came to the current custodian of the estate.

How fast do the cable cars go?

The cable cars can travel at differing speeds, between two and five metres per second.

How is the cable car maintained?

We have a team of cable car engineers who perform daily, weekly, monthly and annual maintenance on the cable cars. Most of the maintenance is done in the winter.

What does the cable car fly over?

The cable car flies over the village of Matlock Bath, including road, river and railway.

What is the strangest thing to travel by cable car?

An escaped pig from a local farm once took the cable car to return to its home.

Are there other cable cars in the UK?

There are a few other cable cars around the UK of differing types, including Alton Towers and Llandudno. The Heights of Abraham is the only alpine style cable car.

Do the Heights of Abraham staff take the cable car every day?

Our team do travel to work by cable car each day- it is quite the commute!

Have any celebrities travelled on the cable cars?

A long list of modern day celebrities have taken the cable car, including Sandi Toksvig, Richard Hammond, Matt Baker, Gok Wan, Anneka Rice and John Richardson.

How many people have travelled on the cable cars?

Too many to count! Upwards of 9 million people.