

= Lillehammer Olympic Bobsleigh and Luge Track =

Lillehammer Olympic Bobsleigh and Luge Track (Norwegian : Lillehammer Olympiske Bob- og Akebane) is a bobsleigh , luge and skeleton track located at Hunderfossen in Lillehammer , Norway , 15 kilometers (9 mi) north of the town center of Lillehammer . It was completed in 1992 for the 1994 Winter Olympics , where it hosted the bobsleigh events and luge events . It has since also hosted the FIBT World Championships 1995 in skeleton and the FIL World Luge Championships 1995 , and is scheduled to host the 2016 Winter Youth Olympics .

Original plans called for the track to be located at Fåberg . Later it was proposed moved to Kanthaugen in the town center and then Holmenkollen in Oslo , before Hunderfossen was decided upon . The track is 1 @, @ 710 meters (5 @, @ 610 ft) , giving a competition length of 1 @, @ 365 meters (4 @, @ 478 ft) for bobsleigh and men 's singles luge , and 1 @, @ 185 meters (3 @, @ 888 ft) for other luge competitions . The bobsleigh course has a vertical drop of 114 meters (374 ft) , giving an 8 @. @ 5 percent average grade . The track has been part of the proposed Oslo 2018 and 2022 Winter Olympics bids .

= = History = =

Prior to the Lillehammer Olympics , there was no bobsleigh and luge track in Norway . During the 1952 Winter Olympics in Oslo , Korketrekkeren had been built as a temporary venue , but it was made of snow and was not reused after the Olympics . In its bid for the 1994 Winter Olympics , Lillehammer had proposed placing the bobsleigh and luge track next to Balbergbakken in Fåberg . By May 1989 , plans for most of the venues were being reshuffled and the track was then proposed located at Kanthaugen as part of an Olympic Park at Stampsesletta . The Kanthaugen proposal was estimated to cost NOK 231 million .

Lillehammer Municipal Council , Oppland County Council and the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage rejected the location because of the environmental impact . These institutions instead proposed that the track be built at Huseskogen at Hunderfossen . The Lillehammer Olympic Organizing Committee initially disapproved of the location and in 1990 started looking at the possibility of constructing the track at Holmenkollen in Oslo . Two routes were considered , one in the same route as Korketrekkeren and one which would run from Gratishaugen at Holmenkollbakken to Midtstuen . Internationally there was support from the International Bobsleigh & Skeleton Federation and the International Luge Federation to build Norway 's track in the capital . Concerns about the environmental impact of a Hunderfossen location were raised , particularly regarding visual pollution . However , Hunderfossen was confirmed along with a grant issued by the Parliament of Norway on 24 August 1990 .

The designers of the tracks at Altenberg and Oberhof , East Germany , the Olympic tracks in La Plagne , France , and Calgary , Canada , were consulted during planning . Five companies bid for the concrete construction work , which was awarded to a joint venture between Aker Entreprenør and Veidekke for NOK 45 million . Also the construction of the buildings was awarded to the same group . The track was the first of the Olympic venues for the 1994 games for which construction started . After construction started , Minister of Culture Åse Kleveland (Labour Party) suggested in March 1991 , in an attempt to reduce costs , that the 1994 Olympic bobsleigh and luge events be held at La Plagne , the site of the events for the 1992 Winter Olympics in Albertville . The French authorities were positive , given that Norway pay for part of the construction costs , but the idea was rejected by LOOC @- @ president Gerhard Heiberg . Also fellow party members reacted , who emphasized that NOK 30 million had already been used on blasting the track route .

Construction was undertaken by spraying 1 @, @ 300 tonnes (1 @, @ 300 long tons ; 1 @, @ 400 short tons) of shotcrete intertwined with 180 tonnes (180 long tons ; 200 short tons) of reinforcement bars . It is the first track in the world to build the cooling pipes into an underground culvert . It consists of 31 reinforced concrete sections . The concrete work was completed on 31 October 1991 . Representatives for the Norwegian Society for the Conservation of Nature stated that they were satisfied with the end result . It is the only artificially frozen bobsleigh and luge track in

the Nordic Countries . The venue was completed on 1 October 1992 and cost NOK 201 million . After the Olympics , the ownership of the venue was transferred to Lillehammer Olympiapark , owned by Lillehammer Municipality .

= = Specifications = =

The track is 1 @, @ 710 meters (5 @, @ 610 ft) long , including braking distance . The competitive length ? excluding braking distance ? for bobsleigh , skeleton and luge men 's singles it is 1 @, @ 365 meters (4 @, @ 478 ft) long and for luge men 's doubles and women 's singles it is 1 @, @ 065 meters (3 @, @ 494 ft) long . The track has 16 turns and contains 24 photocells for timekeeping . The track has a vertical drop of 112 meters (367 ft) for the entire course , with an average 8 percent and maximum 15 percent grade . The start is located at 384 meters (1 @, @ 260 ft) above mean sea level . It allows for a maximum speed of 130 kilometres per hour (81 mph) . The spectator capacity is 10 @, @ 000 .

The refrigeration system contains 90 metric tons (89 long tons ; 99 short tons) of ammonia circulating in 94 sections with a total length of 80 kilometers (50 mi) of pipe . This allows a capacity of 3 @, @ 100 kilowatts of (10 @. @ 6 million British thermal units or 880 short tons of refrigeration) cooling , which allows the track to be iced in outdoor temperatures up to 20 ° C (68 ° F) . The facility produces 4 @. @ 5 gigawatt hours per year of district heating , gaining the nickname " Norway 's largest refrigerator " .

The venue is operated by Lillehammer Olympiapark , which also operates the four other Olympic venues within Lillehammer , Lyngådsbakken , Birkebeineren Ski Stadium , Håkons Hall and Kanthaugen Freestyle Arena . The track is staffed with seven employees , in addition to up to 20 more people during large events . The venue both serves local sports clubs and more than 20 nations have sledding sports training in Lillehammer . In addition the track serves up to 10 @, @ 000 tourists per year ; during summer rides are provided on wheeled bobsleighs . The track is operated eleven months per year . As of 2004 , the venue received subsidies of between NOK 1 @. @ 5 to 2 @. @ 0 million per year .

The following table shows the physical statistics for the track for the various sports . It contains the competition length (start to finish , excluding braking length) , the number of turns , the vertical drop and the average grade .

= = Events = =

= = = Bobsleigh at the 1994 Winter Olympics = = =

Both two @-@ man and four @-@ man were competed during the 1994 Winter Olympics . Both were contested in four heats over two days : two @-@ man took place on 19 and 20 February , while four @-@ man took place on 26 and 27 February .

= = = Luge at the 1994 Winter Olympics = = =

Luge was contested in three events at the 1994 Winter Olympics . Singles was contested over four heats in two days , while doubles was contested in two heats on one day . Men 's singles took place on 13 and 14 February , women 's singles took place on 15 and 16 February , and men 's doubles took place on 18 February .

= = = FIBT World Championships 1995 = = =

The FIBT World Championships 1995 was split between Altenburg and Lillehammer , with bobsleigh taking place in Altenburg and skeleton in Lillehammer . The skeleton events took place on 4 and 5 March .

== FIL World Luge Championships 1995 ==

The FIL World Luge Championships 1995 was competed between 30 nations in four events . It was the second to take place in Norway , after the inaugural 1955 edition in Oslo .

== Future ==

Lillehammer is scheduled to host the 2016 Winter Youth Olympics , which is scheduled to take place between 12 February and 21 February . Lillehammer Olympic Bobsleigh and Luge Track is scheduled to host the bobsleigh , luge and skeleton events .

Three Norwegian cities , Tromsø , Oslo and Trondheim , announced intentions to bid for the 2018 Winter Olympics . Oslo planned a joint bid with Lillehammer and planned to use the sliding center along with the Alpine skiing hills of Hafjell and Kvitfjell in their bid . Tromsø originally planned to build their own track , but later in the bidding process also Tromsø announced that they intended to bid using the Lillehammer track , despite a distance of 1 @, @ 500 kilometers (930 mi) between Tromsø and Lillehammer . This was after the International Olympic Committee signaled that they wanted more moderation in venue construction costs and that they would prefer bid which used existing venues , even if it increased distances . This was backed by the International Luge Federation and the International Bobsleigh & Skeleton Federation , who both did not want additional tracks built in the world because of the difficulties funding their operation . The 2018 proposals were shelved , but a renewed Oslo bid process for the 2022 Olympics also calls for the use of Lillehammer .

== Track records ==

The following is an incomplete list of track records ; while including luge and women 's skeleton , it excludes bobsleigh and men 's skeleton . The list contains both start times and track times , as well , as the athlete and their nationality , and the date of the record .