



Autonomous shuttles in Sion

Testing from June 2016 to October 2017

Starting in summer 2016, PostBus and its partners will be testing the smart shuttles in Sion – the first such testing to take place in public areas. This is a pioneering project in Europe. In many areas, the partners are breaking new ground, because there is no previous experience to go on. For example, to issue the special permit required, the authorities had to implement a procedure for which there are only a limited number of reference points.

The testing in the old town of Sion is designed to provide information on the usability of the vehicles in public areas and the benefits to customers, and also on the level of acceptance among the population. The goal is to find out how passengers, other road users and pedestrians react to the shuttles.

The partners emphasize that they are running the autonomous shuttles in Sion for testing purposes, and that travelling on the innovative vehicles is therefore free of charge for all passengers. At the same time, it is not possible to have the vehicles do their rounds according to a fixed timetable. Therefore people who are interested in using the shuttle are advised to check the operating hours. Current information on whether the shuttles are on the roads is available online (see below).

Mobility Lab Sion-Valais partners

Canton of Valais, City of Sion, Swiss Post, Hes-So Valais Wallis, EPFL



Mobility Lab coordination: PostBus



More information

For journalists

Media representatives with questions about the project can contact the PostBus Media Unit in Berne: infomedia@postbus.ch, +41 58 338 57 00.

For business customers

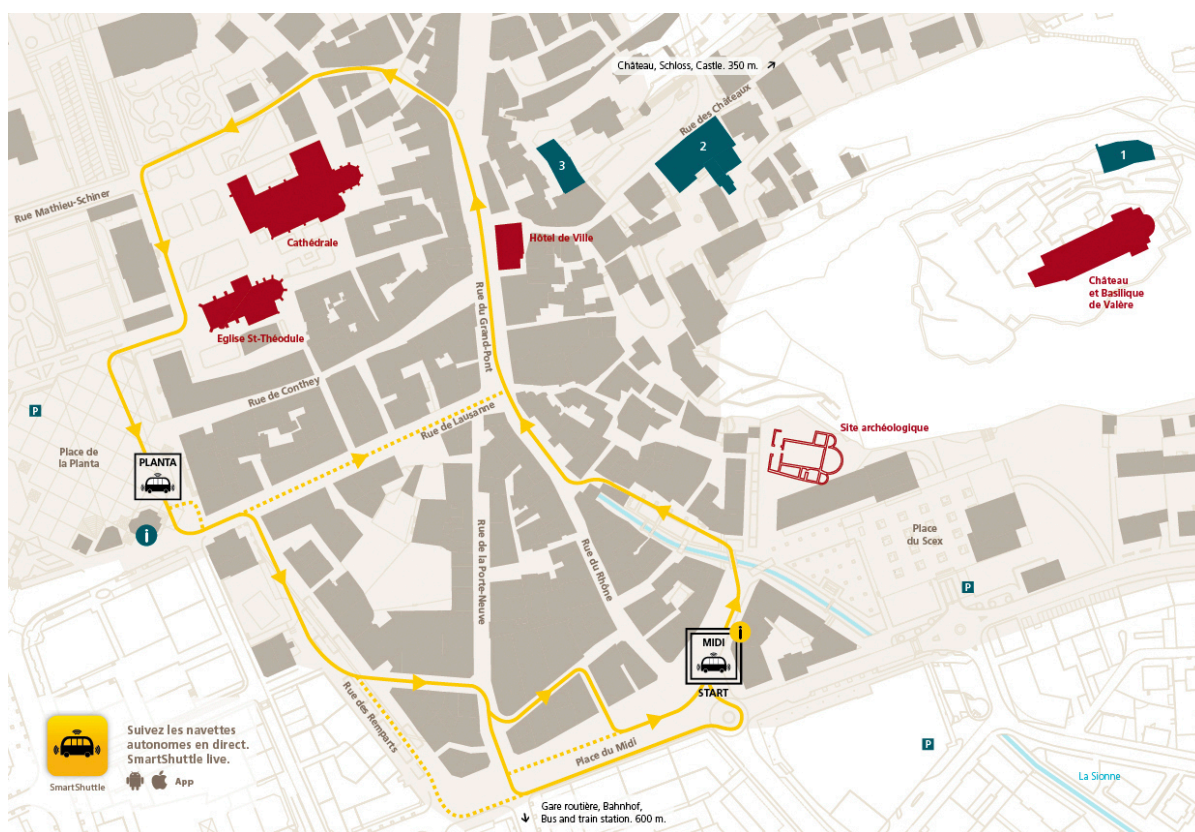
Interested business customers can get in touch at the following e-mail address: smartshuttle@postauto.ch

For those interested

Interested parties can participate in a guided tour, which takes place on two Fridays each month in French (German on request). Reservations: Sion tourist office, +41 27 327 77 27; www.siontourisme.ch

Operation

Operating hours	The autonomous shuttles are on the roads every afternoon from Tuesday to Sunday. On Fridays from 3 p.m. (weekly market in Sion in the morning)
Timetable	The autonomous shuttles will not be running to a fixed timetable during testing. Depending on the weather or usability of the shuttles, it may not be possible to operate them at certain times. We also reserve the right to make change to the routes. Up-to-date operating hours and routes are listed on the PostBus website: http://www.postauto.ch/smartshuttle
Route	The vehicles will be on the roads in Sion city center. The planned route is shown on the map below. Possible alternative routes are shown with dotted lines.
Stops	The two main stops are at Place de la Planta and Place du Midi. There are stops about every 200 metres along the route. There is an information screen for passengers at Place du Midi.
Tickets	Travelling on the autonomous shuttles is free of charge during testing in Sion.
Assistant	An assistant will be on board each of the shuttles to help passengers with prams or wheelchairs to get on and off. The assistant will also stop the vehicle at any time in an emergency.
App	An app, available for free download, tells you where the two smart shuttles are along their route.



Vehicle

Manufacturer	Navya
Length	4.80 m
Width	2.05 m
Height	2.55 m
Empty weight	2,400 kg
Number of seats	11 seats



Speed during the project

Maximum 20 km/h

Range

Autonomous operation for 6 to 12 hours possible.

Battery charging time

5 to 8 hours

Limited mobility

People in wheelchairs or with rollators or prams can also use the autonomous vehicles. The vehicles are equipped with a fold-out ramp to help with boarding.

Safety

The shuttles are equipped with a range of cameras and sensors that detect obstacles and people or objects on the road. The vehicles brakes automatically in such cases. There are two emergency stop buttons and one camera fitted on the vehicle.

Assistant

An assistant will be on board at all times during testing. The assistant can stop the vehicle at any time, thus providing additional safety for the passengers. The assistant can also provide passengers with information before or after their journey and help passengers with wheelchairs, rollators or prams to get on and off. During the journey, the assistant will concentrate on the road, so conversation with passengers is not allowed.