



V. Guldmann A/S
Tel. +45 8741 3100
Fax +45 8741 3131
info@guldmann.com
www.guldmann.com



Gondola station at Chemnitz Schlossteich with accessible boat access



The park surrounding the Schlossteich ("Castle Lake") in the city of Chemnitz is a popular recreation space. People of all ages come here, particularly in the warmer weather, to enjoy this historic public space, which has been in use as a park and popular with day-trippers for over 160 years. One of its main attractions is the boat hire station and the restaurants connected to it, which are run by the Hirsch family. Every day, between March and October, Falko Hirsch rents out pedal boats and rowing boats at the "Gondola station Schlossteich", and also offers lake cruises on the electrically powered "Schlossteichperle".



Rowing boats on the Schlossteich are nothing new. Chemnitz residents founded the first rowing club back in 1900, when the “gondola station” was the hub of the rowing activities. Today, there are almost 30 rowing boats and 19 pedal boats available for leisure activities at this very spot, including three magnificent swans and a flamingo. Rowers and pedallers make their way across the lake using nothing but muscle power – choosing to use either their arms or legs – perhaps to marvel at the medieval Castle Church and circle the Castle Island, or to make straight for Café Milchhäuschen on the opposite shore of the lake for a refreshment of ice cream or cake.

The body of water covers an area of around 80,000 square metres. An ample and, above all, easily overseeable size for Hirsch. His visitors can always see how far away they are from the boat station, meaning that they are easily able to judge how long it will take them to get back. Hirsch feels that this gives them a sense of security and confidence, and this is a feeling that is backed up by the numbers, as each season, around 25,000 people take the opportunity to explore the Schlossteich in one of his boats.

And this number is set to grow. Hirsch not only invests regularly in his equipment, he has also purchased a Guldmann Swing Lift, a rail system made of weatherproof and waterproof material, to make his boats accessible. As the name suggests, the lift features a swinging arm. The advantage of this is obvious: a wheelchair user can be moved onto the boat using the sling and lifting module while still on the mooring, i.e. a solid surface. The wheelchair can then be taken on board unoccupied. The person being lifted is swung onto the boat and placed back in their wheelchair in precisely the right position.

A particular advantage from Hirsch's point of view is that the Swing Lift is supplied as a complete unit. The stand, rail system, lifting module and slings come from a single source and meet all of the requirements for use in the public domain. Hirsch is also impressed by the Swing Lift's ease of use: “Previously, my employees and I would help people with reduced mobility into the boats using our own muscle power. This is now much easier and safer to do with the Guldmann Swing Lift.”

Visitors watching the Swing Lift in action can see this for themselves. “People with walkers and who would previously not have been confident enough to get into a slightly wobbly boat now ask me if I can lift them into a pedal boat or rowing boat”, says Hirsch on the positive reception the lift has received from customers. Of course, this is something he is happy to do, and at no extra cost.

Guldmann Swing Lift II **Technical Details**

Max. lifting capacity	205 kg
Max. radius	2500 mm
Lifting module	GH1 F or GH1 Q

Suitable ground conditions required.