

MESOSCAPHE PX-8 AUGUSTE PICCARD

General dimensions

Overall length: 28.50 m

Overall width: 6.80 m

Overall height: 7.43 m

External diameter: 3.150 m

Draught: 3.63 m

Weight: 78.78 t

Total weight ready for sea: 165.48 t

Displacement surfaced: 178 t

Displacement submerged: 222 t

Payload: 10 t

Stability: 41 m/t

Foundry: Voesst, Linz (A)

Construction: Giovanola Frères SA, Monthey, (CH)

Materials: Aldur 55 steel hull, Plexiglas portholes (polymethylmethacrylate)

Engines: Bau & Montage, Hamburg, (D)

Cabin

Internal length: 21.92 metres

Internal diameter: 2.037 metres

Hull thickness: 38 mm

Portholes: 45 Plexiglas portholes

Passengers: 40

Crew: 3 men (1 commander, 1 pilot, 1 mechanic) + 1 woman (1 hostess at sea). The two women of the crew are considered to be the world's first female submariners.

Endurance submerged: 48 hours with 44 people on board

Batteries: 600 kWh, effective for discharge in 10 hours at 30° C

Engine power: 75 HP

Descent speed: 4 to 5 kts

Speed: 6 kts on the surface

Records established: *World's first tourist submarine 33,000 passengers taken to the bottom of Lake Geneva.*

Completed dives

16 July 1964, inaugural dive (two months after the start of Expo 64).

During the summers of 1964 and 1965, 1,100 dives in Lake Geneva, taking 30,000 visitors to a depth of approximately 100 metres (328 feet) in complete safety.

From 1969 to 1984, scientific and industrial observation dives in the Gulf of Mexico.

Actual location: Constructed in 1963 at a total cost of CHF 7.3 million. Sold in 1969 to an American company based in Vancouver, Horton Maritime, for CHF 1.7 million and used for exploring submarine wrecks. From 1984, placed in dry dock in Galveston, Texas (USA). 1986: bought by a Texan industrialist for CHF 15,000. 1998, bought for CHF 35,000 by the Association for the Auguste Piccard Mesoscaphe, which repatriated it to Switzerland in April 1999 to be exhibited in Morat as part of Expo 02. The Swiss Transport Museum in Lucerne took possession of it in 2004.