



# Parque de las Ciencias (Sciences Park) Cultural Programme for Elderly People and Accessibility



## Introduction

(Parque de las Ciencias) Sciences Park is an interactive museum of over 70.000 m<sup>2</sup>. Located a few short minutes on foot from the historic city centre of Granada; It has one of the most varied offers of cultural and scientific leisure in Europe. Sciences Park receives more than 500.000 visitors per year.



# Description

## Macroscopio

**Pavilion for journey into the human body.** A sojourn from the origin of life up to the human anatomy.

**Al-Andalus Science Pavilion.** The scientific and technological legacy of Al-Andalus is put within your reach.

**The prevention culture Pavilion.** To improve the perception of risks in the workplace and daily life.

**The Techno-Forum pavilion.** A space for new technologies, innovation and art.

**The Museum Attic's Exploration Hall.** Bring science closer to smallest visitors through discovery and exploration.

# Description

## Foucault's Pendulum Building

Discover the fragile balance of our planet, multiply your reflection inside the Tunnel of Infinity and attract your shadow in the Biosphere, Perception and Eureka Exhibition Halls. For the youngest guests, there is the Exploration Hall.

**Planetarium.** Enjoy an exiting journey through the universe with a projection of over 7.000 stars.

## Natural Pavilion.

All about Natural Spaces of Andalucía, as well as a focus on the environment and its conservation.



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## Description

### Outdoors

The Museum opens itself to the great outdoors with its Botanical Routes, Astronomy Garden, Astronomical Observatory, Mental Gymnastics Marquee, Dinamic Sculture, Energies Zone, exhibition on mechanic and other open air games.

**Observation Tower.** A viewpoint over the city of Granada where the visitor can experience science and technology.

**Tropical Butterfly Garden.** Observe the butterfly cycle of life. Over 20 different tropical spices.

**Flying predators workshop.** Get to know the ecology and biology of predator birds.

**Temporary Exhibitions**



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## Physical Accessibility

*An Universal Museum, accessible for all visitors.* This is the main objective of Parque de las Ciencias (Sciences Park), that has been designed as a free architectural barriers space. Most of the visitable spaces are totally adapted for wheelchairs. Also it has a rest area for reduced mobility people. Both the temporary exposition and the different facilities of the museum have rooms equipped for the rest of the visitors and are accessible for reduced mobility people.

# Intellectual Accessibility

Parque de las Ciencias (Sciences Park) has been designed as meeting point and participation space for visitors in which enjoy the knowledges with no limits. It's for this reason that the museum is working on a programme and workshops for people with intellectual disability.



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# Cultural Programme for Elderly People I

Cultural Programme is part of a National Programme that has been running from 1998.

It's developed with the support of European Union and is promoted, managed and coordinated by Spanish Confederation of Senior Classrooms (CEATE) and endorsed by the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (IMSERSO). It has received the valuable push of the Spanish Friends Federation of Museums and the Benefit's society Caja Madrid.



# Cultural Programme for Elderly People II

This programme is aimed at elderly people who want to be cultural guides. And for this, they must apply for it in the Museum.

From that moment, they receive a training course for two months, which give them general information about the Institution, itineraries for visits, basic rules for dealing with the public,...

Each volunteer chooses a weekday (Tuesday to Friday), preferably in the morning. The programme is aimed at older people. Volunteers are older than 50 years and guide to other old people.

National Government assumes the cost of insurance for volunteers.



# Programme of Museum Accessibility: Visual and Auditory

## Participants:

- ◆ University of Granada, through the Department of Translation and Interpretation, Social Work and Anatomy.
- ◆ Parque de las Ciencias de Granada (Sciences Park)
- ◆ Businesses of Accessibility to Media and Social Technology (Aristia Producciones y Espectáculos S.L. and Gizerbitek)
- ◆ Association of people with sensory disabilities (ONCE) and FAAS (Andalusian Federation of Associations of Deaf People)
- ◆ I.E.S. Alhambra, Superior technicians in sign language interpretation.



## Main objectives of the Programme

*<<A Museum of all, for all>>*

*<<Accessibility to the Artistic and Cultural Heritage>>*

BEFORE, the protagonist of the museum was the object



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NOW, the protagonist is also the visitor

“Achieve the accessibility to the Artistic and cultural heritage”

# “Unite the translation to the Accessible Museum”

Parque de las Ciencias (Sciences Park) offers:

- Multimedia Audiovisual Guide
- Multimedia Guide (Sign-guide)
- Multimedia Guide (Audio-guide)
- Tactile Visit

All these guides are translated to different languages to facilitate the comprehension of the contents to disabled foreign visitors.

# Visual Accessibility

The most of expositive spaces of Parque de las Ciencias (Sciences Park) contain modules and interactive areas with auditory and visual information. The Park organices, on request, adapted guided visits and training courses to the needs of visitors with visual dissability. People interested may contact to the Park by the following e-mail:[info@parqueciencias.com](mailto:info@parqueciencias.com) and by phone:+34 958 131 900. Or they may contact to Education Department by the following e-mail:[educacion@parqueciencias.com](mailto:educacion@parqueciencias.com).



# Auditory Accessibility

The Museum is working on the addaptation of the contents for auditory disabled people, organising activities in signs language, making sign-guides, acquiring technologies such as magnetic loops.



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# Parque de las Ciencias, Key of Good Practice

- The Park has been **designed as meeting point and participation space** for visitors in which enjoy the knowledges with no limits.
- Parque de las Ciencias (Sciences Park) has been designed as a **free architectural barriers space**. In the information point of the Park, wheelchairs are available for visitors.
- Most of the expositive spaces of the Park are integrated by **modules and interactive areas with tactile and auditory information in several languages**.
- **Guide dogs** are admitted.
- All the itineraries are **accessible**.
- **Cultural Volunteer Programme** has an innovative and inclusive character.
- **Elderly people** are given an important space in planning the activities of the Park.



- **More than 1200 people have been cultural volunteers** in Parque de las Ciencias (Sciences Park). Along last year, 32 people participated in this programme.
- More than 80% were older than 60 years.
- Another of the factors of success of the programme has been to **involve the cultural guides in the life of the museum.**
- They are usually guiding the **temporary expositions**, they are often invited to attend book launches, conferences and, in general, the park activities.
- The Institution regularly organizes follow up meetings to assess the development of their work and to **know the level of satisfaction** and to remedy disadvantages that have been able to emerge.
- The final surveys both cultural volunteers as people/groups that have been attended by the volunteers, **show a high level of satisfaction.**



# Transferability



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- This programme is transferable to other Monuments, Museums or Cultural Institutions in other Regions.
- Acknowledge the importance of including services of voluntary provided by elderly people to attend public of this age.
- It's very important to design a good initial training programme that allows to the guides to obtain the knowledges to carry out the activity.
- This programme also contributes to connect volunteers with the institution and know the system of inner work.
- The cost of this activity is very low, just the initial training course and the insurance of the volunteers.
- It's necessary be staffed of the Institution for monitoring the activity and the final evaluation.
- To make accessible the programmes that are developed in the Monuments, Museums or Cultural institutions.
- Transform these centres in socially inclusive and multilingual



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