

Inaf-Astronomical Observatory Of Cagliari (Inaf-Oac)

DESCRIPTION AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Location:

INAF-OAC headquarters are located in a rural area belonging to the municipality of Selargius in the neighborhood (2 km North) of Cagliari, the capital of the Sardinia island. The address is: via della Scienza 5, Selargius (CA) - 09047 Italy (geo-referenced)

Description:

The Observatory is hosted in a recently built campus, dubbed "Campus della Scienza, della Tecnica e dell'Ambiente". It comprises five main buildings, plus other smaller service infrastructures. While lot of space is obviously devoted to astronomers offices and high innovation developing laboratories, two of the buildings are devoted to public activities, comprising an Auditorium (equipped for standard uses -conferences, seminars - and for scientific theater shows), a Planetarium (with a digital instrument inside a 10.5 mt dome, which allows the presence of 75 seats) and an Exhibition Hall, where some historical scientific instruments - used in past sites of the Observatory - are shown. Moreover, a large library and an equipped didactical room are available for outreach activities (reading, didactical laboratories,...). The INAF-OAC structure presents also observational resources: in the terrace of the main building, an optical telescope inside a dome and a small radio telescope are available for didactical purposes. The large terrace itself is foreseen to host regular stargazing events.

At the entrance of the Campus it has been discovered an archeological site, including Phoenician tombs, but the area is still to be properly excavated.

The surrounding landscape mostly reflects the agricultural activities of the area, whose original toponym is Cuccuru Angius.

Protection category:

- No protection category

ACCESSIBILITY

1. Accessibility of the resource (universal):

The site is compliant with the needs of people with reduced mobility (disabled, elderly, children), thanks to properly installed lifts, elevators, inclined planes, specialized toilets etc...



2. Resource Signaling:

Indoor signs for visitor have been designed, produced and installed by a specialized company. There are icon and color coded and make very easy the movement within the resource. In contrast to that, no signal has been still installed for external guidance and on the access road, but the procedure for that (in charge of the local municipality) is in course.

3. Level of accessibility:

Outside: Given the rural location of the Campus, at the moment it is not yet served by public transports.

Inside: Inside the resource, toilets are well signaled and in general all the public areas are easy to be accessed thanks to the aforementioned system of signals, which have been installed.

MARKETING

1. Marketing profile:

Being this structure part of a public scientific Body, direct marketing will be very limited, although in a near future the activities developed at this site could enter inside touristic packages, school-trip specialized packages, etc.

2. Information available of the resource:

A general web site (www.oa-cagliari.inaf.it/), an outreach dedicated site (www.oa-cagliari.inaf.it/divulgazione) and a Facebook page provide all the information about OAC activities. Very soon a downloadable brochure will be available.

VISITS

1. Capacity of the establishment:

A regular program of visits will begin on fall 2015. Access will be possible for groups, in general including up to about 70 people, although the maximum number will depend on the specific nature of each visit. Although the lists of the possible kinds of visit is not yet fully assessed, among them there will be guided tours focalized either on the past history of the Observatory or on its present activities, or, otherwise, devoted (mostly when hosting classes) to perform interactive experiments/observations.

2. Schedule and Availability for visitors:

At the present time the INAF-OAC site is not yet open to the public: At the beginning the site will be open at least 2 days a week, with the purpose to increase that duty cycles as soon as possible.

3. Admission:

Free admission, but a ticket for attending some of the activities

4. Limitations:

The lacking of public transport is really the main worry

5. Visit the resource:

Guided tour

TOURIST RATING OF THE RESORT

1. Hierarchical level of resource:

• **Level 1:** Attractive with some striking feature, able to interest visitors from long distance that had come to the zone by other touristic reasons, or capable to motivate local tourist flows.

2. Tourism demand:

As it is the case for similar resources abroad and/or in Italy, the students – both locals and coming from outside Sardinia thanks to school-organized trips – will be the most likely users of the facilities offered at this site. This may suggest a seasonal trends in the number of visitors, with the summer season worse than the winter one. Also a significant flux of local people (adults, seniors and families) is expected, given the whole ensemble of the facilities at this site is not available elsewhere in Sardinia. Their number might be predicted almost constant along the year. On the flux of visitors from outside Sardinia is expected to be larger during the summer time, when the whole island is filled up with tourists.

The Campus of Science, Techniques and Ambient has been designed and built with a specific attention to the possibility of becoming a pivotal element in the cultural grow of the surrounding area and of the whole Sardinian territory. Given that, the resources at INAF-Astronomical Observatory of Cagliari are adequate to also become a significant gravity point of the "scientific tourism".