



# Information and Communication in the Service of Accessible Tourism for All

Ivor Ambrose, Managing Director

**ENAT - European Network for Accessible Tourism NGO** 

Barcelona, 19 March 2019





## A story in 3 parts

#### 1. Introducing Accessible Tourism for All

- Accessible experiences for everyone, for all the senses
- Rights, Ethics, Legislation
- The Visitor Journey and the accessible tourism supply chain
- Demand and supply-side
- The business case

#### 2. ENAT – what we do

 Networking with businesses, destinations professionals and NGOs

#### 3. Developments in Information and Communication

Enabling tourism and leisure for all

#### Accessible Tourism is...

## "Universally Designed Tourism for All"

It's about making environments, venues and services suitable for the widest range of customers, including:

- Seniors,
- Families with small children,
- People with disabilities,
- People with long-term health conditions
- ... and many more.

#### **Accessible Tourism is...**

## "Universally Designed Tourism for All"

Ensuring equal opportunity to enjoy tourism experiences

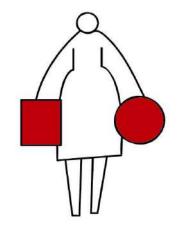
Accessibility > Inclusion, Comfort, Safety,

...Sustainability

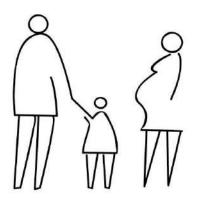
### Accessible Tourism is... Tourism for Everyone



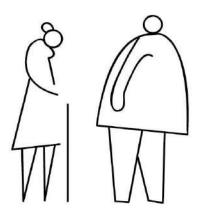
Tourists come in all shapes and sizes

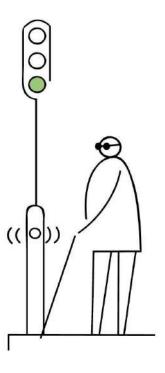


Let them in!

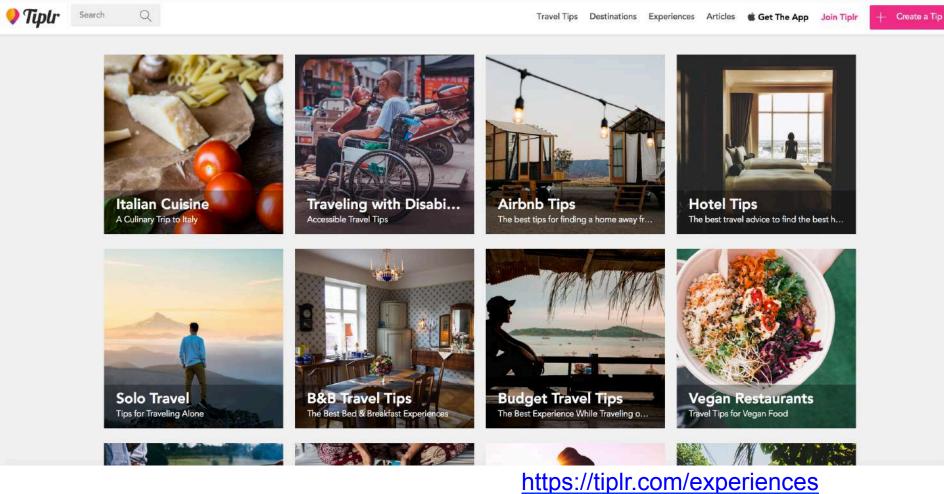








## Why travel? To experience the world!



## Accessible Tourism ...

#### **Unique Experiences....**



#### Eco-tourism for All



Taxi!

no prebooking required



## **Cultural experiences**



Guided
Theme Tours
with
Multimedia

Gallerie dell'Accademia, Venice



❖ A beacon technology system with Bluetooth transmitters communicates directly with the exhibition app installed on smartphones and tablets

#### **Accessible Tourism is...**

#### Where all visitors can join in!



Barcelonaturisme.com

#### Accessible Tourism is...

### Part of every kind of offer

- Accommodation
- Adventure
- Culture
- Gastronomy
- Conferences & Fairs
- With kids

- Education
- Nature in the city
- City Break
- Religion
- Sports & Events
- Festivals









## **Including Everyone in Tourism**













#### In fact...

- 70% of disabilities are invisible!
- Guests with a temporary disability
- Guests with a longterm health condition
- Guests who are frail, with age-related health problems





Not all disabilities are visible!
Please don't be so quick to judge.

positivelivingwithms.com

### Accessible Tourism is... tourism for all the senses!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I4eZDfk1AzE



#### The Problem...

#### for Visitors



- Travel for people with access requirements is unpredictable, difficult or sometimes even impossible
- Lack of choice and information about accessibility
- Quality of infrastructure, transport, services, and information varies widely from place to place
- Lack of access standards increases uncertainty, reduces travel options and allows a lack of accountability to prevail.

#### The Problem... for the Tourism Industry



- The accessible tourism market is relatively unknown and it seems difficult to attract with existing channels.
- Visitors' needs and requirements are unknown or misunderstood.
   Therefore the market is avoided.
- Investment costs are misunderstood and often exaggerated
- Access is seen mainly as a "problem" rather than a "golden opportunity".

## The Problem... for Tourism Authorities and Public Sector Agencies ("The Destination")



- Lack of political leadership on Accessibility as a quality factor in tourism development
- Lack of awareness of international commitments and Standards
- Visitors' needs and requirements are framed in terms of disability legislatation alone – not the wider market
- Investment costs are misunderstood and often exaggerated
- Access is seen in terms of "compliance" where businesses resist... rather than a "golden opportunity".

#### The Problem...

#### So...

- Is it about Human Rights? Do we need Legislation?
- Is it about Ethics?
- Is it about Business?

#### Tourism for All is about all of these:

> "A World of Tourism Opportunities for Everyone"

## A matter of Rights: UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (2006)



- Aims to "promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity".
- 1 billion people have a disability (World Bank, 2011)

## 1 000 000 000 One in seven people, worldwide

- Article 30 requires: "Equal access to participation in cultural life, including leisure, tourism and sport"
- Convention signed by 166 States parties (July 2016).
- Optional Protocol Ratifications/Accessions by 88 States parties

# Tourism for All: A matter of Ethics (UNWTO 1999)

- A comprehensive set of principles designed to guide key-players in tourism development.
- Addressed to governments, the travel industry, communities and tourists
- Aims to help maximise the sector's benefits while minimising its potentially negative impact on the environment, cultural heritage and societies across the globe.



## The European Accessibility Act



#### December 2011.

## European Commission launched a public consultation on a European Accessibility Act, noting:

- Meet the needs of the ageing population
- Raise the visibility of the market potential of products with good accessibility features in the most commercial areas, particularly health care, and in other areas where the economic potential is often overlooked by industry.
- Industry's response is limited.
- Disabled persons do not benefit from the opportunities created by the single market as much as other citizens do.
- The myriad of national, regional and local accessibility rules and regulations does not make things easier for industry.

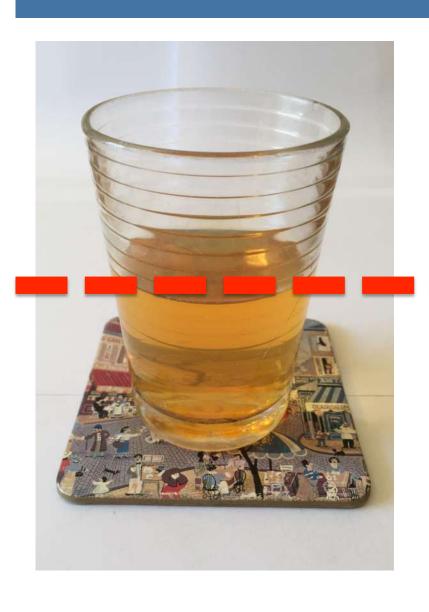
### The European Accessibility Act, 2019





- The Act was passed by EU Parliamentarians on 13th March, with 613 votes FOR, 23 AGAINST and 36 ABSTENTIONS.
- "The European Accessibility Act is a landmark agreement. However, while it will ensure that many products and services are more accessible for persons with disabilities, it will not make the EU (institutions and single market) fully accessible. It still excludes many essential areas such as transport, built environment and household appliances." European Disability Forum

## The European Accessibility Act, 2019



#### A glass half-full or half-empty?

**NO Built Environment** 

**NO Transport** 

**NO Household appliances** 

**NOT** applicable to micro-enterprises

**YES Computers** 

YES Smartphones, tablets, TV sets

YES Banking, ATMs and services,

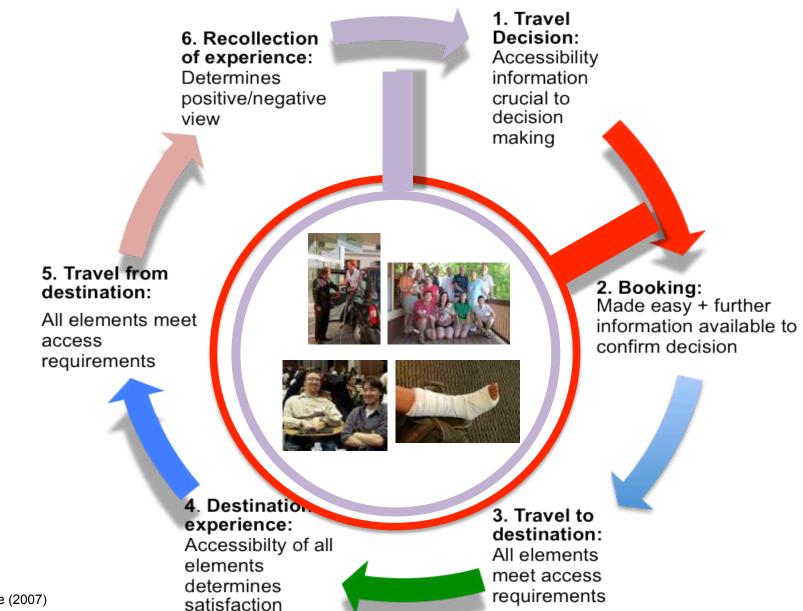
YES Payment terminals, e-books and

YES e-Readers, e-commerce websites

YES Mobile apps & ticketing machines

**YES Access to Emergency 112 number** 

#### The Visitor Journey: Accessibility "Touch Points"



Adapted from Lane (2007)

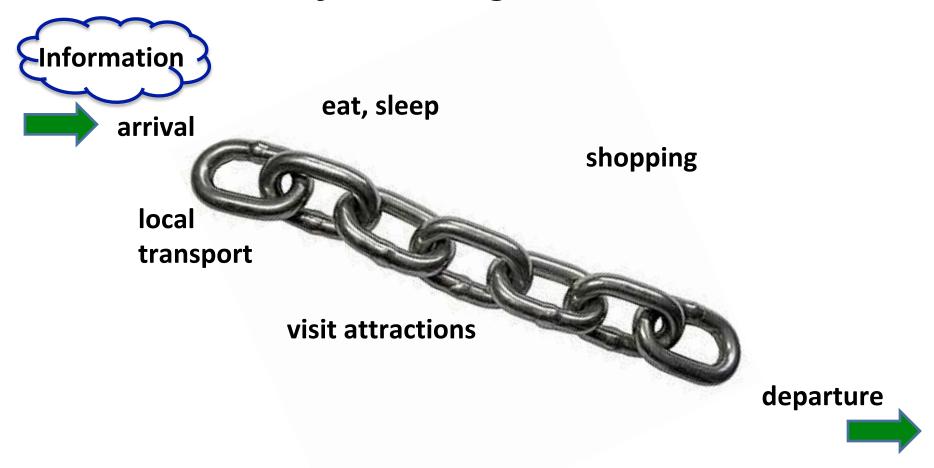
## "Touch Points" – The Interface Between the Supplier and the Customer

#### INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION

- Search, Browsing by text and by audio
- Booking, Ticketing, Paying, Identification, Security
- Transportation, Ticket Validation
- Information on the move: Mobile Apps, Digital Information Boards,
- Enjoying the experience: multi-sensory and multi-modal modal interfaces
- Sharing the experience: Websites, social media

# The Accessible Tourism Supply Chain

"A chain is only as strong as the weakest link..."



# The Accessible Tourism Supply Chain



If just one link in the chain is broken (inaccessible) the trip will be spoiled...



#### Accessible...

• Information - search, bookings, Websites, mobile applications...







#### Accessible...



 Transport - vehicles, terminals, transfers, assistance...





#### Accessible...

• Infrastructure - attractions, accommodation restaurants, streets, beaches...









#### Accessible...





#### Services

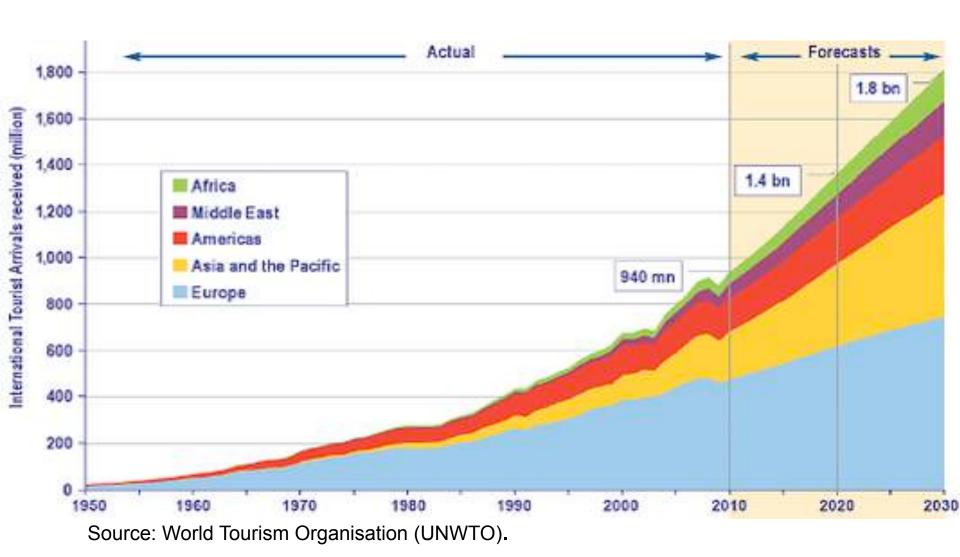
- hospitality, packages, tourist guiding, excursions, special menus, activities, technical aids, personal assistance...

# The Business Case for Accessible Tourism: Some background figures & trends

- Tourism numbers rising
- Tourism receipts growing
- Global population ageing
- Increasing demand for inclusive experiences



## An ever-rising number of tourists



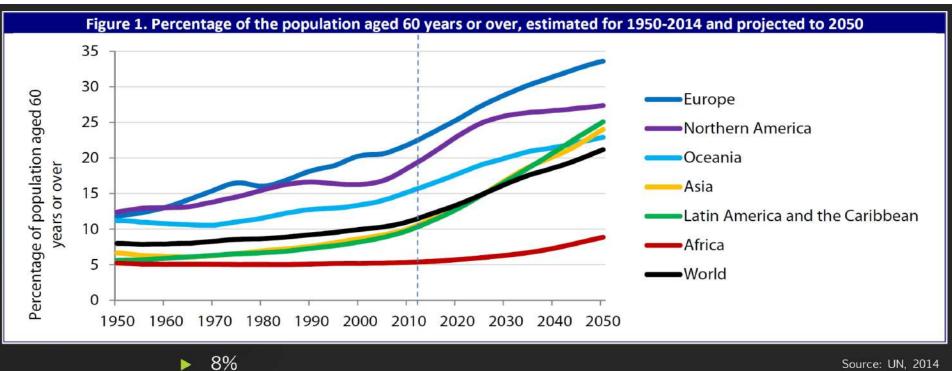
## Tourism receipts growing

### World inbound tourism



Source: World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) ©

## Global population is getting older



## Seniors are 65% of the Accessible Tourism Market



- 1 in 5 persons in Europe are over 60
- They want to travel and enjoy life
- Seniors from Europe take6 to 7 trips a year
- Most discretionary income
- More active, "youthful"
- Most overseas trips

## **Accessible Tourism Market - Europe**

- 138.6 million people with access needs in the EU (2011)
  - 35% people with disabilities aged 15-64, and
  - 65% older people, aged 65 and above UK,
     France,
- UK, France, Germany, Italy and Spain have largest populations of people with access needs, all above 10 million.
- People with access needs took 783 million trips within the EU (2012)
- Demand is expected to grow to 862 million trips per year by 2020, (+ 1.2% per year).

Source: EU Study, 2015, GFK

## **Travel Companions**

People with access needs travel with 1.9 companions (on

average)

## On average:

- People with disabilities
  - + 2.2 companions
- Older people +1.6 companions

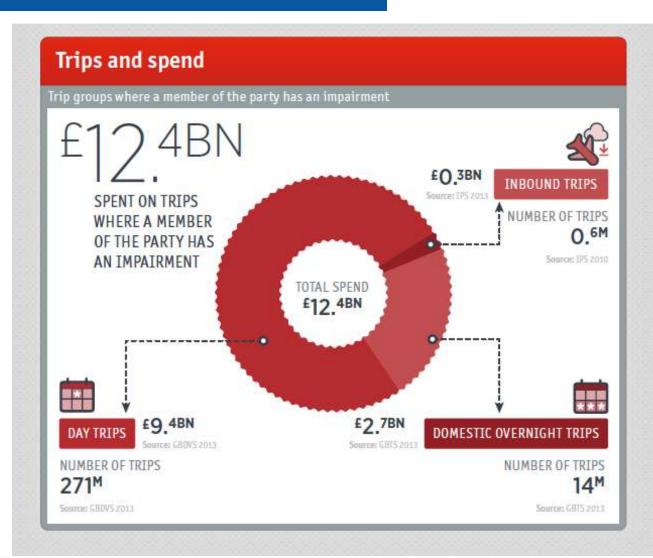


## Accessible Tourism Supports Jobs and Growth

- "Accessible tourism" generated €786 billion gross turnover in 2012
- Supports 9 million jobs in Europe

## **Accessible Tourism Market - England**

Accessible
 Tourism
 spend:
 £12.4 BN



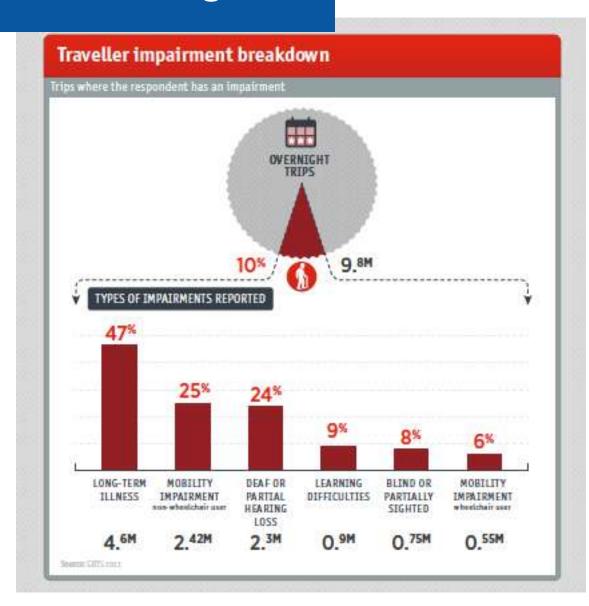


## **Accessible Tourism Market - England**

- Which disabilities?
- Visitor Survey(2013)
  - groups where one of the members has a disability or long-term health condition

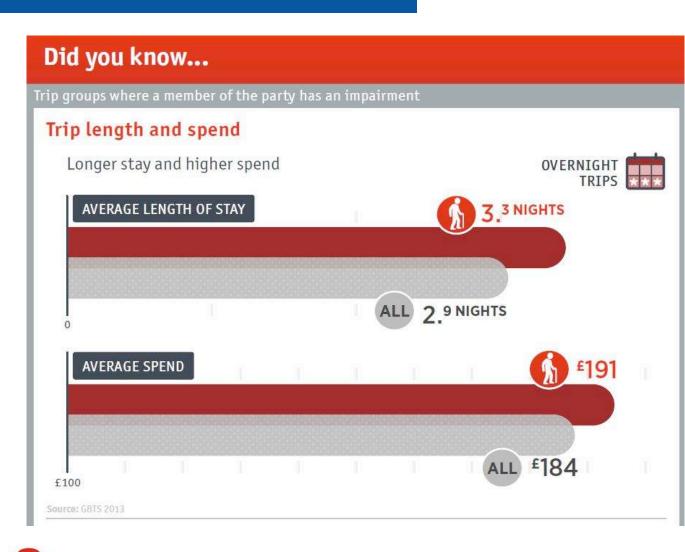
Source: VisitEngland





## **Accessible Tourism Market - England**

- Stay longer
- Spend more



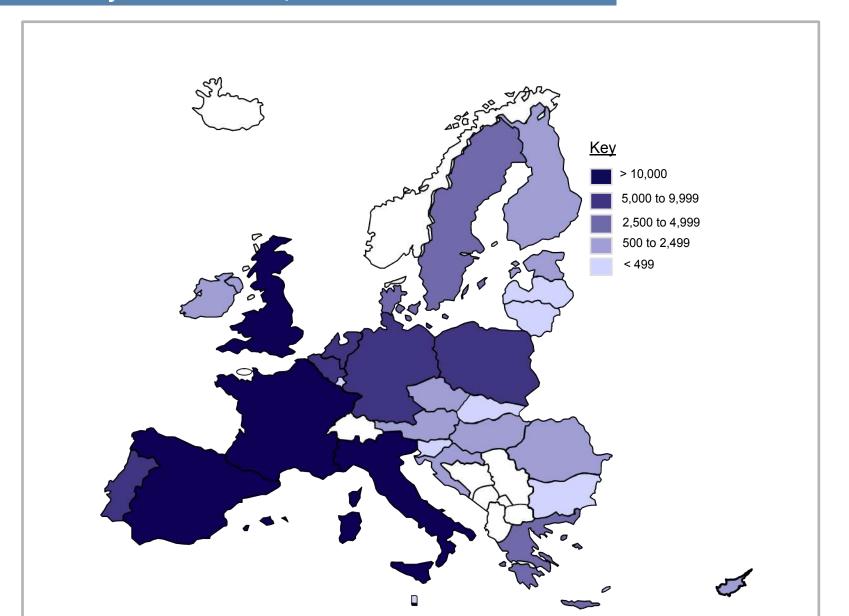


# Why is Tourism and Travel not accessible for everyone?

- Only 9% of European Tourism Suppliers have "accessible" offers
- Over 3 million tourism businesses in Europe are not prepared to cater adequately to the accessibility market.
- By 2020, an additional 1.2 million enterprises need to provide accessible services in order to meet forecasted demand.
- Training hospitality managers and staff is a must.

## **ENAT Study of Tourism Supply for EU Commission, 2015**

## Accessible Tourism Suppliers in Europe EU Study, 2014. European Commission



## Visit: www.accessibletourism.org



## **ENAT – in Europe & Around the World**



The mission of the European Network for Accessible Tourism (ENAT) is:

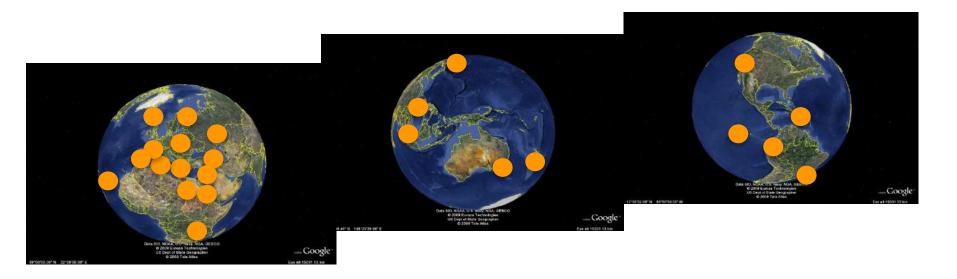
to make European tourism destinations, products and services accessible to all travellers and to promote accessible tourism around the world.

#tourism4all

@EUaccesstourism

## **ENAT** – in Europe & Around the World





### With over 100 members in more than 30 countries

in Europe, Middle East, Africa, North and South America, Asia, Australasia – Pacific regions

More than 5000 followers in social media



## Just some of ENAT's **Members & Partners**











European Parliament



















































CERTH

TRE FOR RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY **HELLAS** 

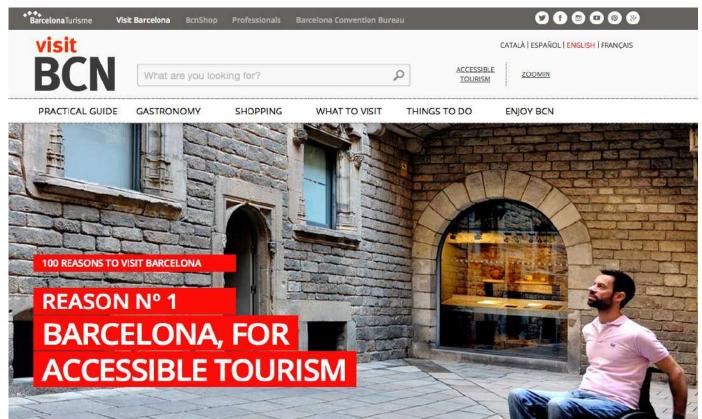
## **ENAT Members – the NTOs' Learning Group**

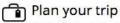




### http://www.barcelonaturisme.com







Will the weather be fine in Barcelona? Will people understand what I'm saying? Take a look and you'll find the answer to some of the most frequently asked questions before you pack your case.



#### Must see

Wherever you are in Barcelona, there's always something to see around the neighbourhood or district: jewels of home-grown Catalan architecture, modernisme, and contemporary architecture, markets that are a treat for the senses, treasures of the ancient



#### Buy your tickets

Tours, museums, leisure, entertainments, tickets... At BCNSHOP you'll find the services, activities and experiences the city offers so you can plan your visit to Barcelona. Enjoy discounts and other great offers!



#### Move around

Barcelona and its metropolitan area have a wide range of public transport options, so that you can get to where you want to go in the city easily and conveniently.

## https://Pantou.org

## **Directory of Accessible Tourism Suppliers**



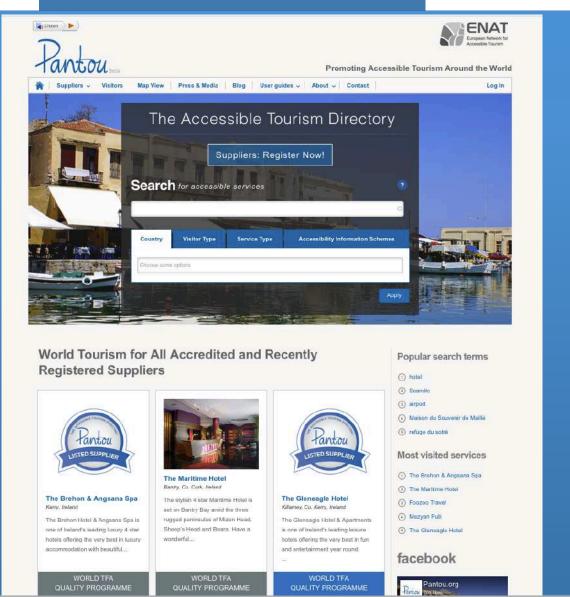
listing over 800 accessible services around the world



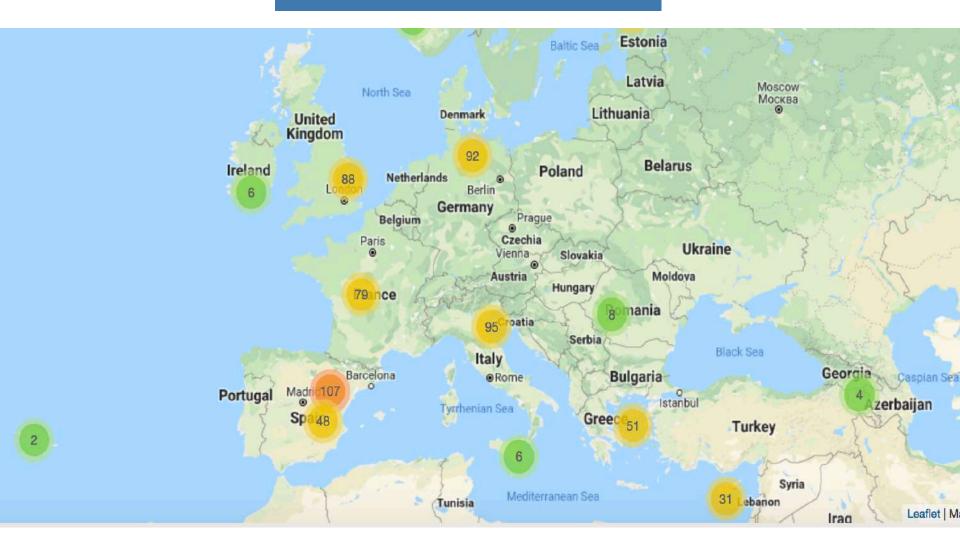
Supporting businesses and professionals



## https://pantou.org



## https://pantou.org



## The Maritime Hotel, Bantry, Republic of Ireland

https://pantou.org/maritime-hotel









#### Promoting Accessible Tourism Around the World

Suppliers Visitors Map Yiew Press & Media Stog User guides About Contact

#### The Maritime Hotel





#### The Maritime Hotel

Bantry, Co. Cork, Ireland

#### Service description:

The stylish 4 star Maritime Hotel is set on Banity Bay amid the three rupped perinsulas of Miran Head, Sheep's Head and Beera. Have a wonderful meet in The Maritima Bar or The Ocean Restaurant, unwind in Club Meritima Leleura Centre or indulge in treatment in one of our You'Time Spa Treatment rooms. The Maritime Hotel offers contemporary accommodation with luxurious bedrooms, feeturing one and two bedroom suites which are ideal for both small and larger families, offering many of the comforts of home in beautiful Bantry Bay.

Silver Accreditation holder, ENAT World Tourism for All Quality Programme,

https://www.themantime.le.

The Quey, Bentry, Co. Cork, P75XW35, Ireland

#### Postpoder P75XW35

Telephone

#### 003532754700





#### Services

#### Visitor Types

#### Small Children

Papple with motor impairments

People who use a wheelchair

People of very large or small stature People who are deaf or have hearing impairments

People without speech or with speech impairments

People who are blind or have vision impairments People with dementia ("dementia-friendly"), learning difficulties, autism or other

cognitive / developmental impairments

People with allergy or asthma or requiring special diets

People with long-term health problems (e.g. respiratory and circulatory

conditions or invisible dissbillties)

People who are frail, lacking in strength or stamina

People who use any kind of technical assistive devices People with service animals

People requiring personal assistance (non-medical care/support)

#### Services Information

Pood and Beverage

Restaurant

Health, Spas and Wellness:

#### Sports Activities and Facilities:

Swimming pool

#### Equipment Hire, Loan, Repair and Purchase:

Bathroom, tolleting and bedding

Hearing aids, hearing loop, vibrating alarm-dock, etc. Other equipment service

#### Accessibility Information

#### Pantou Access Statement:

The Maritime Access Statement Summer 2016.pdf







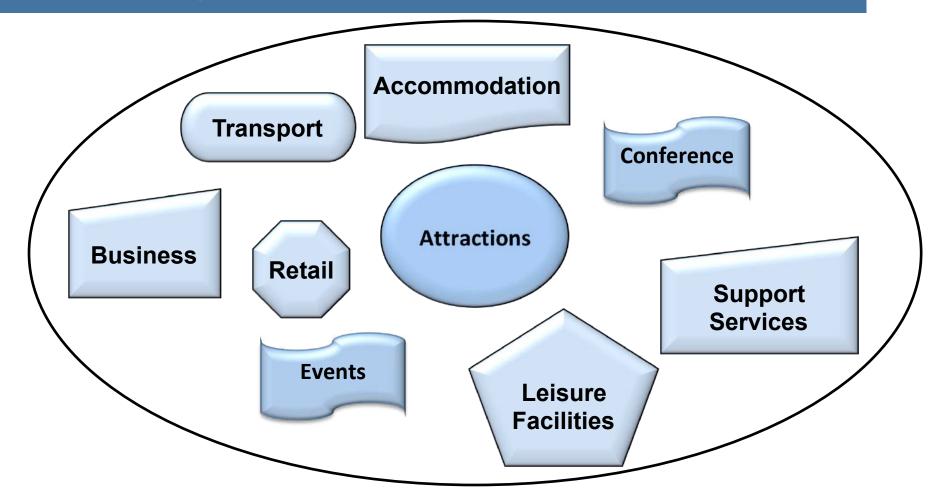




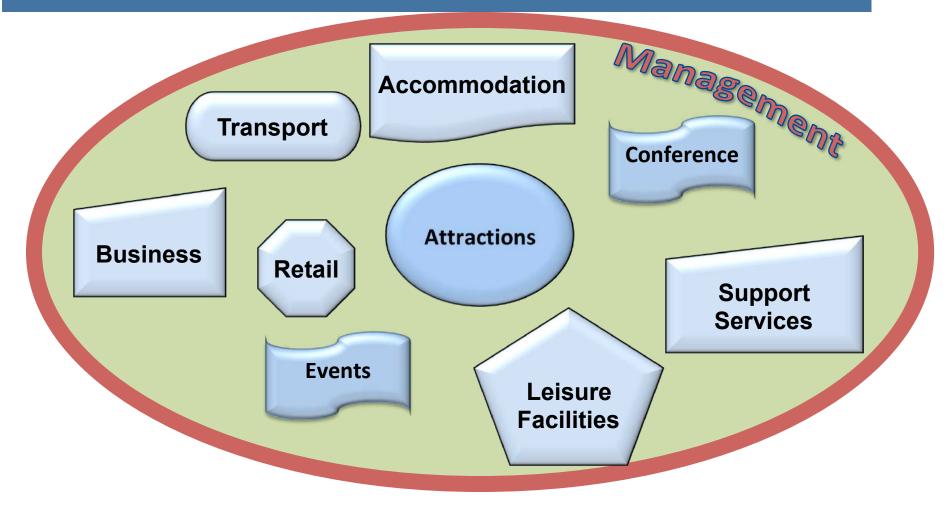




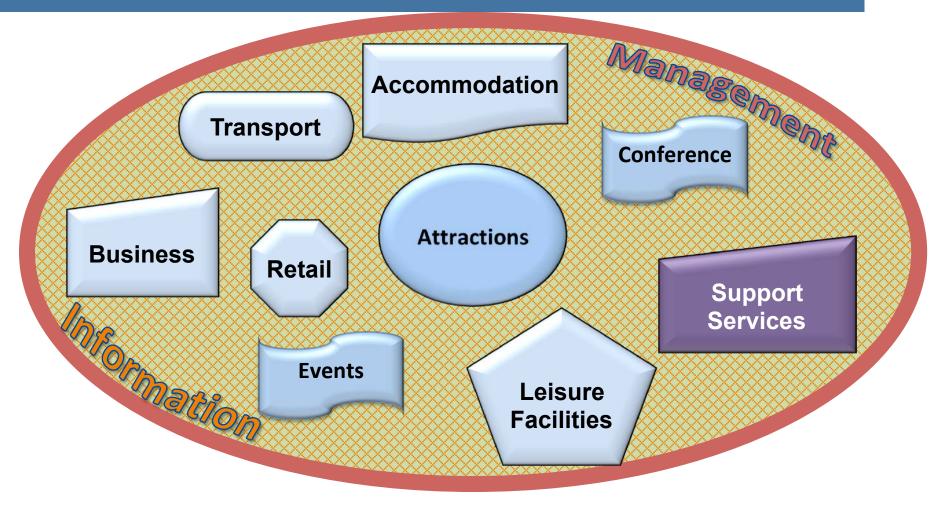
# Creating destinations and experiences: connecting the tourism value chain



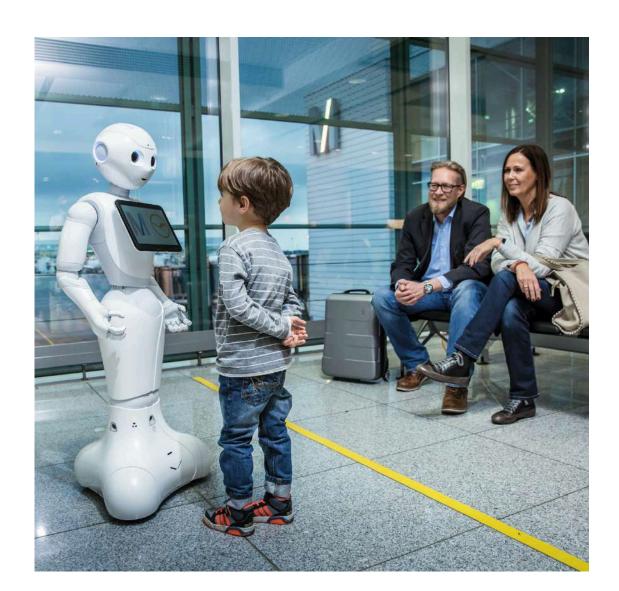
# Creating destinations and experiences: connecting the tourism value chain



# Creating destinations and experiences: connecting the tourism value chain



## **Information and Communication**



Meet **Josie Pepper** at Munich Airport

## Information on the move



**TOMI**Interactive digital information Boards

http://www.tomiworld.com

## Mobile Apps: Accessibility information on the move





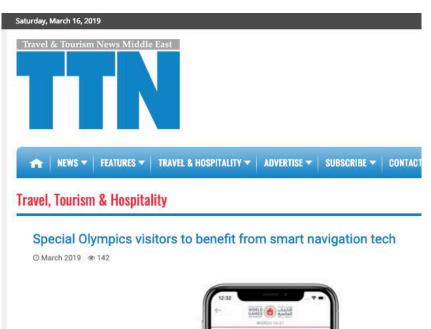


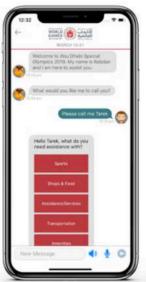


PREDIF / Turismo de Portugal / Vodafone



## Mobile Apps: Accessibility information on the move





Special Olympics visitors to benefit from smart navigation tech.



## **Experiencing Festivals, Theatre, Live Events**



http://www.attitudeiseverything.org.uk

## Live music is for everyone

Attitude is Everything improves Deaf and disabled people's access to live music by working in partnership with audiences, artists and the music industry.



## Festivals, theatre, live events...



## **STATE OF THE ART 2018 Report**

Despite progress, a range of barriers still exist. Of more than 300 respondents:

- 82% had experienced problems booking access
- 79% had been put off buying gig tickets due to problems booking access
- 73% had felt discriminated against when trying to book access
- 11% had considered legal action

http://www.attitudeiseverything.org.uk/soar2018

## Ticketing: Festivals, theatre, live events



## Ticketing: Festivals, theatre, live events





NIMBUS (UK) offers a registration service for persons with access requirements, making bookings, ticketing and reservations quicker and easier. Services Tailored to the user.



## **Access management for Events**



## **Access Management for Events**



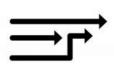
5 key elements needed to ensure an equal booking experience for Deaf and disabled music fans.



A simple and universal system for evidencing access requirements



Accurate and disability-aware information and customer service



Choice and flexibility when booking tickets



To be able to trust that access requirements will be met



Equal access to everything

## **Access Management for Events**



Over 160 venues and festivals across the UK have signed up to the Venue and Festival Charter of Best Practice.



**Charter of Best Practice Toolkits** 

 Customised Toolkits for large and small venues and events, proving guidelines, information and advice for event organisers.

## Why Go to See Live Theatre if You are Blind?

For the same reason as anyone else – to enjoy the performance.

## Vision Australia – Audio description service, including:

- Detailed description of the costumes and stage props in advance
- Notes on the characters, costumes and make-up
- Audio description of the performance
- A tactile tour of the stage



### Vision & Hearing Services at Sydney Opera House

For the same reason as anyone else – to enjoy the performance.

#### Services for people who are blind or have low vision

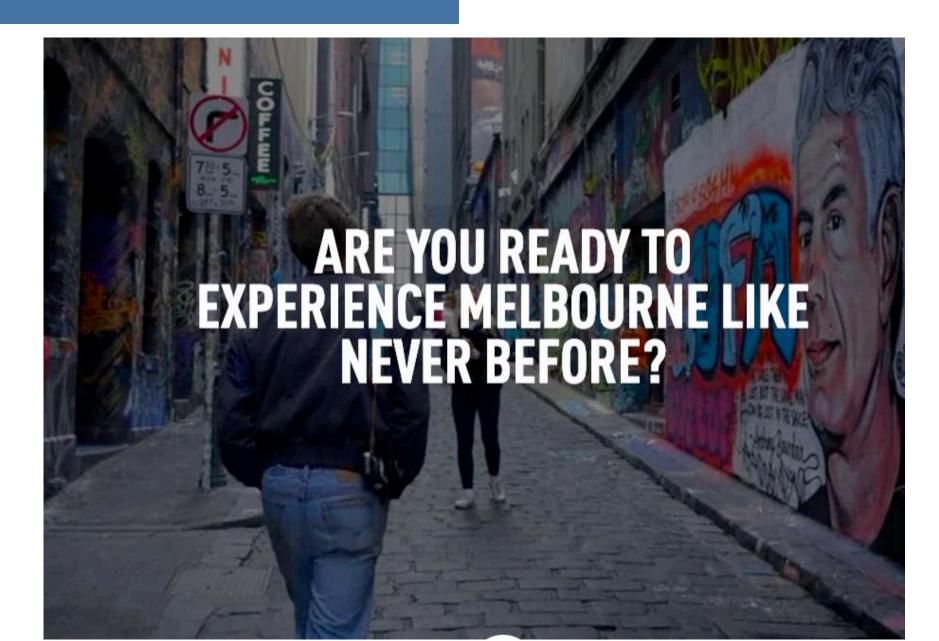
- Audio description
- Assistance animals
- Companion Card

#### Services for people who are deaf or have hearing loss

- Theatre captioning
- Auslan Interpreted Performances
- Surtitles
- Assistive listening Systems
- FM Augmentation System (FM devices)
- Hearing Loop
- TTY calling through National Relay Service



## Accessible Transport Guide Accessible Parking





http://www.dialogue-in-the-dark.com/

Wander through a simulated Melbourne in total darkness to explore your perception of the world.

A Dialogue in the Dark experience lasts for one hour and takes place in complete darkness.

## During the tour, you're equipped with:



## 1. A WHITE CANE TO ASSIST WITH WAYFINDING

This everyday aid—frequently used by people with low vision or blindness—provides a sense of orientation, and protects you by identifying obstacles of all kinds.



## 2. A SKILLED GUIDE TO LEAD YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY

All tours are facilitated by specially-trained guides who are blind or have low vision. Your guide knows exactly how to navigate the experience.

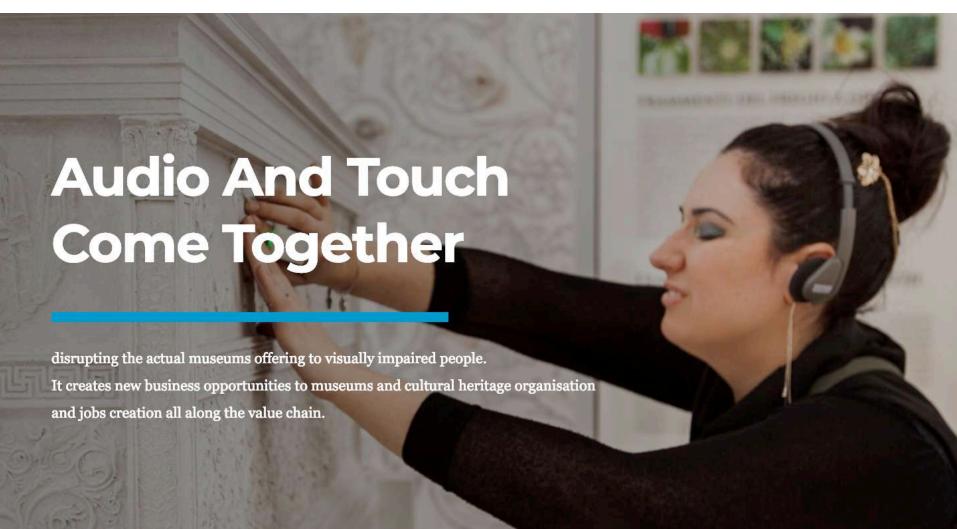
**Maribel** is a guide in the dark taking visitors on a tour of simulated environments in Melbourne

- reassure them
- they are totally reliant on my voice
- it's a lot of fun
- lots of bumping and touching breaks down barriers what's the correct way to do something?
- scenarios, learned to cope, e.g. in emergencies how to get out

#### 5 experiences:

- The Victoria Market smell of fruit, coffee and noise of vendors
- ❖ touch what is there, e.g. fruit, is often awkward for seeing people
- ❖ People realise I am a person first, after enjoying an experience together
- You can't pre-judge people in the dark
- So how do you write on a computer
- ❖ By going through the exhibition for one hour, you will find a new experience
- How to find your bearings and move in complete darkness
- How to identify the world through a variety of senses
- ❖ How to communicate and collaborate with other people, without visual cues







## Works Of Art Become Speaking Models

Our sensors allow an interactive and independent exploration to the visually impaired towards a full art experience



#### **How It Works**

Tooteko makes art accessible to the blind and visually impaired by integrating tactile exploration with audio data.

Tooteko is made of 3 elements:





During tactile exploration special sensors are triggered by the nearness of the finger tips



High-tech Ring

detects and reads the NFC tags and communicates in wireless mode with the smart device

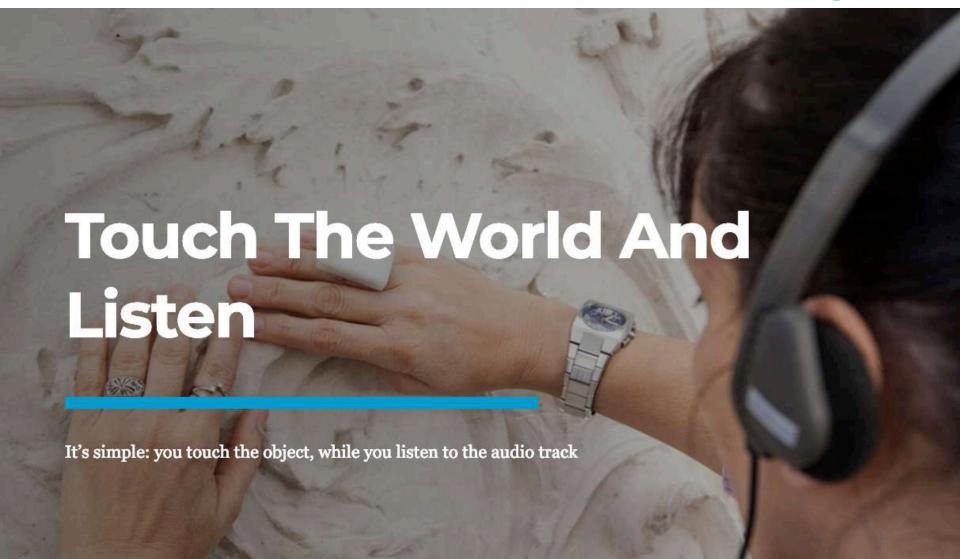


Tooteko App

Receive an audio feedback on your smart device via a dedicated app, compatible with all platforms







#### **COSME** project (2019-2020)

#### "EU UNESCO4ALL TOUR"







#### Partners:

- X23 Srl
- tooteko
- 5-senses
- Typhlological Museum of Zagreb
- Rakursi Art Gallery
- Chamber of Commerce of Sevilla
- Antenna International
- European Network for Accessible Tourism









#### Voice Assistants, Artificial Intelligence and Tourism



Brands are now experiencing a shift in which touchpoints are transforming to listening points, and organic search will be the main way in which brands have visibility. comScore data even reveals that 50% of all search will be via voice tech by 2020.

Ref:. Britt Armour, ClearBridge Mobile, 2018

#### Voice Assistants, Artificial Intelligence and Tourism

"Travel companies are developing **mobile apps** aimed at simplifying the research and booking process, as well as wearable devices used for managing payments, hotel keys, and other essentials.

**Beacons** are helping travellers navigate through crowded airports and virtual reality is even letting people explore destinations before booking. Although the travel industry is exploding with digital transformation opportunities, the customer journey is still fragmented.

Much like retail, voice technology has the potential to make the omnichannel travel path as seamless as possible. Voice technology can connect varying touchpoints and data in a way that produces a more personal and contextual search funnel.

Even now:

33% of active voice users will use an assistant to check travel info.

Ref:. Britt Armour, ClearBridge Mobile, 2018

# Thank you for your attention. Let's keep in touch!

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@pantou org

