

SONS OF THE STARS

DESCRIPTION

The Astronomic Observatory of Regione Autonoma Valle d'Aosta (OAVdA) and Planetarium of Lignan lie in the valley of Saint-Barthélemy in Lignan, one of the hamlet of Nus at about 1,600 metres oh height.

OAVdA was open in 2003, whereas Planetarium was inaugurated in 2009. **Scientific research** is the main and most significant activity: its high standards gave the Foundation the chance of creating a **long-term cooperation agreement** with Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica (INAF).

OAVdA is today running six **institutional projects** in cooperation with both Italian and foreign institutes that deal with the Solar system, the Milky Way and galaxies.

In addition to the equipment available in Lignan, OAVdA also runs **ITM infrared robotic telescope** at Concordia base in Antarctica and cooperates with the **5000genomi@VdA project** with regard to the computational and data analysis aspects.



In addition to scientific research, astrophysicists conceive and run some **initiatives for schools and public**, since the obtained data are quite interesting and can be significant in terms of **popularisation**. Since 2003 there have been more than 180,000 entries in terms of school groups and public in general; the strucure was awarded with the **TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence** in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 and in 2021 it received the **Travellers' Choice Award** by TripAdvisor. In 2020 it was declared the **first Starlight Stellar Park in Italy** and it was recognised by UNESCO too.

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KIND OF OFFER

The centre proposes some **guided visits to observe the sky** through the telescopes of the terrace of the Astronomic Observatory, some **shows** at the Planetarium in Lignan, which owns an up-to-date 4K projection system, some **workshops** for schools, and some special events for public in the conference hall (60 seats available). Compulsory **online booking** on the website www.oavda.it.

LENGTH OF THE ACTIVITY

Guided visit at the Astronomic Observatory by night: 1h30
Shows at Planetarium: 1h

HOW TO REACH

To reach Lignan, the hamlet where both the Astronomic Observatory and the Planetarium lie, from the centre of Nus take the Strada regionale 36 towards Saint-Barthélemy and continue for 16 km (length: about 30 minutes).

WHERE

Loc. Lignan (Nus)

APPROXIMATE COST

Guided visit at the Astronomic Observatory by night

Adults (18-99 yo): 13 €
Junior (7-17 yo): 8 €
Kids (0-6 yo): free of charge

Shows at Planetarium

Adults (18-99 yo): 6 €
Junior (7-17 yo): 6 €
Kids (0-6 yo): free of charge

WHEN

The guided visits at the Astronomic Observatory and the shows at the Planetarium are held all year long on Saturdays; some extraordinary openings are scheduled during the Christmas period, at Easter and in summer. The program of the activities can change due to force majeure: please visit the website to be always up-to-date.

INFO AND CONTACTS

OSSERVATORIO
ASTRONOMICO E
PLANETARIO

Loc. Lignan (Nus)
Tel. +39 01 65 77 00 50 (from
Monday to Friday - working days -
from 9.30am to 12.30pm and from
2pm to 4pm)
info@oavda.it
www.oavda.it