

Handisport Mallorca: Enjoy your abilities!

Presentation abstract

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Products and leisure activities (Outdoor Activities)

Keywords: Sailing, Kayak, Paddle, Golf, Blokart, Hiking, Water-Skii, Scuba Diving, Snorkeling, Sports, Accessible Mallorca, Natural parks and areas.

-Handisport is a non-profit making organization based in Mallorca since 2007. We offer completely adaptive open air sport activities to participants with disabilities and their friends and relatives throughout the year.

-We are part of some of the main names for accessible tourism in Spain and in Europe such as ENAT (European Network for accessible tourism) and RED ESTABLE.

-Our experience in this field is fully and widely recognized and appreciated.

Since 2007, the Handisport Foundation has developed this project with the aim to promote and facilitate the social integration of

people with disabilities by playing sports and organizing outdoor activities, where it motivates all participants and provides them with

a very relaxed and recreational setting.

Handisport is founded on three major goals:

- Promote adapted sports based on very high quality standards.
- Promote quality adapted tourism throughout the entire year.
- Achieve a real and effective integration by participating in sports activities.

Our primary objective is to offer all persons with some type of disability the possibility of social integration by participating in adapted sports and the enjoyment of other recreational activities. Currently, our client profile is a person with disability with residence in Spain or Europe who wishes to enjoy his/her holidays to the maximum and experience new sensations by playing sports or enjoying contact with lovely natural settings.

We have created a Tourism product which is founded on the performance of sports activities for people with disabilities, which has derived a series of complementary services, which include major services such as transfers, accommodation and travel arrangements to the island by air or sea.

Our product is designed so that these people may enjoy the island in a completely integrated environment together with their closest family members or group of friends; so that they too can have fun by participating in a sports activity.

In short, over the past 10 years we have worked in favor of the inclusion of with disabilities people in society through sports and leisure, providing physical and psychological rehabilitation through a new relationship with nature and the environment.

We have launched 7 sports activities totally adapted for people with physical, mental and / or sensory disabilities: adapted sailing, golf, blokart, scuba diving, water skiing, hiking and kayaking.

Some of the facilities we can offer our users are:

- Activities within 25 km, in an accessible environment.
- Adaptive and modern sports equipment, some of it quite unique and only available in our Foundation.
- Specialized and experienced instructors, which fully guarantee both quality and safety to users.
- Promoting integration and "Yes, I can!".
- Fully accessible facilities.
- Trust and confidence with over 10,000 services given to people from different countries.

We have had the participation of individual users, members of different organizations and local associations in a series of group outings, respite programs and family reconciliation.

We also give them the opportunity to enjoy the beauties of the barrier-free Island. Until recently, it was unthinkable that a person with reduced mobility could dive in the sea or stroll through the Sierra de Tramuntana, declared a Heritage Site by UNESCO, this being quite a unique experience.

Nature plays a very important part in the Handisport project. The learning and practice of different sports techniques in an attractive environment make the participants enjoy the activities fully.

Seeing the need to eradicate negative attitudes towards disability and to promote equal conditions for all, in the last few years, international institutions have examined the various policies that can help to improve accessibility for people with disabilities, promoting cooperation and exchange of good practices in order to eliminate existing barriers.

After 10 years, Handisport Foundation has settled the base of a project with great growth potential. There is a growing demand for our services and Handisport is helping to provide accessibility and services for all. We need to meet that demand and increase the number of participants who will be able to practice sports activities without any restrictions.

Aware of the present trends and needs, and in order to be closer to European policies and its citizens, along these past years we have designed projects that could encourage the practice of adaptive sport as a habit of for healthy living. At the same time we have worked in order to make more people aware of the benefits of social integration and accessibility for those with disabilities.

Lead speaker : Rafael Winckelmann Martín

Organisation : Handisport Foundation

City (Country) : Calvia(Spain)

Biography : Rafael Winckelmann founded in 2006 the Handisport Foundation, who as a result of an accident 13 years ago that caused him an incomplete quadriplegia which made it necessary for him to use a wheelchair. A great lover of sports and outdoor activities, he discovered the possibility of practicing sports again thanks to a friend, also a user of a wheelchair, who encouraged him to try and practice adaptive diving with him. As he saw all the possibilities for people with disabilities to practice sports, he started to investigate, train



and study all the adapted activities which were available at the time which led him to want to show others all the different possibilities to help people in a similar situation.

2nd speaker :

Organisation :

City (Country) : ()

Biography :