

Media Release

Melide, April 23, 2021



Swissminiatur provides now benches accessible to all

Swissminiatur, in cooperation with the Cerebral Foundation, is installing special benches in Melide to enable disabled people and people with motor disorders to rest comfortably.

Everyone should be able to enjoy Switzerland in miniature on Lake Lugano. Accessibility is therefore an important concern for Swissminiatur. To make Switzerland's largest open-air miniature museum even more accessible, Swissminiatur installs special benches that allow everyone to sit comfortably.

In a place like the Swissminiatur park, seating plays an important role. Visitors like to sit down from time to time to rest, to chat, to eat something or to observe the hustle and bustle. The Swiss Cerebral Foundation regularly finds that conventional benches can only be used to a limited extent by people with disabilities or motor disorders. This is because the generally relatively low seating surfaces make it difficult to sit down and, above all, to stand up safely.

For this reason, special benches have been created, where the seat is higher than normal. They also have a backrest with lumbar support and raised armrests. Thanks to this special ergonomics, they offer excellent seating comfort not only to disabled and elderly people, but also to those who are looking for unlimited rest. Ten such benches are currently being installed at the Swissminiatur in collaboration with the Cerebral Foundation, two of which have a special area for wheelchairs and walkers.

The Cerebral Foundation (Swiss Foundation for Children with Cerebral Palsy), certified by ZEWO, has been supporting families with children with cerebral palsy throughout Switzerland for 60 years and carries out numerous projects for people with disabilities, including those in Ticino.

An inauguration ceremony was held today in the presence of State Councillor Christian Vitta who, in addition to welcoming the initiative, recalled that Swissminiatur is an important tourist attraction for the Canton of Ticino. Thanks to the Ticino Ticket, the park registers a significant number of visits each year from tourists who spend the night throughout the canton.

The media kit is available here: <http://www.swissminiatur.ch/20210423-cerebral>

For any questions:

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About Swissminiatur

Founded in 1959, the Swissminiatur of Melide in Ticino is an open-air museum dedicated to the authentic representation of Switzerland. On an area of approximately 14,000 square meters, more than 130 detailed models of famous buildings from all over Switzerland on a scale of 1:25 show the diversity of the country: from castles and burghs to the Federal Palace, old towns and even Zurich airport. There are also landscapes, mountains, including cable cars, and lakes on which boats sail. In addition, 18 trains run on 3,560 meters of track.

A grottino, which offers food and drinks, as well as a souvenir store and other gift items complete the offer of the traditional amusement park. Swissminiatur was created and developed by Pierre Vuigner and is operated by Management Swissminiatur SA. The company, which employs around 30 people, is run by the third generation of the founding family.

www.swissminiatur.ch

About the Cerebral Foundation

The Cerebral Foundation was founded in 1961 and today supports around 9,700 people with disabilities and their families throughout Switzerland. We help where the public authorities or insurance companies do not - or only partially. We are committed to ensuring that people with cerebral palsy and their families can lead as independent, mobile and carefree lives as possible.

The Cerebral Foundation is recognized and certified by the ZEWO (specialized service for charitable organizations collecting donations) as a charitable organization.

www.cerebral.ch