

ADVENTURE PARKS

Naturland wants to turn over 10% more than last summer

The newest star at an altitude of 1,600 is the 'Forest Line', a 500-meter zip line along the forest

The director announces that the facility will run non-stop activities throughout the year

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Naturland expects to turn over 10% more than last year from the opening of this year's summer season, which brings new activities to the activities carried out on both sides of the Lauredià adventure park. This was stated by its director, Xabier Ajona, during the presentation of the new leisure itinerary and the new accommodation and gastronomic offers, adding that "we believe that it would be good to exceed the two million euros we received during the summer season of 2021". Not so much in the number of visitors, which reached 70,000 last year, but in the «customer satisfaction and the quality of the service we want to offer», the items that Naturland will focus on from now on.

With an investment of about 500,000 euros, the adventure park will host six new activities at an altitude of 1,600 meters and two at 2,000. In this sense, the star attraction of the lowest elevation presented is the Forest Line, a zip line route through the middle of the forest, 500 meters long and located between three and seven meters above the ground; «A unique activity in the whole country that adapts to nature and goes into the trees in a shady area to avoid the glare of the sun for a while», said Ajona. He also presented the remaining five activities: squirrel circuit, sliding, swincar cross, tubing and pedal buggy. With regard to the 2,000 level, the expansion of the bike center and the John Deere mini-tractor activity were announced.

However, the director of Naturland noted that «we are coming from a time of quite complicated pandemic for our sector, in addition, we are joined by the crisis of the Ukrainian war and the increase in prices that it will not make things easy for us». In this sense, he added some of the measures that, apart from the new outdoor activities, «will contribute to the promotion of the adventure park and the increase of the quality of the experience of the same». He highlighted the expansion of the gastronomic offer



Naturland director Xabier Ajona during the presentation.

Conventional entrances are replaced by a QR in order to speed up access to the areas

in the restaurants, highlighting a 100% gluten-free menu at the Foc restaurant, and the refurbishment of the rooms at the Conangle hostel.

As for the new calendar, Naturland will be open all year round, avoiding total downtime of a month and a half in the fall and a month and a half in the spring. Hours will be extended from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. from July 1st to September 11th

uninterruptedly; during the spring and late months it will be open on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays and during the winter the 2,000 level will be available from the Immaculate Conception long weekend until Easter. In the same way, the access control to the park is modified, which will have a QR system to speed up the entrances and exits.

On the other hand, Ajona com-

mented, referring to the concession of the land of exploitation of the activities, that «Naturland will not ask for an extension of the concession to compensate for the losses of the pandemic», while adding that, as of today, «there are still many years of leave and we have not considered it necessary», although «the decision is common because it is the majority partner». ≡

the news

ALTITUDE 1,600 FOREST LINE

A half-kilometer zip line route that dodges trees between 3 and 7 meters high.

SQUIRREL CIRCUIT

This is to follow a route through elastic nets at a height of between 1.5 and 4 meters.

SKLIDE

The summer sleigh. Users from the age of 4 will descend 44 meters along four parallel tracks.

SWINCAR CROSS

It is an obstacle course with a two-seater 4x4 electric vehicle. Driver's license is required.

TUBBING

Formerly located at 2,000, it is a 50-meter descent with an inflatable donut.

PEDALS BUGGY

A closed route in which children from the age of 4 will be able to compete in races with pedal vehicles.

ALTITUDE 2,000 BICYCLE EXTENSION

Eight new itineraries for beginners, families and experts from the Naturlandbike Center with more than 50 kilometers.

MINI JOHN DEERE

Focused on children up to 6 years old, it will allow users to drive a small-scale replica of a tractor.

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REAL ESTATE MARKET

The Housing Institute is proposing an increase in lower rents

The National Commission is transferring some twenty initiatives to the Government to include in the 2023 Measures Act

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The National Housing Commission met last Tuesday for the second time in a well-known hotel in Escaldes-Engordany. After 22 previous meetings of the working groups in which up to 70 proposals emerged, it was finally agreed to transfer to the Government some twenty initiatives of protection, stimulus and governance measures with the aim of being included in the future law on housing measures of 2023 to be approved by the General Council before the end of the year. One of these measures would be to increase rents.

According to Josep Maria Pla, director of the National Housing Institute (INH), this increase would be higher than the Consumer Price Index (CPI), as long as it does not account for more than 30% of total income of the cohabitation unit. «The argument is that the lower ones can be the result of older rents that have not been increased, so the owners of these flats have been harmed», he said. Therefore, homes that are priced below average (9.2 euros per square meter and 9.6 euros per square meter for those who access a new rental) are subject to a higher increase.

At the same time, the commission also agreed to support the extension of existing contracts according to the CPI, given that there can be no talk of a freeze in these cases because right now inflation has risen to 6% in April, precisely because of the increase in electricity prices and rents. They also welcome the current 10% increase in the five-year contract renewal.

After the meeting, Josep Maria Pla defined the situation in the housing market: «The tension is not temporary, but we have settled in», he said, identifying three causes. «The first refers to the economic model, which is based on growth that involves an increase in the workforce and, therefore, the population, which must rent or buy a home, and not in promoting and to value the workers who already live and work in the Principality», he lamented. He also spoke of the social model, as



SERGI PÉREZ

► Two clients in front of a real estate agent looking rental and purchase prices.

«it makes a difference between wages and the price of housing, which becomes inaccessible». And, lastly, the institutional model, which «has not helped us to solve the problems

we have faced». On empty flats, Pla stated that a legal qualification is needed, and on the extension of the increase in the CPI for rents, he defined it as «a pill

for stress, which does not solve the problem, they have to correct the causes».

The full committee also agreed to publish the model lease to make it easier for the parties to regulate their relationship and collect data from the lease information system that is being developed how to set up two working groups to address measures to reduce construction costs and, in particular, the impact of the circular economy on these costs.

It was also agreed to transfer to the Government and the municipalities the interest of analyzing a series of proposals relating to the General Law of Spatial Planning and

the agreements

- 1 To transfer to the Government some twenty proposals for protection, incentive and governance measures so that they are included in a law on housing measures.
- 2 Publish the model rental agreement to make it easier for the parties to regulate their relationship and to facilitate the collection of data from the contract information system.
- 3 Transfer to the Government and the municipalities the interest of analyzing a series of proposals on the law of land use planning to facilitate the availability of land for housing.
- 4 Transfer to the Government and the municipalities the need to share data on the housing situation and the interest in analyzing fiscal measures to encourage the market.
- 5 Continue to work on the plan for the right to housing, which must respond to the constitutional mandate, and identify ways to expand supply and ease the current tension.
- 6 Set up different working groups with the aim of analyzing initiatives aimed at reducing current costs in construction processes.

Urbanism to dispose of land intended for housing. In addition, to make the institutions aware of the need to share data on the housing situation and the interest in analyzing fiscal measures to encourage the market. Lastly, continuing working on the right housing plan and identify ways to expand supply and ease current market tensions.

The National Housing Commission is made up of senior government officials, representatives of the municipalities, the citizen's reasoner, Andorran Banking, the ACU (consumer and user association), the Acoda (construction contractors), the association of real estate owners, Caritas Andorrana, the College of Architects, the AGIA (real estate agents and managers) and the National Youth Forum. ≡



JOSEP MARIA PLA

DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF THE HOUSE

«Lower rents may be older and have not increased, and landlords have been harmed»

«One of the causes of market tension is that the growth of the economic model is linked to population growth»

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