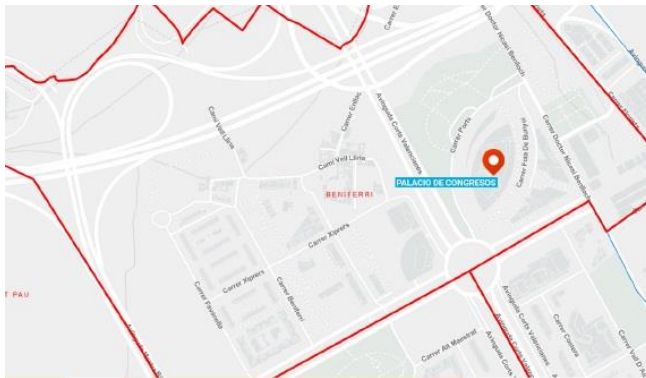


13. Valencia Conference Centre



Designed by architect Norman Foster (Manchester, 1935). He was awarded the Gold Medal of the American Institute of Architecture, the Pritzker Prize in 1999, and the Prince of Asturias Award for the Arts in 2009.

It was inaugurated in 1998, 3,100 events have been held, with an attendance of 2.3 million people, which has contributed to improving Valencia's international positioning.

Winner of the Royal Institute of British Architects' **RIBA award** for Best European Building in 1999. Considered the **best conference centre in the world** by the International Association of Conference Centres (AIPC) in 2010 and 2018, as **one of only three conference centres in the world to have won the award twice**.

It is surrounded by gardens with native species.

They act as the great green lung of this area of the city. It is made of concrete, glass, aluminium and zinc.

The roof, which rises like a great prow towards the entrance, next to the palace complex, evokes the maritime world of fishing and boats, of fins and sails, of breeze and water.

Over the last few years, sustainability has been a cornerstone of the strategy of the conference venue, whose actions are aligned with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and involve a general commitment to responsible consumption by the team, organising companies, suppliers and event participants.”

It is distributed over three floors. It has **three auditoriums** or conference rooms, with capacities of **1,462, 468 and 250 people** respectively; an exhibition hall with an area of just over 1,000m².

The site has a floor area of more than 15,000 square metres.

Conference Centre

General information

Address: Av. de les Corts Valencianes, 60, 46015 Valencia

Opening hours: General opening from 9.00 to 19.00. Variable according to events.

It is located on a flat avenue, with wide, unobstructed pavements and homogeneous paving.

It has staff to assist persons with disabilities. An ambulance and medical service is available for events with more than 800 people. A wheelchair is available for visitors.

There is a specific evacuation protocol for people with disabilities.

There are contrasting signs with approved pictograms, with information about spaces and routes.

The cafeteria offers a menu suitable for coeliacs and diabetics.

Car park

The building has an approach area for vehicles.

It has its own car park with access from C/ Dr. Nicasi Benlloch. It has 12 reserved spaces for PRM of at least 220x400 cm. There is vertical and horizontal signage and a slope-free route as far as the Conference Centre.

Access to the car park is through three lifts with similar characteristics. There is a door with a clear passage width of 81 cm and a 144 x 116 cm cabin. Call buttons at a height of 116 cm, internal buttons at a height of 113-123 cm and a handrail at a height of 113 cm. Access to the box is by means of a ramp.

It has an adapted unisex toilet next to the places reserved for PRM.

Access

Outside the building, there is an approximately 1.5%, 10 m-long slope.

There is a main entrance without any slopes and with two doors with a clear passage width of more than 120 cm. Automatic opening.

There is slope-free access from the cafeteria. There are double leaf doors with a clear passage width of more than 120 cm. Opening to the exterior.

Lockers / Reception

It is located on the ground floor and is accessible without slopes.

There is an auxiliary reception with a 72 cm-high counter, 69 cm of clearance underneath and a depth of 47 cm at the bottom.

Indoor mobility

The building has two levels on the south side and one level on the north side. All the floors are connected by a lift (or, failing that, by a platform lift) and stairs.

The ground floor has several ramps that are 300 cm long, more than 120 cm wide and with a 2.6% slope. No handrails. On the rest of the floors, the route is slope-free.

The corridors are more than 120 m wide and slope-free. Homogeneous, non-slip flooring. Most of the rooms are carpeted. There is furniture for resting at different points of the site.

Toilet

All the toilets in the building have an adapted cabin in both the gents' and the ladies' toilets. With the exception of the one next to Auditorium 3, which is unisex.

The access is slope-free, with doors with a clear passage width of 79/89 cm without a return spring.

A circle with a diameter of 120/150 cm can be traced inside the cabin.

In an emergency, the bolts allow it to be opened from the outside.

There are 84/86 cm-high washbasins and 70/72 cm of clearance underneath. Single-lever taps. There is no pedestal, except the one next to Auditorium 1. They all have no mirror, except the one located next to Auditorium 3, with a 100 cm-high mirror. In the Multipurpose Room 2 toilet, it is possible to use the washbasin from the toilet.

There is toilet access space in the Auditorium 1 toilet, 85 cm at the right side, 24 cm on the left and 88 cm frontal access. In Multipurpose Room 1, it is 114 cm on the right, 27 cm on the left and there is 92 cm of frontal access. In Auditorium 3, there is 28 cm on the right, 117 on the left and more than 120 cm of frontal access.

Toilet seats at a height of 39-43 cm.

They all have a fixed support bar at one side, at a height of 80/82 cm and a folding support bar on the other side at a height of 68-87 cm. The spacing between bars is 70/77 cm.

Lighting with a presence detector.

There is no alarm system inside the cabins.

Lift

Two lifts in the south wing connect the ground and second floors. Another lift in the north wing connects the ground and first floors. They all have similar characteristics.

There is a door with a clear passage with of 112 cm and a 161 x 142 cm cabin. There are call buttons at a height of 125 cm, internal buttons at a height of 111-142 cm and handrails at a height of 105 cm. They lack a mirror.

Staircase

The building has two emergency staircases and two general staircases connecting all the floors of the building. There are flights of stairs with a maximum of 13 steps. The steps are 12-17 cm high and have a tread of 29-30 cm. There is a handrail at a height of 98-104 cm.

Access to the management area and committee rooms 8 is through a five-step staircase with a stairlift platform.

There is non-slip and homogeneous flooring.

Access to the Management area and to Committee Room 8 is via a five-step staircase traversed by a stairlift platform with a 104 x 73 cm floor and buttons located at a height of 74-84 cm.

Rooms

The building has three auditoriums, two multi-purpose halls and eight committee rooms. They all have doors with a clear passage width of more than 120 cm, a return spring and a clamping device.

All the auditoriums allow access to the stage without a slope.

All the rooms, with the exception of Multipurpose Room 2, are carpeted.

Auditorium 1 has 6 spaces permanently equipped to be occupied by 4 attendees with reduced mobility. At the request of the organiser, a further 10 seats can be removed to make room for a further 8 attendees with reduced mobility, such that auditorium 1 can accommodate a total of 12 attendees with reduced mobility.

The seating capacity will be reduced according to the number of seats removed to accommodate attendees with reduced mobility. The auditorium 2 has 4 spaces available at all times and 8 if required.

There are aisles with a clear passage width of more than 100 cm. It is possible to trace a circumference of 150° at various points in the auditoriums.

In the remaining the spaces, the layout varies according to the event.

Restaurant, cafeteria, buffet

It is located on the ground floor, with level access from outside the building.

There is a door with a clear passage width of more than 120 cm.

There are single-leg tables, without a crossbar, 72 cm high. At the bottom, it is 69 cm high, 80 cm wide and 33 cm deep. There is a passage width of at least 120 cm.

Access

Part of the building is surrounded by garden with edges level with the ground, and with no tactile-visual signage. The main entrance has two automatic open doors.

There is slope-free access from the cafeteria.

Lockers / Reception

It is located on the ground floor and has a slope-free route.

There is a 114 cm-high counter with direct lighting,

Indoor mobility

The building has two levels on the south side and one level on the north side. All floors are connected by a lift and stairs.

The ground floor has several ramps that are 300 cm long, more than 120 cm wide and with a 2.6% slope. There are no handrails or tactile-visual signage at the start and end of the ramp. On the rest of the floors, the route is slope-free.

The route is free of obstacles and overhanging elements. Rim-free, non-slip and homogeneous flooring.

There are information signs with contrasting pictograms. Homogeneous lighting. It allows guide dog access.

Toilet

All the toilets on the site have level access. The gents' and ladies' toilets are marked with approved tactile pictograms with chromatic contrast, located at a height of 167-178 cm.

The toilet doors contrast with the wall.

There is homogeneous lighting with a presence detector

There are no obstacles or overhanging elements that make circulation difficult.

Lift

Two lifts in the south wing connect the ground and second floors.

Another lift in the north wing connects the ground and first floors. They all have similar characteristics.

They have non-contrasting, Braille and embossed buttons. There is a handrail at a height of 105 cm.

There are no audible signals indicating the floor the lift has stopped at and the direction of movement.

The floor facing the door is not marked with a tactile-visual strip. There is no audible alarm signal. There is an intercom.

Staircase

The building has two emergency staircases and two general staircases connecting all the floors of the building.

There are flights of stairs with a maximum of 13 steps. The steps are 12-17 cm high and have a tread of 29-30 cm.

There is nosing and a protective skirting board on both sides. There are single handrails on both sides at a height of 98-104 cm. They are extended on landings and in embarkation-disembarkation areas.

There is no tactile-visual signage at the start and end of each staircase and no tactile-visual strips on each step.

There is non-slip and homogeneous flooring. Homogeneous lighting.

Rooms

The building has three auditoriums, two multi-purpose rooms and eight committee rooms. All spaces have an obstacle-free route and no overhanging elements.

In auditoriums 1 and 2, the doors do not contrast with the wall.

All the rooms, with the exception of Multipurpose Room 2, are carpeted. There are no rims or elements that hinder movement.

Lighting according to the event.

Restaurant, cafeteria, buffet

The route is slope-free, obstacle-free and free of unmarked overhanging elements.

116 cm bar with direct lighting.

Rim-free, non-slip and homogeneous flooring.

There is a sign with large, contrasting text.

Homogeneous lighting,

Indoor mobility

There are information panels with pictograms or short texts, indicating spaces and routes.

The ground floor allows mostly visual communication with the exterior.

Reception

There is a 114 cm-high counter without a partition and without a magnetic induction loop.

Toilet

There is no vacant/engaged visual system. There is a lower clearance strip on the cabin door.

Lift

Two lifts in the south wing connect the ground and second floors. Another lift in the north wing connects the ground and first floors. They all have similar characteristics.

There is a stop indicator and visual information in the cabin and outside. Non-panoramic.

Restaurant, cafeteria, buffet

Glazed access doors, allowing visual communication with the exterior. There are no round tables.