



GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
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GOVERNMENT INAUGURATES THE EUROPA POINT LEISURE AND RECREATIONAL AREA

Following a programme of redevelopment and extensive refurbishment, the Government inaugurates the Europa Point Leisure and Recreational Area today. The official inauguration will be conducted by the Chief Minister Peter Caruana QC. Full pedestrian access to all areas and walks, including the newly created visitor interpretation centre at Harding's Battery, is now available.

Europa Point is one of Gibraltar's most important physical and historical assets. The location has fantastic panoramic views of the Strait of Gibraltar and the Moroccan and Spanish coastlines. It is visited by thousands of tourists every year. However, the area was not geared up to promote Gibraltar in the best way possible and given its popularity for tourists and local alike, the Government decided to maximise its use and breath a new lease of life into the area.

The completed project has realised and maximised the potential of the area by fully integrating all users and providing a new set of facilities in a harmonious and attractive environment. Europa Point has been given a new lease of life. It has been sensitively redeveloped to make valuable use of this historic and significant area.

The project, which commenced in March 2010, has now been completed at a cost of £4.4m. The main contractor for the project was Sharrock Shand and the principal aspects of main works contract were:

- Creation of a modern and family friendly Cafeteria
- Creation of playground areas – in excess of 2,000 m²
- Creation of a fully fenced football play area
- Creation of a Tourist Information Centre
- Refurbishment of Harding's Battery to include a visitor interpretation centre
- Extensive Landscaping – in excess of 16,500 m²
- Creation of a public car park, coach park, taxi rank and public toilets
- Installation of 50 tables and 120 bench seats

- Creation of new roundabout, lighting for night users

During construction process, Harding's Battery was revealed and found to be in a condition whereby it could be restored to its former glory. Furthermore, the underground magazine was found to everyone's surprise to still be intact. Accordingly, the battery was sensitively restored and the underground magazine store was refurbished and converted into a visitor interpretation centre

The Minister with responsibility for Development, the Hon Joe Holliday said: "I am delighted with the way the whole of Europa Point has being transformed. There is an excellent feel good factor in the area, which is something that has been evidenced by everyone that visits the site. Europa Point is a prime location in Gibraltar with outstanding vistas. The project is a perfect example of how an area can be developed to deliver a facility which caters for locals and tourists alike. The Government is extremely proud of this Project and looks forward to many years of its continued public enjoyment."