

## **Inclusive tourist routes with young people with Down syndrome as guides**

**LOCATION:** Granada

**DURATION:** 1''

**SUMMARY:** The association Granadown has designed free tourist visits for the Grenadian suburb El Realejo in which young people with Down syndrome are the guides. It's called 'Free Tour,' free visits aiming to strengthen the capabilities of these young people and promote their independence and self-esteem.

**VTR:**

**BACKGROUND**

*"It was founded in 1701. It was created to teach poor children."*

Yolanda is one of the young people taking part in the 'Free Tour' in Granada, a project from the Granadown Association in which Grenadians with Down syndrome become tourist guides to show visitors the corners of the Realejo suburb.

**YOLANDA ESTÉVEZ**  
**Free Tour Guide**

*"Yeah, I really love it. Lots of people come so that we, the guides, can inform them."*

Ana and Manuel accompany the visits as guides, they are another two volunteers from a total of twelve who are participating in the project and for months they have trained and prepared to guide these free visits.

**ANA SÁNCHEZ**  
**Free Tour Guide**

*"I really like being a guide."*

**MANUEL Á. LÓPEZ-MORATALLA**  
**Free Tour Guide**

*"Free Tour are free visits. They're an hour and a half."*

The aim of the project is to strengthen the capabilities of these young people, as well as promote their independence and build their self-esteem.

**MARÍA LUISA BARINGO**  
**Free Tour Coordinator**

*"They feel very satisfied, their self-esteem has risen enormously, because one way or another, they're the ones talking and directing."*

A very positive experience for these guides, but also for the tour's participants.

**TOURISTS**

*"It looks like they feel good doing it, they have a lot of fun and so do the people."*

*"How they're able to take care of us and then breaking the ice with them and starting a nice relationship."*

These visits are organized on weekends and promote understanding and bring a smile to both the tourists and their guides.