

Safety rules to access the IRAM 30m telescope by private car

(v1.4, last updated 1-July-2013, First version: 13.7.2011)

Intended Audience: IRAM/Granada staff and external visitors

Any visitors who intend to go to the 30m telescope using a private car, need to be aware that the observatory lies at almost 3000m altitude inside the National Park Sierra Nevada. Also the Park authorities are imposing travel restrictions. In addition, the access road is currently partly in a poor state and local weather conditions may strongly hinder or even prevent access to the observatory, even in summer time.

We therefore strongly recommended to take the official IRAM transport. The IRAM driver knows best the local conditions. During the ride he stays in constant contact with the telescope operator on-duty. IRAM cars are well maintained and equipped 4-wheel cars.

External visitors planning to access the observatory by private car, need prior written authorization by the IRAM Granada administration. The length of the permit will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

As in the past, staff members are asked to provide the license plates of their private car once per year, after the winter season, to be granted permission to enter the Parque Nacional by the Parque Authorities. This permission is valid for one year.

In addition, the following rules apply:

Travel by night-time is in general to be avoided.

Cars going to the 30m: It is mandatory to phone the telescope operator on-duty before entering the Sierra Nevada from Pradollano, or better from Granada, to clarify the local road and weather conditions.

Cars leaving the 30m: The operator needs to be informed before leaving, to clarify the local conditions. As additional safety measure, we request that the operator is briefly phoned upon reaching Granada.

The operator has the final word and decides whether conditions at the 30m are safe to use cars. In case of conflict, the IRAM/Granada Responsible for Safety is the first to be contacted.

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