

**VISITING TECHNOPSIS**

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# HOW TO USE THE STEP-BY-STEP PLAN

It's great that you have decided to visit Technopolis. Working together with Technopolis, Tourism for Autism has created a step-by-step plan to help you prepare for this activity.

Below you can read how to use this plan.



There is a lot of information in this plan.

Not all of this information is important for everyone.

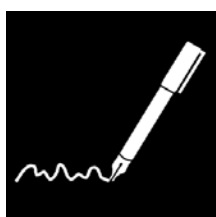
For example, you have various options for getting to Technopolis.

You can get there by car, by train, by bike, on foot, etc.



Choose the pages that are relevant to you.

Choose which pages to print out in the next phase.



You can write this down on a sheet of paper, so that you don't forget anything while printing.



Then print out the pages you selected in the previous step.

You can also print out the arrangements if you want to use them.



When you have printed out the step-by-step plan, it's best to keep it in a folder.

This will ensure that the pages don't get mixed up.

It is up to you whether you want to do this or not.

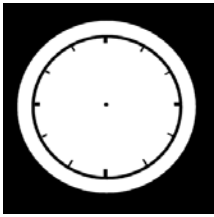


In addition, you still need to complete some sentences in the plan yourself.

For example, fill in on the dotted lines at the start when you will go to Technopolis and who will go with you.

As you read through the plan, fill in the missing information on all the dotted lines.

# HOW TO USE THE STEP-BY-STEP PLAN



You will see two clocks at the start of the plan.  
Read what it says below and mark that time on the clock.

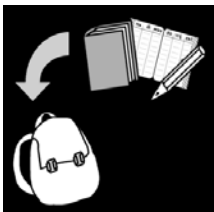


Now you can really start preparing for your visit.  
Choose a quiet moment so that you are not in a hurry to read the plan.  
You should read the plan the evening before you leave at the latest. Do this at least once. If you want to, you can read the plan sooner. You can also read the plan more often.

It all depends on what you need.



If this plan is intended for young children, it's best to read it with them the first time.  
That way, you can be sure that the child understands everything properly and can ask questions.



If you want, you can take this plan with you to Technopolis.  
This is not necessary for the visit to be successful.



So, now you're all ready to go on your trip.  
Tourism for Autism and Technopolis hope you have a lot of fun!  
If you have any feedback afterwards about your trip or the step-by-step plan, simply send us an email at [contact@toerismevoorautisme.be](mailto:contact@toerismevoorautisme.be)

# WHAT YOU WILL DO AND WHEN

You will soon be going to Technopolis. This is an interactive centre in Mechelen for everything related to science and technology. Many people have fun visiting Technopolis.

This document explains what you will do and see in Technopolis.

Have a good look at the document in advance. This will ensure that you are well prepared.

## INFORMATION



I will visit Technopolis on ..... (date).

..... (other people) are coming with me.

I will do my best to leave for Technopolis at ..... (time).

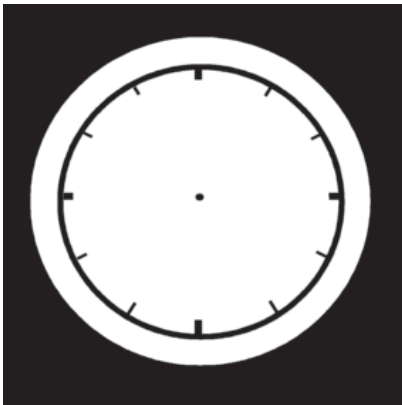
I may leave a little bit later. This will not be a problem. The city of Mechelen is located in the province of Antwerp.

Technopolis is located in the city of Mechelen.

Technopolis is shown on the map with the red pointer.

# WHAT YOU WILL DO AND WHEN

## PREPARATIONS



The journey to Technopolis takes approximately .....  
..... (journey time).

It may take you more time to get there, or it may take you less time to get there.

This is okay.

If you want, you can bring headphones with you to Technopolis.

It can be busy in Technopolis.  
Headphones may help if this bothers you.



This step-by-step plan is accompanied by an extensive sensory guide.

In this sensory guide you can see all the exhibits in Technopolis.

For each exhibit there is a list of the stimuli that you will hear/see/feel/...





## HOW TO GET TO TECHNOPOLIS

GETTING THERE BY TRAIN AND ON FOOT

GETTING THERE BY TRAIN AND BUS

GETTING THERE BY BUS

GETTING THERE BY CAR

GETTING THERE BY BICYCLE

GETTING THERE ON FOOT

# HOW TO GET TO TECHNOPSIS

## GETTING THERE BY TRAIN AND ON FOOT



I will get to Technopolis by train.

I can look up my train journey on this website:

[www.nmbs.be](http://www.nmbs.be).

I will get on at ..... station.

I may need to change trains one or more times during my journey.

I will change at ..... station or at .....  
.....  
..... stations.

It's also possible that I don't need to change trains during my journey.

If this is the case, I stay on the train until I reach my destination stop.

I will get off at Mechelen station.



I will walk from the station to Technopolis.

It is about a 30-minute walk.



I will arrive at Technopolis.



# HOW TO GET TO TECHNOPOLIS

## GETTING THERE BY TRAIN AND BUS



I will get to Technopolis by train.

I can look up my train journey on this website:

[www.nmbs.be](http://www.nmbs.be).

I will get on at ..... station.

I may need to change trains one or more times during my journey.

I will change at ..... station or at .....

.....

..... stations.

It's also possible that I don't need to change trains during my journey.

If this is the case, I stay on the train until I reach my destination stop.

I will get off at Mechelen station.



I will walk to the bus stop for bus 282 or bus 682.

These buses stop at the entrance to Technopolis.

I can also take bus 280, 551, 552 or 683 to the Jubellaan stop.

I will then need to walk for 10 minutes to the entrance to Technopolis.



I will arrive at Technopolis.

You can recognise the entrance to Technopolis by this sign.

# HOW TO GET TO TECHNOPOLIS

## GETTING THERE BY TRAIN AND BUS



Bus 282 and bus 682 stop at the bus stop in front of Technopolis.

This is the bus stop.

# HOW TO GET TO TECHNOPOLIS

## GETTING THERE BY BUS



I will get to Technopolis by bus.  
I will walk to the bus stop for bus ..... (bus number).  
I will get on the bus.  
The journey will take approximately ..... minutes.  
I will get off at the .....  
stop.



When I get off the bus, I will still need to walk for  
..... minutes to the entrance to Technopolis.



I will arrive at Technopolis.  
You can recognise the entrance to Technopolis by this sign.



Bus 282 and bus 682 stop at the bus stop in front of  
Technopolis.  
This is the bus stop.

# HOW TO GET TO TECHNOPOLIS

## GETTING THERE BY CAR



I will get to Technopolis by car.



I will arrive at Technopolis.

You can recognise the entrance to Technopolis by this sign.



I will drive into the Technopolis car park.



I will park my car in the car park.

# HOW TO GET TO TECHNOPOLIS

## GETTING THERE BY BICYCLE



I will get to Technopolis by bicycle.



I will arrive at Technopolis.



I will cycle into the Technopolis car park.  
The bicycle shed is close to the building.



I will put my bicycle in the bicycle shed.  
I will lock my bicycle and walk to the entrance to Technopolis.

# HOW TO GET TO TECHNOPOLIS

## GETTING THERE ON FOOT



I will get to Technopolis on foot.



I will arrive at Technopolis.

I will carry on walking into the Technopolis car park.



## ARRIVING AT TECHNOPSIS: WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

# ARRIVING AT TECHNOPSIS: WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

## ARRIVAL FOR VISITORS



I will arrive at Technopolis.



I will go up using the stairs or the ramp.



On the way up I will pass a first exhibit.

This exhibit is available during Technopolis opening hours.

You can read more about it in the sensory guide.



This is the entrance to Technopolis.

Continue through the double glass doors.



# ARRIVING AT TECHNOPOLIS: WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

## ARRIVAL FOR VISITORS



You will enter a large entrance hall.



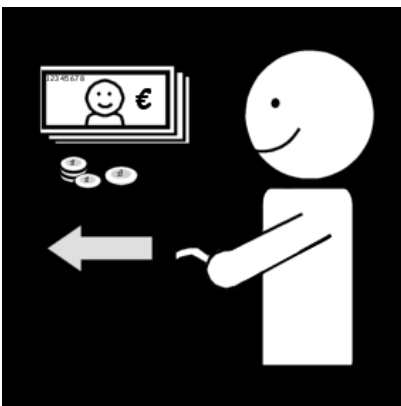
In front of you is the counter.  
Go to the counter first.



Sometimes there may be other people queuing at the counter.

If so, do your best to wait patiently.

If no one is queuing, you can go straight to the counter.



It's your turn.

Pay for your entrance ticket or wait until your accompanying adult has paid for entrance tickets.

If you bought your ticket online, show it to the counter employee.

# ARRIVING AT TECHNOLPOLIS: WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

## ARRIVAL FOR VISITORS



In Technopolis, there is a stimulus basket. It is full of things that can reduce stimuli or stimulate such as tangles and fidgets, stress balls, headphones, sunglasses, gloves and fragrances.

If I want to use something, I ask for it at the counter.

1. I choose which items I want to use during the visit.
2. I write the items and my contact details on a form.
3. I put the items in a Technopolis cloth bag.
4. At the end of my visit, I return the items to the reception desk.



To prepare your visit down to the last detail, you can do some virtual exploring of Technopolis. Scan the QR code to experience the virtual tour.

# ARRIVING AT TECHNOPOLIS: WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

## ARRIVAL FOR VISITORS



Continue into Technopolis by the corridor to the right of the counter.



The cloakroom is on the left side of the corridor.  
If you want, you can put your backpack and jacket in a locker in the cloakroom.



You can put your things in a locker.  
Put a coin in the slot and close the locker.  
When you open the locker again, you will get the coin back.



Keep the key safe.

# ARRIVING AT TECHNOLPOLIS: WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

## ARRIVAL FOR VISITORS



If you don't have any coins, you can get money from the machine in the corridor.



Now you can start your visit to Technopolis.



If you need help or have questions during your visit, you can always speak to an employee. You can recognise Technopolis employees by this blue sweater or T-shirt.



## VISITING TECHNOPSIS

YOUR VISIT TO TECHNOPSIS  
USING THE SENSORY GUIDE

# VISITING TECHNOPOLIS

## YOUR VISIT TO TECHNOPOLIS



There is a lot to see and do in Technopolis.  
A visit to Technopolis consists of several parts.  
You can choose in which order you visit the different parts.

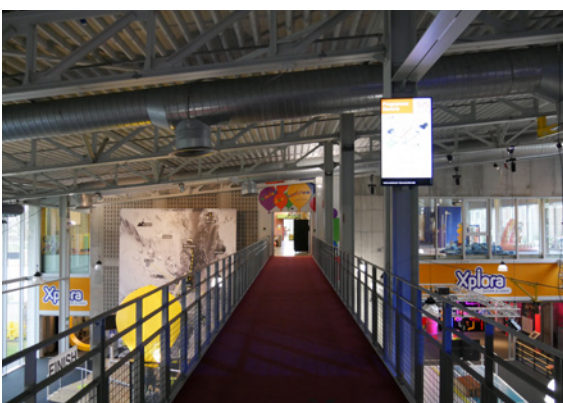


There is a main exhibition in Technopolis.  
In the main exhibition you can find out and learn a lot about science and technology.

The main exhibition is on the upper floor right next to the corridor.



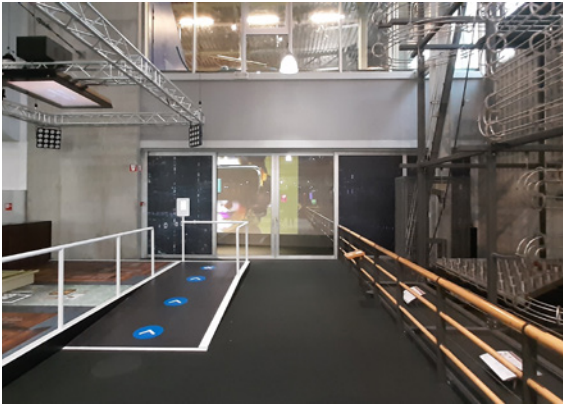
There is a Children's Science Centre in Technopolis.  
The Children's Science Centre is for children aged between 4 and 8 years.



The Children's Science Centre is on the upper floor.  
Walk to the right across the bridge.  
This will take you to the Children's Science Centre.

# VISITING TECHNOPOLIS

## YOUR VISIT TO TECHNOPOLIS



In Technopolis you will find Xplora.

Xplora is for young people aged between 10 and 14 years.

This part of Technopolis will soon be changing.

This is why no information about Xplora is provided in the step-by-step plan and the sensory guide for the time being.

After the renovations you will find the correct information here.



There is a Science Garden in Technopolis.

The Science Garden is outside.



You get to the Science Garden through the double doors on the ground floor.



There is an interactive exhibition called 'Sea Force' in Technopolis.

In this exhibition you can find out and learn a lot about the future of our seas.

# VISITING TECHNOPOLIS

## YOUR VISIT TO TECHNOPOLIS



'Sea Force' is on the upper floor at the end of the corridor on the right.

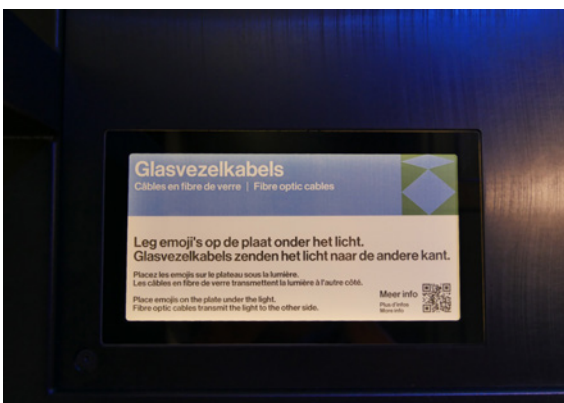
This is the entrance to the exhibition.



At Technopolis is ON/OFF. ON/OFF is an exhibition for children aged 8 and above. In ON/OFF, I can discover and learn a lot about AI and other technology. I can find ON/OFF on the floor -1 on the right side of the main hall.



All activities in Technopolis are hands-on activities. That means that you can touch everything.



Next to every activity, there's an explanation of what you need to do.

You can read the explanations yourself or you can ask your accompanying adult to read the explanation to you.

Most explanations include a QR code.

You can scan this QR code with your mobile phone.

You will then see a video of how the activity works.

You can also learn more about the science behind the activity.



# VISITING TECHNOPSIS

## YOUR VISIT TO TECHNOPSIS



You can also see and read the same information on the screens in the room.



Various employees will be walking around in Technopolis. You can recognise the employees by their blue sweater or T-shirt.

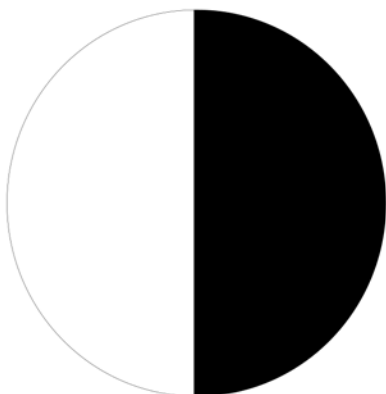
The employees can help you if you don't understand an activity properly.

They will explain what to do.



In the sensory guide you can see an overview of all the exhibits in Technopolis.

You can read more about using the sensory guide from page 32 onwards.



A visit to Technopolis takes about four hours.

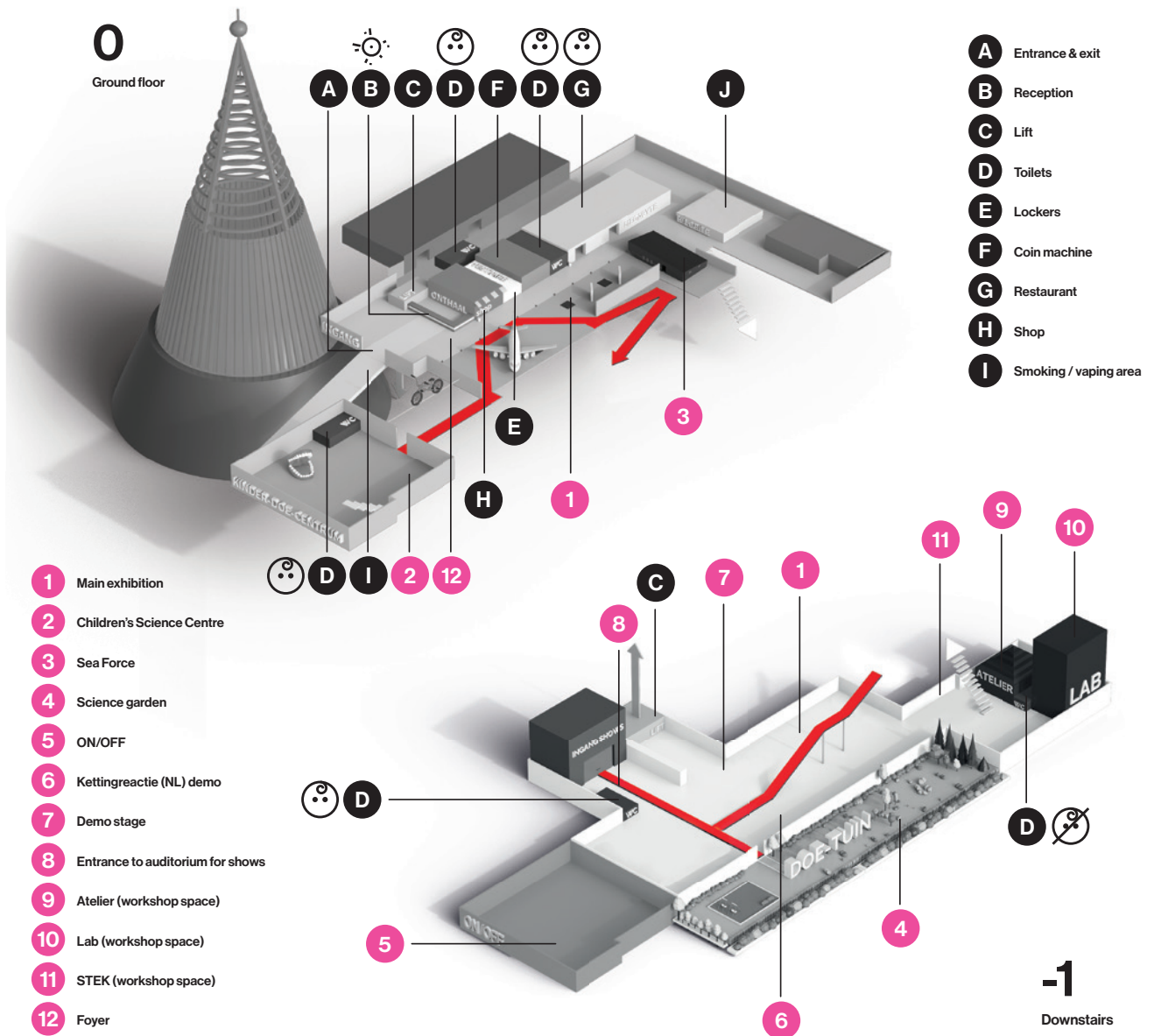
That's about half a day.

Your visit may take longer if you are really enjoying it.

You may also find that your visit doesn't take so long if you are not enjoying it so much.

# VISITING TECHNOPOLIS

## YOUR VISIT TO TECHNOPOLIS



You can see a map of Technopolis above.  
 It shows where each exhibition space is located.  
 It also shows where the toilets, shop and restaurant are.



**TECHNOPSIS**

1

Tourism for Autism has created a sensory guide for Technopolis.

In the guide, you can see which senses are stimulated in each activity.

You can also tell how intense each stimulus is by looking at the number.

You will see a number from 1 to 5.

The higher the number, the more intense the stimulus.

You can download the sensory guide from the Tourism for Autism website.

# WHERE TO FIND THE TOILETS

## THE TOILETS



There are several toilets in Technopolis.

There are toilets on the left side of the corridor near the entrance hall.

There are toilets near the workshop rooms.

There are toilets on the left before you enter the show.

There are toilets in the Children's Science Centre.

There are also wheelchair-friendly toilets.



You can recognise the toilets by the blue information sign.

You can go to the toilet here if you need to.

There are hot air hand dryers in the toilets.

These make a loud noise.



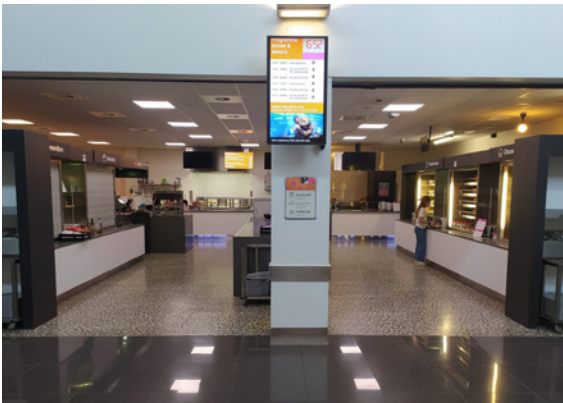
## EATING OPTIONS

EATING OR DRINKING SOMETHING IN THE RESTAURANT

OPTING NOT TO EAT OR DRINK ANYTHING IN TECHNOPOLIS

# EATING OPTIONS

## EATING OR DRINKING SOMETHING IN TECHNOPOLIS



There is a restaurant in Technopolis.

You can find the restaurant in the long corridor near the entrance hall.

This is the entrance to the restaurant.



You can have something to eat and/or drink in the restaurant.

The restaurant is self-service.

This means that you help yourself to food.



Pay for your food at the till.



Then look for a place in the restaurant to sit and eat/drink.

# EATING OPTIONS

## EATING OR DRINKING SOMETHING IN TECHNOLIS



When you've finished eating/drinking, clear away your things yourself.

# EATING OPTIONS

## OPTING NOT TO EAT OR DRINK ANYTHING IN TECHNOPSIS



There is a restaurant in Technopolis.

You can choose not to eat and/or drink anything in the restaurant.





## THE SHOP

BUYING SOMETHING IN THE SHOP

OPTING NOT TO BUY ANYTHING IN THE SHOP

# THE SHOP

## BUYING SOMETHING IN THE SHOP



In Technopolis there is a shop behind the till.



You can buy something in the shop at the end of your visit.



Pay at the shop's till.

# THE SHOP

## OPTING NOT TO BUY ANYTHING IN THE SHOP



There is a shop in Technopolis.

You can choose not to buy anything in the shop.

# END OF THE VISIT

END



If your visit to Technopolis is over, return to the entrance hall.



When I have used items from the stimulus basket, I give these back to the staff member at the counter.



If you left anything in a locker in the cloakroom, first collect your things.



During the holidays you may have to go through the shop to get to the exit.

This is okay.

# END OF THE VISIT

END



Continue towards the exit.

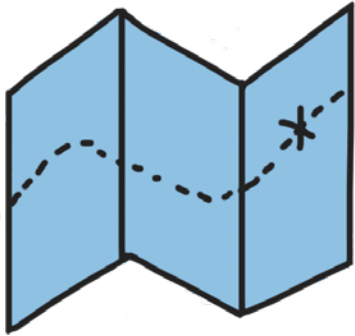
The exit is the same door as the entrance to Technopolis.

After my visit to Technopolis I will go to

..... (destination).

# ACTIVITIES NEAR TECHNOPOLIS

## AUTISM-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES NEAR TECHNOPOLIS



There are some activities near Technopolis that you can do with a step-by-step plan from Tourism for Autism.

These activities are listed below.

You can download the step-by-step plans for these activities for free from the website [www.toerismevoorautisme.be](http://www.toerismevoorautisme.be)



Near Technopolis you can visit De Nekker.

It takes about 10 minutes to get there by car.



Near Technopolis you can visit Planckendael ZOO.

It takes about 15 minutes to get there by car.



Near Technopolis you can visit the Barefoot Path in Provinciaal Domein De Schorre.

It takes about 15 minutes to get there by car.



## LEAVING TECHNOPOLIS

RETURNING ON FOOT AND BY TRAIN

RETURNING BY BUS AND TRAIN

RETURNING BY BUS

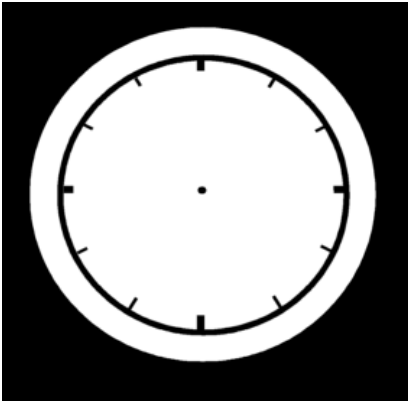
RETURNING BY CAR

RETURNING BY BICYCLE

RETURNING ON FOOT

# LEAVING TECHNOPOLIS

## LEAVING TECHNOPOLIS



It will take me about ..... to get to my next destination.

It may take me less time to get there, or it may take me more time to get there.

This is okay.



# LEAVING TECHNOPSIS

## RETURNING ON FOOT AND BY TRAIN



I will walk to Mechelen station.

It is about a 30-minute walk.



I will take the train to my next destination.

I may need to change trains one or more times during my journey.

I will change at ..... station or at .....  
..... stations.

It's also possible that I don't need to change trains during my journey.

If this is the case, I stay on the train until I reach my destination stop.

I will get off at ..... station.

# LEAVING TECHNOPOLIS

## RETURNING BY BUS AND TRAIN



I will walk to the bus stop for bus ..... (bus number).

The walk takes about ..... minutes.



I will get on the bus.

I will take the bus to Mechelen station.

The journey will take approximately ..... minutes.



I will walk from the bus stop to Mechelen station.



I will take the train to my next destination.

I may need to change trains one or more times during my journey.

I will change at ..... station or at .....  
..... stations.

It's also possible that I don't need to change trains during my journey.

If this is the case, I stay on the train until I reach my destination stop.

I will get off at ..... station.

# LEAVING TECHNOLIS

## RETURNING BY BUS



I will walk from Technopolis to the bus stop for bus  
..... (bus number).

The walk takes about ..... minutes.



I will get on the bus.

I will take the bus to.....(destination).

The journey will take approximately ..... minutes.

I will get off at the .....  
stop.

# LEAVING TECHNOPSIS

## RETURNING BY CAR



I will go by car to.....(destination).

# LEAVING TECHNOLPOLIS

## RETURNING BY BICYCLE



I will go to where I left my bicycle.

I will unlock my bicycle.

I will go by bicycle to.....(destination).

# LEAVING TECHNOPOLIS

## RETURNING ON FOOT



I will go on foot to.....(destination).

This is the end of the document.

This is what my trip will be like.

It's possible that some things may change.

This is okay.

If things change, my accompanying adults will indicate this on this plan.

Then we will have a great trip together.