



Visit LA PALMA

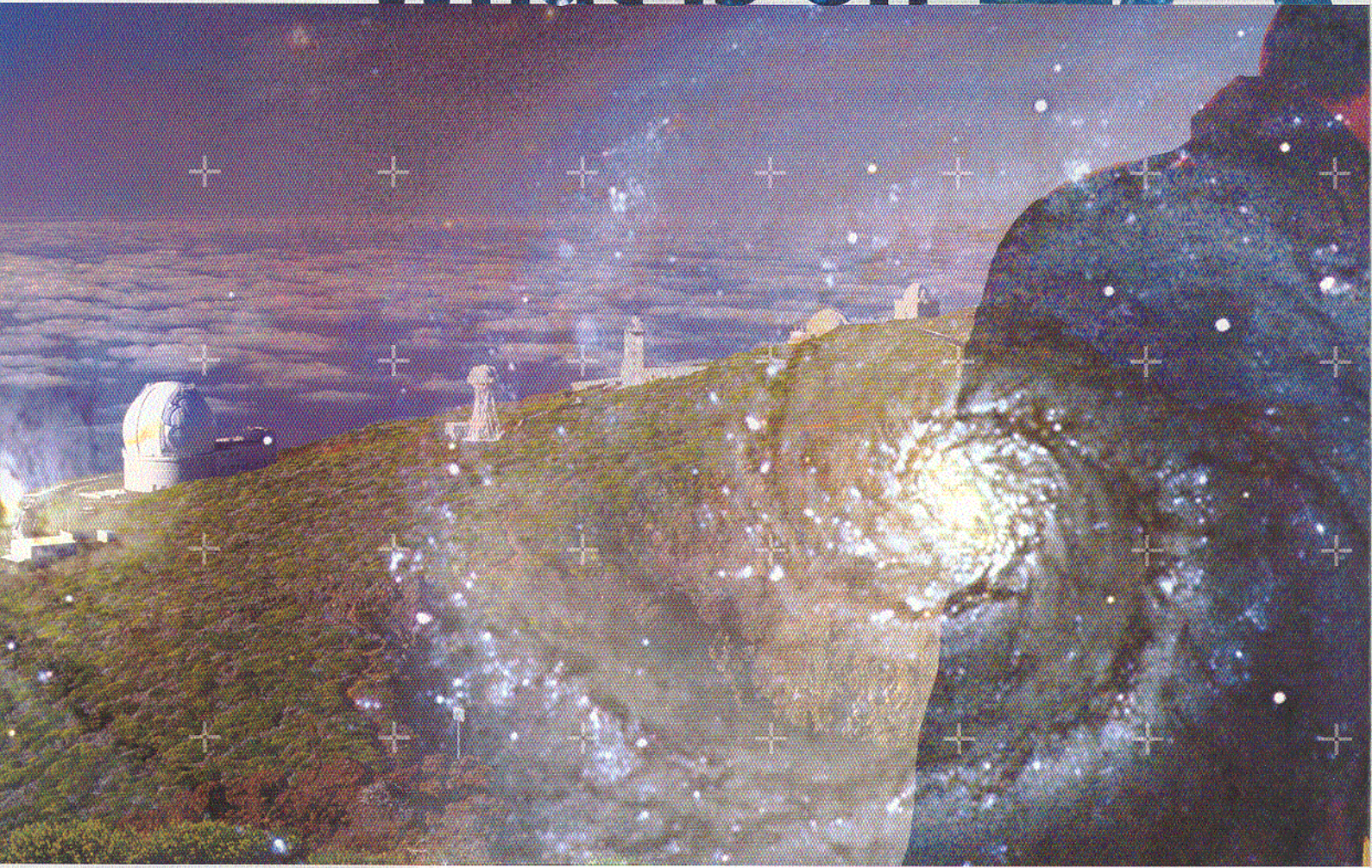
and the Isaac Newton Group of Telescopes

The PPARC Guide to visiting the Isaac Newton Group of
Telescopes on La Palma, Canary Islands, from the UK

www.pparc.ac.uk

PPARC
Particle Physics and Astronomy
Research Council

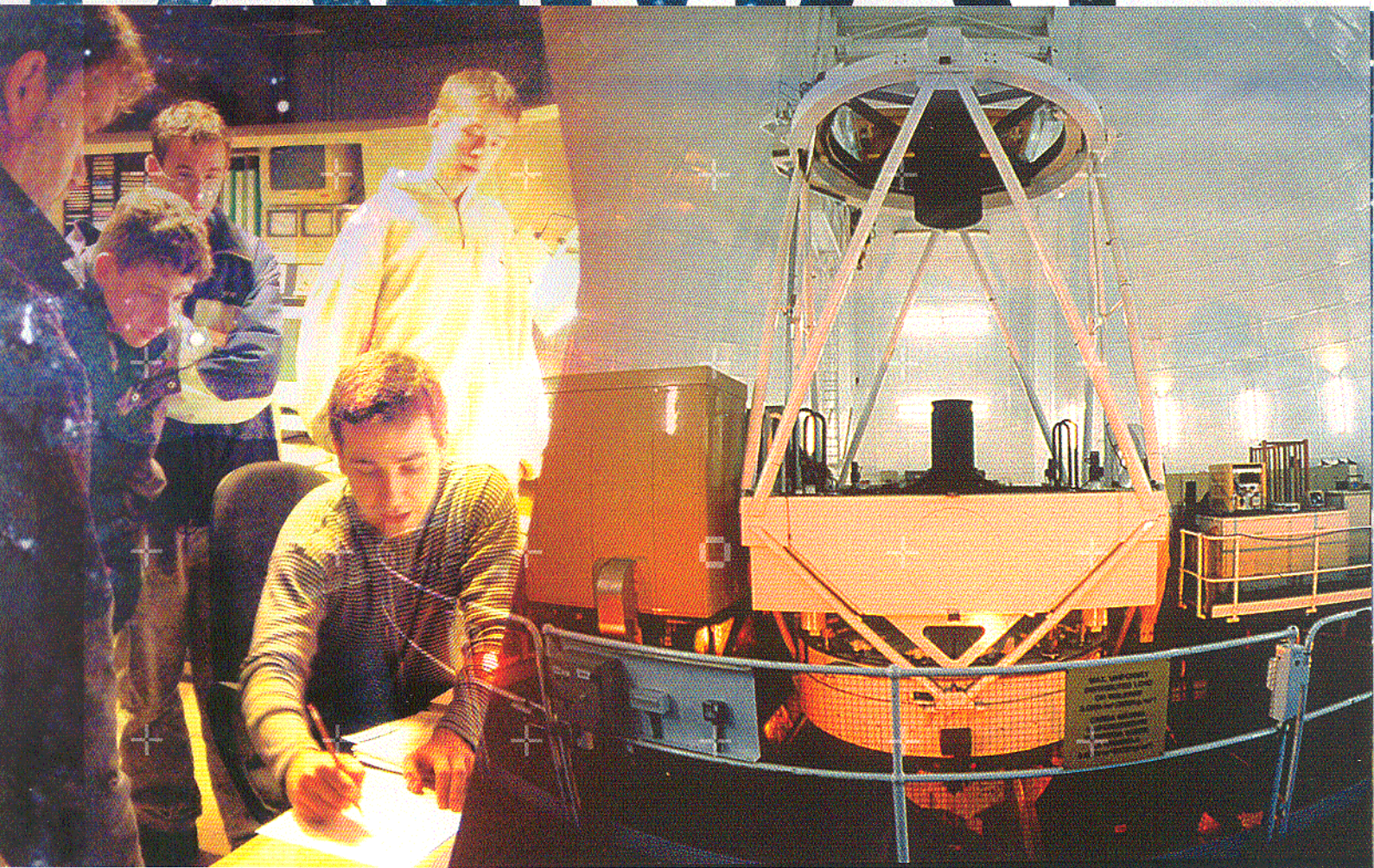
What is on LA



The Isaac Newton Group of Telescopes in La Palma

- ☀ Located in the Roque de Los Muchachos Observatory, one of the most important observatories in the northern hemisphere.
- ☀ An overseas establishment of the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council of the United Kingdom in collaboration with astronomers from the Netherlands, Ireland and Spain.
- ☀ In the clear air above the clouds at 2,400 m on La Palma, Canary Islands, Spain - one of the best places in the world for an observatory, and a stunning view of the night sky.
- ☀ The home of the 4.2m William Herschel Telescope, one of the most powerful optical telescopes in the world - it can see objects up to 10 billion light years away!
- ☀ The home of the 2.5m Isaac Newton Telescope, originally situated at Herstmonceux in Sussex then transported, rebuilt and upgraded on La Palma.
- ☀ Described in detail on the web at www.ast.cam.ac.uk/ING/

PALMA?



Why Visit the Observatory?

- ☀ Optical telescopes produce some of the most spectacular pictures ever taken - this is an opportunity to see how.
- ☀ A chance to visit a major scientific research establishment.
- ☀ Understand the complexity of the instruments and the amazing precision engineering needed to make them work.
- ☀ Marvel at the difficulties overcome in building such a complex establishment at so great a height.
- ☀ Expert guides to answer your questions - learn about how modern astronomy is done.

ORGANISING A VISIT



- it's easy!

- ☀ Your first step is to visit the Isaac Newton Group web pages -
www.ast.cam.ac.uk/ING/PR/visits/ for general information about visits and
www.ast.cam.ac.uk/ING/PR/schools/ for specific information about school visits.
You can download detailed information at www.ast.cam.ac.uk/ING/PR/schools/guide.pdf
- ☀ Travel to La Palma generally requires a flight to Tenerife or Gran Canaria, followed by a flight or ferry to La Palma, although direct flights from London Gatwick are sometimes possible.
- ☀ A range of different types of accommodation is available in Santa Cruz de La Palma.
- ☀ You will need to hire your own transport to the observatory as there is no public transport to the top of the mountain.
- ☀ La Palma offers many opportunities for other activities - including geological fieldwork and outdoor pursuits.
- ☀ A talk for an astronomer or a visit to a telescope in the UK before you go can be valuable - PPARC can help to arrange this.
- ☀ Combine your visit to La Palma with a visit to the Izaña Observatory on Tenerife (www.iac.es/ot/indice.html), as well as field work in other curriculum areas such as Geology and Biology.

For further information and help contact:

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PPARC can provide support for teaching Particle Physics, Astronomy and Space Science. Visit the PPARC website, www.pparc.ac.uk, for information on available resources