

HOW TO REACH THE CONFERENCE VENUE The Conference Venue

Alfandega do Porto Congress Centre

R. Nova da Alfândega,



Location

The venue, Alfandega Congress Center is located in the very heart of Porto historical center on the north bank of the River Douro, overlooking the Port Wine cellars.

You can find more information about the Congress Center here:

<http://www.meetinportugal.com/mpg/1/1372.html>

Free parking place is offered at the Alfandega Congress Centre.

By airplane

The Francisco Sá Carneiro Airport is located in the heart of the industrial north of the country, 11km from the city of Oporto, making it a privileged access point to this valuable commercial area.

Having undergone intense renovation work, the Francisco Sá Carneiro Airport now receives passengers and other users in the greatest of comfort, taking up the role of primary travel hub for the north-western corner of the Iberian Peninsula.

Bus lines and Railway connection are available from the airport to the downtown of Porto. Please, find details on the site of the airport: http://www.ana.pt/portal/page/portal/ANA/AEROPORTO_PORTO/

By Train and Metro

Bus 500 goes by the Congress Center, which can be reached from ex. the metro stop named S. Bento on the Yellow Line.

<http://www.metroporto.pt>

From the airport to the center you will need to buy a ticket for Z4 (please, see details below).

Tickets for the public transport:

Regular Titles



For regular titles the most used is the blue ANDANTE ticket:

- Non- personalized paper ticket
- Rechargeable with any kind of travel title
- A ticket per person
- This ticket can only contain one type of title (it cannot have a Z2 title and also a Z3 title)
- This ticket can contain several titles of the same type (for example, 10 Z2 titles)
- You can only change the content of this ticket when it's empty
- Price per ticket = 0,50 EUR

The regular titles are valid for the zones around the zone your journey started (the zone where you validate your ticket). The titles allow you to travel a certain time, according to the areas they include.

Title Z2 Z3 Z4 Z5 Z6 Z7 Duration 1h00m 1h00m 1h15m 1h30m 1h45m 2h00

With ANDANTE 24 ticket you can travel during 24 hours after the first validation within the zones you choose.

Andante Tour Ticket

It is also a regular title, non-rechargeable, thinking on the visitors of Porto. These titles give access to all ANDANTE circuit and enable you for travelling the number of times you want. You only need to choose the number of days you wish travel.

Andante Tour 1

Valid for 24 hours after the first validation Price = 5,00 EUR



Andante Tour 3

Valid for 72 hours after the first validation
Price = 11,00

EUR

Taxis

The taxi fare from the airport is expected to be around 15 - 20 Euros.

All taxis are equipped with a taximeter, and the fares that drivers may charge is limited to that which is displayed on the meter.

For the entire day of Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, and on all other days from 09:00pm at night until 06:00am in the morning, a surcharge of 20% is automatically added to the fare on the taximeter.

Any toll roads taken by the taxi must be paid by the customer.

The rate for a taxi that has been called via radio taxi or phone will bear a surcharge of 0.80€. Baggage that exceeds the special dimensions of 55cm x 35cm x 20cm may also bear a surcharge of 1.60€.

The transportation of cradles, prams/strollers, and wheelchairs is free of charge and tipping is at the customer's discretion.

Prices quoted are for a maximum of 4 passengers.

All taxis of standard colour are obliged to affix on the window of the rear left-side door a rate table that the customer may consult in case of any doubt or query.

Cabs must issue a receipt to all passengers. Should you wish to lodge a complaint for any reason, the customer should show the receipt to one of the following police authorities: the PSP (Polícia de Segurança Pública), the GNR (Guarda Nacional Republicana) or the Inspector-General for Commercial Activities (Serviços da Inspeção-Geral das Actividades Económicas).

PRACTICAL INFORMATION (2)

Museums are generally open from 9.00am until 7.00pm, some close between 1.00pm and 2.30pm and all are closed on Monday.

Currency Exchange

The currency in Portugal is Euro. For all currency exchange, banks are generally the most reliable and offer the best rates. There are also exchange offices at all major airports and train stations whose opening hours are usually more convenient but the commission is more expensive.

All major credit cards are also widely accepted and if you have the PIN you can use these to receive cash in compatible bank machines. The same applies to bank cards which are members of any of the international banking networks or Eurocard.

Banking Services

Banks in Portugal offer a full range of services. There are many 24-hour cash points (ATMs) available. The general opening times of the banks are from Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 03.00pm. Banks are usually closed on Saturday and Sunday.

Electricity

Electricity in Portugal is 220V, 50 Hz.

Telephones

To call Porto from abroad, first dial +351 for Portugal and then 22 for Porto, followed by the local number. There can be high charges on calls made from hotels, restaurants and bars and it is generally cheaper to use a calling card. Public telephone boxes take coins or phone cards for local and international calls and in some cases also credit cards.

Tipping

Tipping is important in restaurants in Porto, and it is also customary to tip hotel staff. Service charges are not included in restaurant bills, and it is common to tip 10% or possibly more if the service was really excellent. In hotel rooms, it is customary to leave a tip for the room service, figuring a euro or two for each day of your stay if the service was decent. It is also nice to give a tip of € 1 - 2 to porters who carry luggage to your room. In taxis, you can tip whatever amount you think is appropriate, and don't have to give a percentage. Some people round up the bill to the nearest 5 euro and others tip 10% of the fare.

Emergency Numbers

National emergency number for Ambulance, Police and Fire Brigade: 112

Safety Instructions

In Porto, as in any other city, you need to be alert for potential pickpockets, and take good care that your valuables are always secure. The places where most pickpocketing occurs are usually at busy tourist attractions or on crowded public transport. Also be careful at night to walk on well-lit streets and not to walk alone if possible.

Driving in Porto can be very dangerous as the laws are different from other places, and the local drivers can be rather reckless. So if you plan to drive in the city, make sure to learn the important traffic laws and try to be alert at all times. Useful links:

<http://www.metrodoporto.pt> , <http://www.portugalvirtual.pt/tourism/costaverde/porto/index.html> ,
http://www.ana.pt/portal/page/portal/ANA/AEROPORTO_PORTO/

Culture Hint

Sightseeing hints in Porto

Cathedral, Clergymen Church and Tower, Carmo Church, Cedofeita Church, Lapa Church, Santo Ildefonso Church, S. Francisco Church, S. Bento Station, Stock Exchange Palace, Ponte D. Luis I., Ribeira

The city's historic center was declared a World Heritage Site by the UNESCO in 1996.

Museums in Porto

The Port Wine Museum, Casa do Infante (House of the Prince), Romantic Museum of Quinta da Macieirinha, Soares dos Reis National Museum, Misericordia Museum

Gastronomy

Porto is located between Douro and Minho, the cradle of the Portuguese nationality. Among the city's many cultural traditions we emphasise its much-celebrated gastronomy and the appeal it has for visitors.

When talking about Porto we must mention some traditional dishes, such as the Porto Style Tripe, which gave the city's inhabitants their nickname - tripeiros - i.e. those who eat tripe. This dish, famous not so much for its preparation (veal's tripe with sausages and butter beans) as for the altruistic attitude of the Porto people who, in a moment of need, donated all the available meat to the ships leaving to conquer new cities in Northern Africa and kept only the animals' tripe for their subsistence, is today's major symbol of the city's gastronomy. More than just a recipe, this dish represents some strong characteristics of the Northern people: altruism, self-sacrifice, availability and hospitality.

Porto's cod and meat dishes and some luscious and rich secular cakes are singled out as examples. Porto Style eating means to eat abundantly, with great quality and refinement, always in tables well decorated with jewellers' silverware and embroidered linen tablecloths.

Wines from the Douro region are beginning to be accepted as some of Portugal's finest. Although excellent white wines are produced here, the area is best known for its great reds.

Sightseeing hints close to Porto

Espinho, Matosinhos, Povia de Varzim, Amarante, Vila Nova de Gaia

We wish you a pleasant journey and look forward to seeing you in Porto and sharing the pleasure of a successful and memorable event.