

We Welcome You To Grand Prix Lisboa 2012

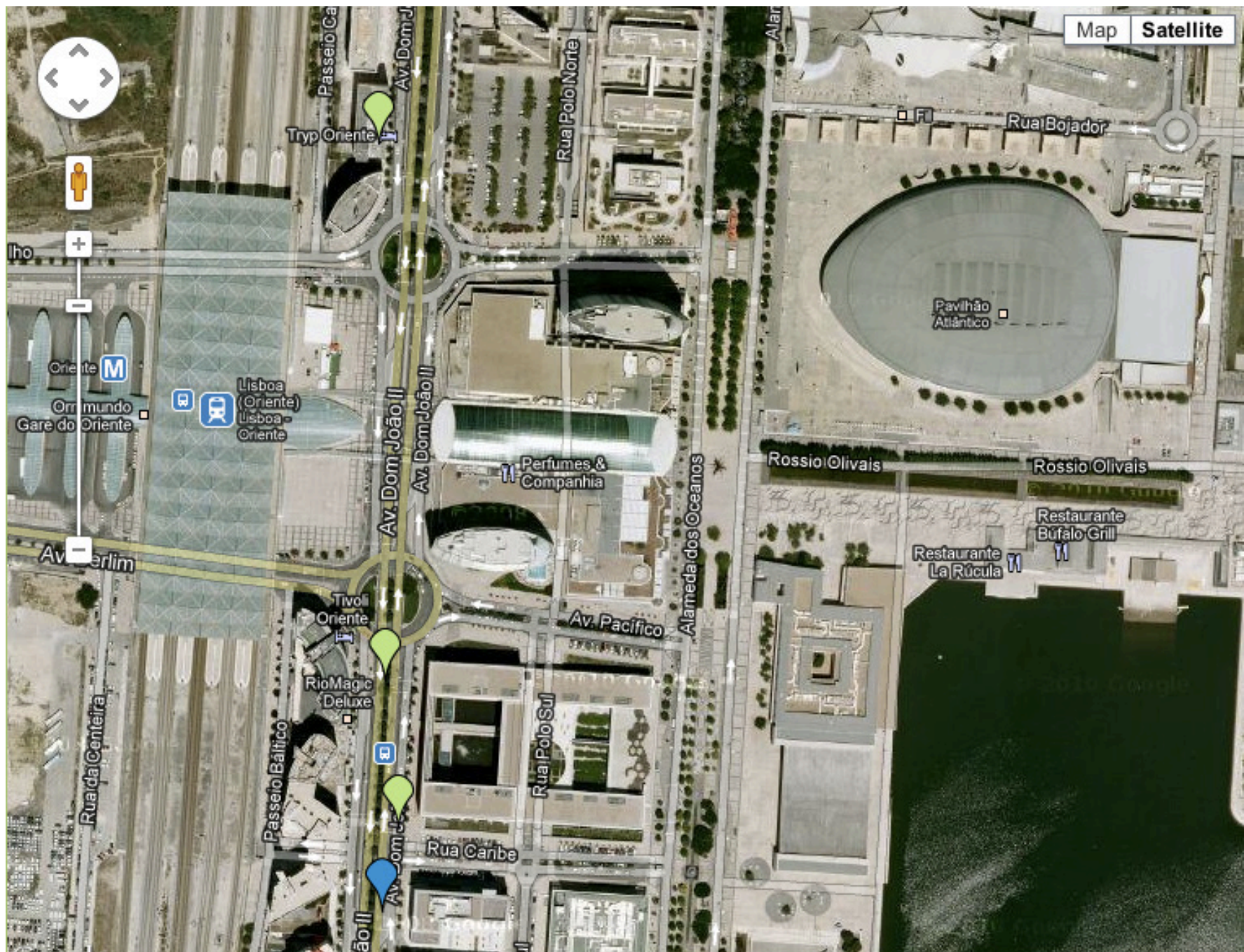
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So, you're going to the next GP and it happens to be in Lisbon, Portugal which you don't really know that well. In fact, do you even remember the last time there was a GP there?

Oh boy, are we glad to see you!

Accommodations

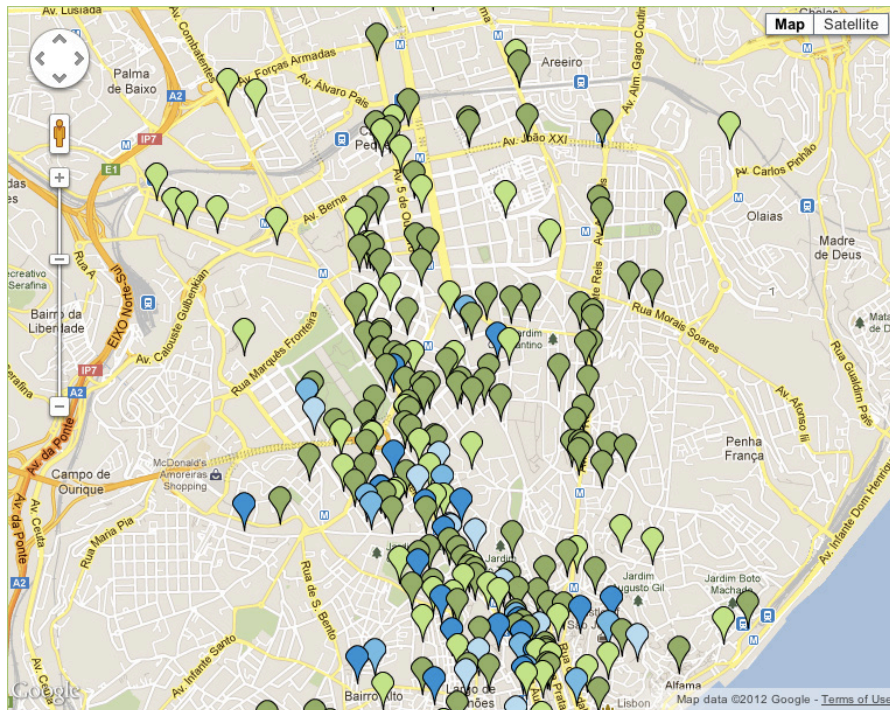
As you might have heard or read, the GP will be held in Pavilhão Atlântico, a venue in a very nice spot of the city (more on that later) and you might be looking for lodging. While there are a few hotels near the event site, and that means really near, they are also quite a bit expensive with prices for a night starting roughly at 70€. Even so, in case you wish to book a room in the [Hotel Tivoli Oriente](#), [TRYP Lisboa Oriente Hotel](#), [Hotel Olissippo Oriente](#) or [Hotel VIP Executive Art's](#), they are all located in Parque das Nações and you might access more information through the links.



Event venue at the right (big egg shape) and hotels signalled – blue is the cheapest

If, however, you wish to pay less for accommodations you'll be staying pretty far from the venue, although you shouldn't worry too much as Lisbon's public transportation system *is* good, even in spite of the financial crisis.

Most of the places you'll be checking out and choosing from will be hostels located in the centre of the city and rather friendlier to your wallet (usually starting out at about 16€) – you might want to start with the [one youth hostel located in Parque das Nações](#) since it's the one closest to your goal. If you like what you saw in that, there is also [its twin](#) in the centre of Lisbon and others of similar price such as the [Residência Mar dos Açores](#) and the [Pérola dos Anjos](#). Summing it up, if you are looking for cheaper lodging than the hotels near the event site, there are *lots* under 60€ and down (dark green ones). You can check them out at <http://www.rumbo.pt>.



Cheap to expensive: dark green, green, dark blue, blue, light blue

Public Transportation System

Like we said before, public transportation in Lisbon is kind of a big thing; just the subway will generally be enough for you to access any point of the city and in the rare cases it's not, there is always the bus.

Since the Grand Prix will be held in a place with quick access through the subway, you should know bear the mind that the name of the station is **Oriente**.

Now, the Metropolitan works from **6:30 a.m.** to **1 a.m.** and the buses work just about all the time although not necessarily everywhere. For instance, if you are at spot with very much movement, chances are you'll have what we call a Dawn's Network (Rede de Madrugada, as you'll see it in the bus stops) meaning you'll be able to catch the bus at just about any hour of the day or night.

Please note that while the afore mentioned is true, due to cuts in the usual routes, you should check the [official site](#) and gather as much information as you can, if you plan to use the bus at night. And while you're at it, check the [Metropolitan map](#) and official site, too!

Also, be very aware of your wallet and pockets and it would be safer to carry your backpack (in case you use one) on the front if you notice the transport is packed, as it will happen from around 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. and again from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Tourist-wise Information

Let's say that you aren't planning on spending the whole time cooped up in a building playing games, even if you did come to play in the big tournament. What do you do?

Well, you can take a walk in the Parque das Nações, as it is a very open space and it's got places for sports if you're into that (skate, running, fitness), it's also very enjoyable to simply walk along the river and you could always check the Oceanarium and eat typical food (usually fish) at one of the restaurants – be warned though, most of them are pricy.

You can also grab this chance to get to know the city and it's beauty – as a society and history filled modern world's country capital – or you could take a look at the museums, like the [National Museum for Contemporary Art](#) and other places of interest.

Most common tourist places

The whole part of the city related to the famous 1755 earthquake, of which the places with most activity are usually Baixa, Chiado and Restauradores. These places are ground for architectonic, historic and artistic interest as well as gastronomic and always have eventful nights with lots of bars open and have their own Metro stations.

Plaza of Restauradores – local mostly visited for its connection with just about everywhere else and the big obelisk right in the middle. Also provides access to Bairro Alto, through a steep street in which the [Glória Funicular](#) works.

Casa do Alentejo – a restaurant/bar located near the Plaza of Restauradores that underlines the food and traditions from of the regions of the center of Portugal (Alentejo) and makes it known. Located in a very interiorly beautiful building.

[Ginjinha](#) – several establishments over Lisbon serve a traditional drink called ginja; liquor made from ginja berries.

Chiado – a wide area, of which the Restauradores are part of that through its lively ambient and high historic riches is of interest. Also one of the commercial areas of Lisbon.

Bairro Alto – the party neighbourhood of choice. Made of almost entirely bars and restaurants in some streets, its population very much increases during night-time.

S. Pedro de Alcântara – a garden right next to Bairro Alto with a spectacular view of Lisbon, especially during night-time.

Príncipe Real – also very close to Bairro Alto, another garden with high nocturnal activity.

Castle of S. Jorge – a castle very much representative of Lisbon in the eyes of tourists that tells a rather amusing story.

Park Eduardo VII – a park located on the high end of the avenue that links it to Restauradores (Avenida da República).

Belém – a bit off track and accessible by bus, home of the infamous [Pastéis de Belém](#) and Mosteiro dos Jerónimos.

Interesting, less well-known places

While most people that visit Lisbon get to know some places better than even the locals, they fail to see some of the most magnificent locations that this city has to offer.

Local flea market (Saturday and Tuesday mornings) – the market per se isn't the most interesting thing in the world (or the city) but it's what you might find in there. The flea market (known to us as Feira da Ladra – thief's market) has the weirdest collection of objects and everyone and anyone can buy and sell whatever, sometimes leading to not even having sales but trades.

This is the place where you go to get rid of stuff and you might find working, brand new games of systems like the Game Boy or even Sega Saturn.

Why, there are even stories told of power nine cards (yes, plural) having been sold for 15€. One man's trash...

Panels of S. Vicente de Fora – beautiful ceramic tiles illustrated with La Fontaine's Fables with the awesome handy factor of being right next to the flea market. Like, 50 meters from the entrance.

Bairro da Graça – a quiet neighbourhood, interesting for its history and beautiful view of the rooftops of the old city.

Easiest way to fly into the city

As a major city and country's capital, Lisbon has a lot of flights from all over Europe and it's not difficult to get a flying trip. I recommend that you use the website <http://www.skyscanner.pt/>, where you can find all the flights to Lisbon from the country you choose. One of the biggest differences between the Lisbon airports and other airports is that ours is inside the city so it's easier to have access to the centre of the city.

Tournament venue location, and how to get there from the airport

The fastest, cheapest and most reliable way to get to the venue location from the airport is the Subway.

This is a rechargeable card that uses an electronic method to pass and validate your entry into the station.

You must buy this card at the vending machines on the station. The cost of the card is 0,50€ and you can buy trips with this card and re-use it all the times you need.

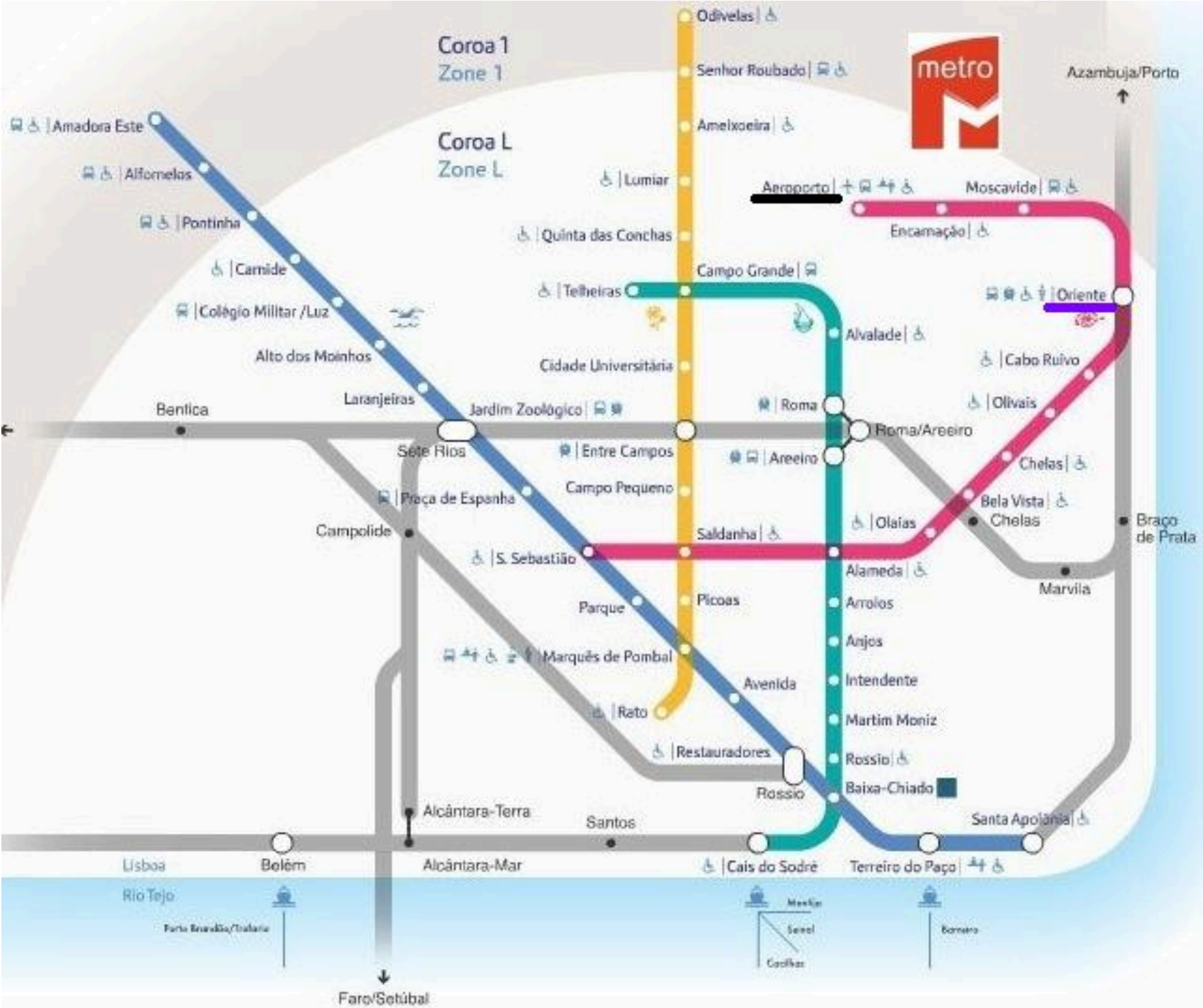
Each trip costs 1,25€ and it covers every station on the subway diagram.



Subway rechargeable card/ticket – Viva Viagem

The Airport (underlined with black) is in the same subway line as the tournament location (underlined with purple), the red line and the subway station of the tournament venue is “Oriente”, and pay attention because it is just 3 stations from the airport.

The subway carriages indicate the next station with a luminous sign in each end.



Metro subway map – green, red, blue and yellow are subway lines while grey is the train.



Subway ticket vending machine.



Subway surface identification.

Above is a vending machine with a touch screen. Assuming that you don’t have a green card, the machine sells you one along with your trip. This machine has various languages that you can choose to make your life easier.

Remember that the card is rechargeable so don’t throw it away!

Optional ways to go to the event are bus and taxis. I highly recommend not taking a bus to the location because trips are expensive and the bus network is very, very hard to understand and must be avoided. If you decide to go by taxi please tell the driver that you want to go to “Pavilhão Atlântico” (pah-vilh-ao áh-tlan-tico) and he will take you there.



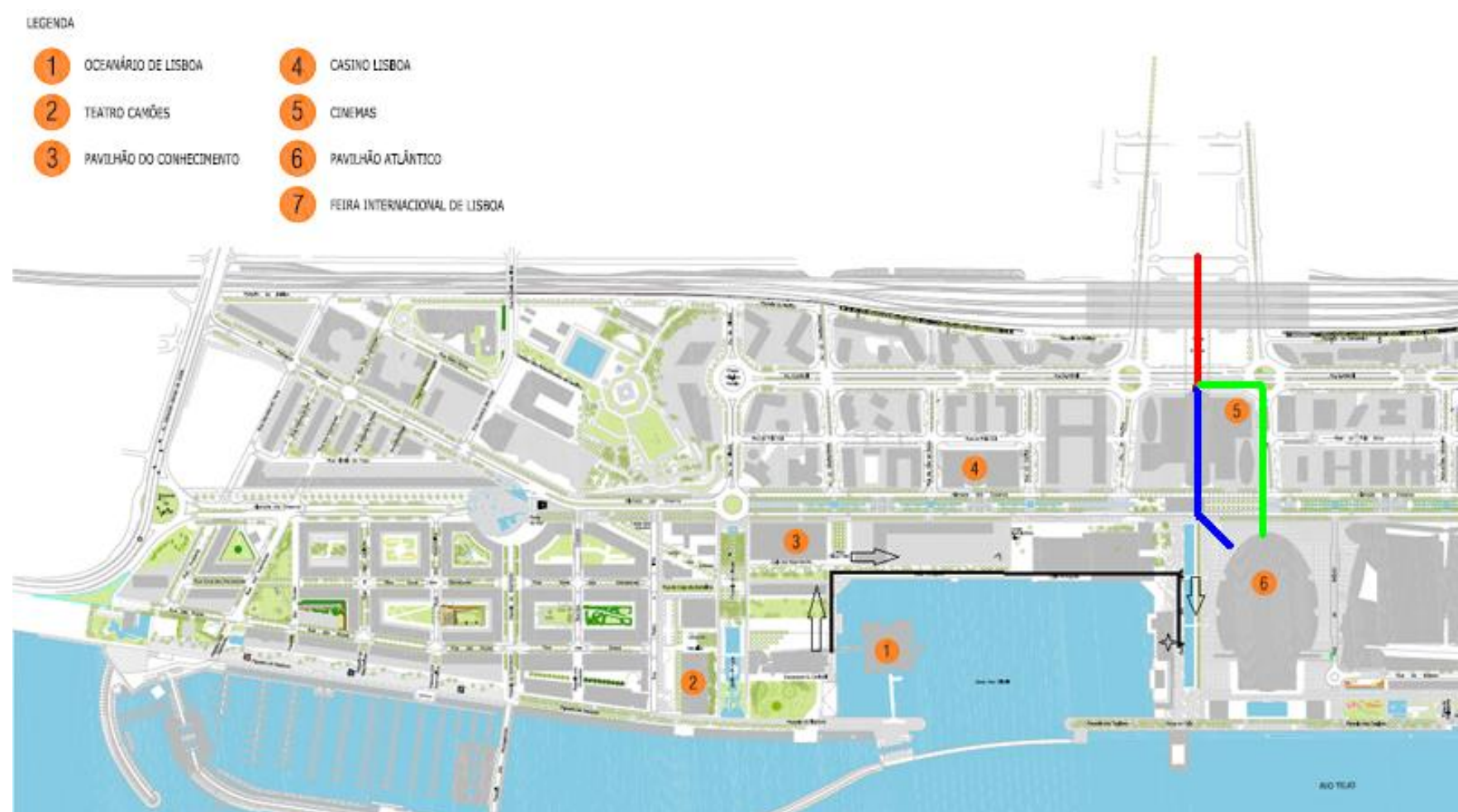
Portuguese taxis in Lisbon.

As you can see, besides the tournament venue, there are a few other places you might want to check out in Parque das Nações. Most of the buildings have been adapted from the old Expo '98, which took place in here.

The **Red Line** is the path you need to take from the transports terminal to the event location and to pass the avenue that separates the terminal from the event location (beware of traffic!).

The **Blue Line** is an optional way you can take via a great shopping center “Vasco da Gama”.

The **Green Line** is the other optional way that goes around the shopping mall.



Detailed map of Parque das Nações – interesting sites marked

Tournament location information and contacts

Atlântico – Pavilhão Multiusos de Lisboa, S.A.
Rossio dos Olivais, Lote 2.13.01^a
1990-231 Lisboa
Tel.: +351 218 918 409
Fax: +351 218 918 413/37
info@pavilhaoatlantico.pt

Helpful tips about security when arriving at the airport

Like any airport the security tips are simple:

Go right to your baggage claim belt and take your baggage. Do not let anyone help you or take it for you. Follow the directions on the signs above you and look the transportation that you need. If there is any problem there are security guards that will help you with any needs. Remember that you are in a public area so respect everyone.

Food and drink

Writing something about Portuguese food is complicated, to say the least. Something will definitely be forgotten. One basic thing you'll notice is the lack of elaborated sauces in most dishes. Some food is also really spicy, so for instance, if you are ordering a dish with African or Indian roots, be careful!

Food

When compared to other European cities, you can have a really good meal for a relatively low price of 5€-10€ and near the tournament venue you will find a great number of restaurants. Since the surroundings are an office area, you will find a wide array of establishments, from the gourmet restaurant, to the fast food joint.

You will also find a big shopping centre there, called Vasco da Gama where you can get fast food, should you prefer – although it tends to be crowded during weekends.

If you wish to do some sightseeing during your stay in Lisbon there are several neighbourhoods in town with lots of restaurants and bars. For instance, you have [Bairro Alto](#).

To get there, exit Metro's Blue line at Baixa-Chiado and leave to the exit that says “Largo de Camões”. Downtown, or just Baixa (Bye-Shah, like the bonus you probably brought along and like the [spine](#)) also has a large number of affordable restaurants; although since it is one of the most touristic areas of Portugal, expect it to be crowded.

Another good place is the Castle area, namely Alfama. It's along a hill, so bring comfortable shoes. It is where the local festive Holiday has its strongest adherence, so should you return here around the 13th of June, expect one of the longest nights of your life. You will find lots of charming Fado houses, should you wish to indulge yourself with a more cultural evening. Here you could take Tram 28 from downtown all the way up to the castle. This is usually considered one of the most scenic tram rides in the world.

When going for food take two things into account. Portugal has many dishes that are pork and shellfish based. If you don't know what the dish or the side dishes are, you should check with the restaurant if they follow your needs. Another thing is that most meat seasonings are made with alcohol, like wine or beer. If this poses a problem, remember to ask. If you just want to hit a barbecue house look for Restaurants called “Churrasqueira”, (Chu-rahs-kay-rah) literally meaning Barbecue House.

Sweets

Portuguese sweets are derived from recipes made at nunneries and abbeys. In some countries they made beer, here they made cakes. Most of the sweets have a base of eggs and sugar and then something else, like almonds or nuts. In Lisbon, in the Belém area, you can find the famous “[Pastéis de Belém](#)” which are meant to be eaten with cinnamon and sugar at your discretion. You can find a variation of these almost everywhere, called Pastel de Nata (cream custard), a pastry you will not forget easily.



The famous Pastéis de Belém.

Mineral water

Water from the tap is perfectly fine. If you come from a culture where water means “sparkling water”, you should take that into account when ordering. Portugal has natural sparkling water (yes, it comes out of the ground already carbonated) called “Água das Pedras” (Ah-goa dash pehd-rash), literally “water from the rocks”. If you like sparkling water you should try it!

Coffee

Portuguese coffee is strong.

Really strong.

Don't expect to have a full mug of coffee and be able to sleep for a couple of days. When you ask for coffee the default is that you get an espresso. If you are a latte kind of person you should ask for a “Galão”. These are served in glasses and they are usually very hot so take care with your fingers. If even the latter proves to be much too strong, ask for a “meia de leite”.

Espresso: just coffee or bica (bee-ka)

Latte: Galão (Ga-loam, like in “Life from the loam”)

Weak latte: Meia de Leite (may-ah duh ley-tte)

Beer

You will not find much variety of beers. If you ask for a beer you will be given a lager in a 20cl glass. There are also stouts and auburn beers about. One of Portugal's beers is the favourite beer of Manchester United supporters and they even have chants about it.

Wine

For such a small country, Portugal has a wide variety of wines that will surely satisfy even the most demanding connoisseur. You can get lots of info at <http://winesofportugal.info/>.

If you like wine as refreshment you should try the low-alcohol Green Wine. If you like sweet things you should go for a glass of Moscatel. But whatever they tell, if you are going to eat Bacalhau (codfish, which is done in over 1000 ways in Portugal), you have to accompany it with Red Wine!

Safety Tips

If you adhere to basic safety rules, you should have no problem in Lisbon. However, safety can be addressed in several ways, as you will see.

Ankles

The first thing you must take care of is the traditional sidewalk, called “calçada” (Khal-Sahda).

You will notice that sometimes the sidewalk can be uneven. This is because it is made of thousands of rocks cut into cubes so for non-natives this can be a serious source of ankle injuries.

Take extra care if it has rained recently.



The calçada with the tournament venue in the back.

Taxi drivers

One complaint most tourists have is of being ripped off by taxi drivers. This can be a real nuisance if the first memory you have of the country is arriving tired from your flight and being ripped-off. To avoid this check the itinerary from the airport to your hotel and make a remark like “I want to go via (insert famous monument/place here)”. Usually, taxi drivers speak good English but it may prove hard to communicate with the eldest ones.

Street Hassle

Imagine you are visiting downtown Lisbon, with its beautiful symmetric streets and squares and some dodgy guy offers to sell you hashish. It is as common as the day is long.

Don't be alarmed by this.

According to Portuguese law it is legal to carry up to 5 grams, so street hasslers take advantage. Just refuse whatever they are selling and they will walk away. But they can be tiresome after a while. Some times it can be just umbrellas, hats or even trinkets.

Pickpockets

Beware of pickpockets, especially in crowded trams, buses or subways. Don't keep your wallet on your back pocket. The latter is 99% of the time sufficient to deter even the nimblest of the practitioners of this art. Pickpockets usually work in pairs so if someone has stumbled suspiciously over you expect his fellow artist to be closely behind you.

Street crime

Like every major city, Lisbon has its problems with street crime. Should you ever venture in the night scene, walking in groups and not looking completely lost is sufficient. If you ever get lost at night, walk into a bar or restaurant and ask for directions.

In conclusion, unless you are extremely unfortunate you should not encounter any problem during your stay at Lisbon. Remember to never walk alone at night, and try to get reference points during your walks. Lisbon's streets can be like a maze sometimes.

Local Stores

Should you decide to stay for a little spell in Lisbon there are plenty stores you can visit in Lisbon. Even though their websites are in Portuguese, all storeowners speak English and so will the vast majority of the opponents you will encounter, so language should not be a problem.

Most stores will do a multi-format FNM as well as having weekday tournaments. Some of them even carry other game systems and even board game/RPGs if you wish to give Magic a rest. Almost all of them have a Facebook account where you could check for openings, as most tournaments will have a limited number of slots.

Devir Arena

www.devir.pt

This is the oldest Magic store in the country. They also have a multitude of other game systems, should you feel like trying something new. It is located conveniently [near Metro's Entrecampos](#) subway station, as well as the train station with the same name.

Phone: (+351) 213 155 580
E-Mail: arenalisboa@gmail.com
Location: Rua Visconde de Seabra 6A, 1700-370 Lisboa
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/arena.lisboa>

Catch either the subway's yellow line to Entrecampos or the train to the train station with the same name.

Gárgula Templo dos Jogos

This shop has weekday tournaments as well as Modern/Legacy on Fridays. Sometimes it even has pauper tournaments. It is located some 100 meters from one of the Terminal stations of Metro's Yellow line, Odivelas.

The owner is always looking for foils, so if you are interested in doing business head there!

Phone: (+351) 966 040 630/(+351) 927 553 027

E-Mail: gargulatj@gmail.com

Location: Rua Egas Moniz, Centro Comercial Quinta Nova, Odivelas

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Gargula.TemplodosJogos>

The best way is to catch the yellow line until one of its terminals, Odivelas. Then it's just a [two-minute walk north](#). Remember that Metro's fare changes because this is another Metro zone.

White Dragon

Owned by a Legendary Creature of the Portuguese magic scene, the almighty Xico, this shop is home to one of the largest (if not the largest) Magic teams of the country. Expect fierce competition there and a true Competitive environment!

E-Mail: xico73@netcabo.pt

Location: Centro Comercial Torre das Flores, loja 43

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/francisco.rocha.923>

Carris' 748 and 751 buses stop just in front of the mall where this [store](#) is located. The stop point is called “Estação de Miraflores”. Again, expect a fare change for being outside the Lisbon metropolitan area.

Player's Spot

A relatively new store, located on the south bank of the river, with an amazing array of players and crowded tournaments where everyday is tournament day, except on Mondays because of the Garfield effect.

They host Starcity Games Invitationals.

E-Mail: playerspot.barreiro@gmail.com

Location: Rua Vasco da Gama, 41, Centro Comercial Piramide, Loja 12, Barreiro

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/playerspot.barreiro?fref=ts>

From Terreiro do Paço (Blue Metro line) subway station you can get to fluvial connection to Barreiro. It's the only boat leaving that station; so don't worry about getting lost. After you reach Barreiro you can either hike to the [store](#) or you could take Transporlis bus number 1 and get off at “Parque” (3rd stop).

Fun Facts

Did you know that although the city's crest is made of a ship and two crows, it is very rare to see one in Lisbon?

Did you know that the font used for the titles was named Lisboa, in honour of the city the designer much loves?