Coimbra is a beautiful city and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that has a great architectural heritage. Perhaps for this reason Coimbra is not as modern or accessible as some visitors would expect. The city’s relative isolation is part of its charm.

These pages will help you navigate the city when you come for the conference. For more information you may download a guide to the city\(^1\). Once you arrive you will also find several Tourist Information Centers, such as the one found in the University’s General Library. In Portugal many people understand and speak English.

Coimbra is very affordable. You eat well at reasonable prices. Lodging is inexpensive as well, and if you plan ahead and make reservations you can find some great deals on transportation.

In many restaurants you must pay in cash because credit and debit cards (“cartão”) are not widely accepted. You will need to bring cash or get cash from an ATM (“levantamento no Multibanco”).


\(^2\) https://onedrive.live.com/view.aspx?resid=7599DE5CE6405C9D!241&cid=7599de5ce6405c9d&app=WordPdf We would like to thank prof. Andrés Masci for the map and its link.
1. DIVERSE INFORMATION

The city is divided into two general sections. The upper section is comprised of the walled city, where the university is located (“a alta”). The lower section of the city is called “a baixa”.

The upper section of the city is probably the most interesting, especially the area where the university is located. There are ancient buildings decorated with tiles depicting numerous scenes, such as the image to the right from the 16th century.

The "Baixa" is also worth exploring. While it is a somewhat depressed area, it has interesting churches and historic buildings. They are also interesting houses, such as the one to the left.

During the work week it is fun to see the goods decorating storefronts.

The “Baixa” is also full of evocative corners, some of them hidden. For example, the store of the Chinese (“Loja chinesa”) of the Commerce Square is located in the building of the city’s former Royal Hospital. It is worth looking into it to see the stone arches and the remains of some frescoes (image to the right).

Try to visit the Baixa during the week and before 7:00 p.m. (during the weekend almost everything is closed). If you go at night, it is best to go in a group since the area is depressed due to the economic crisis.

Below you will find a map of the city. You may also download one by following the link in the footnote3. The center of the city, with the University, is found in the center square section that can be located by following the coordinates D4.

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Coimbra is a city with many hills and stairs. Wear **comfortable walking shoes**. In the image to the left are the Monumental Stairs (*Escadas Monumentais*) from which the University may be reached.

Coimbra is a humid city due to the *Mondego* River. The city's climate is somewhat unpredictable. During the winter, when the conference will take place, it may **rain and be cold**. Be prepared with warm clothing and an umbrella. Elegant umbrellas, with the University seal, may be purchased at the tourist information center located in the General Library of the University. However, given that the climate is so unpredictable, the **sun and heat** are also a possibility, even in the middle of November.

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2. **THE COLLEGE OF ARTS, HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CONFERENCE (FACULDADE DE LETRAS)**

**Buses** 3, 28 and 34 arrive at the University campus. Ask your hotel which bus is best for you. In any case, Coimbra is a small city and so it is easy and enjoyable to **walk**. At times walking is faster than the bus.

These buses arrive next to the **College of Arts** (Facultade de Letras), where the **AHLiST** conference will take place. In this building is located the Historical and
Cultural Society Center (Centro de História da Sociedade e da Cultura or CHSC, the group sponsoring the conference.

The conference will take place in the College of Arts (Facultade de Letras, image to the left). The floors of the building are strangely numbered. The ground-level floor is the fourth floor since the numbering begins with the lowest floor, which in this case is in the basement. There are three floors below ground and so the ground-level floor is the fourth floor.

Photocopies and printing can be done on the 2nd floor for 3 cents a page. There are computers with Internet on the 6th floor and you may print for 5 cents a page.

3. PLACES OF CULTURAL INTEREST

Museums: There are several museums in the city, with two of them located on campus. The National Museum Machado de Castro (Museu Nacional Machado de Castro, image to the right) is worth visiting simply because of its architecture and ancient construction, including the cryptoportico from the Roman Period.

We also recommend visiting the small Museum of Science.
Churches and Cathedrals: Coimbra is a city full of old and important religious buildings. You may enter most **free of charge**, such as the Santa Cruz Church (image to the right). San Batolomé Church (image at the end of this page) and Santiago Church are also worth visiting.

A few of the churches and cathedrals charge a **small entrance fee** of one or two Euros, such as the Shé Velha (the Old Cathedral, image to the left). We recommend visiting the old **Santa Clara The Oldest** monastery (**Mosteiro de Santa Clara-a-Velha**).

The **Joanina Library (Biblioteca Joanina)** dates from the 18th Century and is one of the jewels of the city. It is known the world over and is popular because at night bats roam the library feeding on insects. You may request to see specific volumes in the library’s collection, but must submit a request 24 hours beforehand (image to the right).

Coimbra also has many important historical gardens. The **Botanical Garden (Jardim Botânico, image to the left)** and the **Sereira Garden (Jardim da Sereia, image to the right)** have no entrance fee. The Manga Garden (**Jardim da Manga**) is behind the Santa Cruz Church.
The **Inquisition Patio (Patio da Inquisição)** is also an interesting place to visit near the center of the city and is rarely explored by tourists.

The **Quinta das Lágrimas** is a beautiful place to visit, though it is further away. The **Portugal dos Pequenitos**, is also interesting to visit, especially with children.

### 4. EATING IN COIMBRA

Please keep in mind the dining customs of Coimbra. First and foremost is the **time**. People dine early, which means restaurants close at a prudent time. Many restaurants close on the weekend.

In general it is **inexpensive** to eat well in the city. For about 10 Euros you can eat a good and generous lunch or dinner. The portions are so generous that it is wise to ask for half a portion. Depending on the restaurant, half a portion is the same or more than a whole portion in Spain. Beer in bars is inexpensive also (1 or 1.5 Euros).

There are also meal specials with students in mind. In cantinas around campus the **express menu**, which includes soup, baguette, and tang, can be had for 3 Euros. For 5 Euros you can buy a pizza at the cantina at the foot of the Monumental Stairs. The São João Cantina offers a buffet, including wine, for 6.5 Euros.

**Appetizers** (“petiscos”) are not usually free in Portugal. Normally, bread, olives and cheese are brought to the table without you requesting them, but then you are charged for them. If you want to know if there is a charge for them, when they are brought you may ask if they are free (“é de oferta?”). If the server says no and you don’t want to eat them, you can ask for them to be taken away (“retirelo, por favor”).

There is a variety of meals offered. It is always a good idea to ask for the specialty of the house. Typically soup is served before the main course.

Some restaurants I recommend, in order of preference are:

* **Zé Manel dos Ossos** (Beço do Forno, 12): the very best, extremely fine culinary experience. Closed Saturday nights and all day Sunday.

* **Zé Neto** (Rua das Azeiteiras, 8): Known for being very good. The restaurant has lots of room and is ideal for large groups. [http://www.netmenu.pt/rest_ficha.asp?RID=518](http://www.netmenu.pt/rest_ficha.asp?RID=518)

* **Quim dos Ossos** (Rua Antonio de Vasconcelos, near Rua Zaragoza): a friendly and humble house, with good food, such as the *doblada*.


* **Cova Funda - o espanhol** (Rua da Sofia 117). Good prices and quality. Does not offer Spanish food, as the name would lead you to believe.

* **Rui dos leitões**: If you travel by car or taxi and you would like to have a different culinary experience try roasted piglet (*leitão ao espeto*). [http://ruidosleitoes.pt/pt](http://ruidosleitoes.pt/pt)

5. WHERE TO GET A DRINK

There are many bakeries with sweet treats. Many of the taverns look as if they are from another time. Many have an olive branch or gourd decorating the door to indicate that they sell wine.

A coffee costs less than 1 Euro and a beer costs 1 to 1.5 Euros.

A few bars and cafes I recommend that are centrally located:

**El café de Santa Cruz** (Praça 8 de Maio, image of the right below) [http://www.cafesantacruz.com/](http://www.cafesantacruz.com/)

**Quebra Costas**: Located near the Quebra Costas Stairs

**Ginjinha Point** (Rua Fernández Tomás)

**Cabra velha** (Rua Fernández Tomás)

**Salão Brazil** (Largo do Poço, 3, Floor 1, “baixa”)

**Be tasty, be poetry** (Rua do corvo 33, “baixa”)
Outside the city center (10 or 15 minutes on walking), near the Praça de la República, I recommend:

**Casa das caldeiras**: With the old English engine and boiler rooms of the University (rua Padre António Vieira)

**Aqui Base Tango** (Rua Venâncio Rodrigues, nº 8)

**Feito Conceito** (Rua Alexandre Herculano nº 16, 1º)

### 6. WHERE TO LISTEN TO FADO AND COIMBRA’S SONG

They are touristic places:

- *À Capella* (Rua Corpo de Deus)

### 7. WHERE TO STAY

Coimbra is very affordable. For 40 or 45 Euros you can find a room in a 3 Star hotel (***) such as Hotel Astória (offering a special price for AHLiST participants). 3 Star Hostels can be had for 30 Euros, such as Hotel Braganza. You can find individual rooms in luxury hotels for 60 or 65 Euros, such as Vila Galei or Tivoli.

Many hotels offer a free breakfast (“pequeno almoço”) even though it might not be advertised. The following is a list of some hotels in the city. Be sure to ask for a nice view when reserving a room.

Some are very close to the Conference site (approximately 15 minutes or less on foot). Some of these are offering a special rate for conference participants if you mention the AHLiST Conference when you make your reservation (or with Vila Galei-Coimbra if you give the info they ask):

**** **Hotel Vila Galei - Coimbra**: Very modern, luxury hotel, with a Spa. For AHLiST participants the price is 65 Euros for an individual room and 79 Euros for a double, breakfast and WIFI included. Approximately
25 minutes walking from the university. Click on the following link to get the special conference rate: CLICK HERE OR IN THE FOOT NOTE

You have pictures on the web.

**** Hotel Tivoli- Coimbra: Approximately 17 minutes walking from the university. 60 Euros for an individual room and 70 Euros for a double, including breakfast buffet and parking.

*** Hotel Astória: In the city center, about 10 minutes walking from the university. A historical building (image to the right), with furnishings from the time period. 40 Euros for an individual room and 45 Euros for a simple room, both with breakfast and WIFI included. Follow these steps to get AHLiST pricing.
For using this offer, you must send an email to astoria@themahotels.pt with the subject “AHLiST 2015”, or by the telephone +351 239 853 020
Hotel Astória: Av. Emídio Navarro, 21 - 3000-150. GPS: N 40º 12' 26.84" W 8º.25' 47.80"

*** Hotel Almedina: Remodelled and modern. Located in downtown. They will give you a special price if you mention the AHLiST Conference when you make your reservation. 35 Euros for an individual room, 45 Euros for a double room, including breakfast buffet and WIFI.

- Hostal Quebra-Luz: In the old city center. Near the Quebra Costas stairs in the downtown and very close to the university and near the night life. Keep in mind that there may be noise from the bars. Includes breakfast. If you mention the AHLiST conference you will receive a 10% discount. Remember prices are same or similar to other Hotels mentioned. An individual room with a shared bathroom will cost 35 Euros, and double room with shared bathroom is 40 euros. An individual room with private bathroom will cost 45 Euros, and double room with its own bathroom is 50 euros. http://www.quebra-luz.com/

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ADDITIONAL LODGING

These rates are approximate:

*** Hotel Bragança - Coimbra: in the city center. Nice inside, comfortable, with big rooms. Very good prices: 31 or 35 Euros for an individual room, 40 Euros aprox. for a double room, including breakfast buffet and WIFI. http://hotel-braganca.com/index.php


Hostels, Guest houses y B&B:

- Internacional Coimbra: www.residencialinternacional.com
- Serenata Hostel: http://www.serenatahostel.com/

More suggestions: Kayak is a great website to use to find lodging http://www.kayak.es/

8. HOW TO GET TO COIMBRA

Coimbra is a small city that isn't very well connected. To get to Coimbra you may need to use several modes of transportation.

The airports in Oporto or Lisboa are the nearest. You may want to stay overnight in one of these cities before traveling on to Coimbra. Transportation by bus or train is more limited after 7 PM.

8.1. FROM THE AIRPORT:

Oporto (OPO) and Lisboa (LIS) are the airports closest to Coimbra. Lisboa may have more bus and train service to Coimbra than Oporto.
You should purchase the bus and train tickets to Coimbra when you arrive and not before.

8.1.1. From the Oporto Airport: ("Porto", Aeropuerto Francisco Sá Carneiro)

The airport’s website is: http://www.ana.pt/es-ES/Aeroportos/porto/Porto/Paginas/HomePorto.aspx

8.1.1.A. By Train (Oporto → Coimbra): From the airport you take the subway (metro) line to the “Campanhã” Station (approx. 35 minutes). From the Campanhã Station you take the train to Coimbra. Consult the website for times and prices: www.cp.pt Last train leaves at approximately 10:00 PM

8.1.1.B. By bus (Oporto → Coimbra): From the airport go to Rodoviária (bus station). From Rodoviária → Coimbra. Once you arrive in Coimbra, the bus station is located on Fernando de Magallanes Avenue, about 15 minutes walking from the center.

The buses take 1 hour and 15 minutes to 2 hours to arrive. Bus service ends around 10:30 PM. Bus times and rates can be found here: http://www.rede-expressos.pt/

8.2. From the Lisboa Airport (LIS) or the so-called Portela Airport too)

The airport’s website is: http://www.ana.pt/es-ES/Aeroportos/lisboa/Lisboa/Paginas/HomeLisboa.aspx

8.2.1. By train (Lisboa→Coimbra):

There are trains approximately every hour and take about 2 hours to arrive to Coimbra. The cost is approximately 28 Euros, or 38 Euros round trip. Consult the website for times and prices: www.cp.pt

There are several options to get to the train station from the airport:

One option is to go to take the subway to the train station Lisboa-Santa Apolónia" or the “Gare do Oriente” station and take the train towards Coimbra B.

Another option is to go to the station “Sete Ríos”, a station where buses and trains meet. To get to the station “Sete Ríos”, from the airport you
should take the subway to the “Jardim Zoológico” metro stop. You may also take a taxi to the Sete Ríos station for about 20 Euros.

Some trains stop at the Coimbra B station, far from the urban center, but from there you can change trains to get to Coimbra A, that is in the center.

It costs 50 cents to use the restrooms in the train stations. Keep some change with you.

8.2.2. By bus (Lisboa → Coimbra)

If you travel by bus, take the “Rede Expressos”.

From the Lisboa Airport go to the Sete Rios Station (EstaçãodeSeteRíos) that is at the metro station Jardim Zoologico. Take the train to the bus station in Coimbra on Fernando de Magallanes Avenue. Consult the website for times and prices: http://www.rede-expressos.pt/

Buses take 2 hours and 15 minutes to 3 hours and 50 minutes, depending on if they are direct or make stops.

It costs 50 cents to use the restrooms in bus stations.

8. 3. TRAINS

8. 3. 1. TO GET TO COIMBRA BY TRAIN FROM SPAIN OR FRANCE

There is an overnight train from Madrid that stops in Coimbra. Consult the website for times, stops, and prices: http://www.renfe.com/

If you purchase the ticket beforehand and travel during the week, the fare from Madrid-Coimbra can be very inexpensive (20 Euros for a seat 33 Euros for a bed). You can buy them two months in advanced approx.

Keep the schedule in mind (to book a room in an hotel etc). The train that leaves Madrid at 21:50 hours gets to Coimbra at 5:00 hours in the morning, though it can arrive up to an hour late.

8.4. TRAIN STATIONS IN COIMBRA: “COIMBRA A” (CENTER) Y “COIMBRA B” (OUTSIDE THE CITY)

The website for the national train service can be found here (there is a map of the National Rail Network at the last page): http://www.cp.pt)
Coimbra has two train stations. Coimbra A, or simply Coimbra, is the station in the center of the city. Coimbra B is on the outskirts of the city.

Some trains only arrive to Coimbra B. From there you can catch another train to Coimbra A. Sometimes this transfer is included in the cost of your ticket. It takes approximately 25 minutes to walk between the two stations. Only do this during the day.

8.5.2. BUS SERVICE IN COIMBRA

Buses with stops at the University campus are: 2, 28, 34. However, it is easy to get around Coimbra on foot.

http://www.smtuc.pt/

8.6. BY CAR

It is easy to get to Coimbra by car. From Madrid to Coimbra it takes 5 or 6 hours, passing through Salamanca. There are plenty of guides online to find out how to drive to Coimbra. See for example: http://www.esg.pt/6atp/docs/como_chegar_a_coimbra_como_llegar_a_coimbra_how_to_get_to_coimbra.pdf

Have a good trip! We hope to see you in Coimbra. Thank you!

A map of the National Rail Network, from http://www.cp.pt