



## General Information

### Congress Venues

The main Congress Venue is the Palacio Euskalduna Conference Centre and Concert Hall. The building is located along the Nervión River at one end of the Abandoibarra District. The building was inaugurated in 1999 and was voted the World's Best Congress Centre in 2003. [www.euskalduna.net](http://www.euskalduna.net)

The Closing Session and General Assembly will be held at the University of Deusto Auditorium across the Nervión River via the new Pedro Arupo footbridge located between Palacio Euskalduna and the Guggenheim.

### Clearing House, Books & Exhibition Space

Tables will be set up for 'Take Away' information that participants would like to bring to the attention of other participants. This area is called the 'Clearing House' The Clearing House and the Exhibition Space (posters) is public space at the Congress Venue and cannot be locked. ISOCaRP and LOC do not take any responsibility for losses.

### Carfax Prize

CARFAX Publishers (UK) have made available to ISOCaRP a prize of US\$500. The Carfax Prize will be awarded to the best Young Planner's Poster in relation to the Congress Theme. The Award Ceremony takes place at the end of the Closing Session of the Congress.

### Getting to Bilbao

The Bilbao airport is located about 12km away from the city. There are regular scheduled flights to all major European capitals, and major cities in Spain. [www.aena.es](http://www.aena.es)

### Airport Transport

Taxis depart from outside the terminal. The journey time is 20-30 minutes (Price: €16.00 to €20.00). Bizkaibus A-3247 departs from outside the terminal to Plaza Moyúa (central Bilbao) every 30 minutes from 6.00am (6.30am weekends) to 11.00pm. The journey time is 45 minutes (Price: €1.00).

### Public Transport

Bilbao has an extensive multi-modal system of public transport. The pre-paid "Creditrans" card covers all the transport options you are likely to use within the city (Metro, Bus, Tramway, and Funicular Railway) and offers substantial discounts off the single-ticket price. The Creditrans card, available in amounts of €5, €10 and €15, can be purchased at newspaper stands and tobacco stores. [www.creditrans.com](http://www.creditrans.com)

### Tipping and IVA (Value Added Tax)

Tips are included in all prices and bills, so tipping is not considered obligatory. However, if the service received is considered satisfactory, especially in bars and restaurants, a small tip is given. There are two different IVA tax rates 7% and 16%. The non-refundable 7% tax is for hotel and restaurant bills, as well as other "essential" items. Most physical items purchased in shops will be taxed at the 16% rate. Non-EU residents, who have spent more than €90.15 in a participating establishment, can reclaim the tax. [www.globalrefund.com](http://www.globalrefund.com)

### Climate

Bilbao has a humid maritime climate, with mild temperatures throughout the whole year. Rains are frequent in the Spring and in Autumn, with mild Winters and not excessively hot Summers. Temperatures in Spring and Autumn are between 5°C and 18°C. October is a very pleasant month to be in Bilbao.

### Clothing

Bilbao residents favour elegant and discreet clothing, even for casual occasions. Light/medium jackets are recommended for the evenings.

**Visa Requirements**

All interested participants from outside the EU should immediately inquire about the visa procedures at their nearest Spanish Embassy or Consulate, as these vary from country to country. Requests for an official invitation to the Congress have to be submitted to the ISoCaRP Secretariat. Please note that such invitations can only be issued by the Spanish LOC who will send it to the Spanish Embassy in the participants' home country. Participants receive a second original.

**Flight Return Services**

Participants have to take care of their own flight return confirmations. The Congress organisation does not provide such services.