EUROPEAN BLUES CHALLENGE 2027

Vila do Conde

General Public & Visitors Information Guide

8–10 April 2027 · Portugal

The Perfect Destination for the European Blues Challenge 2027

Located in Northern Portugal, just 20 minutes by car from Porto International Airport, Vila do Conde offers a distinctive setting for the European Blues Challenge 2027. With a history dating back over a thousand years, this charming coastal city combines a remarkable cultural and architectural heritage with the natural beauty of the Atlantic Ocean and the River Ave.

Its historic centre, elegant riverside, sandy beaches and welcoming atmosphere create an authentic Portuguese experience, where tradition and contemporary life exist in harmony.

Vila do Conde's identity is deeply rooted in its maritime history, traditional craftsmanship and artistic heritage. Landmarks such as the Monastery of Santa Clara, the historic aqueduct and the 16th-century Portuguese ship replica reflect the city's rich past, while its renowned bobbin lace tradition, museums and cultural events celebrate a living heritage. Visitors can also discover a vibrant gastronomic scene, particularly known for fresh fish, seafood and traditional Portuguese flavours.

With its human scale, cultural vitality and long-standing connection to the international blues scene through the Villa Sessions festival, Vila do Conde offers more than a venue for EBC2027 — it offers a memorable destination for music, discovery and cultural exchange.



A Destination of Heritage, Culture and Experience

Vila do Conde is a historic coastal city in Northern Portugal, whose origins predate the foundation of Portugal itself. In March 2026, the city marked 1,073 years since its earliest known written reference, reflecting a remarkable historical legacy. Its architectural heritage, museums and strong cultural identity coexist with a vibrant contemporary cultural scene. Stretching along 18 kilometres of Atlantic coastline, Vila do Conde offers sandy beaches, scenic riverside landscapes and opportunities for outdoor activities and water sports, including surfing, sailing, rowing and canoeing.

Together, these features create a distinctive destination where history, culture and nature complement one another.

Vila do Conde also offers the accessibility, infrastructure and hospitality needed to welcome international visitors. Conveniently connected by the A28, A7 and A3 motorways and the Metro do Porto network, which provides a connection to Porto International Airport, the city is easy to reach. Accommodation ranges from boutique hotels and guesthouses to coastal properties, catering to different budgets and preferences, while its diverse gastronomic scene showcases traditional Portuguese cuisine, particularly fresh fish and seafood.

The Vila do Conde Municipal Theatre, a modern and well-equipped cultural venue with extensive experience hosting international performances, will provide the setting for the European Blues Challenge 2027, reinforcing the city's established connection with the European blues community.



Vila do Conde Municipal Theatre – The EBC2027 Venue

Located in the heart of Vila do Conde, within easy reach of hotels, restaurants, parking facilities and the city's historic waterfront, the Vila do Conde Municipal Theatre provides an outstanding setting for the European Blues Challenge 2027. Its 549-seat main auditorium combines excellent sightlines, acoustics and audience comfort with professional technical and audiovisual facilities, ensuring high-quality live performances and an engaging experience for spectators.

Beyond the main stage, three floors will be dedicated to EBC2027, offering spacious foyers and versatile areas to accommodate the Blues Market, Blues Expo, workshops, press activities, professional meetings and networking opportunities.

A dedicated bar area will serve as an informal meeting point, encouraging interaction between artists, delegates, industry professionals and visitors.

Extensive backstage facilities, including dressing rooms and technical support areas distributed across four floors, provide the infrastructure required for international performers and production teams.

Supported by an experienced technical and operational staff, the theatre combines the facilities of a professional cultural venue with the welcoming atmosphere of Vila do Conde, creating an environment where live music, cultural exchange and professional connections come together.


CINE TEATRO
CINE TEATRO MUNICIPAL



How to Get from Porto Airport to Vila do Conde

Francisco Sá Carneiro International Airport (OPO) is located approximately 20 km from Vila do Conde, offering convenient access by road and public transport. Visitors attending the European Blues Challenge 2027 can choose from several transportation options.

By Taxi, Uber or Private Transfer — approx. 20–30 minutes

Taxis and ride-hailing services, including Uber, are available at Porto Airport. Private transfers can also be booked in advance. Travelling via the A28 motorway, this is generally the fastest and most convenient option, particularly for visitors carrying luggage or arriving outside regular public transport hours.

By Metro — approx. 45–55 minutes

Porto Airport is served by Metro Line E (Purple). Take the metro towards Trindade and change at **Verdes Station** to Line B (Red), heading towards Póvoa de Varzim. Exit at Vila do Conde or Santa Clara Station, depending on your final destination. Both provide access to the city, with onward connections to accommodation and the historic centre.

By Bus — journey times vary

Bus services connect Porto Airport with Vila do Conde, including the UNIR network's Line 3535. Additional coach services may be available, depending on the date and operator. Travellers are advised to check departure times and stops in advance.

** Travel times are approximate and may vary depending on traffic, schedules and waiting times. We recommend checking the latest transport information before travelling.*

B&B HOTEL Vila do Conde ***

- **Address:**
  - **R. 5 de Outubro 1024, 4480-700 Vila do Conde**
- **The hotel offers a total of 99 guest rooms**
- **From the airport: 20 min**
- **Reservations Email:**
  - **hotel.viladoconde@hotelbb.com**
- **Tel. +351 252 021 996**



HOW TO GET FROM B&B HOTEL VILA DO CONDE TO THE EBC VENUE

B&B HOTEL Vila do Conde → Vila do Conde Municipal Theatre

By car, taxi or rideshare

Approx. 3–4 minutes | 1.2 km

Taxis and rideshare services (e.g. Uber) are available in Vila do Conde and provide a quick and convenient option between the hotel and the venue.

On foot

Approx. 14–16 minutes | 1.2 km

A pleasant and straightforward walk through Vila do Conde's city centre, mostly on flat streets, from the hotel to the Municipal Theatre.

By public transport

Approx. 8–12 minutes

Local bus services operate in Vila do Conde, with stops near the hotel and close to the Municipal Theatre. Please check the latest routes and schedules at the time of your travel.

Travel times and distances are approximate and may vary depending on traffic and route.



Santana Hotel & SPA *****

- **Address:**
  - **Monte Santana, 4480-188 Azurara**
- **The hotel offers a total of 75 guest rooms**
- **From the airport: 20 min**
- **Reservations Email:**
  - **recepcao@santanahotel.pt**
- **Tel. +351 252 640 460**



HOW TO GET FROM SANTANA HOTEL & SPA TO THE EBC VENUE

Santana Hotel & SPA →
Vila do Conde Municipal Theatre

By car, taxi or rideshare

Approx. 3 minutes | 1.1 km

Taxis and rideshare services (e.g. Uber) are available in the area and provide a quick and convenient option between the hotel and the venue.

On foot

Approx. 12–15 minutes | 1.1 km

It is a pleasant and straightforward walk, crossing the Rio Ave via the Ponte de Santa Clara and heading into the city centre.

By public transport

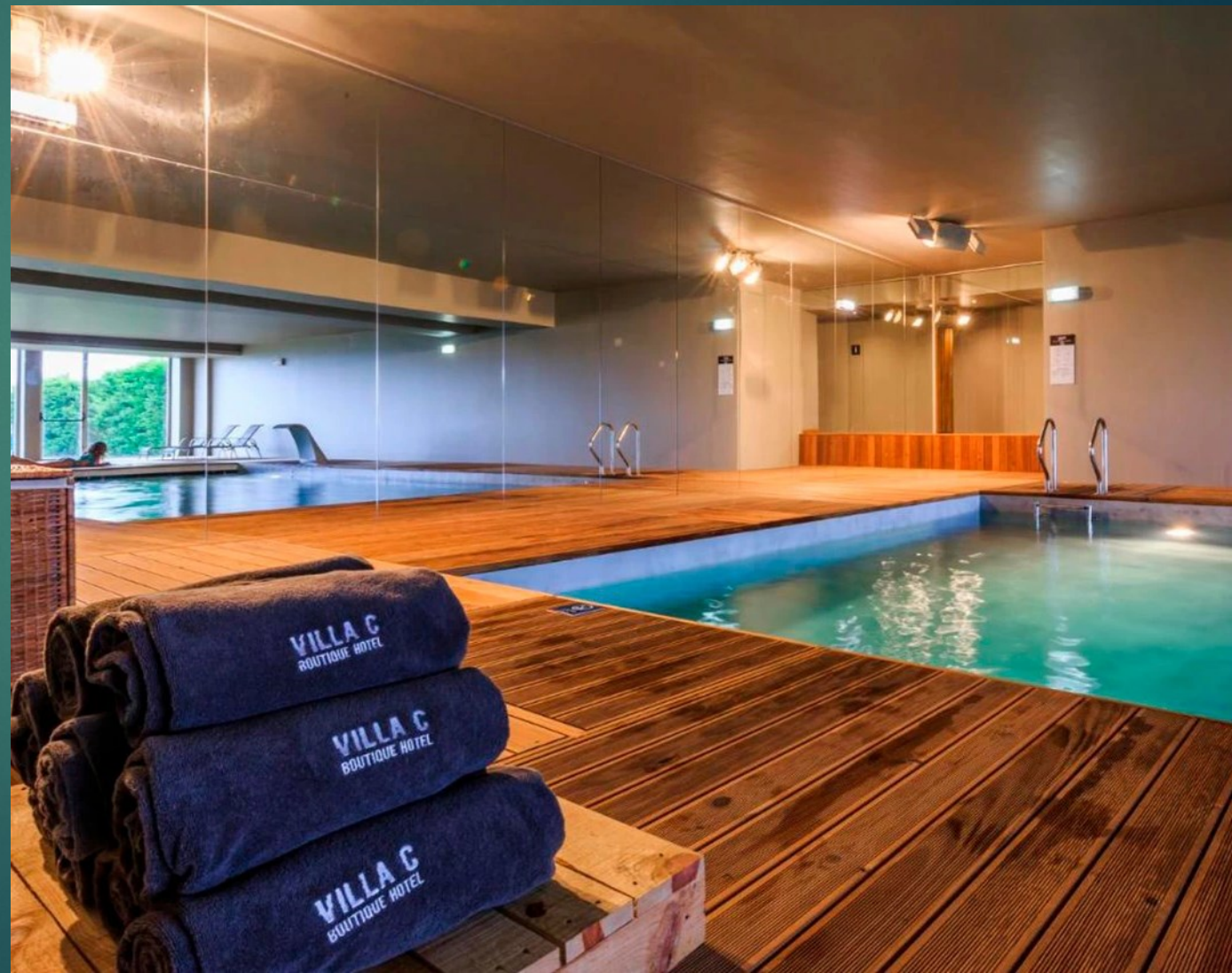
Local bus services connect Azurara and Vila do Conde. The nearest bus stop to the hotel is a short walk away, with direct routes to the city centre, close to the Municipal Theatre.

Please check the latest routes and schedules at the time of your travel.



Villa C Boutique Hotel *****

- **Address:**
  - **Av. Mouzinho de Albuquerque, s/n, Estrada Nacional 13, 4480-151 Vila do Conde**
- **The hotel offers a total of 43 guest rooms**
- **From the airport: 20 min**
- **Reservations Email:**
  - **reservations@villacboutiquehotel.com**
- **Tel. +351 252 240 420**



HOW TO GET FROM VILLA C BOUTIQUE HOTEL TO THE EBC VENUE

Villa C Boutique Hotel →
Vila do Conde Municipal Theatre

By car, taxi or rideshare

Approx. 3 minutes | 1.1 km

Taxis and rideshare services (e.g. Uber) are available in Vila do Conde and provide a quick and convenient option between the hotel and the venue.

On foot

Approx. 12–15 minutes | 1.1 km

A pleasant and straightforward walk through Vila do Conde's city centre, mostly on flat terrain.

By public transport

Local bus services operate in Vila do Conde with stops near the hotel and the city centre. The nearest bus stop to the hotel is on Estrada Nacional 13 (Av. Mouzinho de Albuquerque), with direct routes to Vila do Conde city centre.

Please check the latest routes and schedules at the time of your travel.



Useful Links
Getting Here, Discover the Region

Discover Vila do Conde: www.visitviladoconde.pt

Tourism in Portugal: https://www.visitportugal.com/en

Visit Porto & North: www.visitportoandnorth.travel

Porto Airport (OPO): www.portoairport.pt

Metro do Porto: www.metrodoporto.pt

Local Bus Services: www.unirmobilidade.pt

Rail Services: www.cp.pt/en

Directions & Navigation: www.google.com/maps/place/Vila+do+Conde

Useful Links
Event Related Information

Event Tickets: https://cmviladoconde.bol.pt

Municipal Theatre: https://viladoconde.com/teatro-municipal

Santana Hotel & SPA: www.santanahotel.pt

Villa C Boutique Hotel: www.villacboutiquehotel.com

B&B Hotel Vila do Conde: www.hotel-bb.com/pt/hotel/vila-do-conde

Practical Information for Visitors

Emergency Services: 112 (European emergency number).

Currency: Euro (€).

Time Zone: Western European Summer Time (WEST, UTC+1) in April.

International Dialling Code: +351 (Portugal).

Electricity: 230 V, 50 Hz. Plug types C and F.

Payments: Credit and debit cards are widely accepted, although carrying some cash is recommended for smaller purchases and local establishments.

Vila do Conde Municipal Theatre

Scan for directions on Google Maps

Com o Alto Patrocínio
de Sua Excelência

Under the High Patronage of the
President of the Portuguese Republic



O Presidente da República


15th EUROPEAN
BLUES
CHALLENGE
8, 9, 10 APRIL 27
VILA DO CONDE
PORTUGAL