

1st COST ANNUAL CONFERENCE – 1st ROOTPOWER WORKSHOP

HOST CITY: MURCIA, SPAIN



Murcia is a city in south-eastern Spain, the capital and most populous city of the Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia, and the seventh largest city in the country, with a population of 442,573 inhabitants in 2009 (about one third of the total population of the Region). The population of the metropolitan area was 689,591 in 2010. It is located on the Segura river, in the Southeast of the Iberian Peninsula, noted by a mild climate with hot summers, mild winters and relatively low precipitation.

Murcia was founded by the emir of Cordoba Abd ar-Rahman II in 825 AD with the name Mursiyah مرسيية and is now mainly a services city and a university town. Highlights for visitors include the Cathedral of Murcia and a number of baroque buildings, renowned local cuisine, Holy Week procession works of art by the famous Murcian sculptor Francisco Salzillo, and the Fiestas de Primavera (Spring Festival).

The city, as the capital of the region, is known as “Europe’s orchard” due to its long agricultural tradition and as a fruits, vegetables and flowers producer and exporter.



DATES AND VENUE

The conference will be held at the Hotel Silken 7 Coronas**** from the 12th to the 14th November 2013.



This hotel is superbly located in the centre of Murcia, next to the river and within 5 minutes by foot to the Cathedral, 10 minutes to the Auditorium and 15 minutes from the bus and train stations. It is easily accessible from the highway and has guest hotel parking and public parking in the surrounding area.

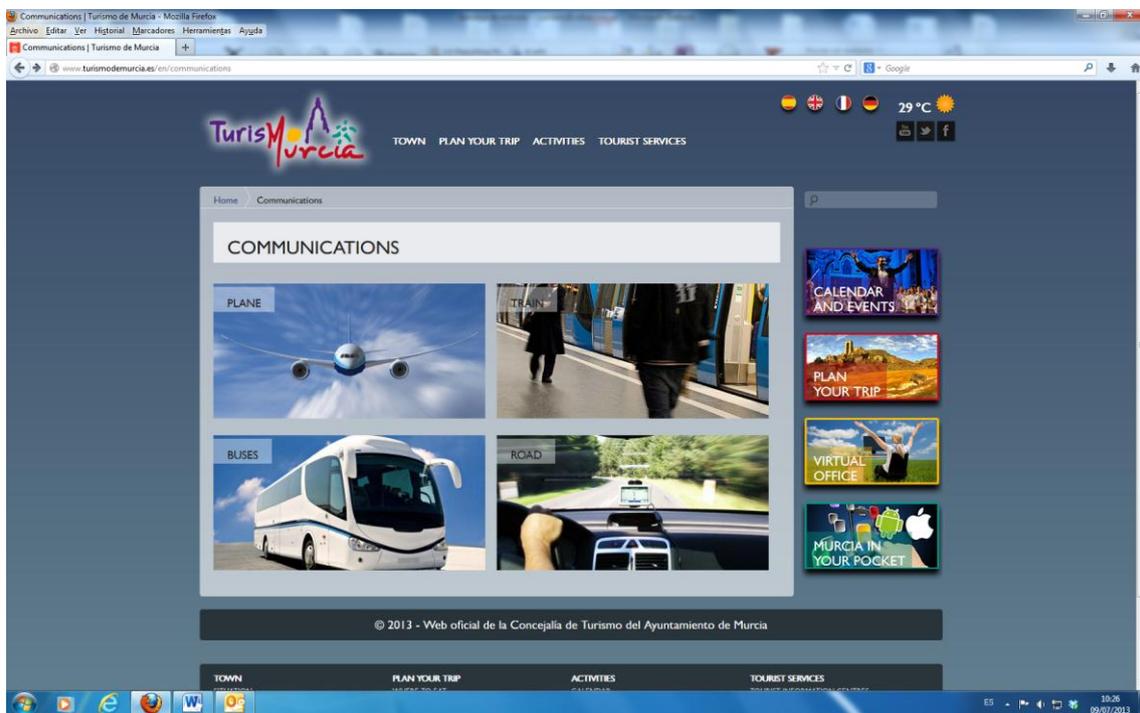
ACCOMMODATION

Different accommodation options with competitive prices will be offered. Those selected will have special rates for attendees and will be conveniently placed in the area surrounding the meeting venue. More information will be made available soon when arrangements with the hotels are agreed.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

As regards travel arrangements, you may find this page interesting (webpage in English):

<http://www.turismodemurcia.es/en/communications>



Aeropuerto Internacional de Alicante (El Altet)

It is 68 km far from Murcia. If possible, we highly advise you to fly to Alicante, since it is very well connected to Murcia by shuttle bus. These buses depart directly from the airport and stop in Murcia bus station. They take 55 minutes to get to Murcia and tickets can be bought on line and directly in the bus. Shared-taxi service at a COST-compatible fare will be offered and organized upon request.

The bus company is ALSA (webpage in English): <http://www.alsa.es/en>

Aeropuerto de San Javier (Murcia)

It is 47 km far from Murcia city. In case you fly to San Javier Airport, you can reach Murcia by bus. At the airport, there is a bus from the company “La Inmaculada” departing at 16.30 and 18.45. This airport takes you to the town “Santiago de la Rivera” where it is necessary to make a bus transfer in order to reach Murcia. Shared-taxi service at a COST-compatible fare will be offered and organized upon request.

Aeropuerto de Valencia (Manises)

In case you fly to Valencia Airport, you can get to Murcia by bus or train.

More information (in English) on how to get to the bus and the train station in Valencia is available at: <http://www.valencia-cityguide.com/tourist-information/transport/transport-from-the-airport-to-the-city.html>

If you take a bus to Murcia, the bus company is ALSA (webpage above). The trip takes around 4-5 hours depending on the route.

If you take a train, the Spanish National Railway Company webpage is www.renfe.es. The train station in Murcia is called “Murcia El Carmen”. The trip takes around 3 hours.

Among these options, we recommend you to take the metro in the airport, get off in the stop called “Xativa”, go outside where you will easily see the train station called “Valencia Nord” and from there, take a train to Murcia.

Aeropuerto de Madrid (Barajas) and Aeropuerto de Barcelona (El Prat)

Depending on your country of origin, you may find easier and/or cheaper to fly to main cities in Spain, such as Madrid or Barcelona, and from there take a train to Murcia. Madrid and Barcelona are very well connected by train and you will find no problem reaching Murcia.

Due to the limited budget, we highly advise you to take into consideration all possibilities available, since there may be considerable price differences from one airport to another.

Please do not hesitate to contact us when your travel itinerary is confirmed, in order to assist you when needed.