Dear all,

The following contains detailed information for your transportation to Ourense. Remember that there is no airport in Ourense. Most of you will be arriving by train, some by rental car.

1. Intended for those who will arrive from European airports.

Either you live in Europe or you spend at least 1-2 nights in Europe before coming to Spain.

a) Check flights from your preferred European Airport to Vigo Airport or Santiago Airport.

Both of these are close to Ourense (in Galicia region), and by April they will be operating flights to about 20 European destinations. It might be worth it. Then:

- Santiago Airport: take a taxi (flat rate about €20), or a city airport bus (about €4) to the train station. Attention: Leave at least 2 hours before landing time and train departure.

- Vigo Airport: take a taxi to Vigo Urzaiz Train station (not "Vigo Guixar" station). Avoid the city bus. Leave at least 2 hours before landing time and train departure.

b) Check flights to Madrid Airport.

- If you are traveling to Ourense the same day that you are landing leave at least 3 hours before landing time and train departure. Take a taxi (flat rate about €30) or a Commuter train (price included in the long distance train ticket Madrid-Ourense) to Madrid-Chamartin Train Station.

- If you are not traveling to Ourense the same day that you are landing, take a taxi to your Hotel, or city bus, metro to downtown, or a Commuter train.

- Attention: Commuter trains and Metro depart only from Airport Terminal 4.

- If you do not land in Terminal 4, there is a free shuttle between airport terminals. Attention to waiting times.

- At Madrid-Chamartin Train Station, go to the main hall and transfer to your long distance train Madrid-Ourense: between 2hours 15 minutes and 3hours 15 minutes, depending on type of train and time of the day.

- At Madrid-Chamartin Train Station check the information boards. Ourense might not be the last stop of your train to that area of Spain, so you might not see the name "Ourense" on the boards (maybe Vigo, Pontevedra, A Coruña, Lugo). To find out the platform for your train, check the information on your train ticket: train number and departure time and match the same information on the boards.

- I have heard that Madrid Chamartin Train Station charges a fee for the use of restrooms. Outrageous, I know. Be aware.

2. Intended for those who will arrive to Spain "directly", from the U.S., LatAm and in general, non-European countries.

Follow 1b above. Explanation: Waiting in Madrid airport for a connecting flight with Santiago Airport or Vigo Airport will take hours.

- You might as well land in Madrid, enjoy 1 night or 2 in the capital-city and without the stress of same-day traveling, you can take a train the following day(s).

- If you are traveling the same day that you are landing leave at least 3 hours before landing time and train departure.

3. For everybody.

Porto, in northern Portugal, is a beautiful alternative if you can spend a few days of vacation, either to land before going to the conference or to depart after we are done.

If you land in Porto Airport (Northern Portugal), take the metro or taxi to the city. Then, I recommend taking a bus to Vigo-Urzaiz Train Station and from there a train to Ourense. Buses depart from Porto Campanha Train Station.

- Bus Porto-Vigo Urzaiz: Flixbus: <https://www.flixbus.com/>

Buses are high quality, comfortable, very affordable, they have wifi and they are faster than the train. I do not recommend the train from Porto to Vigo-Urzáiz Train Station.

- Train Vigo Urzáiz-Ourense

Vigo-Urzaiz Station is a brand new mall-shopping center. You will not be bored while waiting for the train to Ourense.

TRAIN TICKETS

[www.renfe.es](http://www.renfe.es/)

- Language: At the website, select a "globe" on the top right for "Language options".

- Schedule: It is very early to see all of the train schedules online for late April and early May. For example, if I try Saturday April 29, the website lists 1 option from Madrid to Ourense, but there are 12-13 trains daily.

So, to have an idea of what trains will be available and to organize your trip, select for example, Saturday March 17, or any other desired day (Sunday, Monday) but a few weeks earlier. Train schedules do not change. The prices are just a reference: they are cheaper the sooner you purchase them, and higher the closer from train departure.

- When tickets become available online I will let you know.

- Then, purchase "Básico" tickets

- If you select two-way/return ticket(s) = "ida y vuelta", you will get a discount.

- All train stations have coffee-shop(s). Food to go can be purchased there. Food in the trains is blah and expensive (regardless of being high-speed train). Drinks onboard are fine and reasonably priced.

I hope it meets all of your needs since you will be traveling from such a variety of places. If you have any questions, let me know.

Alberto