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## LANGUAGE

The official language of the Conference will be English.

## VENUE AND DATE

ARCH'07 - 5th International Conference on Arch Bridges will be held at the Hotel Pestana Casino Park, in Funchal, capital of Madeira Island, Portugal, from 12 to 14 September, 2007.

## TOPICS

The main topics of the conference include:

- Investigations on historical bridges and construction techniques
- Assessment, maintenance and upgrading of existing arch bridges
- Analysis based on experimental and numerical studies
- Monitoring and management processes
- New and future trends

## CALL FOR PAPERS AND IMPORTANT DATES

Authors interested in presenting a paper should submit an abstract (300 words) before July 31, 2006. Contributions must be in English and must include the contacting author details (affiliation, address, telephone, fax and e-mail). Abstracts must be submitted in electronic form to the following electronic address: [arch07@civil.uminho.pt](mailto:arch07@civil.uminho.pt)

Deadline for Abstracts: July 31, 2006  
Deadline for Full Papers: December 31, 2006  
Deadline for Revised Papers: April 30, 2007  
Conference: September 12-14, 2007

## REGISTRATION

The registration fee is as follows:

Early registration fee (until April 30, 2007): 450 Euro  
Late registration fee (after April 30, 2007): 550 Euro

The registration fee will entitle attendance to all scientific sessions as well as the technical and social events. A free copy of the book, with the contribution of the invited lectures and the papers, will be available for the participants.



**arch'07**  
5<sup>th</sup> International  
Conference  
on Arch Bridges

**Madeira . Portugal**  
**12-14 September 2007**



## MOTIVATION AND AIMS

The development of arch-shaped constructions, many centuries ago allowing an optimization of the material behaviour, represented an outstanding step forward in several domains of society. Nowadays, in spite of the development of new materials and construction techniques, the arch remains highly present in engineering. Therefore, the maintenance of the arch bridge heritage in parallel with the multiple aspects involved in the construction of new arch bridges represent a true challenge to modern engineers. The success of the previous editions of the conference, held in Bolton (UK, 1995), Venice (Italy, 1998), Paris (France, 2001) and Barcelona (Spain, 2004), certifies that arch construction is more and more a key issue in engineering, for ancient masonry arched structures but also modern and innovative arch bridges.

The 5th International Conference on Arch Bridges (ARCH'07) will be held in Madeira, Portugal, in September 12-14, 2007. As in the previous events, the main aim of the conference is to bring together researchers, experts, practitioners and other people interested in arch bridges, in order to promote the effective interchange and dissemination of knowledge and information, towards a continuous development in the field.

Invited lectures and free oral presentations will cover the main aspects related with both historical and modern arch bridges, as indicated in the Topics, providing an overview of the most recent developments carried out. As in former conferences, special attention will be given to the case of ancient masonry arches and bridges.

## SOCIAL PROGRAM AND LODGING

In addition to the usual conference dinner, a social program will be prepared for accompanying people, including for all participants a choice between a 2.5 hours trekking between the two highest peaks of Madeira (medium-difficult) or a 2.5 hour "levada" / waterway trekking (easy). One afternoon of the conference will be kept free for technical visits to the new airport of Madeira (IABSE outstanding award structure) and selected bridges (national prized). There are excellent lodging facilities in Madeira. Very special prices for the conference participants will be provided.

## MADEIRA ISLAND

Madeira Island is known as the Pearl of the Atlantic, the floating Garden due to the exuberant vegetation and rich flower variety. The island offers visitors a mild climate as well as subtropical vegetation, which transforms the island into a blossoming garden all year round, and a landscape, beautiful and varied, which opens out into vast panoramas. Madeira has become increasingly popular also due to the trekking possibilities, in the mountains (up to 1900 m) and in the "levadas" – the small canals and waterways to bring the water from the hills to the villages on shore. Furthermore, Madeira offers to visitors a wide variety of other leisure activities, in particular related to sea sports.

Madeira Island, because of its privileged geographical position and mountainous relief, has a surprisingly mild climate. Very mild average temperatures, 22°C in the summer and 16°C in the winter, and a moderate level of humidity, confer upon these islands exceptional subtropical features. The seawater temperature is also very mild, because of the influence of the warm Gulf current, presenting averages of 22°C in the summer and 18°C in the winter.

Madeira Island is 620 miles from the European continent, which is the equivalent of a 1 hour 30 minute flight from Lisbon. The island is daily connected from all European hubs, as Frankfurt, Paris, Milan, Madrid, London or Amsterdam but also Toronto, New York or São Paulo.

## INFORMATION

For further information, please contact the Secretariat or the Organizing Committee.

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