



**71st Conference-
INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
THE HISTORY OF REPRESENTATIVE
AND PARLIAMENTARY INSTITUTIONS**

GENERAL INFORMATION

**ANDORRA
July 2019**

ABOUT ANDORRA:

Andorra is a country of 468 sq. km. and 78.264 inhabitants, located between France (Ariège-Oriental Pyrénées) and Spain (Catalonia), in the heart of the Pyrenees Mountains.

Andorra has a high mountain climate with Mediterranean influences. It also has a high percentage of sunshine and a generally dry climate. The highest rainfall is recorded in autumn, while winter precipitation is mostly in the form of snow.

Most people live in the Principality's two main towns, Andorra la Vella and Escaldes-Engordany.

Economic development and high levels of immigration in the second half of the 20th century have contributed to the range of nationalities that make up contemporary Andorran society. Andorra is one of the few countries in the world with a higher number of foreigners than nationals: only 46% of the population has the Andorran nationality.

Catalan is the only official language. However, Spanish and French are also spoken.

ABOUT THE POLITICAL SYSTEM IN ANDORRA AND ITS PARLIAMENT:

Andorra is a Parliamentary Coprincipality. In accordance with the institutional tradition of Andorra, the Coprinces are, jointly and indivisibly, the Head of State, and they stand for its highest representation. The Coprinces, an institution which has its origins in mediaeval documents known as Pareatges and their historical evolution, are, in their personal and exclusive right, the Bishop of Urgell and the President of the French Republic. Their powers are equal and derive nowadays from the Constitution (1993).

The Andorran Parliament, called Consell General, was created in 1419. It was then called Consell de la Terra (Council of the Land). There are currently 28 members of parliament who are elected every four years by direct universal suffrage: 14 from a single national constituency and 14 from territorial constituencies.

600 YEARS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LAND:

In 1419, the Council of the Land (Consell de la Terra) was established as the first Parliamentary form with representatives from all of the parishes to deal with the problems of the community.

In 2019, Andorra will celebrate the Council of the Land 600th Anniversary. The Council of the Land has evolved throughout history and its modern and constitutional form, the General Council, is the Andorran Parliament and is quite similar to other parliaments in democratic countries.

Holding the 71st Conference of the International Commission for the History of Representative and Parliamentary Institutions will be an opportunity, in the context of the celebration of the 600th Anniversary of the Council of Land, to discuss with experts from all over the world about the historical evolution of representative institutions.

VENUE OF THE SESSION

The Parliament will try to ensure that all the meetings take place at the:
Congress Centre in Andorra la Vella (Centre de Congressos d'Andorra la Vella)
Plaça del Poble s. n.

AD500 – Andorra la Vella

Tel: +376 730 005

Email: centredecongressos@comuandorra.ad

Website: <http://turisme.andorralavella/ciutat-congressos>

Google Maps: <http://bit.ly/2q5CtSX>

CONTACT IN ANDORRA

Secretariat of the Parliament of the Principality of Andorra (General Council):

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Email : ester.grau@parlament.ad

HOTELS AND ACCOMMODATION

The Parliament will try to ensure bookings at preferential rates for the participants at the following hotels:

<p>ANDORRA PARK HOTEL (* * * * *) Andorra la Vella C/ les Canals, 24 Tel. (+376) 877 777 http://www.parkhotelandorra.com</p>
<p>HOTEL HOLIDAY INN (* * * * *) Andorra la Vella C/ Prat de la Creu, 88 Tel. (+376) 874 444 http://www.plazandorra.com</p>
<p>HOTEL PLAZA (* * * * *) Andorra la Vella C/ Maria Pla, 19 Tel. (+376) 879 444 http://www.plazandorra.com</p>
<p>HOTEL ART HOTEL (* * * *) Andorra la Vella C/ Prat de la Creu, 15 Tel. (+376) 760 303 http://www.arthotel.ad</p>
<p>HOTEL NOVOTEL (* * * *) Andorra la Vella C/ Prat de la Creu, 11 Tel. (+376) 873 603 http://www.prestigihotels.com</p>

HOTEL MERCURE

(* * *)

Andorra la Vella

C/ de la Roda, 1

Tel. (+376) 873 602

<http://www.prestigihotels.com>

HOTEL ANDORRA PALACE

(* *)

Andorra la Vella

Av. Meritxell, 58

Tel. (+376) 873 601

<http://www.prestigihotels.com>

HOTEL DE L'ISARD

(* *)

Andorra la Vella

Av. Meritxell, 34

Tel. (+376) 873 801

<http://www.hotelisard.com>

HOTEL PYRÉNÉES

(* *)

Andorra la Vella

Av. Príncep Benlloch, 20

Tel. (+376) 873 601

<http://www.hotelpyrenees.com>

More information about hotels in Andorra can be found on the following website :
<http://visitandorra.com/en/sleeping/>.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

TRAVEL TO/FROM ANDORRA

The best way to travel to Andorra is through **Barcelona (El Prat) Airport, Spain.**

There are regular bus services that run between the airport and Andorra:

www.andorrabybus.com
www.andorradirectbus.es

There is also private transportation available:

Mr. Manel LARA - Tel.: +376 321686 (info@limusineslara.com)

Mr. Xavier FOLGUERA - Tel.: +376 321679 (contact@taxisfolguera.com)

Mr. Toni ZAMORA - Tel.: +376 323074 (az@sedepsa.com)

The estimated travel time from Barcelona Airport to Andorra is 3:00 hours.

Another option to travel to Andorra is through **Toulouse Airport, France.**

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Important:

All participants should check beforehand if they need a visa to cross France or Spain. It is recommended not to wait until the last moment for visa applications.

Travelers must hold a valid passport to enter Andorra. Nationals from the Schengen area may use their identity cards. The Principality of Andorra does not require an entry visa.

However, given that the only road access points run through the territory of Spain and France, participants who require a visa to cross either Spanish or French territory must contact the **Spanish Consulate** or the **French Consulate** in their country of origin, and apply for a Schengen visa.

If a Schengen visa is required, we recommend applying for a double-entry visa or a multiple entry visa, in case you plan on going on an excursion outside Andorran territory.

CLIMATE AND TIME ZONE

Andorra la Vella lies 1000 meters above sea level. Andorra enjoys a mountain Mediterranean climate, a little bit cold but pleasant, with numerous sunny days (300 per year). The weather in Andorra is mostly sunny in July, with occasional showers in the afternoon. Temperatures could be as low as 10 degrees Celsius at night and reach 29 degrees during the day.

From the end of March to the end of October, there is Summer time (CET + 1 hour).

CURRENCY AND BANKING

Andorra uses the euro (€). Most common credit cards are accepted everywhere. Cash can be withdrawn from ATM machines in the city anytime.

Banks are open from Monday to Friday, from 9:00 to 17:00. It is possible to exchange money at the Barcelona airport currency exchange points.

ELECTRICITY

The voltage in Andorra, as in most of Europe, is 230 V/50 Hz. Andorra uses European-type plugs (2-pin). A transformer and an adaptor may be necessary (to convert 3-pin plugs to 2-pin plugs).

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The international code for Andorra is +376. Access to Wi-Fi will be available at the *Centre de Congressos d'Andorra la Vella*. Internet access by Wi-Fi will also be available in every hotel.

SMOKE-FREE POLICY

Smoking is forbidden in all public places, restaurants, bars, public transport, etc.

TOURISTIC INFORMATION

The multilingual website <http://visitandorra.com/en/> contains touristic and practical information about Andorra.

PLACES TO VISIT

General Council and Casa de la Vall:

During the 71st Conference, the Parliament will organize guided tours to the new seat of the General Council and Casa de la Vall (the House of the Valley). Situated in the centre of Andorra la Vella, Casa de la Vall is a central point worth visiting in order to understand the remarkable history and solid institutional basis of the Principality of Andorra.

It is a noble building dating from the late 16th century. In 1702 it became the seat of the General Council.

All the functions of the Andorran government, administration and justice took place in the same building during. The needs of growth meant that other premises had to be used and led to the building in 2011 of a new home for the parliamentary institution. Since then, Casa de la Vall is still in use by the Parliament on special occasions.

Other attractions:

- Casa d'Areny-Plandolit Museum: a noble house from the 17th century (www.museus.ad).
- Farga Rossell: a 19th century forge (www.museus.ad).
- Romanesque Churches, with guided tours to some of the 40 Romanesque churches and monuments in Andorra.
- Basilica Sanctuary of Meritxell (www.santuariidemeritxell.com).
- Thyssen Museum (www.museucarmenthyssenandorra.ad).
- Museu del Tabac – Antiga Fàbrica Reig (www.museudeltabac.com).
- Natural Parks: Sorteny Valley, Comapedrosa Valley, Madriu-Perafita-Claror Valley.
- Caldea and Inúu Spa (www.caldea.com).