



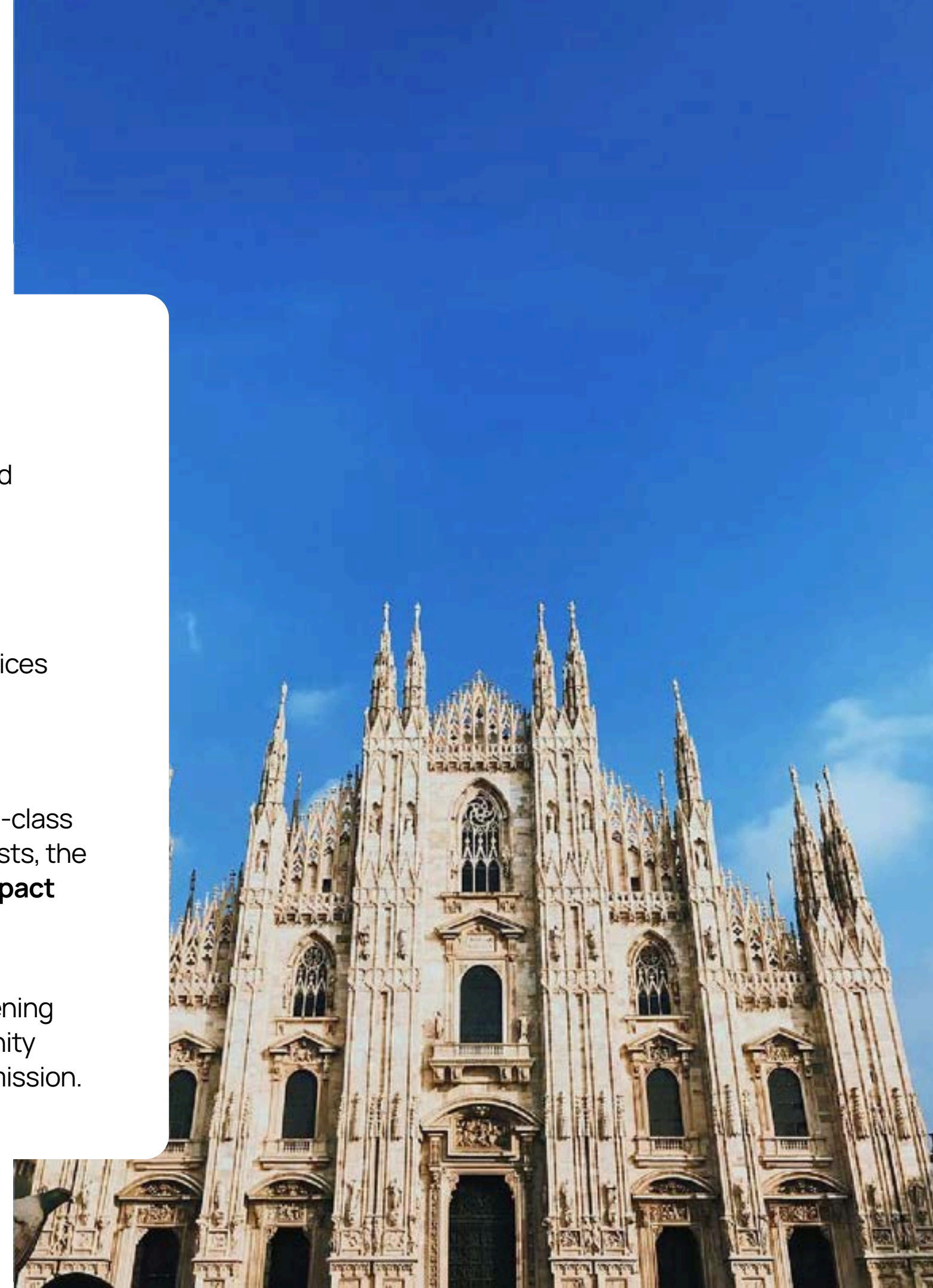
A Guide to Milan

LEAD Network
Conference 2025

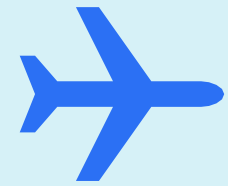
Oct 8–9
Milan, Italy

Why Milan?

- 01** Holding the conference in **Milan** demonstrates our commitment to expanding our reach and influence across all regions of Europe, including **Southern and Western Europe**, where gender diversity and inclusion efforts continue to evolve and require sustained attention. By choosing Milan, we can engage directly with **local communities and organisations**, fostering dialogue and collaboration on **diversity and inclusion** dimensions in a dynamic, multicultural urban setting.
- 02** Hosting our conference in **Milan**, a city known for its progressive values and active LGBTQIA+ community, presents an opportunity to **celebrate progress while acknowledging ongoing challenges**. It allows us to amplify local voices, strengthen alliances, and promote inclusive practices on an international stage. Our presence can serve as a **platform for visibility, solidarity, and sustained advocacy** within and beyond Italy.
- 03** Milan offers a **strategic and well-connected location** for hosting a large-scale event, with world-class infrastructure and services that support efficient event execution. While it may involve higher costs, the city's **reputation, accessibility, and influence** provide strong value, enabling us to **maximise impact and visibility** for our initiatives promoting gender equity.
- 04** Supporting the **Italian Chapter expansion**, particularly in Milan, aligns with our goal of strengthening our presence in key European hubs. Milan's dynamic professional landscape and diverse community provide a strong foundation for **growth, engagement, and sustained impact** in advancing our mission.



Travelling to Milan



By plane

Milan Malpensa Airport (MXP) is the nearest major international airport, located about **45 minutes by taxi** from the **Milano Convention Centre (MiCo)**. To order a taxi, follow the signs to the official taxi stands located just outside the terminal exits. **Only licensed white taxis with the "TAXI" sign are authorised** to operate at the airport. Fixed fares to central Milan are available and clearly displayed.



By train

Milan Centrale Station is the main international and inter-city railway terminal in Milan, Italy. The **Milano Convention Centre (MiCo)** is about a **20-minute taxi ride** from the station. Alternatively, you can take **Metro Line M2** (green line) from "Centrale FS" to "Garibaldi FS", then switch to **Metro Line M5** (purple line) and ride to "Portello" station. Total travel time is approximately **25 minutes**. A **single trip ticket costs €2.20**.

Good to know

Money



Euro (EUR) is the official currency in Italy. Most hotels, restaurants, and shops in Milan accept **credit and debit cards**, but it's recommended to carry some cash, especially for **small purchases or local markets**.



Card payments are widely accepted in Italy, including for small amounts, with **Visa and Mastercard** commonly used throughout Milan. However, it's always a good idea to carry some **cash in Euros**, especially for **public transport, local cafés, or smaller vendors**.



Avoid Euronet ATMs – While Euronet ATMs are common in Milan, especially in tourist areas, they often charge **high fees and unfavorable exchange rates**. It's best to use **ATMs operated by major banks** (like Intesa Sanpaolo or UniCredit) for better rates and lower fees.



Tipping – In Milan, some restaurants include a **service charge ("coperto" or "servizio")** on the bill, so it's a good idea to check before tipping. If not included, it's **customary to leave a tip of around 10%**, especially for good service.



Useful phrases

Good Morning – Buongiorno (pronounced: bwon-jor-no)

Thank you – Grazie (pronounced: gra-tsye)

Good Evening – Buonasera (pronounced: bwo-na-se-ra)

Goodbye – Arrivederci (pronounced: ar-ree-veh-der-chee)

Good Day – Buona giornata (pronounced: bwo-na jor-na-ta)



Fun facts

Milan is Italy's **fashion and design capital**, hosting world- renowned events like **Milan Fashion Week** and **Salone del Mobile**.

The city is home to **Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper"**, one of the most famous paintings in the world. The **Duomo di Milano** is the **largest church in Italy** and took nearly six centuries to complete.

Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II is one of the world's oldest shopping malls, known for its stunning architecture and luxury boutiques.

San Siro Stadium is a landmark for football fans, shared by both AC Milan and Inter Milan. Milan's **subway system**, with 4 lines, is one of the most extensive in Italy and continues to expand.

Good to know

Getting around



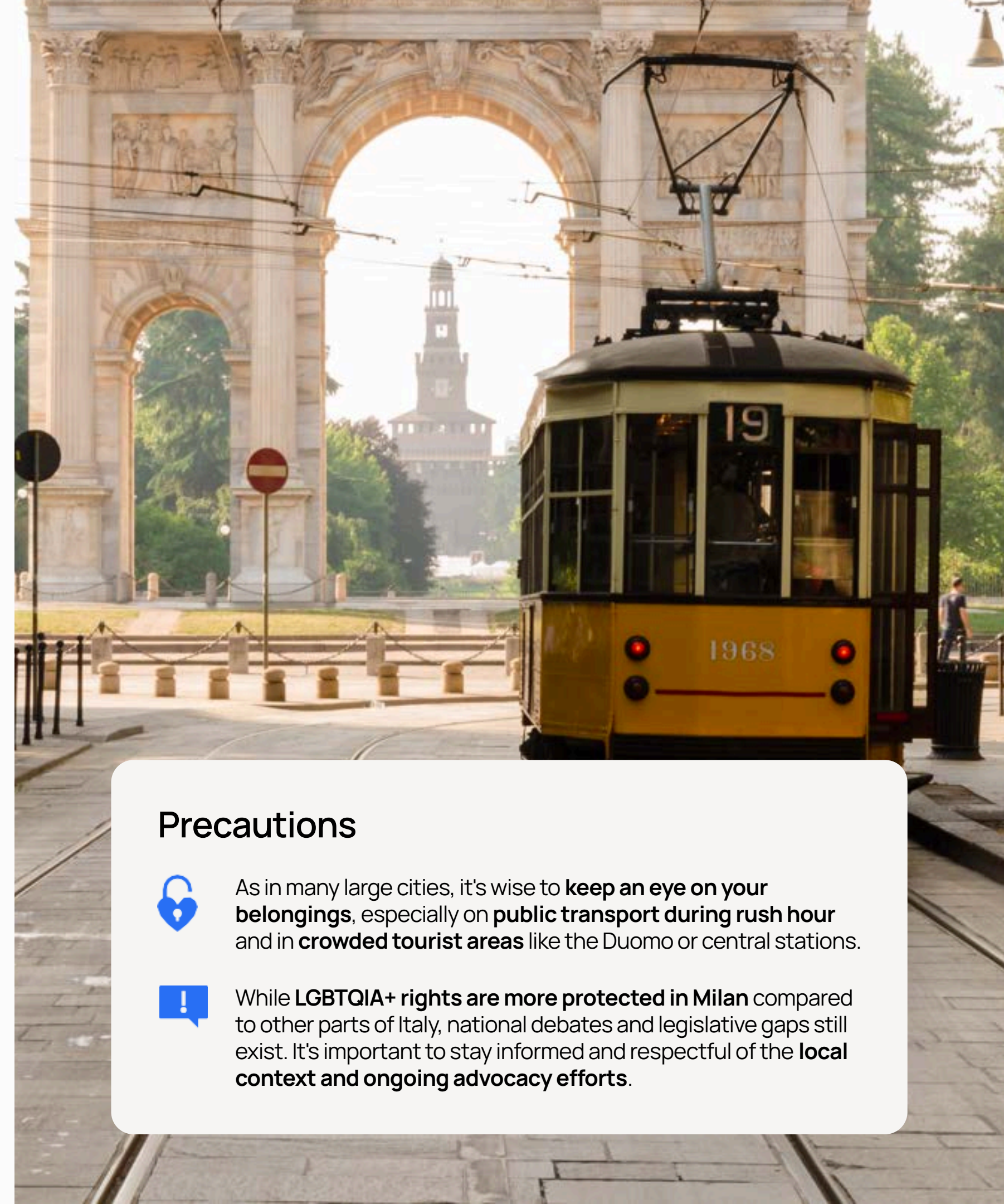
To navigate the city on the go, you can download the **ATM Milano** app or **City Mapper**. The **ATM Milano** app provides real-time information on public transportation, including metro, trams, and buses, making it easy to plan your journey.



The tickets for all public transport in Milan are the same, whether you're taking the **metro, tram, or bus**, and you can purchase them from ticket machines, **ticket offices**, or newsstands. Don't forget to **validate your ticket** before boarding, using the validation machines at the entrance of metro stations or on trams and buses. Keep your ticket with you until the end of your journey, as inspectors frequently check for validated tickets.



For taxis in Milan, **Taxi Radiolines** is the official and main taxi service provider. Note that **Uber** operates in Milan, allowing you to easily book a ride via the app. It's recommended to **avoid flagging down taxis on the street**, as it may be difficult to find an available one during busy hours. Instead, use a taxi app or call a licensed service directly.



Precautions



As in many large cities, it's wise to **keep an eye on your belongings**, especially on **public transport during rush hour** and in **crowded tourist areas** like the Duomo or central stations.



While **LGBTQIA+ rights are more protected in Milan** compared to other parts of Italy, national debates and legislative gaps still exist. It's important to stay informed and respectful of the **local context and ongoing advocacy efforts**.

If you have some free time...

During the day, visit the nearby CityLife district
Located just **10 minutes (2.5 km)** from the **conference venue**, in the **Portello area**. Here you'll find the **modern CityLife Park**, **iconic skyscrapers**, and **luxury shopping** at **CityLife Shopping District**.



It's a great spot to experience Milan's blend of **contemporary architecture**, **green spaces**, and **urban lifestyle**, with plenty of cafés and panoramic views of the city.

Before the evening event, take a walk- through Sempione Park
Located just **2 minutes (600 m)** from the **evening venue**, near the **CityLife** or **Arco della Pace** area.



This beautiful **47-hectare green space** offers a relaxing break with attractions like the **Sforza Castle**, **Arco della Pace**, and the **Triennale Design Museum**, as well as scenic paths, gardens, and a small lake.

If you're looking for something to do after the programmes...



...we highly recommend checking out one of Milan's vibrant aperitivo spots, such as Nottingham Forest or Rita's Tiki Room, located about 10 minutes (2.5 km) from the evening venue, in the lively Navigli or Porta Venezia areas. Perfect for enjoying a drink and experiencing Milan's iconic nightlife culture.



Enjoy Milan!

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