



**GIBRALTAR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

**Office of the Integrity & Security Officer**

**GFA v Slovakia**

**Algarve Stadium, Portugal.**

**19<sup>th</sup>. November 2013**

**Kick-Off 6.30pm.**

## **Travel Advice.**

The following information has been compiled to help you enjoy a historic and trouble-free occasion when the Gibraltar Senior National Football team plays its first official international friendly match against Slovakia under the auspices of UEFA. It is therefore very important that we all understand that this match will be played in accordance with all UEFA Rules and Regulations. Travelling fans in particular should be aware of the following:

- No alcohol is allowed into the stadium.
- Anyone noticeably under the influence of drinks or drugs will not be afforded entry into the stadium.
- Racist Chants or comments are not only illegal but contrary to UEFA/FIFA regulations and will attract severe sanctions. You may also be liable to criminal prosecution.
- Climbing of fences within the stadium to place flags is expressly forbidden due to health and safety regulations
- No forms of pyrotechnics/fireworks are allowed in the stadium.
- You may be subject to search upon entering the stadium. Please note that supporters may be asked for evidence that containers/bottles do not carry alcohol and that if there is any doubt the bottle/container will be seized.

Please cooperate with the GFA to make this a memorable occasion.



## MATCH THREAT ASSESSMENT

This is a friendly match between two nations without any dispute between them. It is envisaged that there will be a substantial presence of Gibraltar supporters and it is known that supporters of the Slovakian team will only involve invited guests of their association plus players, officials and spouses. There are no known issues of animosity between supporters of both teams. However Gibraltar supporters travelling by road to Portugal will no doubt be aware of the existing political and social tensions with Spain, whose roads will need to be used to travel to Portugal. It is therefore advisable that those using coaches or cars avoid the over exposure of flags, banners etc. whilst transiting Spain, to prevent any unnecessary confrontation.

## STADIUM LOCATION

Estadio do Algarve, Parque das Cidades,  
8135-014 Alancil.



## GETTING THERE

The stadium is located about 8kms north of the city of Faro, about halfway between Faro and Loule and lies next to the A22 motorway. Take exit 13 on the motorway toward Faro/N125/Aeroporto and onto the IC4 road and then leave the IC4 at the first exit towards Estadio Algarve, (after less than one kilometre).

The stadium has its own train station, Parque das Cidades, with service to Faro, Loule and other regional destinations. About 10 trains a day run between Faro and Parque das Cidades. The journey takes about 6 minutes; the walk from the station to the stadium is a further 15 minutes.

Distance from Gibraltar to Estadio Algarve is approximately 395Kms. 3hrs. 45 mins.



## **HISTORY & DESCRIPTION**

The stadium was built to serve as one of the playing venues of the Euro 2004 football tournament.

It was officially opened on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. November 2003. The first match played was a friendly between local clubs SC Farense and Louletano DC.

During Euro 2004 the stadium hosted two group matches and the quarter-final between Holland and Sweden.

The stadium was previously the home to both Farense and Louletano, which are currently playing in the lower leagues. As a result both have chosen to play most of their home matches in smaller stadiums, using the Estadio Algarve only for important matches.

The stadium has now also become the official venue for the GFA's senior team official UEFA matches.

The stadium is best known for its remarkable architecture. Stand-out features are its 73 metres high curved roof over two of the stands which are held up by a steel structure tied to four pillars. The stadium has a total of 320 VIP places and a total capacity of 30,305 seats.

## **CRIME**

Crime rates are low in Portugal but pickpockets, handbag snatching and theft from cars are common in major tourist areas and can sometimes be accompanied by violence. Be alert, keep sight of your belongings at all times and beware of thieves using distraction techniques. Be extra vigilant in public transport and crowded train and bus stations.

Do not carry all your valuables together in handbags or pockets. Leave spare cash and valuables in a safe place. Avoid leaving items in an unattended car, even for a short period. If you have no alternative, hide them in the boot before you reach your destination. Remember that foreign registered and hire cars are often targeted by thieves.

Report the loss or theft of your passport or I/D card immediately to the local police and obtain a police report. You will need the report for insurance purposes and to obtain a replacement travel document.

Sexual assaults are very rare in Portugal but you should be alert to the possible use of 'date rape' and other drugs, including 'GHB' and liquid ecstasy. Buy your own drinks and keep sight of them at all times to make sure they aren't spiked. If you are going to drink, know your limit and remember that drinks served in local bars are often much stronger than those served in Gibraltar. Remember that you will be denied access into the stadium if you are noticeably under the influence of drinks.



## LOCAL LAWS & CUSTOMS

If you are caught taking or in possession of drugs for personal use, you may be subject to a fine or another sanction (including the seizure of personal belongings). Selling or trafficking drugs is a criminal offence and subject to severe penalties.

You must show some form of identification if asked by the police or judicial authorities. In most cases it should be sufficient to carry a photocopy of the data page of your passport, but you may be asked to produce the original document.

Gambling is only legal in establishments properly licensed by the government, like official casinos. Games of chance, including bingo, are illegal if they are held on unlicensed premises. The police may act without warning and organisers, participants and anyone on the premises may be arrested, charged with a criminal offence and fined or imprisoned. If in doubt, you should ask whether the establishment you are entering is legally licensed.

## IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS

If you are driving to Portugal from Spain there are no immigration controls between Spain and Portugal over the Guadiana International Bridge connecting both countries at the Algarve. However you must be in possession of a valid passport for the proposed duration of your visit. A minor under the age of 18 travelling to Portugal must either:

- Be accompanied by a parent or guardian, or
- Be met at the airport or point of entry by a parent or guardian, or
- If not accompanied by a parent or guardian, carry a letter of authorisation to travel from that parent or guardian. The letter should name the adult in Portugal who will be responsible for the minor during their stay.



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Integrity & Security Officer.

