

## MILO'S ACCESSIBILITY RATING

### PARIS, FRANCE



RATING SCALE

1 - 10

OVERALL RATING

7.5



























How accessible is your next travel destination?

**WORLDWIDE  
ACCESSIBILITY RATING**

**Part 2**

## MILO'S ACCESSIBILITY RATING

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	BERLIN, GERMANY		8.3/10
	BANGKOK, THAILAND		8.0/10
	PARIS, FRANCE		7.5/10
	SOUTH AFRICA		7.5/10
	FLORENCE, ITALY		7.5/10
	KEUKENHOF, HOLLAND		7.0/10
	SHANGHAI, CHINA		7.0/10
	TRI-CITY, POLAND		6.8/10
	LISBON, PORTUGAL		6.5/10
	MACAU, CHINA		6.5/10
	LUXEMBOURG		6.0/10
	BUDAPEST, HUNGARY		4.5/10
	KENYA		1.5/10

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# Introduction

In the second part of the “Worldwide Accessibility Rating” e-book, which contains of blog posts published on our Blumil blog, we will dive further into the world of travelling and accessibility. From Germany to Kenya, we will explore all shades of the world and their wheelchair-friendliness. Vacation and relaxation should always go together, but sadly they often don’t, especially when accessibility is involved. There are many wonderful places all around the world, which lose its charm in the very beginning. Once you have to navigate the city and all you can think about are dangerously bumpy pavements, it’s difficult to relax and soak up the atmosphere. I came up with **The Great Accessibility Rating** to provide you with firsthand, honest review of what’s waiting for you in your next travel destination. I’ve always been the first one to say “yes” to adventure, and nothing has changed since I became a wheelchair user 18 years ago. With my Blumil wheelchair, I can freely roam around the world and taste everything life has to offer. I strongly believe in freedom and possibilities, and I would love to show you traveling’s for everybody. I want to share my travel experience and help you avoid unpleasant surprises. After all, the world’s more beautiful when we have each other’s backs. **What are are the most obvious factors I take into consideration when I rate accessibility of places I’ve visited? The accessibility of hotels, pavements, shops & restaurants, and touristic attractions.** The maximum score a place can get in each category is 10. The number of wheelchairs shows the score of a given place in a given category. Shaded wheelchairs signify missed points. Overall rating is an average of the four basic categories and is the final rating of the place. Below you will discover many places and see my rating of their accessibility... because knowledge is power!



## **Milo's accessibility rating**

With a great pleasure, I would like to introduce you to my ultimate accessibility rating of travel destinations. You have to know, I've never been the one to resist a promise of adventure. Travelling has always been my cup of tea, and nothing has changed that. I'm not a person who believes in limits, but I am a great believer of challenges. Challenges are what makes us grow, and growth is life. Still, sometimes lack of challenging surprises is all we need. Especially when it comes to vacations. This is why I decided to share my travel experience with you. Our entire world's full of wonderful places, but their accessibility varies. As much as your travel agent may say every destination could be your paradise, it is probably not true. Some places are wheelchair accessible only on touristic leaflets. As I've travelled a lot since my accident, trust me, I've seen all shades of accessibility. Many locations were, indeed, a dream come true, but others I'm glad I left unharmed. These are things I took into account when I created my ultimate accessibility rating.

### **MILO'S ACCESSIBILITY RATING**

The rating's graphically illustrated in a form of an infographic, as it makes the abundance of available information easier to digest and access. Here's an exemplary infographic of The Dominican Republic, Puerto Plata.



Each infographic is made of a several elements, which I'm going to describe below.

### THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, PUERTO PLATA

On the top of each infographic, you can find out where I travelled in detail. First I include a name of a country, then a name of a place I visited. Sometimes I may include a name of a region or state, but generally, a combination "country + city" is a standard. When rating each place's accessibility I focused on four aspects of accessible travelling, that I find the most important. These are – hotels, attractions, shops & restaurants and pavements. Each of them is rated on a 10-point scale, a score of 1 being the lowest rating and 10 being the highest one.



## → Hotels

Rating hotels I took into consideration a general profile of available hotels. Things I especially paid attention to are all written down below:

- How easy it is to find an accessible hotel?
- Are the hotel's elevators are in a good condition?
- How accessible are the hotels?
- Are accessible hotels expensive, or is it possible to find something moderately priced?
- What's the actual state of the hotel compared to the adverts?
- Are bathrooms' doors wide enough for a wheelchair?
- Are there accessible showers or bathtubs in a bathroom?
- How easy it is to get to a hotel's restaurant: are there ramps or stairs only?

As you can see 9 out of 10 wheelchairs are fully visible, and only one wheelchair is shaded. It means that hotels received 9 out of 10 points. Their score is, therefore, 9/10.

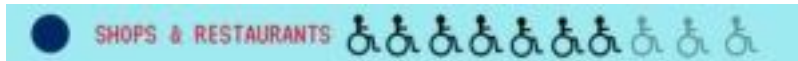


## → Attractions

What I took into account when rating attractions? Here's the answer!

- How accessible are attractions?
- Are there elevators or ramps?
- Is the surface even?

- How easy is it to find information about attractions' accessibility?



### → Shops and restaurants

There are many different things improving or destroying a place's accessibility. This is what I focused on when it comes to shops and restaurants:

- Are entrances flat?
- Can ramps be brought if there are only stairs?

Are toilets on the same floor?



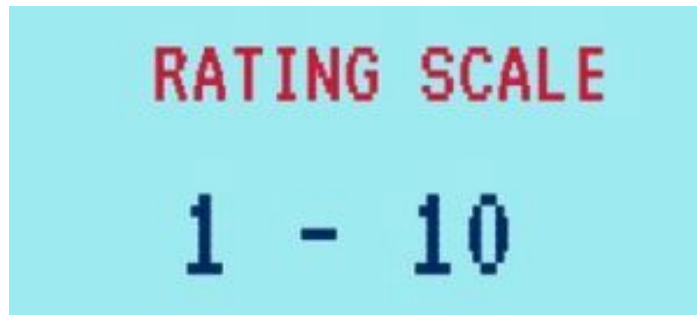
### → Pavements

Pavements may not seem very important for many people, but they are extremely important for wheelchair users. The state of pavements can break or make even the most wonderful trip since it determines your comfort when you travel. What I took into account when rating pavements? Here's a short list:

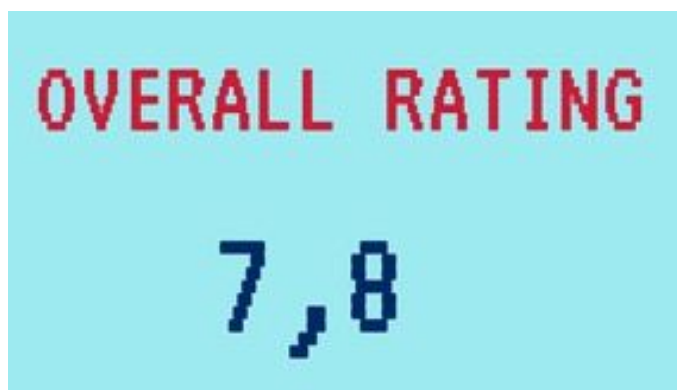
- How many curbs are there?
- Is the surface of the pavement even or uneven?
- Are there holes in the surface of the pavement?
- Are ramps mild or rather sharp in their gradient?
- Are there ramps at all?

Do overhead passages have elevators?

7 visible and 3 shaded wheelchairs mean pavements got 7 out of 10 points.



The highest possible rating in each category is 10, and the lowest possible rating is 1.



Overall rating is an arithmetic average of ratings from all categories. For example, Puerto Plata got 9 points for hotels, 7 for pavements, 8 for attractions and 7 for shops & restaurants, what gives us its overall rating: 7,8.

## IMPORTANT NOTE

Please note that some of the places in the rating were visited a long time ago, so things might have changed there. The rating's also very personal, so I would say it's everything but impartial. If you have any comments and want to add something, please share your knowledge with us – the more we know, the better! Information's our best protection against surprises we wish to avoid.

### **Short summarised info guide through an infographic**

As you can see the infographic shows four categories: hotels, pavements, shops and restaurants and attractions. These are the most obvious factors I take into consideration when I rate accessibility of places I've visited. First things first: the maximum score a place can get in each category is 10. The number of wheelchairs shows the score of a given place in a given category. Shaded wheelchairs signify missed points. Overall rating's an average of our four basic categories and is the final rating of the place.

## **Planning an accessible trip**

Planning an accessible trip is not half as complicated as it seems. All it requires is a little bit of traveling knowledge and good organizational skills, and practice makes perfect. I've been often asked how to successfully craft a plan of an accessible trip and as much as details would differ depending on a given location, there is one formula which, I believe, never fails: arm yourself with information. The more you know, the safer you are. If you research your options, it's also easier to come up with a backup plan if something goes wrong. The knowledge's your secret weapon, so don't leave yourself unarmed. That's my number one advice, but I have more secrets to share, and they will be slightly more practical. Below I'll share with you a large share of my travel tips – accessible traveling's within your reach!



*Barcelona*



## How to plan an accessible trip?

At first, we decide how much time there is to use for a trip, and when we can actually take the time off. I like to travel around Public Holidays, when taking just a day or two off may result in a week – long holiday.

When you know for how long you can be away, it's time to choose your destination. I've always liked to discover new places, especially since I have my Blumil, which lets me go wherever I want to.

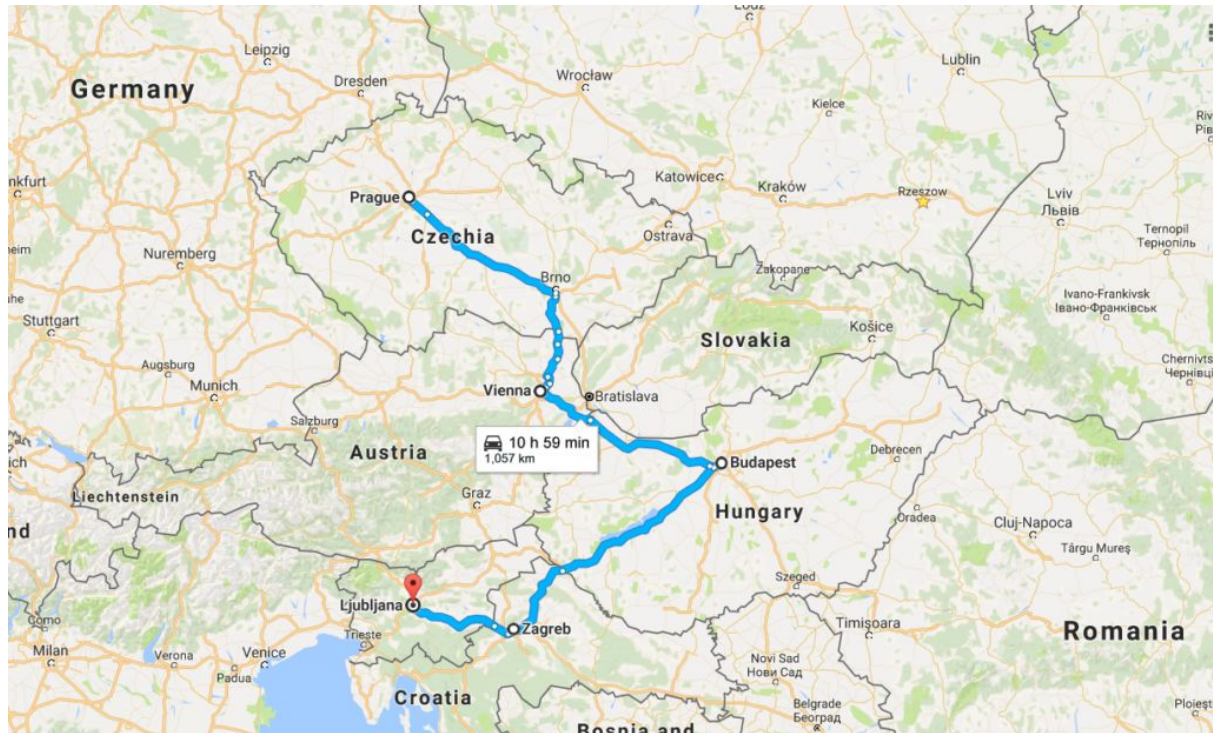


*Fairytale setting in Budapest*

Traveling by car might be a great choice – you can see a lot along the way, and decide where and for how long you want to stay as your road

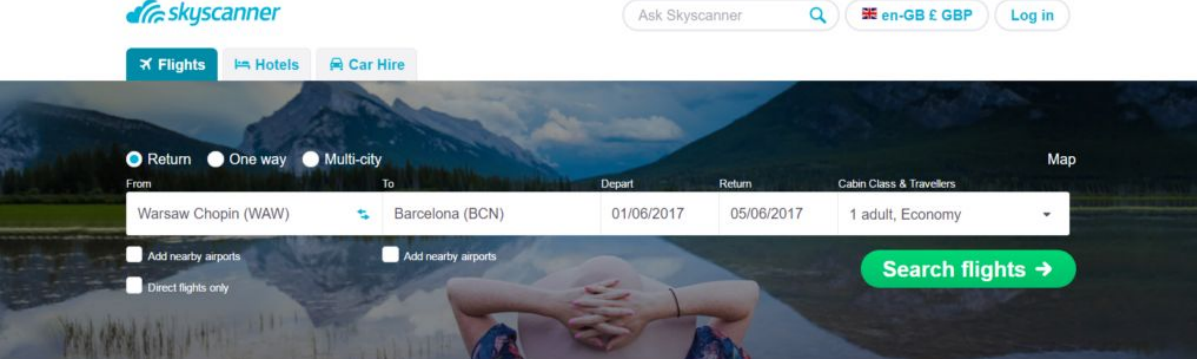


trip progresses. However, driving may be tiring, so be sure to take necessary stops to rest.



*The tour around European capitals – the distance between each city is not more than 320 kilometers.*

Flying is another option – and sometimes the only one, taking into consideration long – distance destinations. Thanks to low-fare airlines, you don't have to spend a fortune on your flight – sometimes booking a flight in advance or keeping an eye on discounts is the best thing you can do. It's worth to remember that wheelchair users are entitled to free assistance at airports. Nevertheless, you should always call the airline in advance to give them enough time to organize everything. During the flight, the staff should help you move around, but no other assistance is obligatory – it depends on the staff's willingness to help. During some flights, the staff may be extremely busy and any further assistance may be out of the question. Note to remember: not every airplane toilet is accessible so contacting the airline before the flight asking for information may save the day. Planning in time saves stitch in nine!



The image shows the Skyscanner website's flight search interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the Skyscanner logo, a search bar with the text "Ask Skyscanner", and links for "en-GB £ GBP" and "Log in". Below this is a secondary navigation bar with tabs for "Flights", "Hotels", and "Car Hire". The main search area features a background image of a person's hands clasped behind their head, looking out over a lake and mountains. The search form includes radio buttons for "Return" (selected), "One way", and "Multi-city". It has fields for "From" (Warsaw Chopin (WAW)), "To" (Barcelona (BCN)), "Depart" (01/06/2017), "Return" (05/06/2017), and "Cabin Class & Travellers" (1 adult, Economy). There are also checkboxes for "Add nearby airports", "Direct flights only", and a "Map" link. A green "Search flights →" button is positioned to the right of the search fields.

## Traveling by train or bus

If you travel by train, you're entitled to free of charge assistance. How does it look in practice? Somebody should help you get on and off the train. Worth knowing? You can't be denied boarding unless legal health and safety requirements can't be met and a safe journey is not possible.



When it comes to buses, you are also entitled to assistance in getting on and off the bus. If you require a travel assistant, this person should be able to travel with you free of charge. Of course, it's always worth to contact the company in advance and ask for all the necessary



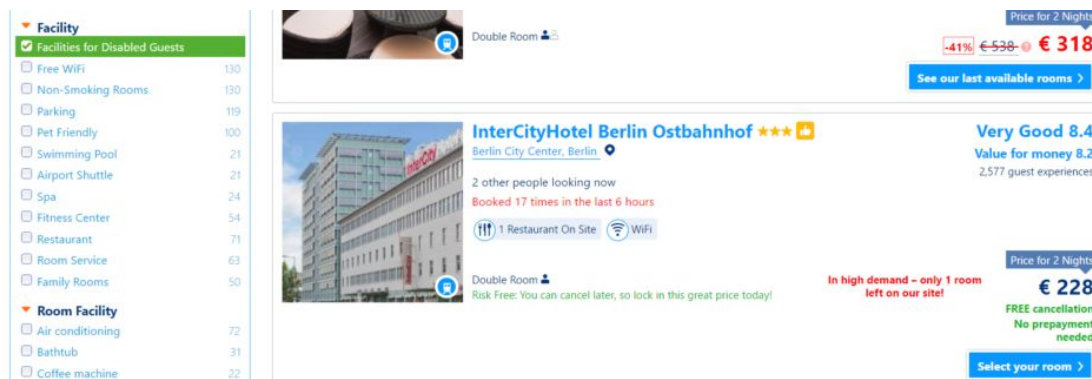
information. Different companies may have various policies towards wheelchair users.



## Hotel

Next step, which is very important is to select the right hotel. The location is crucial, and for those with electric wheelchairs, city centers are usually the best option. At least that's where I like to be – close to

restaurants, bars, and attractions. I usually use the booking.com service, as you can browse hotels selecting their accessibility.



The screenshot displays a hotel booking interface. On the left, a 'Facility' sidebar lists various amenities with counts: Free WiFi (130), Non-Smoking Rooms (130), Parking (119), Pet Friendly (100), Swimming Pool (21), Airport Shuttle (21), Spa (24), Fitness Center (54), Restaurant (71), Room Service (63), and Family Rooms (50). Below this, 'Room Facility' includes Air conditioning (72), Bathtub (31), and Coffee machine (22). The main area shows a hotel listing for 'InterCityHotel Berlin Ostbahnhof' (3 stars) in Berlin City Center. It features a photo of the hotel, a 'Double Room' selection, and a price of €318 for 2 nights (41% discount from €528). A 'See our last available rooms' button is present. Below the main listing, another hotel listing for 'InterCityHotel Berlin Ostbahnhof' is shown with a 'Double Room' selection, a price of €228 for 2 nights, and a 'Risk Free' cancellation policy. A 'Select your room' button is also visible.

However, before you decide on a hotel – be careful. Look thoroughly at their pictures, especially those of elevators and bathrooms – the term “Wheelchair user accessible” can be understood differently by different hotels! It is also worth to visit the hotel’s own website. If they don’t post pictures vouching for their “accessibility” I would recommend you to email them and ask for evidence that the place’s accessible. Stitch in time saves nine! Who would want to have troubles with too narrow doors or “just a few” steps between a lobby and a restaurant? If it’s your lucky day, you may even find promotional deals and better prices on a hotel’s website, so just browse them!



*Accessible bathroom*

### **Questions to ask before choosing your perfect hotel**

- Is there a good working elevator?
- Do the rooms have light switches placed at the height of a wheelchair user's arm?
- Can beds or other furniture be moved easily?
- What floor are wheelchair accessible rooms on?
- Are toilets adjusted to wheelchair users?
- Do showers have a chair for wheelchair users inside?
- Are there any parking places that are wheelchair-user-friendly?
- Are there ramps next to the entrance?
- Does the hotel provide their guests with a device that allows them to fully cherish their stay?

The justification for each of these question is listed in the post [“Everything you need to know to choose the right hotel”](#) and I would

definitely recommend you to read it. It's a short guide packed in with useful info!

### **Attractions**

I always check possible attractions of every destination I visit. Some are obvious – how can you be in Barcelona and skip Gaudi's architectonical works of art? – but some may need some research. This applies particularly to everybody who loves good cuisine – search for places, which are popular among locals, as they tend to be the best in terms of price and quality. I never make a precise plan, as heaven knows plans and weather don't go together. I just try to make a list of outdoor and indoor attractions, and I do whatever feels right at a given moment. Spontaneity can be the spice of life! Just remember: some places are insanely popular and if you don't book your ticket in advance all you'll going to see is the never-ending line to the ticket office.

**All in all, planning an accessible trip can be a piece of cake if you only play by three rules: planning in advance, having a backup plan and asking questions! A little bit of preparation can save the day, so do your research and remember knowledge is your friend. If you hope for the best and prepare for the worst you're likely to have the time of your life no matter where you go!**

## **Flying in the Blumil style**

Flying in the Blumil style is all about experiencing the freedom, and defying the limits. For many people, accessible traveling seems like nothing but a beautiful dream – wonderful in theory, impossible in practice. Things couldn't be further from the truth. Is every travel destination accessible? Absolutely not. Is wheelchair friendly traveling possible? Absolutely yes! Throughout the years, I've visited numerous places (South Africa, Shanghai, USA, Spain, and Kenya to name a few) with my wheelchair alongside, and I had a wonderful time. Since Blumil entered my life, traveling has become easier. Sometimes I have to be extremely careful, sometimes numerous bumps in pavement give me a headache, but the abundance of wonders I stumble upon makes up for every inconvenience. As flying is often the best travel option, I would like to share my experience of flying... in the Blumil style! Things you should know, procedures to remember, tips to make life easier – everything's waiting for you below!





## 5 things you should know about flying with an electric wheelchair

### 1. Electric wheelchair Blumil can be safely transported by plane

First of all, one of the safety concerns regarding electric wheelchair is a battery. While some batteries could pose a threat (possible explosion for example), Blumil is prone to such problems. The dry Lithium Ion battery powering the Blumil electric wheelchair was created using high tech, and it doesn't cause any short-circuit. You can simply disconnect it from the wheelchair using a key. Simple, right? Suddenly traveling with a wheelchair is easier than ever. In conclusion: electric wheelchairs like Blumil and planes go together very well.





## **2. You can take Blumil onboard in every airline**

Taking Blumil onboard shouldn't cause you any additional costs. Sometimes you are allowed to transport two wheelchair free of charge, but it's optional. Of course, informing the airline about your journey is necessary, so they are prepared to help you. Most of all, know your rights and be polite – airlines can be your friends if you play your cards right.

## **3. Your assistance dog is welcome to fly with you – for free!**

If your dog is a certified assistance dog, you can fly together for free. Your pet should be next to you and the other seat shouldn't be taken, too. What I need to emphasize – your animal has to be certified. If you wish to know more about having an assistance dog and read about my Coco, just head to linked posts.



#### **4. You are either going to get to an airplane first or last**

Depending on the airplane, wheelchair users are going to enter the airplane first or last. Everything depends on the procedures and the policy of the airline.

#### **5. Airplane crew is most often friendly and ready to provide you with extra blankets or assistance**

While flight attendants are often busy and can't assist you all the time, small assistance is possible. Extra blanket or pillows are probably just one question away. A bowl of water or animal food for your dog is not out of question too, but know that low-cost fares might not have it. If you never ask, you'll never know, though!

### **Procedures on the airport**

During our check-in, they will take our baggage and ask us whether we are going to need some assistance and if so, when. We can leave our wheelchair with all the baggage straight away and use an airport wheelchair or stay on our own wheelchair, depending on our preference. After our suitcases are checked, we proceed to the gate. As I mentioned before, we could go either first or last, depending on the airline. Sometimes the airplane is connected to the gate by a jet bridge, sometimes we will be taken by a special car and then lifted to enter the airplane. Upon entering the plane, we are given a special wheelchair and we take our seat. That's a brief summary of how flying with a wheelchair looks like. It may sound complicated, but once you get used to flying, it's a routine... like any other!



### **Fly above the limits**

Accessible flying is not a dream, but a vision thousands of people make true. Wheelchair friendly airports and planes are slowly becoming more and more common. With every passing year, it becomes easier to explore the world and I am happy to see how much the culture of flying has progressed. Every corner of the world is just a flight away... for everybody. Not even the sky's the limit, and experiencing freedom is possible – especially with a Blumil electric wheelchair! Here goes to even more accessible future...

## Berlin, Germany

### MILO'S ACCESSIBILITY RATING

## GERMANY, BERLIN



RATING SCALE

1 - 10

OVERALL RATING

8.3



# What to see in Berlin?

## 1. Brandenburg Gate

The Brandenburg Gate was built in the 18th century, and it has been the icon of Berlin for a long time. I just had to see it so I could check whether its hype could live up to reality. It's definitely a nice monument, but nothing too mind-blowing. I have to admit it's a perfect spot for a photo with a Berlin vibe, though. Travel tip: visit it at night. When it illuminates against the dark line of the sky, The Brandenburg Gate can leave you in awe.



## 2. Memorial of the Berlin Wall

The Berlin Wall is a great reminder of the recent history, and I believe it's worth visiting for its historic value alone. It's neither beautiful nor

impressive but makes a powerful attraction, which sums up years of division within Germany (and Europe) perfectly.

### **3. The Holocaust Memorial**

The Holocaust Memorial is a memorial to Jewish victims of the Holocaust, and it holds names of 3 million of them in the underground “Place of Information”. It was built in 2004, and it’s definitely one of the places you can’t miss in Berlin. Seeing all these names – one after one, after one, after one... makes the entire horror of what happened hit you with full power. I would definitely recommend it for a visit – puts everything into perspective.

### **4. Berlin Cathedral**

Berliner Dom, as it’s called in German, it’s possibly one of the prettiest attractions in Berlin. It’s picturesque and showcases a completely different face of Berlin. Taking all painful events that took place there aside, it’s a nice reminder of Berlin’s long history. It definitely gets a big “yes!!!” from me. Just remember: prior registration is required to explore the cathedral.

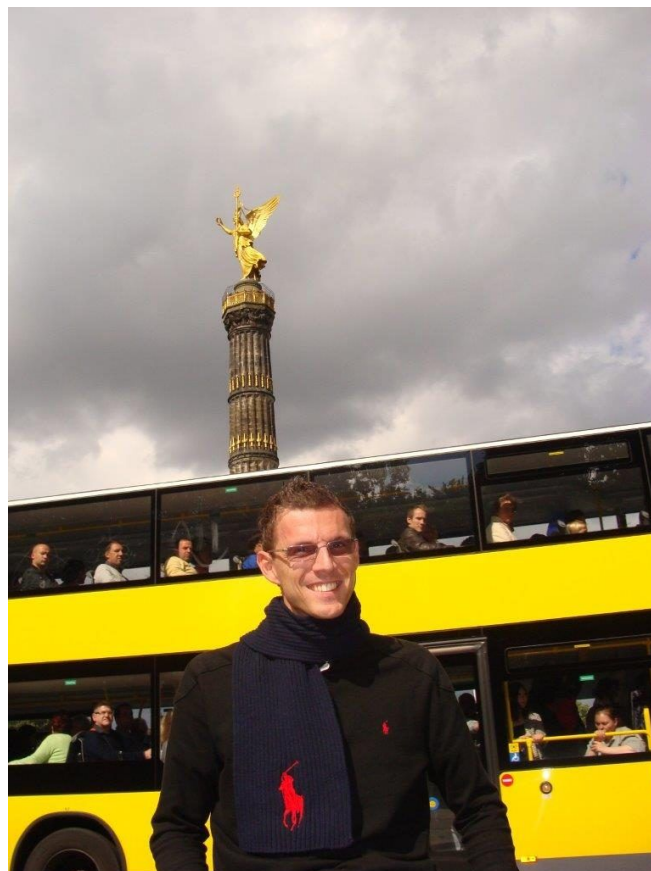


## 5. Tiergarten

Tiergarten – translating to Animal Park – is the name of Berlin’s largest and most popular park. I loved every second I spent there: everything was green and fresh, and it didn’t feel like if I was in one of Europe’s busiest cities. Tiergarten is often called “the green lungs of Berlin” and rightfully so. The laidback vibe of the place reminded me a bit about Dublin, and let me tell you, it’s definitely a place to stop at if you’re in Berlin.

## 6. Berlin Victory Column

The column was built to celebrate success in war. The figure on the top of the column is a Roman goddess of victory – Victoria. I wasn’t too impressed with the column – Berlin has much more to offer. Good thing – I have a group photo with a very lovely yellow bus in the background, so it’s a win-win situation for me!





## **My Berlin highlight**

Honestly, my favourite moment in Berlin was a quiet dinner in a restaurant. The restaurant was located so close to The Berlin Cathedral that I had a perfect view on it when I was eating. It was a lovely evening, and I was breathing Berlin in and out in my own rhythm. Could it get any better? Probably not!



## **Accessibility in Berlin**

### **Hotels**

Hotels in Berlin are definitely accessible. Finding something that would be wheelchair friendly without breaking a budget is definitely possible. Generally, hotels are well catered for needs of wheelchair users and don't promise much more than they are willing to give. Elevators and ramps are a standard. The number of accessible rooms in a hotel is high enough, though the situation could be still better. In general, out of 10 points, I would give Berlin hotels 8. Everything's going in a good direction.



## **Pavements**

Pavements in Berlin are definitely among the best I've ever encountered. Their surface is even, curbs are not everywhere. Navigating through the city is definitely not mission impossible. In fact, it's way less troubling than strolling around most of the European capitals – for example... Prague.

## **Shops and restaurants**

Ramps and elevators are so obvious in Berlin that there were not too many places I couldn't access even a few years ago. Shops and restaurants definitely manage to cater to needs of wheelchair users. It's definitely something Berlin should be proud of.

## **Attractions**

A vast majority of places is accessible, but there are some, which would score 0 on any accessibility rating. That's absolutely something the city should work on, especially considering the city's not too far away from perfection.

***All in all, Berlin's a vibrant, ever-changing city, which connects dots of history together like puzzles. It races up to the future but doesn't run away from its past. I might have never fallen under Berlin's spell, but I can't deny it has so much more to offer than it seems. After long years of division, the city's ready to stand united and win over the hearts of tourists. Maybe someday Berlin will win me over, too. For now, it's just another city to cross out on my travel list. One thing remains sure: if accessibility was the only criteria, Berlin would make it to the top of the list of coolest cities in Europe. Berlin and "accessibility" go together perfectly well.***

# Bangkok, Thailand

## MILO'S ACCESSIBILITY RATING

### BANGKOK, THAILAND



RATING SCALE

1 - 10

OVERALL RATING

8.0

# What to visit in Thailand?

## Bangkok

Bangkok is an extraordinary city, caught somewhere between the past and the future, just like Taipei. Skyscrapers and temples come together, creating a unique urban landscape.



Since I am both a nature lover and a party animal, I felt that I came to the right place. Why? Bangkok has the best of both worlds and after a great night in a club, you can recharge your batteries in a peaceful city park – whether on the manual or electric wheelchair, party and relax are possible .. and loads of fun!



*After-party relax...*

As the city's accessible, electric wheelchairs can take you about everywhere. With regular wheelchairs, it would be more difficult, but definitely not impossible. I was very much impressed with the fact the city was actually very wheelchair friendly. It happens once in a blue moon – accessibility is still not a standard in most of the cities – so I was quite surprised. In the best possible way, of course!





*At night, cities bloom*

## What to visit in Bangkok?

- **The Grand Palace**

Magnificent and gold are probably first two words I would use to describe the Grand Palace. It was built in the 18th century and it's a complex of many wonderful buildings, the Temple of the Emerald Buddha included.



*The Grand Palace*

I absolutely loved it, and I would recommend anybody to visit it. It's a nice way to get a taste of Thai history and enjoy the beauty of architecture. However, you need to be aware that it is very spacious so an electric wheelchair or Blumil definitely is an option.



## What to do in Bangkok?

- **Party**

Lively and dynamic, Bangkok is perfect for partying. Bars and clubs are everywhere and the city never seems to sleep. The surprising side of the city? Amsterdam has its Red District and so does Bangkok. Prostitutes crop up in many corners of the city. Consequently, the partying side of



the city sparks some doubts in many tourists, but no worries here – clubs themselves are safe and fun. Mostly also wheelchair friendly!



*It's always a good time to party in Bangkok!*

### **Bangkok hotels**

In Bangkok, I stayed in Lebua at State Tower. It's a luxurious hotel you might know from Kac Vegas II – some scenes of the movie were filmed there. Nevertheless, what's truly cool about the hotel is its rooftop bar. It's located on the 67th floor! The view on the city was wonderful and I can recommend you this hotel – it was truly top-notch.





*My hotel*

### **Ko Phi Phi**

Are there any fans of the movie “The Beach” starring Leonardo DiCaprio? if so, the name “Ko Phi Phi” may sound familiar to you – that’s where the movie scenes were filmed! Since its screen debut, the place has been very popular among tourists and I can understand why.



*Photos can't capture the magic of the place!*

Upon visiting Ko Phi Phi, I discovered photos can't do it justice. Simply, a photo camera wasn't enough to capture the beauty of sandy beaches and incredible waterline.



Especially relevant if you want to visit: plan in advance! Maybe it sounds trivial, but had we done it... we would have spent a night in a great hotel. Since we (me and my friends) like flexible traveling, we visited Ko Phi Phi spontaneously. Hence, we had no hotel reservation. Since we never had a problem with finding accommodation, we were not ready for what was coming. There were no free rooms and we paid a lot for a hotel without running water. Maybe it wasn't the end of the world

but for the same price... we could have stayed in a luxurious hotel. Probably not the best deal in our lives.

## **Accessibility in Thailand**

### **Hotels**

Hotels are definitely accessible in Thailand. Moving around the hotel is easy, as there are rarely any thresholds (if any at all!) and ramps and elevators are simply a standard. The accessible bathrooms are also available, so moving on a manual or electric wheelchair is not a problem. I was positively surprised to see how wheelchair friendly Thai hotels were.

### **Restaurants and shops**

Shops and restaurants are generally catered to wheelchair users' needs. Toilets are on the first floor, elevators are in a good condition, ramps are easily found and thresholds are not a problem. In conclusion: the situation is definitely great. There's always some room for improvement, but Thailand's doing things right.

### **Pavements**

Just like hotels and restaurants, pavements are accessible. They are neither bumpy nor full of holes. Consequently, strolling down the paved road is more of a pleasure than a dangerous mission.

### **Attractions**

Attractions in Thailand are wheelchair friendly. As far as I can remember, I could access everything I wanted to see., and it is very easy with an



electric wheelchair and relatively easy on a manual one. Most noteworthy: it seemed obvious in Thailand that everything should be accessible and that's just beautiful. Seems like the country really cares about its tourists. Maybe the rest of countries should take notes!

### **3 surprising things I discovered in Thailand while traveling on an electric wheelchair**

- **Many bars sell drinks in “pails”**

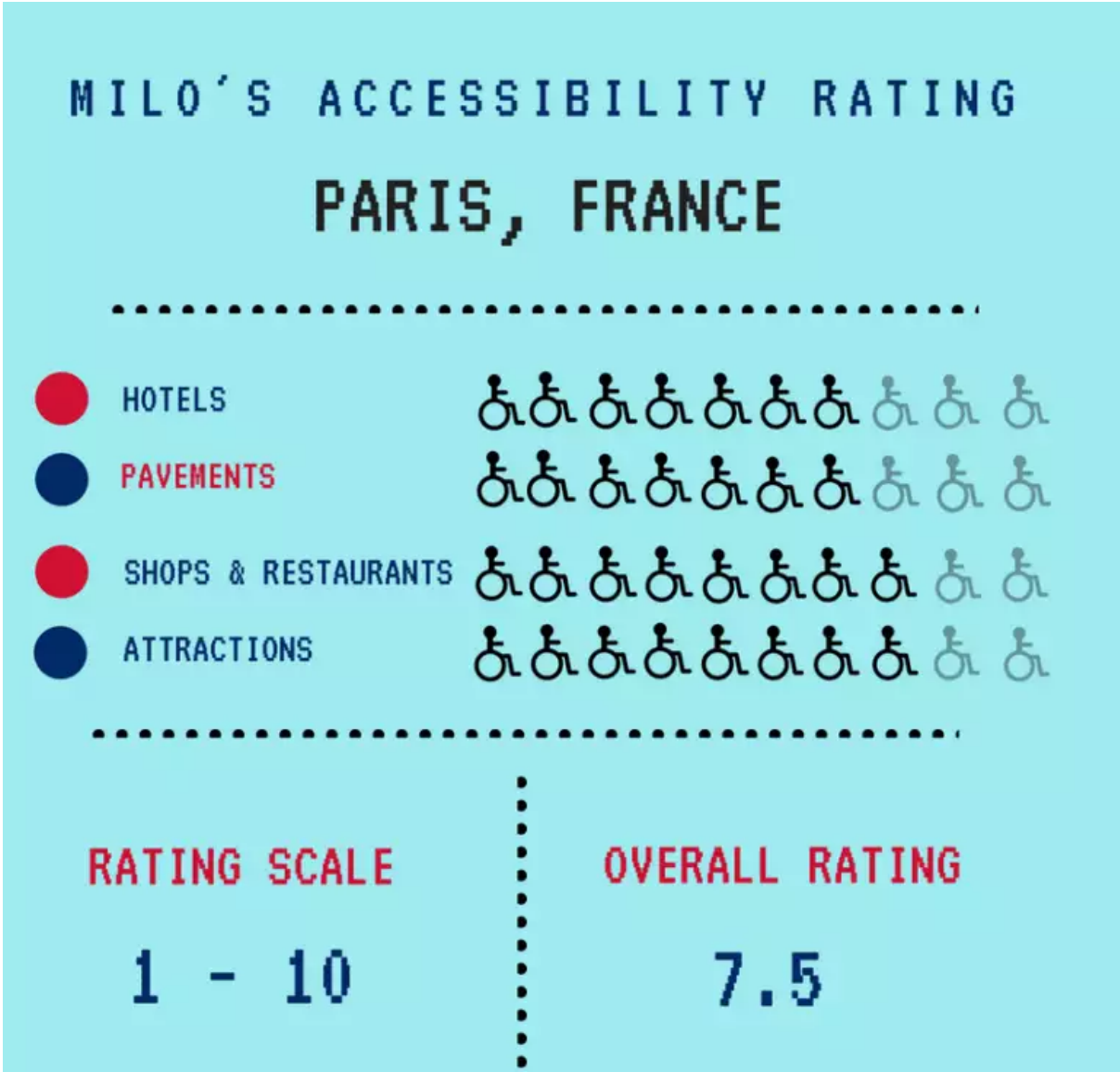




- **Massages are very cheap (and great!)**
- **It's always cloudy in Ko Phi Phi!**

*All in all, Thailand's a touristic paradise for everybody. Party animal? Bangkok will warmly welcome you. Nature lover? Ko Phi Phi is there for you! Wherever you go, you will meet friendly people and you will eat tasty things. Thai cuisine's delicious, but not too crazy for European taste. Doesn't it already sound perfect? Electric wheelchairs, Blumil especially, would do extremely well on Thailand sandy beaches. Given that everything's wheelchair friendly, Thailand is one of the highlights on my travel list. After all, everything tastes better Thai style.*

# Paris, France



## Paris inside out?

First of all, Paris is a city full of wonders, but to explore them all you would need more than one short trip. Blumil electric wheelchair is perfect for sightseeing in such a vast metropolis. Therefore, most of the places I've seen are in all touristic guides and aren't exactly the definition of "off the beaten track". They are part of the Parisian flavor and however crowded they may be – they're definitely worth seeing! After all, Paris has many faces and all of them are interesting to see. Boring and Paris? Not a popular combination!



## What to see in Paris?

- **Eiffel Tower**

As much as it may seem completely overrated, there's something special about the Eiffel Tower. The enormous construction dating back to the 19th century has become one of the icons of France, and that's something to consider when visiting Paris. I dreamt about seeing it with my own eyes, and when I did, I wasn't disappointed. The Eiffel Tower may not always look like it does on all these lovely postcards, but it's definitely something to see... at least once in a lifetime!



*Under the Eiffel Tower...*

- **Musee d'Orsay**

That's one of the most important museums in Paris and for a good reason: it is home to the largest collection of impressionist and post Impressionist masterpieces in the world. Monet? Yes, please! Van



Gogh? On any day! The building of the museum itself is very lovely. Definitely, something not to miss when you're in Paris!



*Musée d'Orsay!*

- **Musee du Louvre**

Louvre is possibly the greatest art museum in the world and whether you're keen on art or not, that's a place on the Parisian map, I would recommend you to visit anyway. Famous for Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa museum offers the ultimate visual experience with hundreds of works of art for your pleasure! I was definitely impressed: human imagination knows no boundaries and Louvre Museum is a place which shows it very well.



*Louvre!*

- **Opera National de Paris**

Paris may be full of wonderful architecture, but the Opera would still make it to my top 10! The building hosts opera, ballet and chamber music performances. I would love to see a performance there one day but who wouldn't? Just take a look!



*Opera National de Paris*

- **Basilica du Sacre-Coeur de Montmartre**

The dome dates back to 19th century and it's one of the loveliest buildings in the entire Paris. Also, it provides a great view of the city!





*Basilica du Sacre-Coeur de Montmartre!*



- **Notre Dame Cathedral**

To be in Paris and not to see Notre Dame Cathedral? It should never happen! The impressive cathedral dates back to 12th century and is definitely the heart of the city. As much as its interior is absolutely marvelous, so is its inside. Beautiful inside out? Definitely!



*Notre Dame Cathedral!*

- **Pont Alexandre III**

Pont Alexandre III is – according to many – the most beautiful bridge in Paris. I fell in love with it the moment I saw it so... for me, it definitely is! A lazy stroll on Blumil electric wheelchair sounds like a great idea to start the day!



*Pont Alexandre III!*



*Pont Alexandre III!*

- **Arc de Triomphe**

Arc de Triomphe is an important symbol not only in France but worldwide. It was built to celebrate victories. Triumphant Paris is... Paris with the Arc de Triomphe.



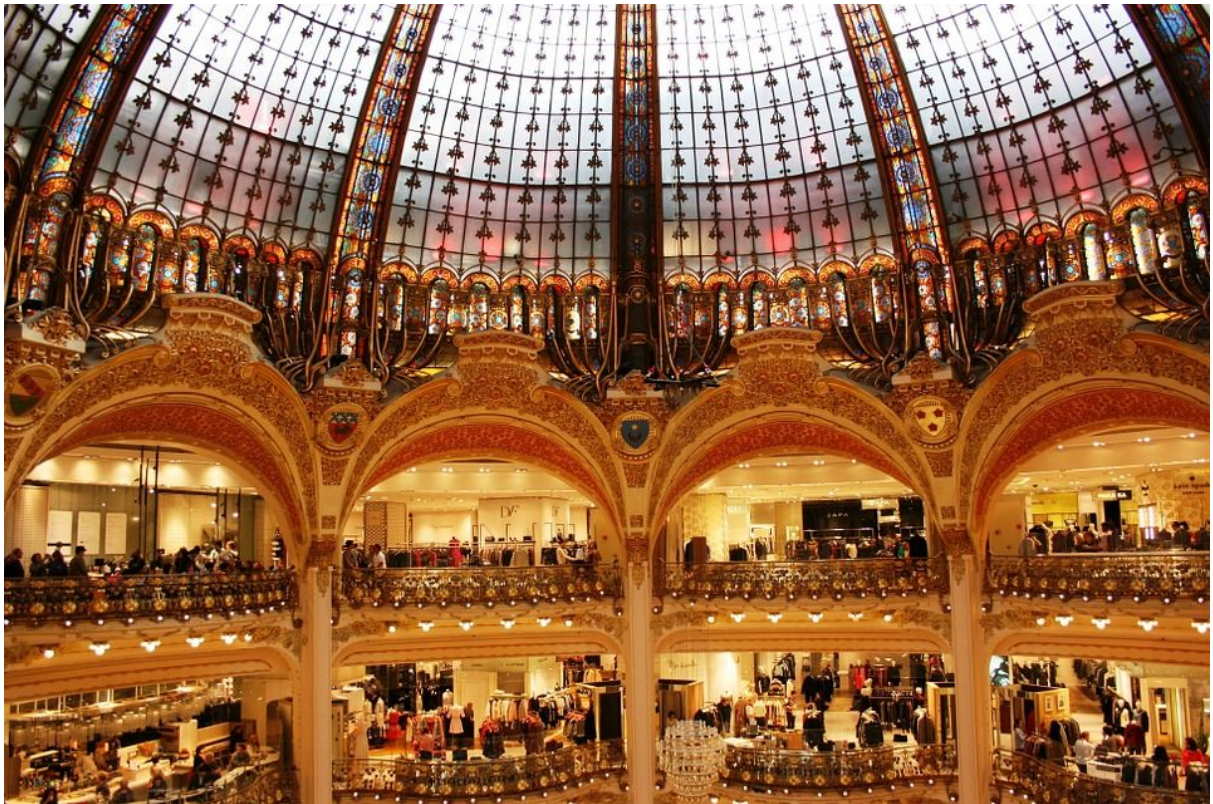


*Arc de Triomphe!*

- **The *Galleries Lafayette***

If you're looking for a place for shopping, look no more! Well, the Lafayette is quite expensive but it's worth visiting for its looks alone. That's probably the most beautiful shopping center I've been at.





*Galeries Lafayette!*

### **What to do?**

- Have a cup of coffee at one of Paris charming cafés

There are no many better places for coffee than Paris. Sometimes the nicest thing you can do is just unwind, soak the atmosphere and observe the city. Paris is pulsing with life, vibrant and unpredictable, and it's easy to get lost in the rhythm of the city. Just go inside one of the coffee shops and enjoy the life! Been there, done that – it feels like magic!



## **Accessibility in Paris – for manual and electric wheelchair users**

### **Hotels**

Hotels in Paris are pretty accessible. Sometimes accessibility comes with extraordinarily high prices but it's possible to find something accessible and wallet friendly. Certainly not in the city center, though!

Elevators and ramps are almost everywhere. If you need some tips on finding a right accommodation, [here is your travel advice](#).

### **Pavements**

Most of the pavements in Paris are wheelchair friendly but it's not always the case. The more historic the neighborhood, the higher chances of the bumpy pavements. Generally – navigating the city is fairly easy, but caution is advised! I wish I had my Blumil electric wheelchair by then.

### **Shops and restaurants**

Most of the shops and restaurants are perfectly accessible. Paris hosts too many tourists not to cater to wheelchair users' needs. The further away from the center the more inaccessible places you may stumble upon, but that's (sadly) perfectly normal for every city.

### **Attractions**

Accessing the most popular landmarks is not a problem. I might have not been able to go everywhere, but I could easily explore most of what the city has to offer. Verdict? Accessible!

**Is Paris slightly overrated? Maybe! Is Paris absolutely beautiful? Definitely! It's one of the cities you have to visit to experience the magic, especially if you own an electric wheelchair which makes distance not a problem. Among crowded streets, expensive shops and clichés, you will find the city of lights, dreams and pulsing life. The city to fall in love or like with. I did.**



## South Africa

### MILO'S ACCESSIBILITY RATING THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



RATING SCALE

1 - 10

OVERALL RATING

7.5

## **SOUTH AFRICA'S PORTRAIT**

In my memories, South Africa comes in many colors and shades. It comes back with flashes of pine forests, green jungles, and safaris. Green, brown, blue, yellow, brown, orange – there are all colors of RSA. I was struck by the beauty of everything I saw and surprised to see so many supposedly different landscapes paired together. The weather's mild, and landscapes are wonderful, so there's one question coming to my mind... could it be a Para-para-paradise?



*Incredible view*

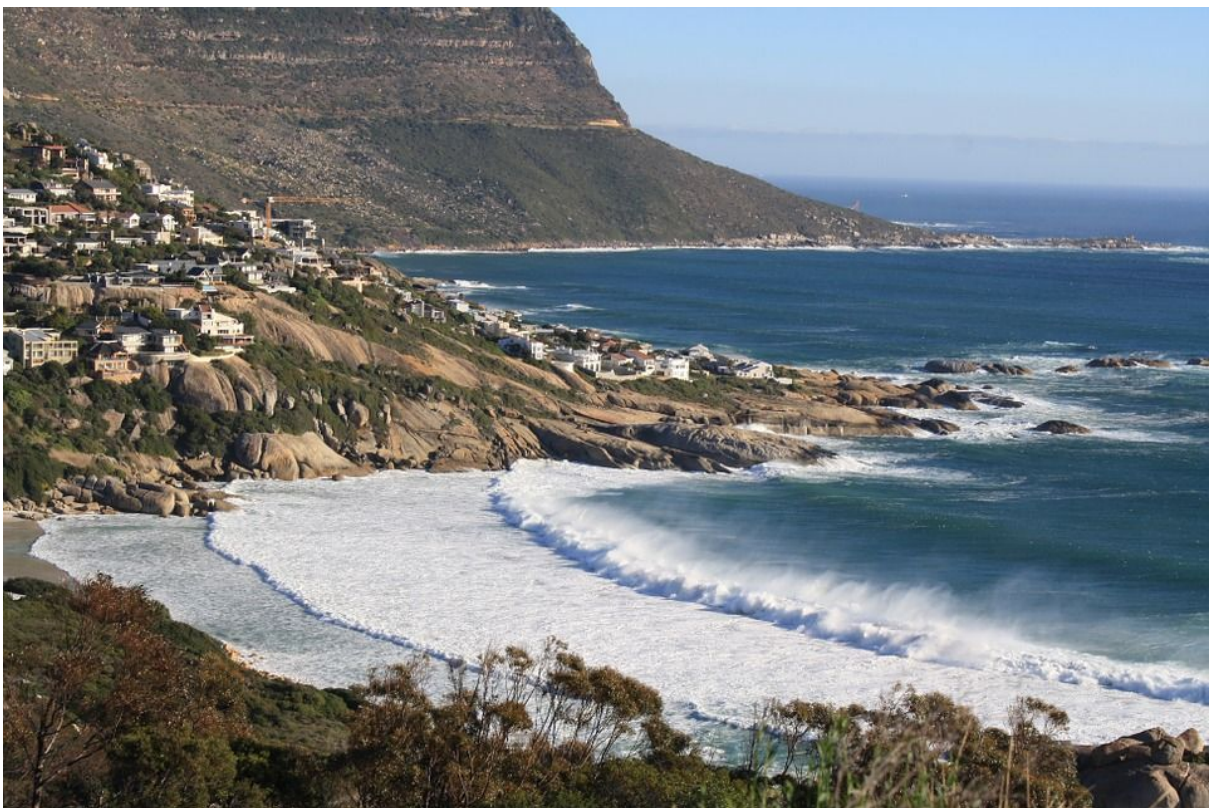


## What to see in South Africa?

- Cape Town

Since Cape Town is quite famous for its beauty, I was thrilled to see it. There was one question in my head: would it live up to the hype?

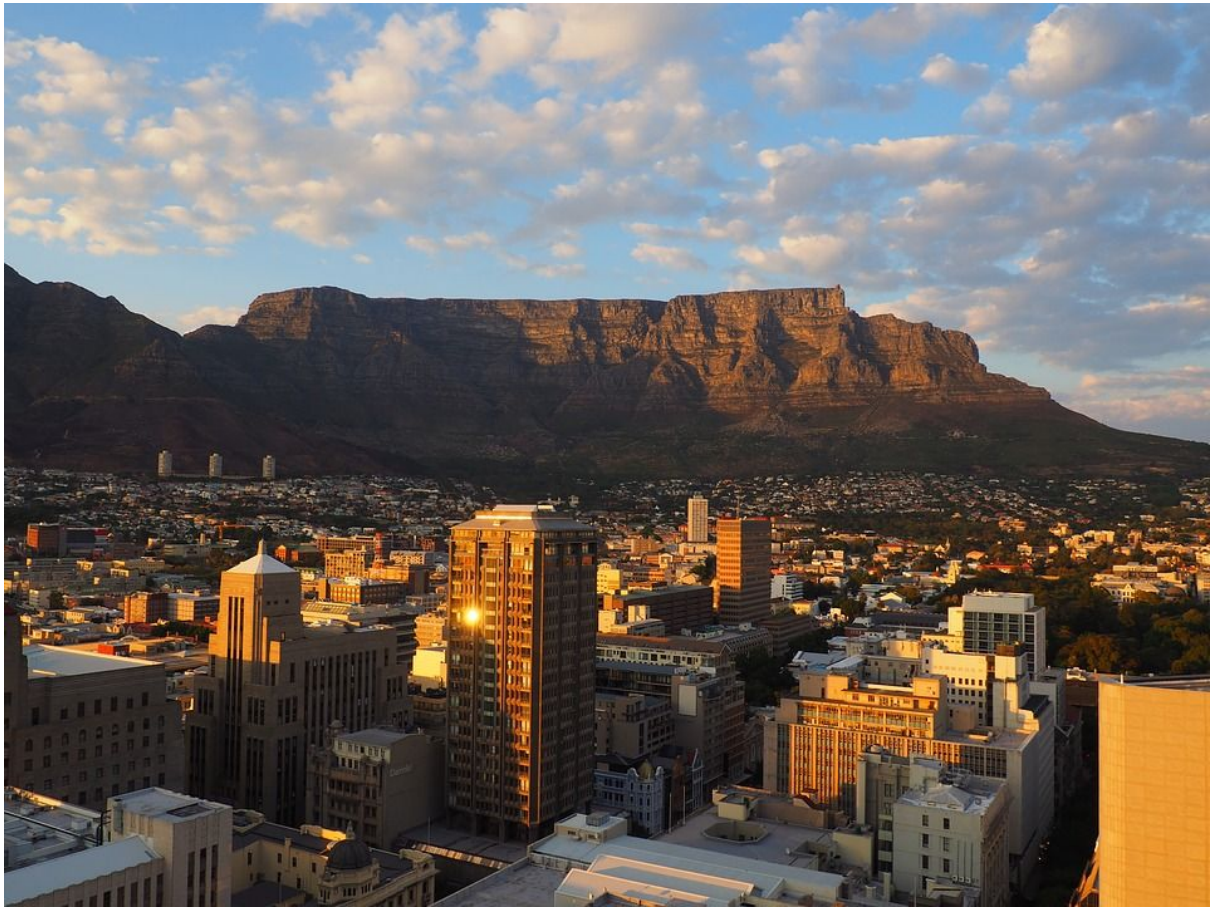
It did. It was absolutely marvellous and now I can understand all these people who are in love with the city. What's there not to love?



*Cape Town!*

There are many things to do in Cape Town – it's a coastal city but with a mountainous touch. Table Mountain, quite flat and popular among hikers, contributes to the city's beautiful panorama. I spent a week

exploring Cape Town and neighbouring places and I wasn't bored even for a second. It's just a wonderful place.



*Table Mountain!*

- **Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden**

While Cape Town itself is extremely interesting so are its neighbouring areas. Kirsten National Botanical Garden was definitely a wonderful place to visit. Filled with beautiful flora garden was just a delight to look at. I heard that many people find it one of the most beautiful botanical gardens in the world. It is home to many rare and endangered species, and I would definitely recommend you to visit it – especially if you love nature!





*King Protea – one of the symbols of RSA!*

- **Robben Island**

Robben Island's located closer to Cape Town and it's famous as it is a place where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned. While I'm more into nature and sports than history, it was worth visiting. Since Mandela's impact is great, we couldn't skip Robben Island on our to-visit list. After all, he was imprisoned there for 18 years and we wanted to learn more about the history of the beautiful country we were visiting. Definitely a must-visit destination!



*Sea waves near the island*

- **Boulders Beach**

While penguins and Africa may not be the most common mix... they go together in Cape Town! African penguins can be seen on Boulders Beach in Cape Town. Most noteworthy: it's one of the very few places where you get so close to penguins! I was surprised to see them, but just for a moment. They truly belong to the place, and us – human visitors – may feel like we're in the meeting with kings. Ultimately, penguins rule the Boulders Beach with their penguin grace. Could it get any cooler than African penguins? I doubt it!





*Penguins chilling!*

## **GARDEN ROUTE**

*Garden Route is 300 kilometers and it starts in the Western Cape – Mossel Bay – and stretches to the Eastern Cape – Storms River. It's one of the most popular touristic routes in RSA and for a good reason. You may think... 300 kilometers is quite a short distance so how many things could I see? My answer is... plenty! Wonderful beaches, lake, lagoons, hills, and mountains – that's what you can expect from Garden Route! We took it and that was a wonderful choice. Every step of the way we would stumble upon something beautiful: the sense of wonder was in the air. That's just South Africa!*

- **L'Agulhas**

The southernmost town in Africa – that's L'Agulhas!



*L'Agulhas!*

It's the place where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet and it's absolutely gorgeous. Quite rocky, it makes a wonderful view. Definitely, something to add to a to-visit list!





*The southernmost point of South Africa!*

One thing worth mentioning: Turtles are faster than one would expect! One of them decided to attack me and I was trying to back down safely but he had a lot of fight will in him! Maybe on my Blumil electric wheelchair I would have won! Eventually, my friends rescued me. Friendly note: beware of turtles!

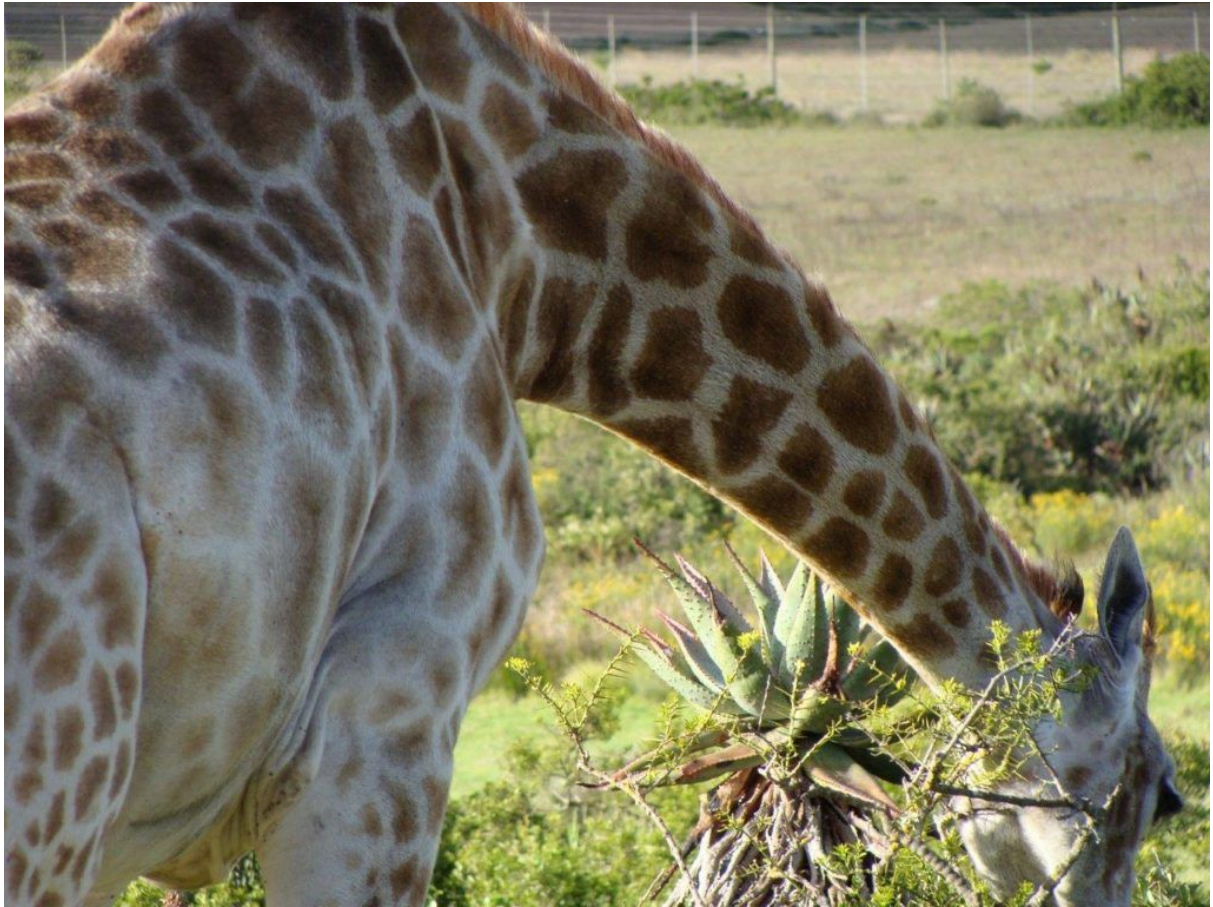


*Beware of turtles!*

- **Safari**

Safari might have been artificially created, but it still feels like an animal kingdom.





### *Giraffeland!*

Once you enter it, you know the ground belongs to majestic creatures you have the honor to observe.



*Trying to seize the moment!*

Exploring Safari I was struck by the beauty of everything I had in front of my eyes. Once again nature proved to be the best artist out of all.





*Ready to admire the nature!*

- **Wildthing Adventures**

If you love adventures, Wildthing Adventures is a perfect place for you!  
That's where I tried bungee jumping for the first time!





*About to jump!*



*Who's ready for bungy jumping?*



- **The Outeniqua Mountains**

The Outeniqua Mountains are the mountains range, which is part of Garden Route. Often misty, the mountains make a wonderful view to look at.



*Outeniqua Mountains*

- **Monkey Land**

Here it comes... the only place on this list I wouldn't recommend. I put it on the list as it's popular and I felt a need to share my experience. Straight to the point: it's not accessible. Not at all. I was promised it would be easy for me to navigate there, with an electric wheelchair or not, and it was just mission impossible. All in all, I may not be the biggest monkey fan anyway!



*Monkey Land*

- **Bloukrans Bridge Bungy**

The world's highest bungy jumping point! I was thinking of jumping but eventually, I didn't do it. How much I regret it now! As they say: fear is temporary, regret's eternal. At least I have one more reason to visit this spectacular country once again!





*Bloukrans Bridge Bungy*

## **Things that surprised me in South Africa**

South Africa has a lot of surprises, but there very a few things in particular which caught me off the guard in RSA!

1. Turtles are fast! I learned it when one of them tried to take me the town. What a terrifying experience! Had I had an electric wheelchair, like Blumil, back then... it would have run away quicker!
2. Snakes are surprisingly warm and nice to touch! I would have never guessed they could be!
3. Penguins... well, I didn't expect to find them in South Africa!

4. The diversity of landscapes – RSA feels like 99 countries in one!



**4**

## THINGS THAT SURPRISED ME IN SOUTH AFRICA

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Fast turtles, warm and nice to touch  
snakes, African penguins and 99 types of  
landscapes - that's so South Africa!

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## **B & B for manual and electric wheelchair users**

Since choosing one's accommodation is an important decision, we were careful going through possible choices. Eventually, we decided for Bed & Breakfast type of places and that was a great choice! B&Bs in South Africa often belong to expats, who left their countries upon retirement to enjoy peace in the South African countryside. They were, mostly, very friendly people and they would often recommend us B&Bs of their friends to book along the way.



***B&B meal time!***

As a result, we would always have a great place to stay in. Once we chose a B&B at random, and it was anything but accessible. Hence, we learned our lesson well and listened to our hosts, always booking a place in advance to avoid unpleasant surprises. In conclusion: I would

definitely recommend you B&S if you're going to South Africa, but make sure to check with your hosts if it's manual or electric wheelchair accessible. They are, in general, absolutely lovely places.



*B&B!*

## **Accessibility in South Africa**

### **Hotels**

We were mostly staying in the B&B type of places so their accessibility would vary. Generally, the situation was above average and it was not mission impossible to navigate. With an electric wheelchair, it is definitely easier, but a manual wheelchair could probably manage too – not with ease, though.

## **Attractions**

Most of the attractions could be accessed easily. Not all of them – some were definitely not accessible, but generally, I didn't have many problems exploring the country. Aside from Monkey land – this was one of the least accessible places I stumbled upon in South Africa. Again – with Blumil electric wheelchair it would have been much easier. The electric wheelchair was made for accessible traveling!

## **Pavements**

Some pavements were quite bumpy and I had to be extremely cautious, but generally, the situation was good.

## **Shops and Restaurants**

I could access most of the restaurants with ease. Thresholds were not high and if they were, ramps would be there most of the times. All in all: shops and restaurants were quite wheelchair friendly.

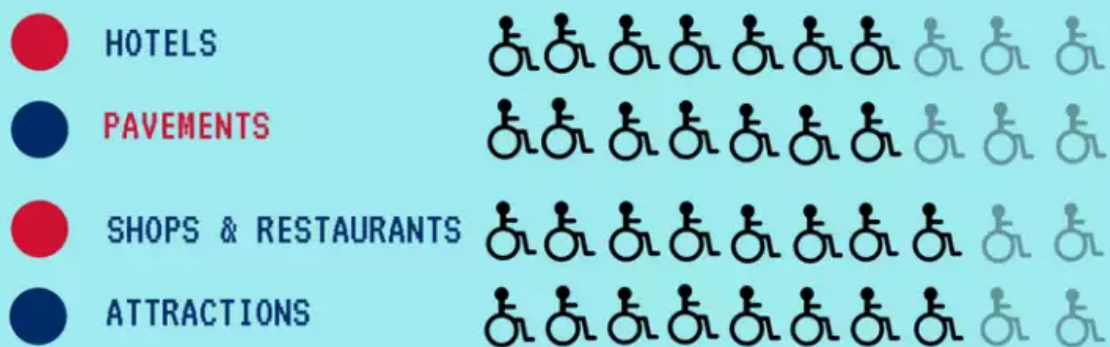
**All in all: South Africa is one of the best travel destination in the world. It offers the best out fo everything: beautiful views, friendly people, breathtaking nature, tasty wine and lots of adventurous activities. I fell in love with South Africa at first sight, and I hope to visit it again soon. There are places which remain tattooed in your heart no matter how many years pass, and South Africa's one of them. Definitely a must-visit – no matter whether you prefer the sea to mountains... you will always find what you are looking for in RSA!**



# Italy

## MILO'S ACCESSIBILITY RATING

### FLORENCE, ITALY



RATING SCALE

1 - 10

OVERALL RATING

7.5

## What to visit in Italy?

- **Florence**

Located in a sunny Tuscany Florence's truly a charming city. Full of medieval architecture, it used to be a centre of European trade in the Middle Ages. Strolling around the city, at times, feels like a travelling in time... straight to the 14th century, when the renaissance was born within the city's walls. Some of the cobblestone pavements may require an off road wheelchair or Blumil. Florence's quite popular with tourists so it's not definitely for people who like to explore everything in solitude and silence. Everything's just too lively, vibrating with life and color. The past blends with the present in thousands of way, and generally it's difficult to get bored there. What I liked the most was "The Ponte Vecchio" – The Old Bridge. It's a medieval stone bridge arching over the Arno river. It's absolutely lovely, I was lovin' it!

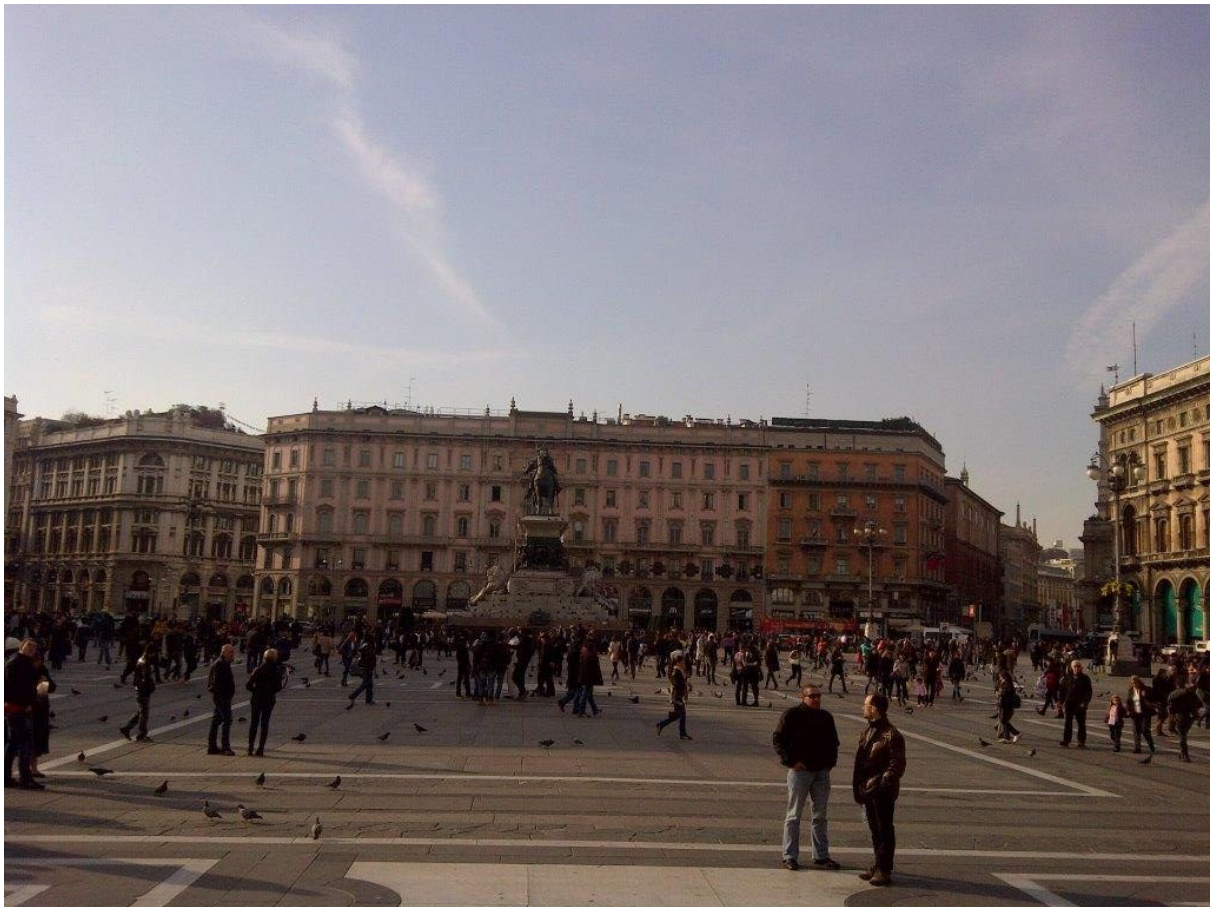


*The Ponte Vecchio!*

- **Milan**

*I spent three days in Milan and as much as I wanted to fall under its spell, reality came to disappoint me. It was a lovely city, but I couldn't see the magic I heard about so often.*





*Milan!*

Maybe it would've been different had it been the Fashion Week. Many people told me Milan turns into a paradise of glamour when all the emperors of the fashion world turn their eyes on the city and various models and designers flock on ever busy streets. In fact, the streets are so busy that I fully recommend electric wheelchair, especially Blumil!

Maybe I didn't visit it in a right moment, and the timing's everything. Either way, Duomo – Milan's gothic cathedral – was definitely one of the nicest buildings I've seen in Italy.



*Quite a view!*



With over 3000 statues in its facade, it's quite impressive. The abundance of details is definitely what makes the building stand out so much.



*How many little details can you see? It'd take an eternity to count them all!*



The most spectacular view is the rooftop. With its golden elements, it looks as if it was taken straight out of a fairytale. Definitely the city's highlight!



*The rooftop of Duomo!*

- Pisa

Who hasn't heard about the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa? It's been quite known for years, all thanks to its tilt. It looks as if it was about to fall down and that's absolutely picturesque. The construction of the tower took two ages and it's seen centuries worth of the Italian history. It was a military base during War World II and Mussolini himself tried to make it straight, failing miserably. With such an interesting background story, no wonder the Leaning Tower of Pisa's been attracting visitors for years. Personally, it didn't become my favourite Italian landmark but I was quite enchanted by its effortless charm. It goes without saying it's something worth seeing – it definitely gained its fame for a reason. If you're heading for Florence, Pisa's just a stone's throw away, so it's a great place for a little stop. It gets yes from me!



*The Pisa Tower*



## What to do in Italy?

- **Have fun in the Lamborghini Museum**

Urban legends say Lamborghini was created to be everything Ferrari was not. According to some, Ferruccio Lamborghini wasn't satisfied with his Ferrari and when he suggested Enzo Ferrari how to improve the car, Ferrari only laughed at him. Eventually, he set out to establish his own car brand and that's how everything started. No matter what the background story actually was, there's no denying Lamborghini's a household name. The interesting fact — though worldwide it's mainly known for its sports cars, it's the second most popular producer of tractors in Italy. Lamborghini – for the road and the field – may be everything you need! No adverts here, but these cars are pretty wonderful!





The Lamborghini Museum is located in Sant'Agata Bolognese, 25 kilometers away from Bologna and 17 kilometers away from Modena, and it's absolutely worth recommending. I know a well-thought museum when I see one and that was it. The place gave me the ultimate visiting experience. I could dive deep into the process of assembling a Lamborghini. The original look of the factory seemed to be well preserved, so modernity was mixed with old-school vibes, which was definitely nice. It was possible to see production halls and I was shown 4-door models, which never made it to the market. The entire experience was thrilling since the museum was filled with interesting exhibitions and juicy details for every motorization fan. Honestly, I was having fun and I would recommend it to everyone, who loves cars. Definitely a must-visit!



*Is it a paradise? Oh, wait....*

- **Discover the world of Ferrari**

Founded in 1939, Ferrari's often called the world's most powerful brand. The word "Ferrari" is famous all around the world and it's associated with speed and luxury. I couldn't miss the chance to visit The Ferrari Museum so I embarked on the journey... straight to the world of Ferrari.



I was beyond excited to explore the museum but the reality didn't live up to my expectations. Although the place was bigger than the Lamborghini Museum, it was definitely lackluster in comparison. It looked more like an amusement park, rather than an actual museum dedicated to

motorization. The experience was too commercial for me, everything was exaggerated and felt completely unauthentic.

I couldn't see the actual factory – we only got to glance at its walls... from outside. It didn't affect my love for the brand – I still think Ferrari's absolutely awesome, hands down. It's just I wouldn't give it too many points for the museum of the year – sometimes you can't have it all!



*Blinding lights*



- **Fall under the spell of Lake Garda**

Lake Garda is the largest lake in Italy and possibly the most beautiful one – I'm yet to see them all, but Garda's beauty is simply out of this world.



*Lake Garda*

I fell under its spell the moment I laid my eyes on its infinite blueness.



*Who's in awe? Me, for sure...*

I stayed in Sirmione, which is a small village by the lake. The place is rich in centuries, and even millennia of history, and it was absolutely magnificent. It felt like traveling back to the times when smartphones, cars, and telephones were only abstract ideas. There's something charming about places, who seem to have slipped away from the time's power.



## **Strolling around Sirmione!**

My favourite memory from that gorgeous place is connected to cuisine, though. In a wonderful culinary heaven, known otherwise as “Ristorante Esplanade”, I had the best eating experience of my entire life. The restaurant is rated with a Michelin star, and it definitely deserves it. I ordered a shrimp in a baklava dough and I was completely blown away by the explosion of flavours. It was absolutely amazing. I can recommend you that restaurant with all my heart. An experience of a lifetime!



# **Accessibility**

## **Hotels**

Generally, hotels in Italy are pretty accessible. Finding a place that would be wheelchair friendly is not mission impossible, but the quality of hotels is not always top notch. Since the number of accessible hotels is not wide, the price range isn't what I would call flexible. Aside from that, the situation's fine, though far from perfect. Elevators and ramps mostly don't seem to be a problem, though.

## **Pavements**

The situation with pavements strongly depends on the place we're visiting. Older parts of the city are less accessible and everything's likely to be quite bumpy and definitely not even. On the other hand, more modern areas are mostly catered to wheelchair users' needs. In general, caution is advised, but navigating through the streets shouldn't be too much of a challenge.

## **Shops and restaurants**

I'm happy to say most of shops and restaurants can be easily accessed in Italy, even without an electric wheelchair or Blumil. Business owners seem to care about their clients, and ramps are not an extraordinary view. Many shops and restaurants have flat thresholds, so there's virtually no problem entering.

## **Attractions**

There's no denying Italy's a very touristic country and its infrastructure seems to confirm it. Generally, attractions are very accessible. I feel like tourism's highly developed there and both institutions and businesses want to cater to needs of all of its clients, and I like it. There's still a lot of

work to be done, but you can actually enjoy the country without constantly stumbling upon barriers. The beauty of Mediterranean nature is worth exploring, but for that, an all – terrain wheelchair or Blumil might be required. That's something to praise!

**Italy, with all its flavors and shades, is a wonderful place to visit. It may be full of tourists and overcrowded places, but it has much more to offer than a good selfie background. It's a unique blending of history, nature, and fun and it's difficult to be bored there. Whatever you're into, you should find it in Italy. After all, under the Italian sky, nothing's impossible.**

## Keukenhof, Holland

### MILO'S ACCESSIBILITY RATING

#### KEUKENHOF, HOLLAND



RATING SCALE

1 - 10

OVERALL RATING

7.5



## Keukenhof

If you are looking for a floral paradise, you'll find it in Keukenhof. It is one of the world's largest flower gardens. Situated in a small town of Lisse, it's become one of The Netherlands' major touristic attractions. I remember hearing that over 7 million flower bulbs are planted every year, so the number of flowers is absolutely impressive. What stroke me the most were colourful fields of tulips. I was speechless, admiring all the colours coming together and creating a beautiful spectacle for me and the crowd of other visitors.



The garden is open every year for about two months: usually mid-March to mid-May. This year it opened on 23th of March and will be available to visitors until 21st of May. I have to admit I was completely in love with Keukenhof. The moment I entered it, I understood why it's often called "the Garden of Europe". It's absolutely breathtaking and visiting it was one of the best travel decisions I've ever made. It reminded me how

wonderful are the gifts of nature, and even though it's been years since I went there, from time to time I see the colourful tulips of Keukenhof before my eyes and my heart fills with joy. I would definitely recommend you to stop by if you're in The Netherlands when spring emerges. Trust me, you probably won't regret if you do. I never did.



## **Travel tips**

#1 Be patient! The place's very popular, so the queue tends to be very long. It pays off to wait, though!

#2 Say hi to morning visits! You'll avoid the biggest crowds, and you'll be able to enjoy the beauty that's in front of you in peace.

## **Scheveningen**

I've always loved the sea, so when I discovered Scheveningen is just a stone's throw away (well, maybe not that close, but close enough for a weekend trip!) I packed my bags and went on an adventure.

Scheveningen is actually not a city, but a district of The Hague. It is located on the on the western coast of the Netherlands, and it doesn't feel like the Netherlands at all. Maybe it's the sea, maybe it's because it's a seaside resort, but I felt as if I was in another country. The sea is absolutely lovely in Scheveningen. I fell in love with the blue shades of the sea, and peacefulness that seemed to be in the air. The place was full of cafés that you could sit in, slowly sip your coffee and just admire the sea. I might like bars, but Scheveningen was perfectly fine with its relaxed charm. If you want to relax and find your inner peace, it may be a good place to go to. It definitely was for me.





## Oostende

The moment I moved to Luxembourg, I knew I would probably visit Belgium at least once. Belgium and Luxembourg share borders, so travelling from one to another is quite seamless. It doesn't take long hours to cross the border, and the currency's the same. How much easier could it get? Belgium was definitely a perfect getaway destination, so I took the opportunity to explore it. I visited Brussels, but I wanted to get a different taste of the country. I chose Oostende since it's both coastal and quite historical. That's quite a good combination for a short trip!



The city's full of lovely small streets, beautiful statues and interesting historical places. The Siege of Ostend, The Austrian Empire and The Nazi occupation have all impacted the city, and their traces can be found all over Oostende. Aside from a very nice molo, you can visit the Atlantic Wall – the coastal defence and fortifications built by Nazi Germany during The Second World War. The city also has numerous museums and a beautiful Neo-gothic building – The Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. I liked it a lot, and as much as it's not my favourite travel destination, it's fresh and definitely different from Brussels. Worth visiting!



## **Accessibility**

### **Hotels**

Hotels were above average in all of the places mentioned above. Of course, things were not perfect, but I was generally happy with what I was offered. Elevators were mostly in a good condition, ramps were obvious and rooms were catered to wheelchair users' needs.



## **Pavements**

To be honest, I was really surprised with the quality of pavements. There were hardly any holes, the surface was very even and navigating streets was actually pretty easy. Note that I used a regular wheelchair back then, so for Blumil users strolling around these places would be completely effortless.

## **Shops and restaurants**

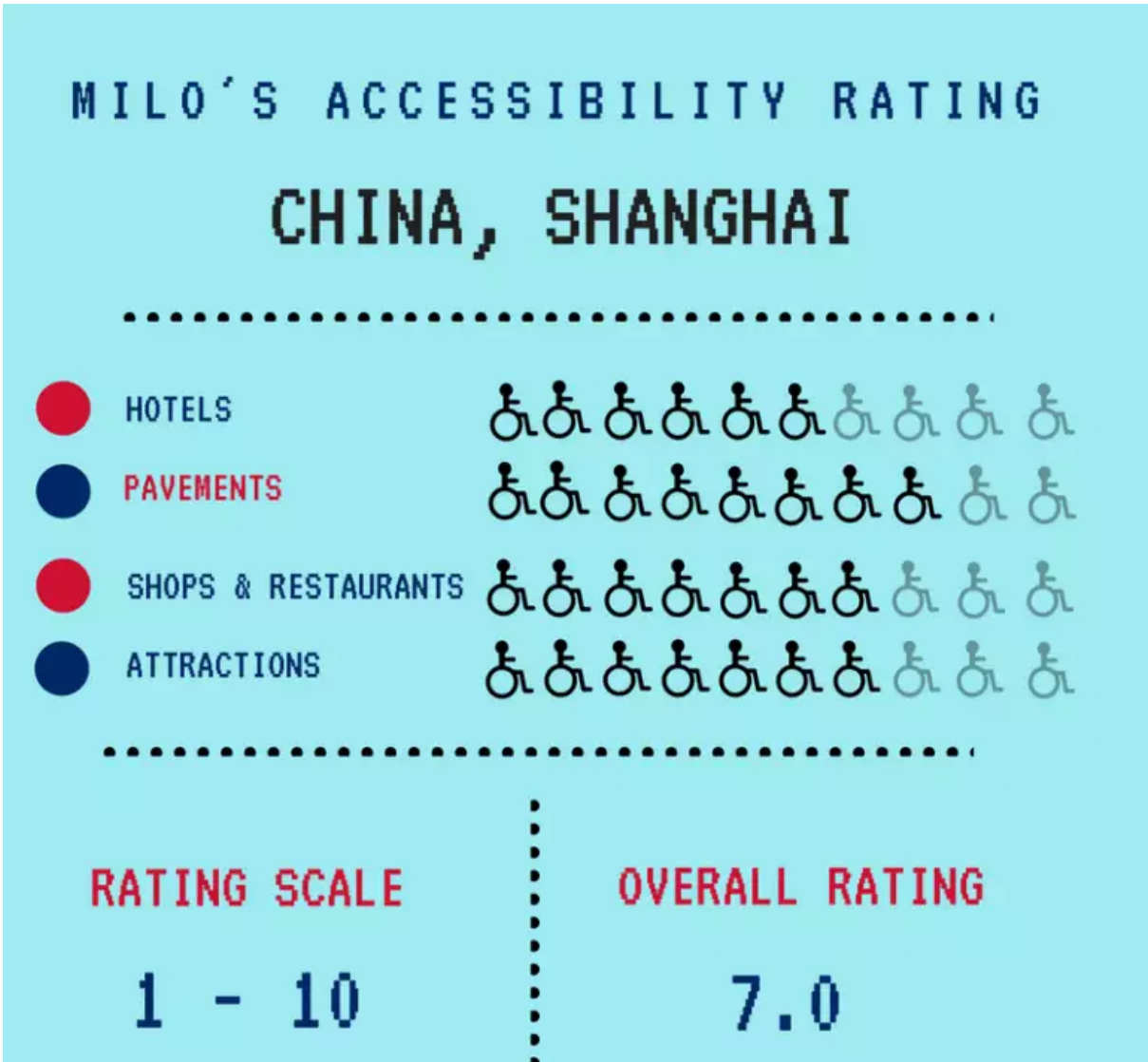
Ramps and elevators are mostly a standard, but there are some places which can't be accessed. In general, though, the situation's good.

## **Attractions**

Most of the attractions could be easily accessed, minus one or two, but it's actually pretty decent. I can definitely say Keukenhof, Scheveningen and Oostende deserve to be called accessible.

**To sum thing up: if you're looking for places off the beaten track, or at least something not as hectic as capital cities – Keukenhof, Scheveningen and Oostende should be perfect for you. They are peaceful and almost designed for short trips since they support relax and general reconnecting with nature. They were my little getaways and filled my head with beautiful memories so I couldn't say anything other that... these are worth visiting! If you let them capture your attention, you might be surprised by what they have in store for you. I was, and I wouldn't change a thing.**

# Shanghai, China



## Shanghai

The first thing that caught my attention in Shanghai was its futuristic vibe. I was looking around and all I saw were skyscrapers soaring up to the sky. The rain was pouring down to welcome me in the city, and I couldn't help but wonder if this is what the future is going to look like. The huge cloud of smog above my head suddenly reduced the visibility, and I could only sigh because it wouldn't go away. The smog is a permanent part of Shanghai, not an occasional occurrence, as residents of the city would prefer. Among tall buildings, street food and neon lights, it's easy to forget about the air, though. Once you start listening to the heartbeat of the biggest Chinese metropolis, everything else fades away. The collision of modernity and poverty, the splendour and the hopelessness, creates a striking tale of the city that is running towards the future as fast as it only can.





# What to do in Shanghai?

## 1. Visit the skyscrapers

339-floor skyscrapers give you a spectacular view of the city. Trust me – been there, done that. In the city full of skyscrapers seeing everything from above is a very good idea. At night, everything lights up with million of neon lights, and that's probably when Shanghai is at its best. With around 150 skyscrapers it's one of the most futuristic places in the world and it doesn't seem to be slowing down. Visiting the point views is likely to leave you with wonderful photos, and even more wonderful memories.



## 2. Enjoy the nightlife

Shanghai is vibrating with life all day, but at night it seems to wake up. It doesn't slow down, and slowly fall asleep like many other cities do. No, Shanghai lights up with colour and vitality once the sun goes down. At

first, I was surprised to see the streets were crowded with people late at night, but then I reminded myself I was visiting the biggest metropolis in the world. The number of bars and clubs opened all night was outstanding, and I can honestly say it was one of the most fun cities I've ever visited. If you appreciate rich night life when travelling, Shanghai is a great choice. I definitely enjoyed what it had to offer, and I wouldn't have it any other way.



### 3. Explore the streets

Streets of Shanghai are extremely interesting. With over 20 millions of inhabitants, the city's full of diversity and pulsing creativity. Street food can be found around every corner, but personally, I didn't enjoy it much. Still, I saw some people loving it, so I would say... it's worth a try just to see for yourself and feed your curiosity. Aside from people, the architecture makes exploring the streets interesting. As much as Shanghai's all about skyscrapers right now, stumbling upon picturesque

old buildings is not so difficult. The city might have forgotten about its past a little bit, but the past clearly didn't forget about Shanghai, and it's hiding somewhere between skyscrapers.



## Travel tips

#1 Trains in Shanghai are extremely fast and comfortable, so if you're in need of transportation, I would definitely say yes to trains.

#2 Taxis are not terribly expensive in Shanghai so they may be a good option, especially for airport/hotel transfers.



## **Accessibility in Shanghai**

### **Hotels**

Finding accessible hotels in Shanghai is not mission impossible, but there are very few accessible hotels with a good standard. They are also not very wallet friendly and navigating them requires extra caution. Had I had my Blumil back when I was visiting Shanghai, I might have enjoyed my hotels more, but without it... well, I needed to be even more careful than usually. My note? Average at best.

### **Pavements**

I was positively surprised upon seeing that pavements in Shanghai are close to being flaw-free. The surface's even, curbs are not a problem, and pebblestone is nowhere to be found. Compared to Prague, Shanghai is a pavement paradise.

### **Shops and restaurants**

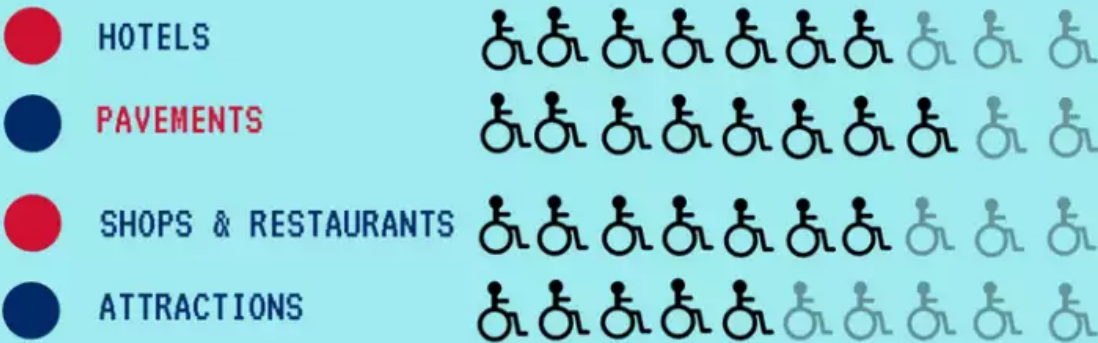
Shops and restaurants are generally accessible, but I definitely couldn't access every single one. Still, elevators were rather a standard and thresholds weren't really a problem so I would say the situation's better than on average.

### **Attractions**

Skyscrapers are very accessible, and if it were only for them, I would rate attractions for 10 out of 10 points. Sadly, older architecture is not always catered to wheelchair users' needs, so 7/10 seems like a fair rating. With its vibrant nightlife and a futuristic vibe, Shanghai's definitely a place to visit. After all, you can dive into the future there, before it becomes the reality.

# Tri-city, Poland

## MILO'S ACCESSIBILITY RATING TRI-CITY, POLAND



RATING SCALE

1 - 10

OVERALL RATING

6.75

Tri-City, consisting of Gdańsk, Sopot, and Gdynia, is one of the biggest city agglomerations in Poland. Together all of these places are home to over 700,000 people. Every summer crowds of tourists flock the streets of Tri-City and for a good reason. Nice beaches and great architecture put together are a promise of wonderful vacations. If you visit Warsaw, the capital city of Poland, coming to Tri-City is incredibly easy. The fast train line – Pendolino – offers multiple connections between Warsaw and Gdańsk. What's more, Gdańsk – as the biggest city out of three – has its own airport, which can be accessed quite easily whether you travel from Poland or abroad. Since all of the mentioned cities have their own flavor, I am going to describe them one by one. Below... Tri-City under the microscope!



## Gdańsk

Gdańsk is probably one of most interesting cities in Poland. While it's a famous vacation destination, it offers much more than entertainment and relaxing time. Most of all, it's rich in history – far more complex than one would think. Throughout ages, it has been under Polish, Prussian and German rule. The abundance of various influences is visible everywhere in the city. I like sandy beaches of Gdańsk, but I think that the city's Main City is the real treasure here.





Why the Main City? Well, the oldest part of Gdańsk, so-called old city, was destroyed during the Second World War. Most of the historic mosaic of Gdańsk is located in the Main City instead. Since the area's full of gothic churches, architecture lovers should be on the cloud nine upon exploring the city. What can you see in Gdańsk?

## **4 things to do in Gdańsk**

- **Explore the Old Town (The Main City)**

Commonly referred as the Old Town (since it's full of historic sites), The Main City's absolutely lovely. The architecture brings you back in time and makes it absolutely wonderful to stroll around Gdańsk. Sadly it's not accessible, so navigating through the crowded streets is not the easiest task.



*Gdańsk, The Old Town*

- **Visit the pier**

The pier in Gdańsk may not be as cool as the one in Sopot (probably my favorite one in Tri-City) but it's still worth visiting!



*Strolling down the pier in Gdańsk!*

- **Stroll down Długa Street!**

Długa street, or The Long Lane, is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Poland. This lovely street is full of wonderful architecture and amazing shops and restaurants. Definitely, a place not to miss!





*Długa Street!*

## **Sopot**

Sopot is the seaside resort, which is an extremely popular summer destination among Poles. Why? For two major reasons: it's a great health-spa destination and it has the longest ( and maybe the nicest!) wooden pier in Europe. Sopot and vacationing? Match made in heaven!



*Coco loves Sopot as much as I do!*

## **Gdynia**

Gdynia is relatively a new city, so it's modern and completely different to Gdańsk. What does it have to offer? A leisure pier and museum ships! Ships and boats are Gdynia's greatest staple. It may not be my favorite part of Tri-City but it's unique and definitely worth visiting if you're in the area.



*Boats in Gdynia!*

## **Traveler's tip**

Finding an accessible place for one's stay is very difficult in Gdańsk. Prices in the city center are obviously higher than in other areas but it doesn't affect accessibility much. Speaking from my own experience: sometimes it's better to stay further away from the center and save both money and your health. Accessibility on vacation makes everything easier. It's always great to know your rights, too. In Tri-City, you can easily go for a boat trip and you're entitled to assistance. Just remember to inform the staff in advance about your trip!

## **Accessibility**

### **Hotels**

Hotels are fairly accessible in Tri-City, but the most accessible (and wallet-friendly) solutions are often not located in the center



Finding a good accommodation shouldn't be a problem but always remember to ask for details. Elevators and ramps are one of the things to ask about.

### **Shops and restaurants**

While some restaurants and shops may have high thresholds, most of them are wheelchair friendly. Finding a place to eat in Tri-City is mission possible. Been there, done that!

### **Attractions**

As much as I hate to say it... Gdańsk is too accessible, and since it's the biggest city of them all it greatly affects Tri-City's accessibility in my eyes. Sightseeing is possible but it may cause some problems and is definitely not effortless. Some of the beaches are wheelchair friendly and have great pavements, other... not so much. Blumil S5 and X2 can handle any beach with ease, though! After all, for an electric wheelchair like Blumil... there are no limits.

### **Pavements**

While pavements in Gdańsk could use some improvement, Sopot's doing a great job in pavement department! The surfaces in Sopot are safe. The pier's definitely wonderful and I can't help but love it. Overall: pavements in Tri-City good, but could be better!

**All things considered, Tri-City is one of the loveliest places in Poland. It combines rich history with wonderful, sandy beaches, lively nightlife, and relaxing spa centers. Whatever you are looking for... you should find it in Tri-City! There's a reason why it's one of the top tourist destinations in Poland – the magic of three is everything you need for a great summer vacation!**

## Lisbon, Portugal

### MILO'S ACCESSIBILITY RATING LISBON, PORTUGAL



RATING SCALE

1 - 10

OVERALL RATING

6.5

## Travel note

***If you're looking for a place to test the power of your wheelchair, Lisbon is a place to go. Arguably one of the most difficult places to navigate in a wheelchair, Lisbon didn't present much of a challenge to my Blumil electric wheelchair. Nevertheless, not every wheelchair would win against the city's hilly surface and cobblestone pavements and that's something to keep in mind, and if your wheelchair's not Blumil.***



## What to see in Lisbon?

- Terreiro do Paco

One of the biggest squares in Europe, Terreiro do Peco, makes a wonderful place for strolls around the city. Beautiful art and sculptures seem to hide in every corner, ready to charm a tourist. Definitely, a place to go!





*Terreiro do Paco!*

- **Alfama**

Alfama is a lovely neighborhood of Lisbon, which gives us a great view of the city. The place is filled with charming streets and houses, and rich cultural history of the city is clearly visible within Alfama's walls. I absolutely loved it, and I would definitely recommend you to go there, especially if you're a fan of lovely architecture. Still, the terrain is uneven, so an electric wheelchair is the best choice!







- **Santa Justa Lift**

Santa Justa Lift is one of four antique lifts in Lisbon. It was designed by Raul Mesnier de Ponsard – a student of famous Gustave Eiffel. The lift dates back to 1902 and makes a picturesque landmark on the map of Lisbon!





*Santa Justa Lift*

- **25 de Abril Bridge**

The suspension bridge across the Tagus River looks quite similar to Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco and makes a nice view on a stroll around Lisbon!



*25 de Abril Bridge!*

## **What to do in Lisbon?**

- **Try local food**

Portuguese food is something I definitely enjoyed! Fresh and full of flavors, it's a unique culinary experience. Add local wine into the mix and dining in Portugal becomes an adventure on its own!



*Dining in the Portuguese style!*

## **The nature zone: Portugal edition**

Lisbon is lovely, but Portuguese nature is mind blowing. The scenery is so picturesque that I can compare it to stunning South Africa and that's possibly the best compliment I could ever give it. I have to admit I was completely mesmerized by the wonderful beauty of everything around me, and out of all things I liked about Portugal, natural views make it to the top of the list. Places I visited are no further than 50 kilometers from Lisbon, so they're perfect destinations if you're exploring Portuguese capital city.

- **Cabo Espichel**

Located less than an hour away from Lisbon, Cabo Espichel makes a wonderful place to visit. It's simply beautiful where the cliffs meet the Atlantic Ocean. Raw, pure beauty of nature. I absolutely loved it.





*Cabo Espichel!*

- **Sesimbra – a dream beach for Blumil electric wheelchair users**

If you love beach life, you'll fall in love with Sesimbra. It's a lovely seaside town with wonderful beaches. Not too crowded too, which is a great advantage if you want to simply relax! I was so happy to enjoy riding my Blumil electric wheelchair through the white sand!



*Sesimbra!*

- **Nature Park of Arrábida**

Possibly one of the nicest natural parks I've been in! Beautiful beaches and cliffs, located by mountains, abundant in Mediterranean plants and animals – I couldn't ask for more! Definitely, a place to put on your travel list.



*Nature Park of Arrábida*

- **Costa da Caparica**

Another lovely seaside resort with sandy beaches stretching along the coastline! The scenery is absolutely amazing there and it's only 20 kilometers from Lisbon, which is a great advantage for those staying in the capital city. Must-visit if you want to spend a day at the beach!





*Costa Da Caparica!*

- **Setubal**

Setubal is a port town located very close to the Nature Park of Arrábida. Wonderful scenery and culinary is what you'll certainly find there. At least... I did!



*Seaside life!*

# **Accessibility in Lisbon, Portugal**

## **Hotels**

Hotels are fairly accessible in Portugal, but their price range is not very flexible. Elevators and ramps are typical to be found. In a nutshell: good, but not amazing.

## **Pavements**

Pavements there could probably rank in top 10 worst pavements I've come across. They are bumpy and difficult to navigate. With an electric wheelchair like Blumil I was able to enjoy the city, but with a manual wheelchair, I'm afraid it would be very different to get a taste of Lisbon. To be fair, the city's location is to blame. It's on the hill, and therefore its natural landform is not very wheelchair friendly. As I stated before, though – a good electric wheelchair will live up to the challenge! Blumil certainly did.

## **Shops and restaurants**

I could access most of the shops and restaurants around the area so I could call them accessible. There were a few exceptions, but generally, the situation's good enough to explore the city freely.

## **Attractions**

Attractions in Lisbon are typically catered to needs of wheelchair users, but not everything can be accessed. The city's hilly landform is mostly to blame. With an electric wheelchair, however, your sightseeing experience should go smooth!

***If you're looking for a great mix of amazing architecture, great cuisine, and stunning natural scenery, Portugal should make it to your travel list. Full of secret travel gems, the country makes a wonderful travel destination. Once you see all shades of blue Portugal is painted with, once you try the amazing wine and stroll around the historical streets, you're likely to fall under the spell of Portugal. The spell growing in strength with every Fado song played on streets. That's a definite "Sim!" from me.***



## Macau, China

### MILO'S ACCESSIBILITY RATING

## MACAU, CHINA



RATING SCALE

1 - 10

OVERALL RATING

6.5

Saying Macau is nothing like Shanghai would be a lie. They are both vibrant and full of skyscrapers, but there's something different about Macau. It mixes the past with the future more than Shanghai. It used to be a Portuguese colony, and the influence of Portuguese thought can be seen everywhere in the city. Sometimes when I exploring the streets of the city I would stop and look around, because it felt as if I was in Portugal, not in China. To make things even more interesting... Macau's like a Chinese Las Vegas. It's known for its numerous casinos and bars. Trust me, boredom and Macau don't go together – not at all!

## **What to do in Macau?**

### **1. Discover the Portuguese side of the city**

As much as skyscrapers of Macau look wonderful at night, it's Portuguese architecture that really captured my attention. For a moment it felt as if I was in the south of Europe, just casually strolling around Lisbon, and then I saw typical Chinese street food and reminded myself I was actually still in China. It was definitely one of my favourite things about Macau since it made me feel like I was travelling back in time.



## **2. Have fun in casinos**

As much as I am not a frequent visitors to casinos, I really thought that side of the city was interesting. If you like Las Vegas, you'll probably love Macau's casinos. It has over 30 casinos located all over the city, so... no space for boredom!

## **3. Love water in a hydroplane boat**

The turbojet is a Macau's high-speed ferry and it is truly a very fun experience. If you love water, boats and a good view of the city... Turbojet's a way to go! I definitely enjoyed the experience, but I might just love boats – after all exploring canals of Amsterdam is another of my favourite memories.





## **Accessibility in Macau**

### **Hotels**

Hotels in Macau are the epitome of the average or average plus. They are mostly accessible, but the price range's pretty narrow. Elevators are mostly present and in a good condition, but it's always better to contact the hotel before booking a room, since... no surprise is better than a bad surprise.

### **Pavements**

Uneven and full of holes, Makau's pavements didn't win me over. Navigating through the city is possible, but requires a lot of extra caution.

## **Shops and restaurants**

Shops and restaurants are mostly accessible. High thresholds or the lack of elevators is not something unthinkable in Macau, but in general, you should always find an accessible place to eat or shop in.

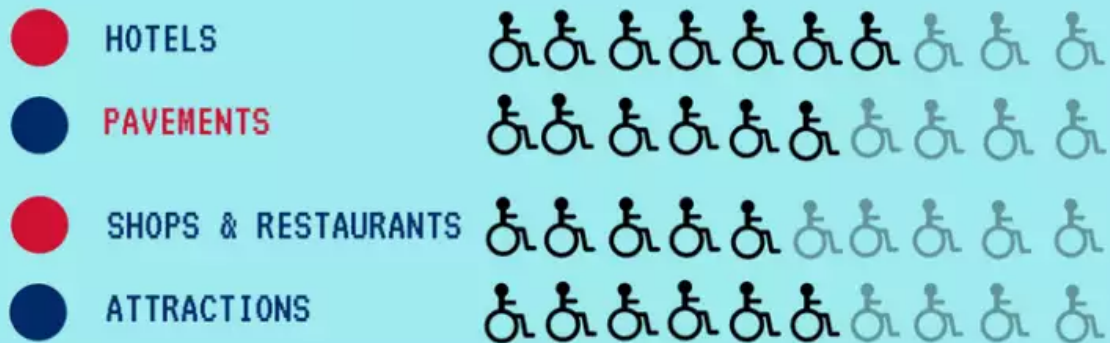
## **Attractions**

Post-colonial attractions don't make the most accessible touristic sites but can be accessed. Modern buildings are mostly very accessible.

# Luxembourg

## MILO'S ACCESSIBILITY RATING

### LUXEMBOURG, LUXEMBOURG



RATING SCALE

1 - 10

OVERALL RATING

6.0



The capital city of Luxembourg – Luxembourg – makes an interesting place to visit, but it is definitely not everything the country has to offer. During my short weekend trips around the country, I came across numerous lovely places. This is why I decided to show you Luxembourg through my eyes not only on by the example of Luxembourg but also three other cities: Esch-sur-Sûre, Remich Reich and Mondorf. Together they create a unique mosaic of Luxembourgian flavours, coming together into the fusion of colours and shapes.

## **Luxembourg**

Luxembourg may be known as the most powerful financial centre in Europe, but it is much more than that. The city's history dates back to the times of The Romanian empire, and it's just a beginning of its rich history. With a bit over one hundred inhabitants, the city doesn't make a big metropolis, but it is pretty lovely with its small town vibe. Let me tell you one thing: don't let the size of the city fool you. It is full of history and if you are willing to explore it, you won't have much time to be bored there. I definitely liked the city, though it is not my favourite destination in the world.

### **What to do in Luxembourg City?**

- **Explore the streets**

Just like in most of the European capitals, streets of Luxembourg are full of history that is just waiting to be explored. For a small city, Luxembourg is filled with many great cafés and restaurants. The city has a wonderful wine culture, so ordering a glass of wine and people watching is a quite popular and enjoyable activity there.



- **Visit The Notre Dame Cathedral**

The Notre Dame Cathedral in Luxembourg is definitely not as big and popular as The Notre Dame de Paris, but it is definitely a great place to visit. It used to be a Jesuit church and as much as it doesn't make an impressive view from the outside, it provides a beautiful aesthetic experience from the inside. The stained glass there is definitely an epitome of beauty. I am not a big architecture lover, but I was in absolute awe. One bonus point: the place is not awfully crowded so unlike The Notre Dame in Paris, it won't keep you waiting.



## **Esch-sur-Sûre**

The second biggest city in Luxembourg takes pride in The National Resistance Museum, which is dedicated to The Nazi German occupation of the country. As much as I respect such kind of places, the highlight of Esch-sur-Sûre was Upper-Sûre Natural Park with the Upper-Sûre Lake in its heart. That's definitely one of the most picturesque places I've seen in Europe. The lake and the skies were a beautiful exhibition of all shades of blue put together. I would definitely recommend you to visit the place if you happen to be in Luxembourg.





## **Remich**

This small town lies by the river Moselle and it is famous for its numerous wineries. It is possible to have a guided tour there and taste the wine with a pinch of history. Personally, I liked The Guinness Factory in Dublin more, but for all wine lovers out there, Remich might be a paradise.

## **Mondorf**

Mondorf is interesting for two reasons: firstly it has the only Casino in Luxembourg, secondly, it has a wonderful spa centre. Mondorf Domaine Thermal is the pride of the town. The thermal water there is strongly mineralized, what's very important from the health perspective. The spa offers sauna, indoor and outdoor pools, Turkish baths, jacuzzi and wellness treatment. The true wonder of the place is its park, though. Full of greenness, the park also serves as an art gallery with sculptures. It is

open to the public and I find it a truly relaxing place. I definitely enjoyed my stay there so I would recommend it if you're nearby and in need of some relax.



## **Accessibility in Luxembourg (the country)**

### **Hotels**

When it comes to accessibility, hotels in Luxembourg are slightly above average. Finding an accessible hotel is possible and it's standard is generally good. Elevators and ramps are rather obvious, and rooms are catered to wheelchair users' needs. Definitely, accessibility and the hotel industry in Luxembourg go well together.

## **Shops and restaurants**

Unlike hotels, shops and restaurants are definitely not accessible. Ramps are often nowhere to be found and thresholds tend to be quite high. In that department, there is a lot of room to improvement.

## **Pavements**

The cobblestone pavements are certainly not friends to regular wheelchairs. Their surface is not even and there are often holes in them. Had I had my Blumil back when I was living in Luxembourg, maybe I wouldn't have been on my guard all the time. Still, caution is always advised no matter where you are.

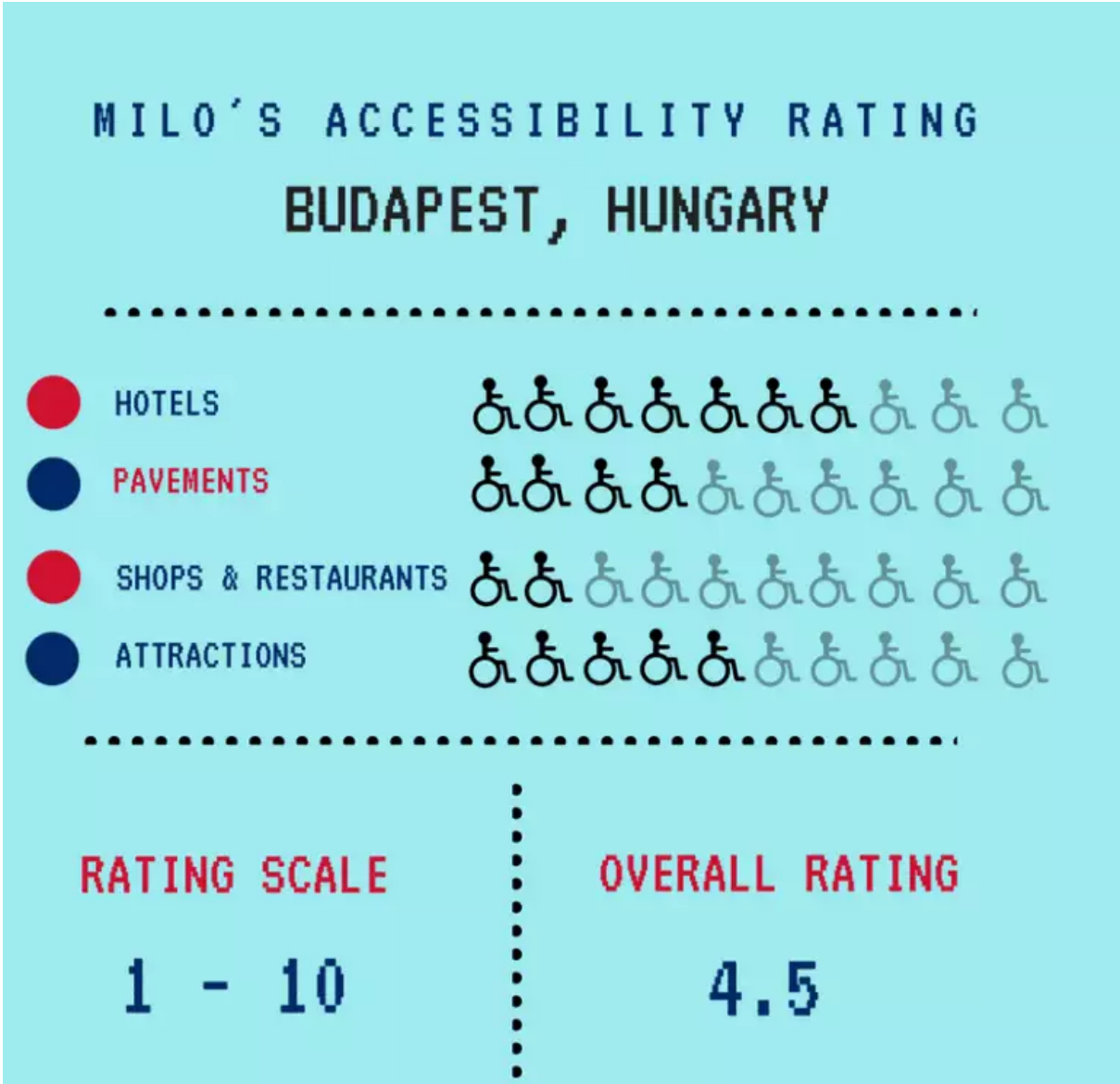
## **Attractions**

Attractions can be generally accessed, though they are not perfectly catered to wheelchair users' needs.

**All in all, Luxembourg is an interesting country to explore. With its proximity to France, Germany and Belgium, it is a place of cultural fusion of many different ideas. It may not be my favourite place in Europe, but it has its own flavour that I grew to like. Maybe you will like it too if you give it a chance.**



# Budapest, Hungary



## **Budapest in a nutshell**

Budapest's been on history pages for quite a long time – it dates back to the times of the Roman Empire. The city was also ruled by the Ottoman empire (it takes pride in great Turkish baths!) and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It came under the Soviet rule after The Second World War. All these various aspects of the past give Budapest a unique flavour.

Situated on the two banks of the Danube river, the Hungarian capital is filled with traces of old days, but it's also immersed in the present moment. Bars and restaurants are full of people, and streets are always lively. Just like wine, Budapest's looks only get better with age. After all, Hungary's one of the biggest wine producers in Europe and has over 2000 years of winemaking traditions. If only Budapest's accessibility followed the rule and got better with time too...

## **What to do there?**

- **Go on a Segway tour**

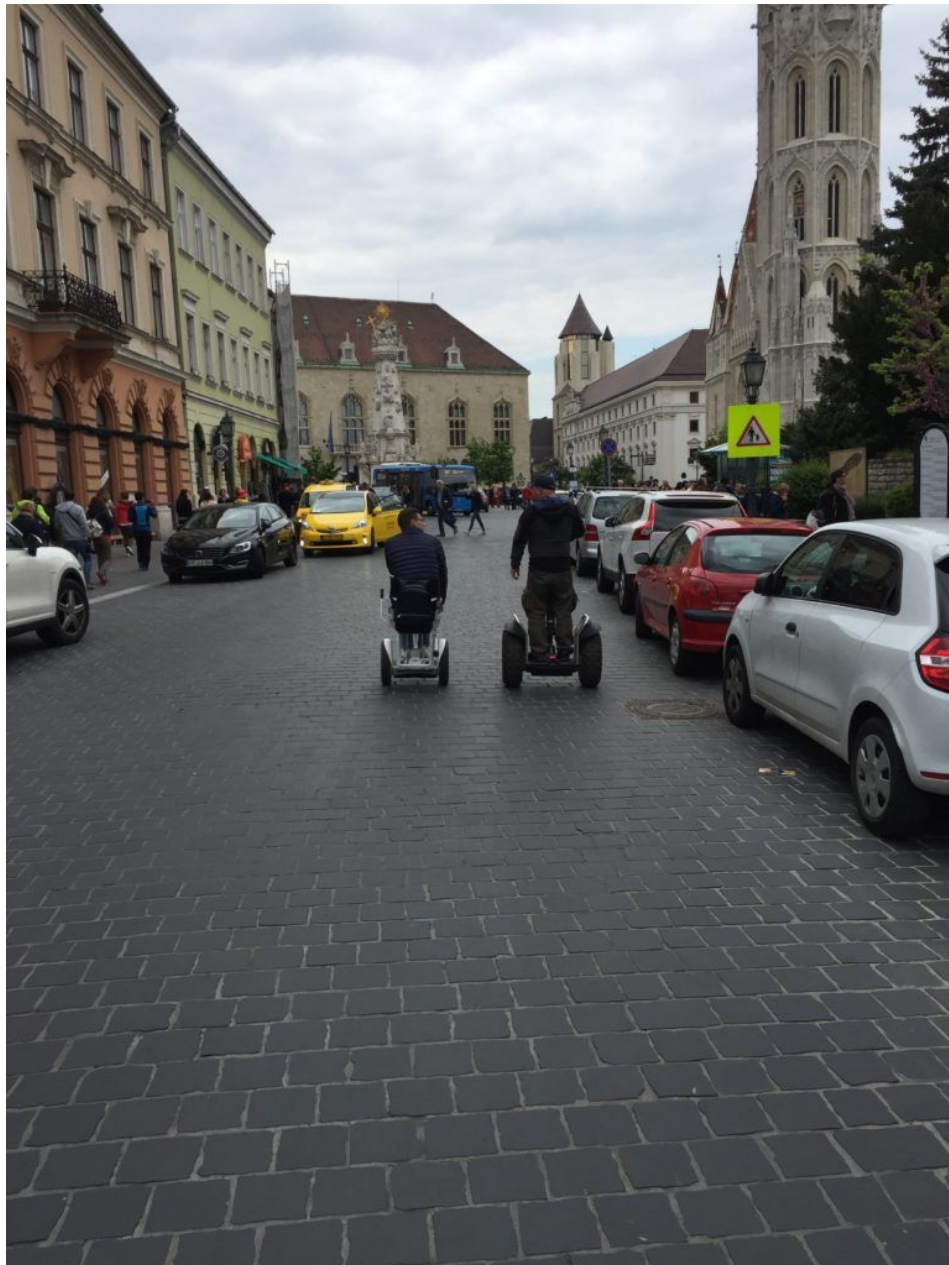
Segway tours are definitely a great option for everybody who wants to explore the city thoroughly. Finally, somebody could be as fast as me. It was a pleasure to be able to enjoy the speed without leaving people behind. Believe me or not, when I'm on my Blumil I'm always the fastest one among my friends! I often have to slow down a little bit when sightseeing so they could keep up with me.



*Exploring the unknown...*

This time, we all could experience some Segway magic and would casually race through the city. It was fun for all of us and we definitely saw a lot in a short time, so I have nothing but praise for Segway tours. A+ from me!





*Lovely streets of the lovely city...*

- **Stroll through famous bridges**

The Széchenyi Chain Bridge and Liberty Bridge are two famous bridges in Budapest. The Chain Bridge's possibly one of the most photographed spots in the entire city, as by night it's absolutely breathtaking. It illuminates brightly over the river, and it connects two parts of the city –

Buda and Pest. It was destroyed in World War II by Germans and rebuilt in 1949. It's guarded by lions, whose tongues are hidden.



*It's always a good idea to take a photo with a lion....*

The famous anecdote says that the creator of the bridge was so proud of it that he promised to jump off to the river if anybody found any flaw in what he created. Somebody pointed out that lions don't have tongues and that's what made him jump off the bridge as he promised.

Interesting story, huh? Yes, except it's not true! It's an urban legend of the city – aside from the facts that lions really don't have tongues! Been there, checked that!



*The Chain Bridge*



All stories aside, I really enjoyed strolling through the bridges. There's something peaceful about admiring the city from a bridge. Not to mention the fact that the Danube can be quite charming in a daylight and even more by night!



*The Liberty Bridge*

- **Take a look at the Parliament**

The Hungarian Parliament Building is currently the third biggest building of this type in Europe. Its construction was completed in 1902 and it's been one of the most famous Hungarian landmarks ever since. It's a great blend of architectural styles and impresses with its enormous size.



*Fairytale setting!*

To be honest, it looks as if it was taken straight out of fairytale book. There almost 700 rooms inside! Honestly speaking, it must have been one of the most beautiful buildings I've ever seen in my life. I was really blown away by its beauty and I'm not sure if I could capture its charm



with words. That's why I'll let my photos speak for themselves – sometimes a picture is worth a thousand words!



*Beauty's in the air!*





*Is Coco onto something? Maybe she just thinks the Parliament's too beautiful to be true?*

- **Explore the castle**

The castle, known also as The Royal Palace is one of, next to the Parliament, the most remarkable landmarks in Budapest. It was built in the 13th century and for years it served a royal residence. Currently, its walls accommodate Hungarian National Gallery and the Castle Museum. It's really charming and even though I think the Parliament impressed me more I have to admit it's absolutely wonderful. It's definitely worth to visit it if you wish to breathe in some beauty.



*Having fun!*



- **Get lost in charming streets**

Budapest is full of charming streets that just wait to be explored. Since Segway tours are really a quick way to see the city, I explored lots of lovely streets. They were perfect for quiet strolls and just soaking up the atmosphere of the city. Definitely, something to do especially if you're not short of time!



*I think me and Budapest got along pretty well...*



## Accessibility

### Hotels

Hotels in Budapest are definitely average when it comes to their accessibility. It's pretty clear to me that the city has still a lot to work on. My hotel room was accessible, but I wasn't impressed with it. In general, the situation's alright.



*My hotel room*



*The hotel bathroom*

### **Shops and restaurants**

I'm sad to announce shops and restaurants are 100% not wheelchair accessible. Finding a place to eat in was quite a challenge in a city filled with restaurants, and that alone says a lot. There were no ramps and there was always at least one stair, which made it impossible for me to access it. It's a shame that such a beautiful city knows nothing about accessibility.



*One of the very few accessible restaurants in Budapest*



## **Attractions**

Some of the attractions are accessible but most of them are not really catered to needs of wheelchair users. Had it not been for my Blumil, exploring Budapest would have been even a greater challenge than it already was.

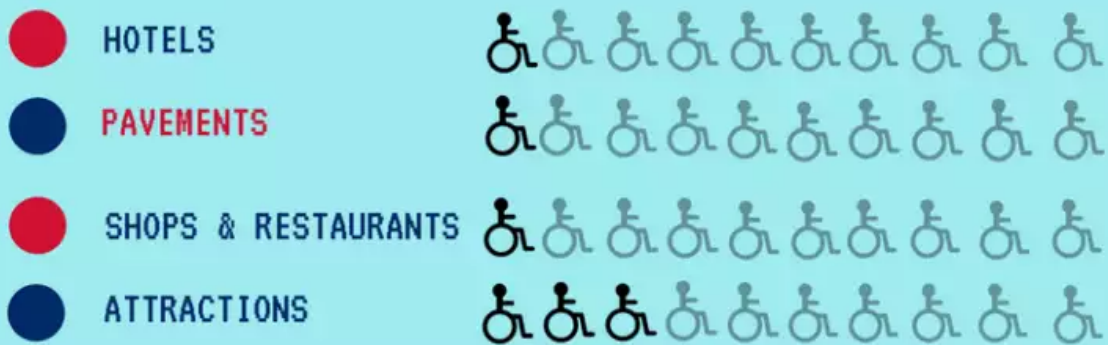
## **Pavements**

Pavements aren't something the city could be proud of. They are full of bumps and holes and navigating the street feels like an action movie sometimes. Not in a good sense, though. You always need to be extra careful, since you never know what's next: another hole or maybe for a change... even surface.

**When it's all said and done, I'm afraid Budapest will be the one that got away. It's easy to fall in love with the city and I was absolutely enchanted by its beauty but love requires trust and I have none for inaccessible streets and bumpy pavements of Budapest. That's why I couldn't fall in love with Budapest the way I did with Barcelona – the lack of accessibility can make or break any trip. Unless the Hungarian capital learns a lesson on accessibility I won't be strolling down the Chain Bridge again. Maybe one day Budapest will become wheelchair friendly and that's the future I hope for. Until then... farewell, Budapest!**

# Kenya

## MILO'S ACCESSIBILITY RATING MOMBASA, KENYA



RATING SCALE

1 - 10

OVERALL RATING

1.5

## **Kenya in a nutshell**

Located in the eastern Africa, Kenya's one of the Africa's most popular travel destination. It's filled with sandy beaches, golden savannahs and touristic resorts. Its climate varies from place to place, but generally, there are only two seasons there: rainy and dry. Wonderful coffee and excellent runners are what the country takes pride in, but that's not everything it has to offer. The country's full of surprises and it's one of the fastest growing economies in eastern Africa. The earliest-known human remains were actually found in Kenya, so technically... we're all Kenyans. That's Kenya in a nutshell.

## **What to do in Kenya?**

- **Sunbathing**

I was staying at a resort, so I can't really tell you much about all wonderful attractions the country has to offer, except for what I've seen and done myself. Sunbathing was one of my main activities and definitely one of the most relaxing ones. Kenyan beaches are definitely beautiful, so I just enjoyed the beauty I had in front of me. Very often I would just go to the beach and spend my days relaxing by the sea.





*Beach time!*

Hotel pools are wonderful oases of refreshment and I spent many hours in my hotel's pool. In such a tropical place, the water's your best friend. Generally, if you love the sun like I do... you're very likely to like the Kenyan coastline.



*Pools and I – match made in heaven!*

The only complaint I have about beaches are... beach boys. These are people who sell goods on the beach and they're very persistent. They want to persuade you that you truly need whatever they offer and they will follow you anywhere you go just to make you buy something. It was a little bit annoying for me, even though I understand everybody needs to make a living somehow.

- **Discover the local culture**

Kenya's a diverse country with many ethnic groups inhabiting its territory and it makes it a very interesting place to visit. The culture in Kenya is very vibrant. People and their customs seem to be full of life and they shine brightly in colour. If you are in Kenya I would encourage you to explore a culture even a little bit... it's quite a fascinating experience!





*Vibrant side of Kenya...*

- **Make friends with animals**

The nature in Kenya really wants to be close to you and I mean it quite literally. It visits you in your room and everywhere else you wouldn't expect to see it. If you love animals – Kenya's a good place to make friends with them. Playful monkeys seem to be omnipresent and always ready to play some tricks on you. Honestly, after some time I was a little bit tired of them, but they were still funny to watch. Generally... if you're ready for some monkey business – Kenya's a place to go!





*Who knows what they're up to...*

## **Accessibility in Kenya**

### **Hotels**

I decided to stay in a resort hotel, and I was promised an accessible paradise. What I was given instead... was closer to hell than heaven. I've never been in a worse hotel in my entire life and I believe it speaks volumes about the place's accessibility. To access the sea and the beach I had to go... downstairs. Yes, you read it correctly – “the accessible hotel” had stairs and no other alternate way to move around.



*“Accessible” stairs!*

Relocating required me to ask for assistance every single time, which was very inconvenient. I needed to go upstairs if I wanted to access the restaurant and the sea was downstairs. That’s why I was constantly torn between my desire to sunbath and my physiological need to eat. The only option I was left with was eating in my room. The service would bring everything there, but what’s the fun in eating inside a hotel room? I tried to change the hotel in the beginning and here’s the worst part – that was the most accessible hotel out there and it wasn’t even partly wheelchair friendly! I’ve never been so disillusioned with marketing promises of hotels and I hope to never be again.





*I wouldn't call thresholds very "wheelchair friendly"...*

### **Shops and restaurants**

Since hotels were an absolute nightmare, I didn't expect shops and restaurants to be any better. I was right – accessing them was a real challenge and I couldn't really enjoy my shopping or eating out time. As I mentioned above, the hotel restaurant could be only accessed. Accessibility and Kenyan resorts don't go together, even if they claim to be a match made in heaven.

### **Pavements**

Strolling down the beach was safer and easier than using pavements, and that's just how bad they were. Full of holes, bumpy or non-existent



pavements are definitely not best friends of wheelchair users'. Caution is an absolute must if you want to survive there. I'm glad I did.

### **Attractions**

I was staying in a resort so there was not much to see, but accessing a beach alone wasn't the easiest task thanks to hotel stairs located outside. Sadly, I can say only one thing: nothing I've encountered in Kenya was even moderately accessible and I'm being generous right now.

**Diving into the unknown is always exciting, but sometimes even the greatest excitement can be ruined by inaccessibility. That's what happened to me in Kenya. It was an absolutely marvellous country, but I couldn't enjoy its beauty like I wanted to, as my freedom was limited by a wheelchair hostile infrastructure. At the end of a day, freedom's the greatest gift and all wonders of the world can't replace it. All I can do is hope Kenya and accessibility will go along someday and I'll have a chance to discover all of its secrets. Until then... Farewell, Kenya!**

## **Final note**

**Please note that some of the places in the rating were visited a long time ago, so things might have changed there. The rating is also very personal, so I would say it's everything but impartial. If you have any comments and want to add something, please share your knowledge with us – the more we know, the better! Information's our best protection against surprises we wish to avoid.**