

Surf's up for startups at Web Summit 2017

November 7 2017, by Thomas Cabral



At least 60,000 tech experts are convening in Lisbon as startups network with venture capitalists and hear about new industry trends—but the gathering also includes offline surfing

The next generation of Internet giants gather this week in Portugal for four days of tech-fuelled networking, nights out and—for the first time this year—surfing of the offline variety.

Web Summit, which likes to promote itself as "the Davos for geeks" and provides a platform for startups to hook up with [venture capitalists](#) and

hear about new trends from industry leaders such as Facebook, will see around 60,000 tech experts convene in Lisbon, where participants will look to catch a break either in or out of the water.

"Lisbon is kind of the surf capital of Europe, so not going surfing would be a very significant missed opportunity," said Web Summit CEO Paddy Cosgrave.

Around 250 participants arrived in the Portuguese capital ahead of Tuesday's official start to enjoy some of Europe's best waves.

Mircea Baldean, founder and CEO of Canada-based startup MeetVibe, said he was looking forward to the networking opportunities at the event.

"It's my first time in Lisbon, my first time surfing and my first time at Web Summit... as an entrepreneur you have to be ready to do new things every day."

But the event isn't all beach shorts and wipeouts: there's serious money up for grabs with some of the world's largest tech firms scouting for the next big app or technology in which to invest.

Organisers claim that around a third of startups who display their products at the Web Summit find a donor within 12 months.

"We've got 1,500 of the most active investors from around the world and a sample of 2,000 really high potential startups," said Cosgrave.

2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2017-11-surf-startups-web-summit.html>

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